



Drones

- ✓ 10 latest products
- ✓ 10 supplier profiles
- ✓ Market update



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Table of Contents

Buyer's Guide to sourcing photography drones

A gallery with the latest photography drones and accessories handpicked by our Market Analysts, 10 profiles of export-ready suppliers and market update.

▶ Market update	3
▶ Gallery of 10 photography drones and accessories	4
▶ Comparison table: Profiles of 10 export-ready suppliers	7

Global drones market to hit \$6 billion by 2020

China will be a key growth driver, playing a dual role as market and manufacturer.

Emerging countries such as China are key in the continuing boom in drones, generating higher revenue growth rates in the next five years, according to a [report](#) from Shanghai-based Innova Research. The US, meanwhile, remains the largest source of revenue.

The report also forecast 32.5 percent CAGR in global revenue starting 2015, with earnings reaching \$6 billion by 2020. The market value in 2014 was estimated at \$1.1 billion. Drones were split into consumer and commercial types in the report and military-use models were not included.



DJI's Phantom 3 Professional model can shoot 4K videos at up to 30fps.

China's role as a drones driving force is actually two-fold. As a market, it is expected to be worth [nearly \\$2.3 billion](#) by 2022. Thirteen percent of sales will come from the nonmilitary sector.

The country has an even bigger part manufacturing-wise. It is home to more than 300 drone makers, with [Ehang](#) among the top five. The count also includes companies that turn out toy-grade quadcopters

Also part of the top five, [DJI](#) already [leads the US commercial drones](#) market, providing drones to 61 out of 129 companies with regulatory approval to use unmanned aircrafts.

China is also gearing up to boost exports of military drones, already attracting buyers in Nigeria, Pakistan

and Egypt. The global military drone market is expected to be worth \$2.3 billion by 2023.

Moreover, the Aviation Industry Corporation of China (Avic) is expected to become the world's largest maker of military drones by 2023, attracting business by offering top-quality drones at a fraction of the price of versions made in the US. Its Wing Loong drone, for example, is just \$1 million. In contrast, the MQ-9 Reaper from the US, to which the Wing Loong is sometimes compared, is about \$30 million.

A state-owned defense company, Avic is already the biggest drone manufacturer in China. It is expected to produce more than \$5.7 billion worth of drones through 2023, nearly all of which are for Chinese consumption.

Photography drones, accessories up image quality

China makers highlight models that can capture videos or images in HD. Accessories such as propellers and cameras add options for customization.

The global consumer drone market isn't losing its luster anytime soon. In fact, the recent entry of large companies and organizations such as Facebook and NASA into the industry indicates that these unmanned aerial vehicles are here to stay—for a long a time. In China, makers are boosting production of both drones and drones accessories, allowing customization. This selection focuses on photography drones that can take high-quality videos and images in real time. Some models come with a camera boasting 5 to 16MP resolutions.

Flying time ranges from 20 to 34 minutes. Some models withstand extreme weather conditions.

On the hardware side, propellers, cameras and batteries remain top accessories. Battery life span typically lasts 200 cycles. Propellers with self-locking function are a hit.

Here are 10 models handpicked by our Market Analysts for representing the current trends in photography drones and accessories.



Offers accurate images in real time

Thanks to its 2.4G digital transmission and 4-channel digital proportional RC system, EverBetter Technology Co. Ltd's H12C photography drone provides more accurate images in real time. It has speed control and 6-axis gimbals, which increase shooting stability. The model supports automatic return-to-home function. FOB price is \$160.

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Controlled by an app

The model Glaxy aerial drone offered by IMG Electronics Co. Ltd can be controlled within 200m via an app installed on a smartphone. It adopts a dual-GPS system with auto-follow function. In addition to manual flight, the user can switch the drone to waypoint flying mode. Other functions include one-key-go-home and auto-hovering. The model's rotor is foldable. FOB price is \$350.

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Shoots 4K videos, 16MP photos

The Smargle model offered by Shenzhen FUAV Technology Co. Ltd is designed for aerial photography. It features spot-hover and automatic return functions. The drone adopts a 6,600mAh battery, supporting 20 to 22 minutes flying time. The model has a retractable landing gear and a three-axis gimbal. It comes with a 360-degree camera that shoots 4K videos and 16MP photos.

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8-channel 5.8GHz FPV video transmitter

Shenzhen Joy Honest Technology Co. Ltd has designed the 56001A model, a 5.8GHz FPV transmitter that can record HD videos in 1280x720 pixels. The model can also take 1920x1080-pixel photos in JPEG. Working voltage ranges from 2.5 to 5.5V while frequency is from 5.72 to 5.86GHz. Power output is 200mW. The model allows eight channels, which can be altered using a remote controller. The model measures 18.2x42x0.8mm. FOB price is \$35.

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Corrosion-resistant carbon frame

Designed for unmanned aircrafts, the model KY-CF06 carbon fiber frame from Shenzhen Keyou PCB Co. Ltd is lightweight and corrosion-resistant. The model's thickness ranges from 0.2mm to 20mm, depending on buyer's request. The model is packed in a single vacuum bag, polybag or a wooden case. Designs are customizable.

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Self-locking propeller

Shenzhen Neo Trading Co. Ltd's NDA-1 model is a special propeller with a self-locking nut, which has been used by DJI for its Phantom I, II and III models. The propeller has a diameter of 9.4in. The package contains one each for CW and CCW propellers, with a combined weight of 22g. Available colors are white, red, blue and camouflage. FOB price is \$2.50.

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30 minutes flying time

The Glint model from Shenzhen Starshine Industrial Co. Ltd is a 4-rotor aircraft designed for capturing photos or videos. The unit features a 2-axis stabilized gimbal, 12MP camera and an advanced intelligence flight control system. The model is equipped with a 3.5 or 7in aerial monitor display. The aircraft can fly 30 minutes on a single charge. Manual mode and GPS modes are supported. The model allows headless fly, auto return, circular rotation and GPS hover functions. FOB price is \$580.

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Camera withstands 30m water

Easily mounted to a drone, Shenzhen Sunsky Technology Ltd's model Puluz U6000 camera has a 2in full-color display with 16:9 aspect ratio. The model features a 175-degree wide-angle fish-eye lens capable to capture up to 12MP photos in JPEG. The model can also shoot videos with a resolution of 1920x1080 pixels. The camera can be submerged in water in depths of 30m. It can connect to a device via USB 2.0 or HDMI. Memory can be extended to 32GB using a microSD card.

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5,200mAh battery lasts 200 cycles

Shenzhen Westart Technology Co. Ltd's model WS-5200mAh-3S-11.1V-35C-4346 drone power supply has a life span of 200 cycles. It has a capacity of 5,200mAh. Continuous discharge rate is 35C while burst discharge rate is 45C. The product measures 148x50x30mm and weighs 420g. FOB price is \$25.

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Withstands extreme weather conditions

Shenzhen Yangda Security Co. Ltd's model YD900 aerial drone has a level 5 wind resistance rating at a height of 2,550m, allowing it to withstand extreme weather conditions. The model is equipped with a Sony DSLR NEX series camera and carries up to 7.7kg within 2.25km. It comes with a payload mechanism at a maximum capacity of 2.8kg. The drone is powered by a 15,000mAh Lipo battery that can yield 26 to 34 minutes flying time. It can operate in -5 to 40 C.

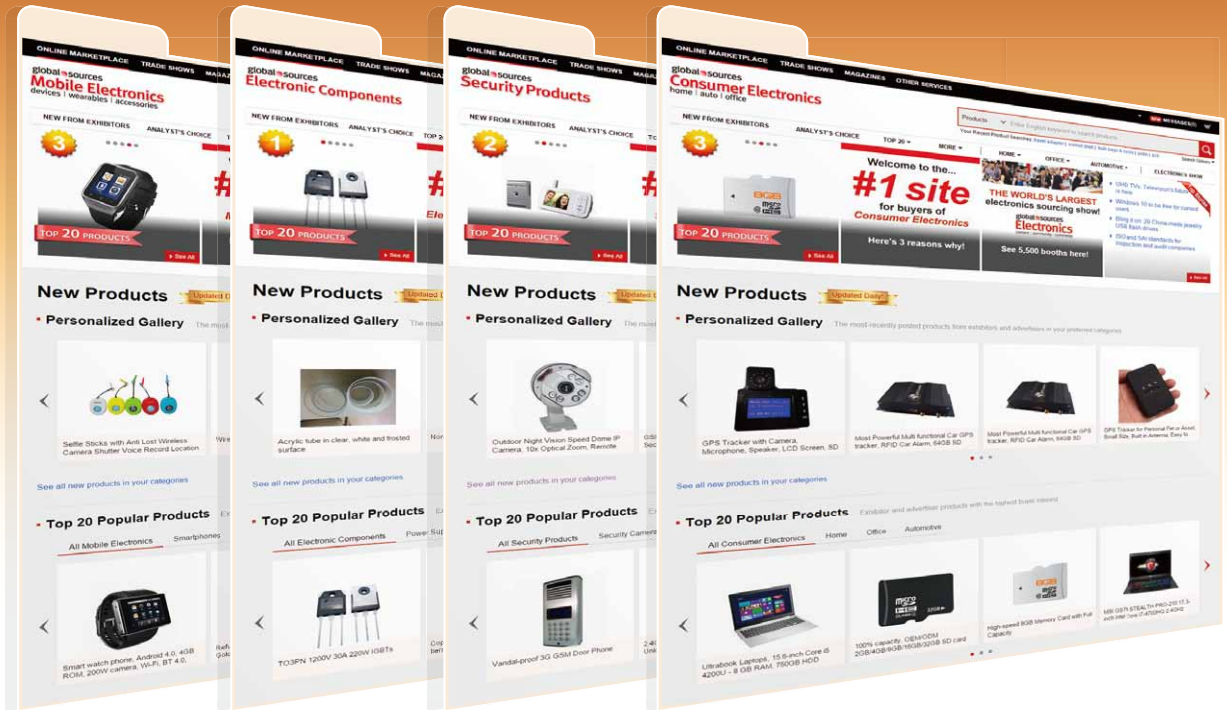
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Supplier comparison table

Company name	Year established	2014 drones sales share (%)	2014 drones export value (US\$ million)	2014 drones export volume (units)	Drones average FOB price (US\$)
EverBetter	2010	13	0.01	15	650
IMG	2014	100	25	750,000	35
Shenzhen FUAV	2015	100	5	50,000	500
Shenzhen Joy	2007	80	0.23	17,000	8
Shenzhen Keyou	2003	0.01	0.36	2,000	N/A
Shenzhen Neo	2004	30	1.5	50,000	6
Shenzhen Starshine	2006	20	0.50	680	730
Shenzhen Sunsky	2007	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Shenzhen Westart	2009	30	N/A	N/A	89
Shenzhen Yangda	2014	100	1	360	2,980

Top 3 markets	Number of staff	Delivery time (days)	OEM (%)	ODM (%)	OBM (%)	MOQ (units)	
US (50%), Western Europe (30%), Africa (20%)	11	15	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,000	CONTACT SUPPLIER
US, Europe, Australia	100	15 to 25	90	10	0	Does not accept small order	CONTACT SUPPLIER
Western Europe (25%), Australia (15%), Middle East (7%)	100	According to order size	12	10	20	10	CONTACT SUPPLIER
Asia (90%), Europe (5%), US (5%)	150	15 to 20	55	40	5	1,000	CONTACT SUPPLIER
Europe, North America, Asia	98	1 to 10	100	0	0	1,000	CONTACT SUPPLIER
Europe, North America, Asia	50 to 100	15 to 30	30	50	20	20,000	CONTACT SUPPLIER
US, Europe, Australia	124	7 to 15	95	5	0	1	CONTACT SUPPLIER
Asia (49.3%), North America (38.3%), Western Europe (11.3%)	200	7	100	0	0	1,000	CONTACT SUPPLIER
Europe, North America, Asia	1,000	3 to 5	80	N/A	N/A	1,000	CONTACT SUPPLIER
US (30%), EU (30%), Middle East (20%)	30	3 to 7	90	10	0	1,000	CONTACT SUPPLIER

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