

Integrating Solar Power for UAVs

Alta Devices has announced cooperation with Airware to enable manufacturers of small UAVs to seamlessly integrate solar power into their aircraft. Alta Devices claims that by integrating its thin and lightweight solar material onto the wings of a small UAV, flight endurance can be increased by more than four times. On certain designs, a solar-enabled UAV can fly all day long under sunny conditions, without landing to swap or recharge batteries.

Airware offers hardware, software and cloud services for the rapid development and safe operation of commercial drones. By partnering with Airware, Alta Devices will be able to bring its AnyLight solar cell technology to a wide range of commercial vehicles operating around the world; moreover, through this relationship, UAV manufacturers employing Airware services can apparently dramatically increase their flight endurance with ease.

This fundamentally changes the utility of small unmanned systems in a number of end markets, said Rich Kapusta, Vice President of Sales and Marketing for Alta Devices. For precision agriculture, search and rescue, or land surveying, UAVs need to fly longer and farther than today's systems provide. The most effective way to increase endurance is by adding solar, and Airware and Alta Devices are making that possible, he added.

Customers regularly ask for ways to achieve longer endurance on small UAVs. It is exciting to simplify the task of integrating Alta Device's impressive solar technology with Airware's onboard systems for those customers, said Don Weigel, Airware's Vice President of Product.

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