Drone Delivery Program

Factsheet – May 2017

JD.com began developing its drone delivery program in October 2015 and has successfully completed thousands of test flights since starting trials in June 2016. Today the program is believed to be the first broad commercial ecommerce application of drone technology in the world.

Using proprietary technology developed at JD X, JD.com's logistics innovation lab, the JD Drone program aims to bring the benefits and advantages of ecommerce to remote rural communities in China, a population that is currently underserved by the ecommerce industry.

In areas where complex terrain and poor infrastructure makes last mile logistics challenging, JD drones can deliver orders from regional delivery stations to JD's dedicated "village promoters" in each village, who then distribute the orders directly to customers, shortening delivery times and reducing costs. JD.com currently has about 300,000 village promoters across the country.

JD.com has delivered to customers in periodic trial runs starting in June 2016 and as of May 2017 there are about 60 drone routes in remote parts of Beijing, Jiangsu, Shaanxi and Sichuan in operation, making it easier for local villagers in those areas to tap into China's online shopping.

In May, 2017, JD announced an agreement with the provincial government of Shaanxi to build China's largest low-altitude drone logistics network. Spanning a 300 kilometer radius, the network will include hundreds of routes and drone air bases throughout the entire province for e-commerce shipments and more. Heavy-load drones are expected to be able to carry more than a ton, transporting high-quality products to remote areas and agricultural produce to cities.

Delivery station

Drone delivery

Village promoter

Village consumers

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CURRENT MODELS

JD's current fleet of 40 drones, all developed by engineers in the company's JD X labs and built to their specifications, includes seven different models. They can transport and deliver packages weighing 5-30 KGs and cover distances as far as 100 kilometers.

Y1 13kg, 1770*1400m*500mm
Power: Battery
Load weight: 5KG
Reach: 7 km per charge
Maximum speed: 54km/h
Usage: 'Short-hop' delivery

VTOL(V1) 10kg, 1925*3200*690mm
Power: Battery
Load weight: 10KG
Reach: 100 km per charge
Maximum speed: 100km/h
Usage: High-speed; long-distance delivery

Y2 10kg, 1125*1215*600mm
Power: Battery
Load weight: 10KG
Reach: 10 km per charge
Maximum speed: 72km/h
Usage: Automatic discharge; high-speed

VTOL(V2) 5kg, 2200*2000*750mm
Power: Battery
Load weight: 5-10KG
Reach: 100 km per charge
Maximum speed: 100km/h
Usage: High-speed; long-endurance

Y3 5kg-10kg, 1800*1800*600m
Power: Battery
Load weight: 10KG
Reach: 10 km per charge
Maximum speed: 72km/h
Usage: High-speed; long-endurance

CT-120 60kg, 1800*1800*1400mm
Power: Gasoline
Load weight: 30KG
Reach: 30 km per charge
Maximum speed: 54km/h
Usage: Heavy-load; long-endurance

H1 10kg, 2060*2060*700mm
Power: Battery
Load weight: 20KG
Reach: 15-20 km per charge
Maximum speed: 54km/h
Usage: Automatic discharge, embedded cabin

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