

Three Drone Applications that wouldn't Embarrass Obama

By David Mediavilla | 08/03/2014

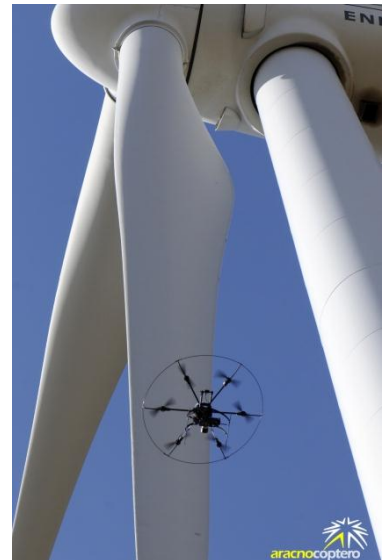
This week UNVEX, the largest Spanish convention for unmanned vehicles took place. In spite of its clear military uses, drones have many other uses that don't consist of annihilating the enemy

This week, in Madrid, where UNVEX 2014 conference took place, the media presence would suggest that, aside from the controversy, these devices are more well-known than ever. Civil applications of the drones could be seen this week in Madrid.

Aracnocóptero and Renewable Energy

The advantage of unmanned airplanes is that they can be equipped with the capabilities of conventional aircrafts, but for much less money and in a simpler fashion. An example of one of these capabilities is the company Arbórea's Aracnocóptero. This sort of flying spider is a foldable helicopter less than one metre long that weighs a little over three kilos. Its principal use is the inspection of Wind Turbine blades that can be up to 100 metres high. Its cameras and software—created ad hoc—make possible the efficient analysis of turbine repair needs and the reduction of the downtime necessary in order to make the repairs.

Other characteristics that make the Aracnocóptero an interesting option for this type of revision, and other purposes, are the little time it requires to unfold (it can be ready in half a minute) and the quick recharge time (45 seconds). With these specs, the people working in developing the machine have already looked for new uses, among them, precision agriculture. With its cameras and sensors, for example, irrigation systems could be observed to see how water is being distributed in precise amounts or how a specific crop is coming along.



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