

**12 BEST AND MOST PROFITABLE**

# **DRONE**

## **BUSINESS**

## **OPPORTUNITIES**

**GET STARTED TODAY**



**DRONEGURU**

For those of us who love drones and other flying things, the hobby is a reward in itself. But who wouldn't want to get paid for doing their favourite thing? There are many ways you can change your drone hobby to a paying gig that will either support your hobby or perhaps even your entire life.

Of course there are plenty of very silly ideas for drone businesses floating around as well, so we've taken the time to put together a list of reliable drone business ideas that can help you change that flight of fancy into a flight of financial success.

Here are some of the best drone business ideas you can try today.

## 1 START A DRONE RENTAL BUSINESS

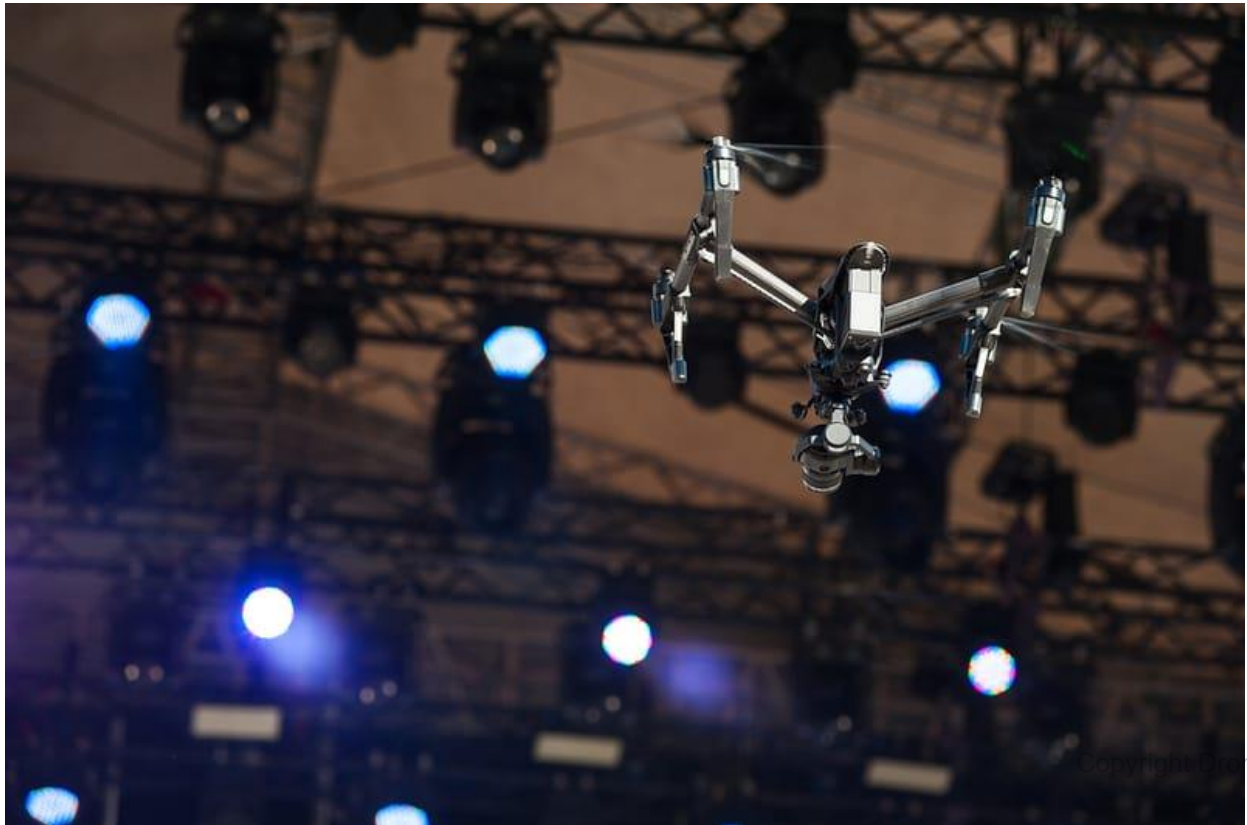


This is an obvious one, but it's also one of the most solid drone business ideas for a reason. Drones are super expensive and often people only need them for a specific reason or on occasion. Even if they could justify the cost of buying a drone outright, you still need someone to actually fly the thing! So drone rental usually involves also renting out a pilot. In fact, it's not the best idea to rent out a drone to just anyone who can pay, unless they'll fork out for some pretty serious insurance!

The main downsides to this business idea come down to the capital you need to get started and how many pilots you can get. Obviously most people would get going with a single high-end drone and themselves as the pilot. However, as soon as demand goes beyond what you

can handle alone you're looking at doubling your investment. So be ready for the pains of quick growth at the outset.

## 2 BECOME A CINEMATIC DRONE OPERATOR



Anyone can learn to do some basic drone photography. All you need is solid flight skills and the ability to point the gimbal in the right direction. Being a drone camera operator for professional, cinematic projects on the other hand is a whole other ball game.

To be a cinematic drone pilot you not only have to be a drone pilot, but be a bona-fide cameraperson. You need to understand videography and the technical instructions that come from a director. Being a cinematic drone operator for hire means taking a list of technical shot requests from a storyboard, planning their execution and getting them captured on film.

This is a technically-demanding service to provide, but nothing stops you from starting an agency that hires out such people to the local film industry. Outsourcing is the name of game when it comes to film projects, so even if you aren't the right person to actually do the job you can be a comfortable middleman!

The main downside of this business idea is that you need to get in with someone from the local film industry, which can often be a small club of people who only work with each other. That's apart from the skillset which you need to cultivate or find in other people.



### 3 SELL STOCK PHOTOS AND VIDEOS



Every minute that drone of yours is sitting on the ground is a minute that it's not making you any money. So what can you do while you wait for the next person to commission a job from you? Why not get out there and make some great photos and videos?

Content is king on the web today and if you build up a good library of quality images and clips to load onto stock sites you can earn a steady passive income.

It help to define your niche or style. Perhaps you'll focus on nature, or architecture. Make the best of your particular skills and the unique opportunities around you. If something special or notable is going to happen in your town or city, cover it and sell the stock footage or photos to news outlets or anyone else willing to pay.

The downside of this is that you have no guarantee that you'll sell your content consistently, which is why I would not recommend doing this as a mainline business, but as a way to keep your drone productive when it's not being paid for directly.

## 4 BE A DRONE INSTRUCTOR AND CONSULTANT

With drones being in vogue at the moment there are plenty of people who have suddenly developed the urge to get into the game. If you're a qualified or experienced professional drone pilot, why not train these people for a reasonable fee?

This is an especially important role since many countries have begun to formalize and regulate the drone industry. For a newcomer it can be daunting to both learn how to operate a drone safely and comply with all laws and regulations.

So why not provide a one-stop business that can help sort out all the red tape, get someone trained up and perhaps even help them buy the right equipment? If you're local or national government is providing drone certifications it's also a great opportunity to get a licence as someone who can officiate that process.

The downside to this is that you have to deal with the red tape and hassle of teaching newbies. That's literally what you'll be paid to do, so make sure that sounds like the sort of thing you can handle. This isn't a job for anyone without the patience of a saint!

## 5 BECOME A PROFESSIONAL INSPECTOR



Drones have revolutionized the world of infrastructure inspection. With high-resolution cameras, special sensor packages such as gas detection or infrared cameras units and longer flight ranges than ever, it's now possible to quickly inspect all sorts of things for damage or malfunctions. Copyright DroneGuru.net

Tall structures, wind turbines, power lines, pipelines and many other inaccessible places can now be regularly checked to make sure everything's still fine. That does not mean the companies that perform these inspections will employ and maintain their own drone corps. It's a great opportunity for professional drone freelancers to get regular gigs performing a valuable service.

The downside is that you either already have to be a certified inspector in a given field or work with one, since proper inspection is likely to be regulated in your country. So before you get too excited about being an outsourced inspector, make sure that the paperwork is not too onerous.

## 6 MAPPING SERVICES

Speaking of which, drones are also an excellent way to create aerial maps, something which is needed much more often than you'd think. Despite satellite imagery and Google sending their cars into every apparent corner of the globe, local businesses still need mapping services.

Using a technology known as photogrammetry and the right software it's possible to create detailed maps quickly and easily. These maps can be topographical or capture all sorts of other data. These software packages can create 3D models of buildings and other structures and much more. Aerial surveying is also a service that's in demand where construction companies are doing their prep work before breaking ground. For a good example have a look at [Drone Deploy](#) and all the fancy things it can do with nothing but a plain old DJI drone

## 7 EVENT COVERAGE



Do you know what Millennials love more than getting sloshed on craft beer while sitting around at a indie band music festival? It's watching videos on the internet of them doing that later.

If there's some big event going on in your part of the world, why not offer your services as a flying event coverage pilot. The event managers themselves may want to resell the footage later or just use it for marketing their next event. Either way, you could be the one to commit all the tomfoolery to tape.

The downside to this is that you might have to travel quite a lot and, let's be honest, you should take your money in advance or have a good down payment, since events organizers are notoriously bad at paying their bills.



## 8 DRONE RACING



Drone racing is one of the most exciting and quirky parts of the drone world. The basic idea is pretty simple. A bunch of people get together and race their drones around a marked track. First one to cross the line wins.

In practice there's a lot of variety when it comes to racing. There's racing of off-the-shelf drones, modified drones and then the big boys with their totally custom carbon fiber speed demons. FPV racing is the darling of the sport, although some people do race with line-of-sight.

The obvious way to make money here is to be a drone racer and compete for sponsorships and prize money. Racing goes far further than that though. You could start your own team, become a part of a team or organize your own local racing venue or even league. What about building or modifying drones for racing. You could even run a drone racing school. Honestly the drone racing world can be sliced into so many lucrative niches that it almost doesn't seem fair.

Drone racing is still in its infancy, but think of all those other things that you wished you could have gotten into early.

The downside to the drone racing route comes from how hard it is to make consistent money. This is not a sure bet by any means and as with most competitive sports you could be flying high one day and down in the dumps the next. The bigger the risk, the bigger the

payoff, but it might be a better idea to target the more reliable income streams in the racing world first.

## 9 MAKE DRONE CONTENT ON YOUTUBE

Starting your own drone YouTube channel is a popular choice and you'll find plenty of examples online. Don't be discouraged by everyone who is trying this though. If you concentrate on making good content that can stand out from the crowd it doesn't matter how many other pretenders there are in the game.

Figure out what your strongest contribution to the drone community can be and build your channel around that. The same things that make YouTube channels in other niches successful apply here as well.

The money can also come from multiple streams at the same time. There's direct advert revenue from YouTube itself, sponsorship and endorsements and of course community crowdfunding through platforms like Patreon. You can even make your own merchandise or resell drone related products by pairing your channel with an online shopping platform. Also don't forget about affiliate revenue from outlets like Amazon!

The main downside of this business idea is the same as it is for YouTube fame in general. Only a small number of people get to the point where you can make a decent living from your content and an even tinier percentage make it to the big time.

## 10 BUILD CUSTOM DRONES

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Are you a drone genius who knows every component of a drone inside and out? Can you roll your own custom drones or modify the heck out of existing ones? So why keep that talent to yourself? If you have the technical chops to be a drone builder then you might be sitting on a goldmine, since most companies and individuals really have to put up with whatever they can buy off the shelf. Bespoke drones could be your way into the big leagues.

## 11 OFFER REPAIR SERVICES



If you don't want to (or can't) build custom drones, why not fix ones that other people have banged up. There's nothing that says "big money" like expensive equipment that can be trashed in a single moment of inattention. It's not a question of *if* a crash is going to happen, but rather *when* it's going to happen. You might as well be on hand to pick up the pieces, for the right price!

## 12 CREATE A DRONE NICHE WEBSITE

Shh, don't tell anyone, but creating niche websites can be pretty profitable. If your head is just filled with great ideas and keen knowledge about drones, then you might be in a good position to create a website that shares your unique take and all sells drone-related products through affiliate links.

The main downside is that a niche website can be a slow burn, but if you keep at it and produce quality content it can become a nice little sideline.



## WORKING THAT NICHE

In the end, the real secret to making a good income from your drone hobby is to define a niche based both on your strongest talents and how underserved that niche is. It's generally a mistake to compete in a crowded space unless you have something that sets you apart from everyone else.

Find your niche and work it enthusiastically. Know your value proposition so that you can sell it others clearly. This is the age of the drone and there's a lot of room to grow, so you better stake your claim sooner rather than later.