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maxon takes to the air

Unmanned flight.

Unmanned aerial vehicles or UAVs, drones, mini helicopters: Whatever you want to call them, are useful for much more than just amateur photography. They offer enormous potential for future applications in the areas of inspection, agriculture, security and small-scale freight.

The market is young and highly dynamic, with many startups and maxon is taking an active role. Following the industry's initial ventures and a few high-profile crashes, the requirements placed on unmanned aerial vehicles and their components have increased. maxon has the necessary high-quality drives and knowledge to develop and manufacture specialized drone motors. In 2019, several initial models were constructed for special projects, together with matching controllers. Since then, many tests have been carried out in the laboratory, and designs have been revised. New drives for customer projects are currently in development. At the same time, the aim was to learn as much as possible from the experts, which is why maxon's aerospace team have been working closely with drone specialists and propeller manufacturers and customers.

In the drone market, the motor is not the only thing that matters. What is far more important is the perfect interplay of BLDC motors, motor controllers, and matching propellers. That is the only way to get the most out of the system in terms of thrust and energy efficiency. The most talked-about drone of the moment, Ingenuity, landed on Mars with the Perseverance rover, is controlled by six maxon DC motors. In recent years, maxon products have been tested in the real world on flying platforms and proving reliable. The range now has motors from Ø32mm to Ø87mm, providing thrust levels from 800g to 10kg. Further sizes are in development. As is always the case with maxon, the team are happy to work with customers to fine-tune the products to meet individual requirements.

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maxon drone motor © maxon

The Swiss specialist for quality drives

maxon is a developer and manufacturer of brushed and brushless DC motors, as well as gearheads, encoders, controllers, and entire mechatronic systems. maxon drives are used wherever the requirements are particularly high: in NASA's Mars rovers, in surgical power tools, in humanoid robots, and in precision industrial applications, for example. To maintain its leadership in this demanding market, the company invests a considerable share of its annual revenue in research and development. Worldwide, maxon has more than 3000 employees at nine production sites and is represented by sales companies in more than 30 countries.