



- **Global Market Size:** The global drone market was valued at approximately USD 73.06 billion in 2024 and is projected to reach USD 163.60 billion by 2030, growing at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 14.3%.¹
- **Commercial Drone Market:** The commercial drone segment accounted for USD 60.37 billion in 2024, with projections indicating a rise to USD 1,445.80 billion by 2034, reflecting a CAGR of 37%.²
- South Africa is one of Africa's largest drone markets, with strong adoption in agriculture, mining, and construction.
- The Western Cape, especially the West Coast district, is attractive for drone operations, manufacturing, and application development due to sparse population and arid weather, ideal for UAV testing and operations.



WESTERN CAPE **DRONES/UAV'S** INVESTOR OPPORTUNITY FACTSHEET

OUR UNIQUE SELLING POINTS

1 WORLD CLASS ACADEMIA

The province is home to world-class institutions (University of Cape Town, Stellenbosch, Cape Peninsula University of Technology and university of Western Cape) with strong engineering, robotics, and drone R&D capacity.

2 STRATEGIC LOCATION

The Western Cape's drone sector is increasingly exporting solutions to other African markets, leveraging its regulatory and technical leadership. .

3 INNOVATION

The Western Cape is developing South Africa's first drone/UAV regulatory sandbox, with a phased implementation model supporting VLOS, EVLOS, and BVLOS operations.

WHY INVEST IN THE WESTERN CAPE

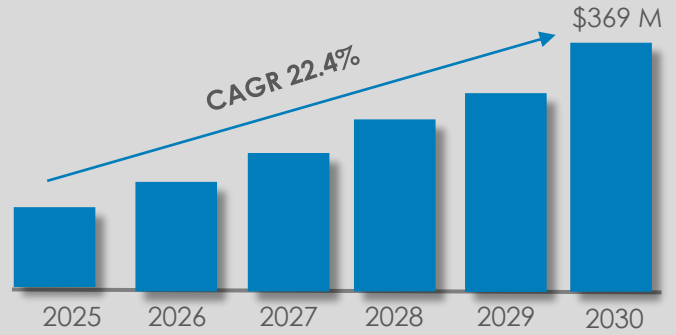
Strategic Investment Gateway

The Western Cape is strategically positioned as Africa's innovation hub for drone and UAV technologies. With its globally competitive tech ecosystem, supportive government policies, world-class research institutions, and robust infrastructure, the province offers a unique platform for investors in commercial and industrial UAV applications.

Cost Competitive Innovation Environment :

The Western Cape offers lower operational costs than Europe and North America, competitive wages with access to top-tier engineering and IT talent, and attractive incentives through Special Economic Zones and national R&D tax credits, making it a compelling destination for tech investment.

SOUTH AFRICAN SMALL DRONE MARKET PROJECTION 2024-2030.³



Sectoral Convergence Opportunities :

UAVs integrated with AI, IoT, and renewable energy technologies unlock significant cross-sector innovation opportunities. The Western Cape's strong tech capabilities enable rapid deployment of hybrid solutions.



WHERE TO INVEST IN THE WESTERN CAPE

Pioneering a regulatory sandbox for drones and UAVs, providing a controlled environment for startups, corporates, and researchers to test new drone technologies, business models, and regulatory approaches before full-scale commercial deployment.

Precision Agriculture: The global trend toward precision agriculture is driving demand for drone-based analytics and services.

Emergency Response and Public Safety: Investment in specialised drones for emergency mapping, disaster response, and search & rescue.

Drone-Based Logistics: Pilot logistics programmes with local retailers and infrastructure for drone delivery (landing pads, charging stations).

Manufacturing and Testing: Investment in manufacturing facilities and testing infrastructure, especially in the West Coast district, to support local production and export.

DRONES/UAV BUSINESSES IN THE WESTERN CAPE

Aerobotics

AUTONOSKY
AERIAL TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS

SKYHIGH
SOLUTIONS 101 135 141

MILKOR
AIR LAND SEA CYBER

ITAS
INTEGRATED AERIAL SYSTEMS

EYE ABOVE
ANTI-POACHING DRONE PROJECT



FORESTRY DRONES

cloudline

ATI

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