

AUDIO 3-

## **DRONE TECHNOLOGY**

Is it a bird ? is it a plane ? no it's a drone! What was once a dream for science fiction fans is now inching closer to reality. Gone are the days when messenger pigeons brought us a scroll of news tied to its foot. Powerful companies are pouring money into what they hope will be the birth of a new delivery market, as the Atlantic reports:

The commercial drone industry has a new best friend, and that friend is powerful and loaded. It's Google, which recently unveiled its secret drone delivery program, Project Wing, meaning another tech titan now has skin in the commercial UAV game. One that just might have enough clout to make delivery drones happen.

Google, Amazon, and a handful of others have embarked on a project that may change the way consumers receive products, and the commercial drone industry is poised to take off with far-reaching applications. As the Smithsonian Magazine explains, drones have come along way from their original purpose, and today can be found in agriculture, security, and even Hollywood.

Drone technology was developed for military use, but a growing number of alternatives have popped up in the last decade. Citrus farmers now use drones to monitor crops. Conservationists keep tabs on endangered species, as well as any poachers. Police departments are thinking of using them in rescue and hostage situations. Drones have even helped shoot some major feature films, including *Man of Steel* and *Skyfall*.

(...)

This technology is going to develop fast, almost certainly faster than we can legislate it. That's why we need to get ahead of it now. There are legitimate concerns about how AI and autonomous technology will impact the work force and our quality of life.

(...)

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