

THE WEEKLY FUTURE

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Business Highlights

- Businesses register higher profits than previous years.
- Self driven ambulances commissioned.
- Boeing gets cleared to start construction of a multi million dollar plant in Kenya
- KenGen Commissions a 4000MW plant from recycled waste in Dandora.

CONFLICT OF THE DRONES: DRONE SPRAYS RESIDENTS WITH TOXIC CHEMICALS.

Two agricultural drones registered 5DY – WHT & 5DY – BRL were reported to have mistakenly sprayed the people of Eldoret, a city that boasts 8 million residents within its central business district and over 3 million others in the outskirts. The incident happened over the weekend when the two drones were supposedly spraying one of the ranches of a client. The drones went off course and dropped the toxic chemicals over an area estimated to be over 16 square kilometres. Humanitarian organizations, government & international agencies were dispatched to the area to arrest the situation. The drones – operated & owned by Rosbel & Fich Aviation have been in service for the last five years. They are part of their fleet to facilitate smart farming methods. They have also been used in pollinating coffee, pineapple and citrus fruit plantations in other parts of the country. An unknown number of people have died due to the effects of the chemicals that were sprayed into the air and re-



A Popular Drone used for Photography and Aerial Surveillance

lated complications, whereas others are in a critical condition due to the effects of the chemicals. The drones are under the custody of the Kenya Drone Aviation Authority for further investigations. Aviation agencies and international agencies are investigating the circumstances of the catastrophe.

Navigation Failure

The two drones that were operating some 10 kilometers from the busy city were being controlled from a Mobile Control Unit stationed at the Eldoret International Airport, which has been leasing Aprons and Hangars to Private Drone Operators to provide services in the area. Initially, the pilots who were operating the drones... (Cont.)

SELF DRIVEN AMBULANCES COMMISSIONED

The government has finally given the go ahead for a private operator to operate self driven ambulances. This was after a storm in parliament over the safety of the self driven ambulances. Critics argue that the ambulances will not be in a position to perfectly cater for the needs of the casualties as the hu-

man touch can never be built into robotics. Having no feeling and judgment to the urgency of the situation, critics believed that the ambulances could not be in a position to drive fast enough and maneuver through the traffic as needed. Texa the company that manufactured the ambulances said that they can be driven by a human and

for a period can incorporate and memorize the driving of the human and add into its auto drive memory.

The question is, would you agree to a self driven ambulance taking you to hospital?

CONFLICT OF THE DRONES

indicated that they lost control and communication with the drone for a minute while enroute to the designated area. They then regained control but at the time, they had already gone autonomous and could not respond

to the pilot's controls. They then went ahead and deployed their cargo in the designated program until they emptied their tanks and then returned to base autonomously. Just as they have been programmed to do in cases of a failure.

Conflict of Operations

Investigations indicate that there was another drone operator who was demonstrating a weapon to the Military within vicinity of the flight path of the said drones. Flight controllers indicate that they did not know the operations, which the private contractor

whose identity has been withheld would be undertaking. It is reported that during the same time that the Rosbel & Fich Aviation drones took off, the military demo drones had been airborne for 30 minutes. 20 minutes into flight, the systems of the agricultural drones failed. However, a back-up system took over and restarted the drones. However, from investigations, the electromagnetic pulse that had crossed the path of the drone had recalibrated the instruments and this directed the GPS of the drone into the wrong sector – which happened to be the city. The private contractor admitted to having released



Cockpit of an Old Model Civilian Aircraft

“Drones have quickly morphed from home-made technology, to consumer toys, to commercial tools. They are also getting smarter by the day as their autonomy becomes more prominent.”

a high energy Electromagnetic Pulse that knocks out electronics within its path. Residents in the area and civil pilots flying above also complained of their gadgets going blank. The Military was not available for comment on the issue.

Drones have quickly morphed from home-made technology, to consumer toys, to commercial tools. They are also getting smarter by the day as their autonomy becomes more prominent. Research indicates that 34% of the drones are used for aerial photography, 26% for real estate, 26% for construction and industrial uses. Agriculture is 4th on the list with 21% of the drones operators using them for agricultural services. 13% of the drones are used for disaster operations and emergency management.

Mitigation

Rosbel & Fich Aviation is reluctant to admit liability-shifting blame to the private contractor as the one responsible for conducting the research in a civilian airspace. Court cases have already been filed. Disaster response organizations have camped at the International Airport to coordinate a joint drone operation

being undertaken to map out the area of the disaster. They are also measuring the toxic levels of the chemical, the far it has been dispersed by weather elements as well as trying to work out a method to dissipate a neutralizing agent to the air as well. “The irony is that the same drones that caused this disaster are the same ones that are trying to rescue people from the disaster they created” a local was reported saying. He was clearly agitated at the incident. There are people who have not been in a position to understand what happened.

The Kenya Red Cross Society dispatched 5 of its drones to

pick donations from well-wishers and other donors and dropping them to designated detox camps. The military also dispatched its drones to map out affected areas and the data relayed to the operations centre. Those who were in a critical condition had been evacuated to the capital for further treatment. There was no need for a quarantine at the point said Catherine Wambura the county's head of health.



The Future is Here

CONFLICT OF THE DRONES

To Fly or Not to Fly?

Members of the public have been against the use of drones for a long time and now their fears are coming to reality. They argue that in the same way an unseen “force” changed the course of the drone is the same way an unseen force could change the course of an armed drone and end up firing at innocent cities. Delivery drones could deliver the package at the wrong destination. One of the bystanders at the operations centre said that a year ago a drone had dropped a package that did not belong to him. It took two days for the rightful owner to receive the package.

Drones being communication reliant devices are also prone to communication hacks and they can be rerouted to alternative destinations and end up causing more harm than good. Experts indicate that these are teething problems and they will continue working on them to facilitate a smooth coexistence with these systems and the people using them. “Nothing is impossible, we synchronized them to stay off paths of commercial aviation and that turned out well.” Said Kevin Kemboi an official from the KDAA. The question on people’s minds however remain “How many more people will have to die from these isolated cases before the drones are disciplined fully?”



GAME TO PROMOTE INNOVATION LAUNCHED

The International Federation of The Red Cross and Red Crescent developed an initiative to bring together the world on a unique platform to share their ideas and thoughts about the changes that are taking place in the world and their direct effect to the community. The games revolve around the major challenges of the society which majorly revolve around the environment and technology. Human factors have been important in the development of initiatives that have been used to help solve the challenges that face the world. This game brings together

people of from the world and utilizes the popular chat profile—WhatsApp.

Participants are required to work in a team to solve challenges by creating audio, video or image files and share them on WhatsApp relating to the emerging issues of the future. The game will run over a period of three days and will be moderated online on respective groups. This will also be a great networking platform for the participants.

DRONES IN RESEARCH

Drones reached commercial mainstream ten years ago and have become a vital part of life. University engineering departments designed and building them for decades. Engineering students studied the advanced control algorithms that keep drones flying level and straight—a complicated control engineering science. Their work helped bring us to this point where drones have ceased being a toy and are now

working in sync with other machines and human work force.

It is no surprise that our engineers are still working on drones and related technology such as sensors, automation and innovative platforms. Introductory classes in this age include the engineering students to build and fly drones; more advanced students learn about flight dynamics and algorithms that help drones

stay aloft.

In recent years, though, our engineering departments are focusing less on building the aircraft and more on improving safety, navigation and the ability to carry equipment that allows drones to help with different tasks without putting the lives of the users, bystanders and other users of the sky at risk.

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*The Future Keeps Moving - We
Move We Move With It!*



NEXT ISSUE: WHEN THE MACHINES TAKE OVER



In a society where everything is commanding itself, have we lost the power of freedom that we all fought hard for or have we become enslaved to technology? Will we trust the robots to keep us safe?