

# Unmanned aerial vehicles: A look at upcoming players

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Small Unmanned Aerial Vehicles are making an impact across sectors and market. The market size for them is expected to reach \$33.5 million (Rs 203 crore) by 2019. In India, a number of startups focussing on this new age technology have set up shop. ET's Malavika Murali takes a look at a few of the upcoming players in the country



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## TYPES OF UAVs

**Micro** - Weighs up to 1 kg. The maximum endurance is 60 minutes

**Small** - Weights up to 15 kg. Capable of flying for more than 2 hours

**Medium** - Has an endurance of 5-10 hours, and carry a payload of 5-100 kg

**Large** - Northrop Grumman's Global hawk has endurance of 27 hours which can fly at 60,000 ft

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## EDALL SYSTEMS

**What It Does** - The Bangalore-based company conducts training sessions on design and development of UAVs for students and builds parts for [National Aerospace Labs](#) and the [Defence Research and Development Organisation](#).

**Investments** - The startup is in talks with MNCs and NRI. It was contacted by the [French Trade Commission](#) (UBIFRANCE) last month for potential collaborations with European drone makers

**Latest Developments** - It is 3D printing parts, such as battery compartments, camera housing, electronic wiring connectors and structural elements. Signed deal with Karnataka-based [Adhiamman College of Engineering](#) to set up a drone research and manufacturing facility.

## AIRPIX

**What It Does** - A Mumbai-based company that does affordable aerial drone photography and gives 'recommendations' to businesses and industries through analysis of the aerial data. Clients include [K Raheja Corp](#), [Reliance Energy](#), Kalpataru and APM Terminals.

**Investments** - The startup is looking to raise venture investments this year.

**Latest Developments** - The drones are now custom-made and include a range of fixed wing and multirotor UAVs and can carry different payloads.

## ATOMS & BYTES

**What It Does** - Custom-made drones, make-your-own-drone kits and drone accessories are sold both online and offline by this Chennai-based startup for Rs 11,000 to Rs 5 lakh. Clients mainly comprise drone enthusiasts, hobbyists, students and also certain local army units.

**Investments** - Indian film and television technology company [Real Image Media Technologies](#) invested Rs 20 lakh. The company is in talks with angel investors from Bahrain and Dubai and is looking to raise investments in about four weeks' time.

**Latest Developments** - The company is now looking to introduce drones into the film industry. It is launching two types of drones in the next two weeks

## PIXELISM

**What It Does** - A Hyderabad-based photography and [advertising](#) company that has used drones for aerial photography and videography.

**Investments** - The founders are in talks with individual investors and are hoping to raise a Rs 30 lakh investment by October this year.

**Latest Developments** - The startup is looking to expand its base to Bangalore and Visakhapatnam by the end of this fiscal.

## GARUDA ROBOTICS

**What It Does** - Singapore-based Garuda Robotics set up by 21-yearold [Indian Pulkit Jaiswal](#) sells drone software.

**Investments** - The startup has raised venture [funding](#) since last year and is in talks with investors for potential investments.

**Latest Developments** - Is looking to introduce agricultural drones by the end of the year. The systems will track the chlorophyll levels of crops in the air.

## IDEAFORGE

Has built Nethra UAV in collaboration with DRDO and has the [Central Reserve Police Force \(CRPF\)](#), the Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force and the police forces of about three states as customers.

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