



G2 CONSULTING FLIES DRONES TO CLIENTS' ADVANTAGE

If drones can deliver burritos for Chipotle and goods for Amazon, what other business uses might these unmanned aircraft serve in today's world? One local business that's been an early adopter of drone technology is finding out.

G2 Consulting Group, a Troy-based geotechnical and environmental services firm, has been flying drones over and around its clients' construction sites to provide a clearer, more comprehensive view of a project's scope and progress.

G2 Consulting Principal Noel Hargrave-Thomas is an FAA licensed drone pilot who started flying drones "just for fun" in 2014 and soon recognized how helpful they could be in providing overhead visual inspections of potential and actual job sites. As a result, G2 Consulting became one of the earliest businesses to use drones to assist clients in visualizing their projects.

"We've used our drones on projects like telecomm towers and commercial buildings to improve job safety. We can fly close to existing structures and

audit them for a number of issues without having to send a climber up," Hargrave-Thomas says. "This enables significant cost savings to building owners while helping to determine the exact scope of work required."

In addition to documenting construction projects, the drone footage also gives clients a much better understanding work site progress because they're actually able to see everything that's occurred, Hargrave-Thomas says.

He describes mapping construction sites on a daily basis to provide 3D model of the site and creating scaled 2D mosaic imagery that contractors use to document progress and material usage. New 3D cameras can provide aerial 360-degree access footage to show clients what their project will look like and how it will fit into the surrounding environment. There are also drones with upward pointing cameras that enable project managers and their clients to visually inspect the bottoms of bridges, overhangs and indoor roofing as well as thermal imaging cameras for roof inspection and facility energy audits.

Drone technology is evolving so quickly that Hargrave-Thomas believe their future uses are almost limitless.

On a recent site, he programmed a drone to follow an exact flight grid. By repeating the same flight weekly, G2 was able to create a detailed time-lapse video of the construction process.

"All of these innovations will enable us to better serve our clients' needs by giving them a more complete understanding of their projects while also reducing costs and improving outcomes," Hargrave-Thomas says. "Drones are becoming an increasingly important tool in the construction engineering business. I'm glad we've developed this expertise."

NAWIC ANNOUNCES 2017 AWARD RECIPIENTS

The National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) is pleased to announce the recipients of its Future Leader of the Year, Member of the Year, and Lifetime Achievement Awards. The mission of the awards is to recognize outstanding efforts of NAWIC members.

The 2017 Future Leader of the Year Award winner is Romina Byrd, SHRM-CP, president of NAWIC's Greater Washington, D.C. Chapter. Byrd is the Director of Education and Training for Miller and Long Concrete Construction. During her 20 years at Miller and Long, she has created and facilitated a number of programs to promote careers in construction, and personal and professional development. She was instrumental in the onset of the company's Students Construction Trade Foundation and its Academy of Construction and Design. Since 2002, Byrd has brought together the company's apprentices to participate in the annual Big Build Festival at the National Building Museum, a hands-on festival for children. Just months after joining NAWIC, Byrd became her chapter's president, growing its membership more than 600 percent in under two years.

Shelie Gaffron, will be recognized as NAWIC's 2017 Member of the Year.