

Small Drones Market by Application (Combat, ISR, Inspection, Survey & Mapping, Agriculture, Delivery, Search & Rescue), Platform (Nano, Micro, Mini), Type (Fixed Wing VTOL, Multi Rotor, Hybrid), Mode of Operation, Power Source, and Region – Global Forecast to 2030

<https://marketpublishers.com/r/SADE20DA26C7EN.html>

Date: April 2025

Pages: 356

Price: US\$ 4,950.00 (Single User License)

ID: SADE20DA26C7EN

Abstracts

The small drones market is projected to reach USD 11.25 billion by 2030, from USD 6.40 billion in 2025, at a CAGR of 11.9%. The adoption of drones is rapidly increasing in both civil and commercial applications, such as agriculture, delivery services, and media. There is also a rising demand for military drones, particularly for surveillance and intelligence purposes. Supportive government regulations are fostering a positive environment for drone development. These factors are driving the continued expansion of the small drones market.

“The battery-operated segment is projected to account for the largest share during the forecast period.”

Battery-operated drones are the largest segment of the small drones market due to their ease of use, quieter operation compared to fuel-powered drones, and advancements in technology. These drones are powered by rechargeable batteries that drive electric motors, making them suitable for various civil and commercial applications. Compared to turbo engine drones, their environmentally friendly design makes them ideal for operations in urban areas and surveillance duties. Although lithium-ion batteries require frequent charging and take time to recharge, new battery technologies are being developed to address these challenges. By the late 2020s or early 2030s, new batteries are anticipated to last for up to 1,000 charge cycles and offer higher energy levels of

around 400 Wh/kg. This improvement will enable drones to fly longer and perform more tasks. Companies such as Eaglepicher Technologies (US), RRC Power Solutions (Germany), and Plug Power Inc. (US) are creating specialized batteries for drones. As technology continues to improve and demand grows, battery-powered drones are expected to maintain their leading position in the small drones market.

“Fully autonomous is expected to be the fastest-growing segment during the forecast period.”

Fully autonomous drones are the fastest-growing segment of the small drones market because they can operate independently without human control. These drones are suitable for military missions, where they can perform tasks in dangerous environments, such as monitoring targets or conducting attacks, without requiring signals from operators. While the number of autonomous drones in use is currently lower than that of manual drones, their adoption is increasing rapidly. This growth is largely driven by countries like the US, which are increasingly investing in research and development to create more advanced and intelligent drones. Additionally, these drones are equipped with cutting-edge technologies that enable them to operate at high altitudes and collect accurate data. Collaboration among companies in the drone industry is further improving the capabilities of drones by fostering the exchange of ideas, reducing costs, and expanding their user base. These collaborations facilitate compliance with regulations and enhance drone performance. As a result, fully autonomous drones are gaining popularity and experiencing rapid growth in the market.

“Europe is estimated to be the second largest market for small drones during the forecast period.”

Europe is the second-largest market for small drones, driven by the increasing demand for drones in military and security operations. Escalating tensions between neighboring countries have heightened the need for small drones equipped with surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities. These drones are essential for border security, search and rescue missions, and environmental monitoring. Countries such as France and Russia emphasize developing advanced small drones to enhance security measures. Furthermore, there is a rising demand for stealthy and durable drones in military applications. Major companies like Thales (France) and BAE Systems (UK) are partnering to create new technologies and platforms, making small drones more effective for border patrol, coastal monitoring, and homeland security. These advancements are fueling the growth of the small drones market in Europe.

Breakdown of Primaries

The study contains insights from various industry experts, ranging from component suppliers to tier-1 companies and OEMs. The break-up of the primaries is as follows:

By Company Type: Tier 1 – 49%, Tier 2 – 37%, and Tier 3 – 14%

By Designation: C Level – 55%, Directors – 27%, and Others – 18%

By Region: North America – 32%, Europe – 32%, Asia Pacific – 16%, Middle East – 10%, Latin America – 7%, and Africa – 3%

DJI (US), Lockheed Martin Corporation (US), Parrot Drone SAS (France), Israel Aerospace Industries (Israel), and AeroVironment, Inc. (US) are a few leading players in the small drones market.

Research Coverage

The study examines the small drones market across various segments and subsegments. It aims to estimate the size and growth potential of this market based on platform, application, type, mode of operation, power source, and region. Additionally, this study includes a detailed competitive analysis of the key players in the market. It provides insights into their company profiles, observations regarding their solutions and business offerings, recent developments, and key market strategies they have adopted.

Key Benefits of Buying this Report:

This report provides valuable insights for both market leaders and new entrants in the small drones market, offering approximate revenue figures for the overall market and its various subsegments. It encompasses the entire ecosystem of small drones, helping stakeholders understand the competitive landscape and better position their businesses. Additionally, it aids in developing effective go-to-market strategies. The report also highlights key market drivers, restraints, challenges, and opportunities, allowing stakeholders to grasp the current market dynamics effectively.

The report provides insights on the following pointers:

Analysis of key drivers such as extensive use in civil and commercial

applications, increased procurement for military applications, favorable government regulations and initiatives, and elevated demand for small patrolling drones for marine border security

Product Development: In-depth analysis of product innovation/development by companies worldwide

Market Development: Comprehensive information about lucrative markets

Market Diversification: Exhaustive information about new solutions, untapped geographies, recent developments, and investments in the small drones market

Competitive Assessment: In-depth assessment of market shares, growth strategies, and product offerings of leading market players such as DJI (US), Lockheed Martin Corporation (US), Parrot Drone SAS (France), Israel Aerospace Industries (Israel), and AeroVironment, Inc. (US), among others

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