



HEAR FROM THE AUTHOR OF *Unrelenting Innovation* GERARD J. TELLIS

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[Update] IIT Bombay incubated ideaForge's unmanned aerial vehicle being used for rescue ops in Uttarakhand

Jubin Mehta | June 27, 2013

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A simple Google search about Uttarakhand is enough to know about the grave situation the state is in currently. The *fury of nature* has wreaked havoc and left the state in shambles. Rescue operations are underway and one of the shining contributions comes from an IIT Bombay incubated startup, ideaForge. (see the list of 50 startups being incubated at SINE)

Founded by 5 IIT Bombay alumni, ideaForge is in the business of developing alternative energy charging devices for various consumer electronic products and developing high end technologies in the field of autonomous aerial vehicles. The first product from the company is called Netra which is a collaborative development between ideaForge and DRDO. Netra is a completely autonomous hovering Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) ideal for short range missions and requires very short training time. The UAV is currently being used in Uttarakhand to assist in the rescue operations. Netra's have been deployed to scan the air space in flood-ravaged Uttarakhand in hope of locating missing survivors



Netra is a small eye zooming in the sky to gather real time intelligence on the ground. This unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), shaped like a spider and weighing less than 1.5 kg, is only a speck when flying at a height but it can give real time inputs to the team that is controlling it on the ground.

Product specs and performance:

- Weight: 1.5 kg
- Dimensions: 90 cm x 90 cm
- Power source: External swappable Li-Po batteries
- Payload: Hi-resolution daylight camera or Thermal Camera with Pan & Tilt control

- Range: 1.5 km LOS
- Endurance: 30 min per battery charge
- Wind Resistance: Upto 15 knots

NETRA UAV



The ideaForge team is currently in Uttarakhand helping out with the operations, here are the pics:



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Monitoring

The wider application for the device is with Anti-terrorist operations, Counter-insurgency in forested areas, Hostage situations, Border infiltration monitoring, Local law enforcement operations, Search and Rescue operations, Disaster management, Aerial Photography and more.

Website: [ideaForge](#)

Note: The post was updated with pictures on June 29th.

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Drone development is actually legal in India? O.o
 Got to find the fool that told me weapons development will end up having me behind bars, thrash him -and then find some old school prototypes. Interesting stuff really! India needs to get into the drone zone Asap! Traffic management, remote surveillance, terrorist encounters and what not. Am actually excited about what these guys are doing. Way to go!

Would be possible to transport medicines to villages easily, better mapping of rural areas , signal transmission - the implications go on and on. This is really exciting. I just hope it doesn't end up like the way it ended in the USA with the CIA using machines to take lives of innocent people across borders at will.

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**Sanjay Yadav** · Works at Central Government

sab bakwas hai , i m flying this uav since last 1 & 1/2 years ,but output is zero and its cost for maintenance is very high...

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**Vishal Agarwal** · CTO at Spatial Ideas

Awesome! So proud

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**Prafful Gupta** · Scientist at DRDO

Truly inspiring, great work guys..

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**Santosh Kumar Pandey** · SEO Executive at SEO Birds Marketing Pvt Ltd

your job is relay so nice.

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**Subhajit Roy** · SRM University

Don't have words which will be appropriate for the entire research team whose contribution results into this. Lots of R&D s are going on around the globe, but something which can be used to deal with natural calamities like flood in real time, is really beyond only praising. Congrats to the entire team and hope it will help a lot in the rescue operation.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · June 29 at 4:31am

**Sustainable Green Initiative**

Fantastic work. Please do update pictures and stories of how many were rescued thanks to this usage. Thank you again and all the very best.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · June 28 at 10:52pm

**Srinivasu Pavuluri** · Thangavelu College of Science and Management

done great job, all the best for your research.

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**Nataraj Erukulla** · K. J. Somaiya Institute of Management Studies and Research

Great work! done for the good cause!

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**Rahul Pathak** · Development Engineer Tech III R&D at ROyal Flights

netra your eye in the sky.

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