M1, NTU to use 4.5G mobile network to fly drones

December 8th, 2017 | by Wilson Wong

M1 and the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) are looking to use the Singapore telecom operator’s 4.5G HetNet (Heterogeneous Network) to fly drones more safely when more of them take to the sky in future.

As part of a deal signed yesterday, the two organisations will find a way to use a more dedicated wireless link that is less prone to interference than what is used by current drones.

Unlicensed bandwidth in the 2.4GHz and 5GHz spectrum is often congested with data traffic especially from the use of Wi-Fi in homes and offices.

Such interference from wireless devices creates problems for effective and safe communication with the drones as a loss of control or a video feed could cause a drone to lose its way.
The use of the 4.5G HetNet promises a much better experience because of the use of licensed bandwidth for control. The video feed will also be less affected by interfering signals.

Think of the drone having its own mobile phone network that lets it communicate much more effectively and secure with a control centre. M1 also promises little or no latency issues, hence controlling the drone is more precise.

At a media event yesterday, M1 and NTU executives flew a purpose-built drone at the M1 office at International Business Park and its surrounding areas.

Using the mobile network also means a drone can fly further. It can now travel beyond visual range and even for the use of sea-borne operations. Yes, that includes the possibility of flying packages from to the ships docked at a harbour or even to Singapore’s outlying islands.
The agreement signed yesterday, to last three years, also aims to find a way to use HetNet to control multiple drones in an urban environment.

Would there be aerial ‘highways’ for drones to travel from one point to another quickly and avoid collisions? That might be possible if drones are managed more closely in future.

4G  Drone  HetNet  M1  NTU

LEAVE A REPLY

TECHGOONDU
Techgoondu.com is published by Goondu Media Pte Ltd, a company registered and based in Singapore.
Started in June 2008 by technology journalists and ex-journalists in Singapore who share a common love for all things geeky and digital, the site now includes segments on personal computing, enterprise IT and Internet culture.

POWERED BY READYSERVICE
The Techgoondu website is powered by and managed by Readyspace Cloud Services.

POPPULAR NOW
4G  android  Apple  asus  cloud computing  cyber security  Dell  diy  fibre broadband  Google  HP  HTC  Huawei  IDA  Intel  iPhone  Lenovo  LG  LTE  M1  Microsoft  Nokia  price and availability  Q&A review  samsung  Singapore  Singapore price  SingTel  Sony  StarHub  think  Windows 8  Windows Phone

RECENT COMMENTS
Disappointed on Amazon launches its Prime service in Singapore - to much confusion
Alfred Siew on Goondu review: B&O Beoplay E8 sets the standard for fully wireless earphones
JY on Goondu review: B&O Beoplay E8 sets the standard for fully wireless earphones
Alfred Siew on Goondu review: Dell XPS 13 is a svelte laptop that does the work
Drake on Goondu review: Dell XPS 13 is a svelte laptop that does the work