

NOT ALL DRONES FLY



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THE FUTURE OF AUTONOMY IS MULTI-DOMAIN.

Billions are being invested in aerial drone programs across Europe.

Ground and maritime systems are barely visible in these plans. That is a serious strategic gap.



A STRATEGIC BLIND SPOT

AIR POWER ALONE WILL NOT WIN TOMORROW'S WARS

When most people think of drones, they look up. That is still where most attention and funding go, toward aerial systems.

Yet these investments still fall short of what is needed to advance autonomous capabilities.

Real progress will come only when funding expands across all domains and matches the strategic weight of unmanned systems in modern warfare.



WHY GROUND DRONES MATTER

UNMANNED GROUND VEHICLES (UGVS) GO WHERE SOLDIERS SHOULD NOT

Unmanned ground vehicles move through trenches, rubble and cluttered terrain.

They carry sensors, payloads and communications into places too dangerous for humans. They extend reach, endurance and protection at the tactical edge.



MISSIONS THAT SAVE LIVES

LAND AUTONOMY KEEPS PEOPLE ALIVE



Reconnaissance

Thermal and LiDAR sensors for silent observation.



Logistics

Ammunition, water and fuel across mined approaches.



CASEVAC

Evacuating the wounded when every minute counts.



Route clearance

Detecting and breaching under enemy watch.



Effect delivery

Mobile platforms for counter drone and electronic warfare.



INTEROPERABILITY IS THE CAPABILITY

THE FIGHT IS DECIDED BY CONNECTIONS, NOT SINGLE ASSETS

True combat power depends on networked autonomy.

Air systems guide ground systems. Ground systems extend sensors, energy and data for the air. Maritime systems close the loop. Open architectures allow swarming, task sharing and resilient command and control.

A large industrial robotic arm, likely a KUKA model, is shown in a factory setting. The arm is blue and black, with various cables and hoses attached. It is positioned in the center of the frame, with its end effector pointing towards the right. The background shows a complex industrial environment with metal structures, pipes, and other machinery. The lighting is bright, highlighting the metallic surfaces of the robot and the surrounding infrastructure.

A BALANCED INVESTMENT THESIS

**FUND EVERY DOMAIN,
NOT ONLY THE ONE THAT FLIES**

Focusing only on aerial drones leaves the ground fight under supported. Equal attention and funding for UGVs and shared standards will speed adoption, lower costs and strengthen resilience.

**GROUND AUTONOMY IS NOT OPTIONAL.
IT IS VITAL FOR DETERRENCE AND SURVIVAL.**

