

Asia-Pacific Small Uav Market - Growth, Trends, Covid-19 Impact, and Forecasts (2023 - 2028)

Market Report | 2023-01-23 | 100 pages | Mordor Intelligence

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Report description:

The Asia-Pacific Small UAV Market is projected to grow at a CAGR of over 15% during the forecast period.

The COVID-19 pandemic had a moderate effect on the Asia-Pacific Small UAV Market. Although, during the pandemic, various countries worldwide witnessed an increase in the usage of drones by public authorities in order to curb pandemic-related issues. But on the other hand, rules and regulations related to border restrictions led to interruptions in the free flow of the raw materials needed by the manufacturers. This in turn hampered the production of the small UAVs and various manufacturers worldwide witnessed a decline in their revenues. The decline in the pandemic led to the opening up of border restrictions by various countries thus presenting a window of opportunity for manufacturers to receive the raw materials in order to increase the production of small UAVs. Thus, this will lead to the market witnessing gradual growth during the forecast period.

The effectiveness of a small UAV is not limited to making deliveries and undertaking high-end photography missions or as surveillance devices or weaponized tools for the military. UAVs possess tremendous potential to transform urban and rural infrastructure and enhance agricultural productivity in developing countries. In addition, drones are also seen as a possible solution to infrastructure problems, especially in underdeveloped regions of Asia-Pacific, where air transportation could help meet the challenges posed by poor or non-existent road and rail networks. Thus, development and advancement in drone technologies will lead to various manufacturers manufacturing advanced drones and this will propel the growth in the market during the forecast period.

APAC Small UAV market Trends

The Military and Law Enforcement Segment is Expected to Witness Significant Growth During the Forecast Period

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The military and law enforcement segment, by application, is expected to witness significant growth during the forecast period. The rise in the number of border tensions as well as the increasing need for conducting ISR operations by various defense forces worldwide is leading to the increasing usage of drones for carrying out such tasks and this is the major factor for the growth of small UAVs in the military and law enforcement segment to witness growth during the coming years.

Moreover, a growing indigenous base of drone manufacturing companies such as Teledyne FLIR Defense amongst others is propelling the development of advanced small drones which can improve the intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance capabilities of various defense forces globally. For instance, in May 2022, Teledyne FLIR Defense announced that they have won an additional USD 14 million contract for supplying Black Hornet Nano-UAV systems for the United States Army Soldier Borne Sensor Program. Moreover, in the present scenario, the total number of black hornet orders for the soldier-borne sensor program amounts to USD 115 million. The advanced nano unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) are being used to augment squad and small unit surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities as part of the Army's Soldier Borne Sensor program. The drones, which are extremely light and well suited for operations in contested environments and are nearly silent, and with a flight time of up to 25 minutes, the combat-proven, pocket-sized Black Hornet transmits live video and HD still images back to the operator thereby providing soldiers with immediate covert situational awareness to help them perform missions more effectively.

China is Expected to Witness Significant Growth During the Forecast Period

The country of China is expected to witness significant growth during the forecast period. There has been a growth in the usage of drones in China in recent years. Growth in the production of small UAVs in China coupled with a lack of end-user restrictions will be the major factors for the growth of the market during the forecast period. Moreover, various drone manufacturing companies in China such as DJI and Huimingjie amongst others are presently engaged in the development of advanced small UAVs with greater capabilities.

In recent years, China has witnessed significant growth in terms of technological developments. The cooperation of China with the Russian defense industry has positioned China on the cutting edge of new war technologies such as small UAVs. For Instance, in 2022, China re-presented its small UAV known as FH-901 with advanced capabilities. The FH-901 drone which was earlier manufactured in 2016 and given the name CH-901 is a suicide drone and is equivalent to the switchblade drone which has been developed by the United States of America. The FH-901 is a fixed-wing UAV with a high-wing shape and a cylindrical fuselage. It is reportedly 1.2 meters long, with a top speed of 150 km/h, an operating radius of 15 km, and an endurance of 120 minutes. It can be equipped with a fragmentation charge or a shaped charge warhead capable of piercing 10 cm of armor and destroying tanks and light armored vehicles. It is launched from a container and can be ready for action in less than three minutes. Thus, the growing developments in the unmanned aerial vehicle sector in China will lead to the market witnessing significant growth during the forecast period.

APAC Small UAV market Competitor Analysis

SZ DJI Technology Co., Ltd. (DJI), Yuneec Europe GmbH, Elbit Systems Ltd., Hubsan, and MicroMultiCopter Aero Technology Co., Ltd., are some of the major players in the market.

Small UAV manufacturers are constantly striving to improve the sensor payloads that help them in obtaining precise information for surveillance. Thus, the focus on producing sensors that are smaller, lighter, faster, cheaper, more reliable, more accurate, and more sensitive is expected to drive more innovations in the small UAV market. Further miniaturization of drones is also being concentrated upon by various manufacturers. Moreover, enhancement in terms of the endurance of the small UAVs is being widely focused on by drone manufacturers. The focus on such aspects in small UAVs is expected to make the players in the market increase their research and development expenditures during the forecast period.

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