

## **Starting a Drone Services Business from a Geologist's Perspective – With a Focus on Aerial Mapping**

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### **Abstract**

Geoscientists, especially those with a strong GIS background, have a good skill set if they want to consider going into the business of drone based mapping. Digital photography is, after all, another type of data to be brought back to maps, pixel by pixel. Other data (thermographic, infrared, methane concentration, etc.) can be collected as well. A natural interest in seeing the aerial extent of things directly compares. Familiarity with topography, field reconnaissance, project planning, geospatial data management, interacting with surveyors, assembling GIS based presentations, and field work are just a few of many aspects that carry over and are surprisingly relevant.

The transition to becoming an independent drone services provider involves taking key steps, making strategy decisions, and training. An effective and low cost way to gain experience and to evaluate the utility of competing photogrammetry mission apps and their associated processing services is to take advantage of the free trial periods of several of them. A few scenarios and nuances from such photogrammetry mission planning and some examples of the resulting products are presented.