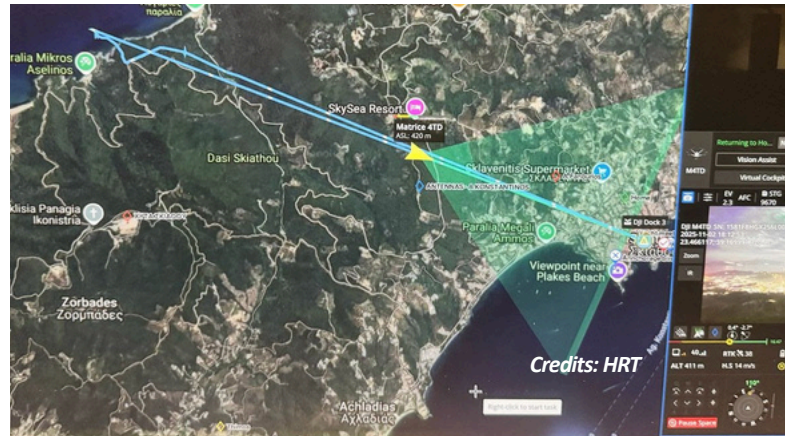


Collaris2

DRONE USE CASES



Locating & Rescuing Missing Tourists on a Greek Island

Rescue incidents on Greek islands, as tourist destinations, sometimes require coordinated efforts from the authorities and volunteer teams as the tourists' desire for unique experiences and adventures may result in serious risks to their safety.

In November 2025, two young German tourists were trapped on a dangerous cliff, in a difficult area near Mikros Aselinos on the Greek island of Skiathos. After a coordinated rescue operation with the use of a drone involving the Hellenic Fire Services (HFS), the Hellenic Rescue Team (HRT) and the Hellenic Coast Guard (HCG), they were located and rescued safely.



What is it, where and how is it used?

On Sunday afternoon, November 2, 2025, the two 19-year-old tourists from Germany set out for a walk above the beach of Ligaries in Skiathos, to a point where there is no path. When it got dark, the tourists were trapped in an inaccessible and rocky area, resulting in the mobilization of the fire department and HRT volunteers. The fire department was informed at 7.54 pm by an HRT volunteer, and the area was "scanned" with a drone equipped with a thermal camera and the two young people were located on rocks 50 meters above sea level.

As the area was inaccessible, assistance was requested from the port authority which approached the beach by boat with three firefighters and two volunteers who located the two young people and, using ropes and technical equipment, managed to get them down to the beach just after midnight and safely transported them to the port of Koukounaries in good health.

Technical and organisational aspects

The drone used in the rescue mission was a DJI dock 3 with Matrice 4TD - FLIGHTHUB 2 with multiple visual and LiDAR sensors. The data collected from the field through the thermal camera consisted of visual and thermal images which were then analysed by the control centre personnel on a specialized thermal software to detect the persons, determine the exact location and share the information across the agencies involved. The communication with the command-and-control centre was carried out through a failsafe connection with 4G coverage in case any failures might occur, whereas the overall cooperation across the agencies was managed via telephone and radio communication.



DCNA Austria

KOIOS



NIPV



Funded by the European Union

Collaris2



DRONE USE CASES



Benefits and effectiveness

The cooperation of all involved agencies – HRT, HFS, and HCG – once again demonstrated the importance of coordinated action, preparedness and response of the civil protection forces in Greece. The use of a drone played a decisive role, locating the missing persons within only a few hours, in an extremely inaccessible spot, with bad terrain and in nighttime conditions with no visibility - thanks to the thermal cameras and the experience of the drone and other operators. Compared to traditional methods in similar rescue missions, the use of drones provided much better and faster accessibility, response, accuracy, visual coordination with the command-and-control center and efficient cooperation with all the involved agencies sharing the appropriate information.

Key challenges

The main challenges identified were the inaccessible bad terrain and the 4G reception. Other key challenges were parameters and constraints such as limited battery life and endurance, weather conditions and, hence, visibility level, data privacy concerns and regulatory restrictions, interoperability issues with other simultaneously operated manned aircraft, and the need for skilled pilots and operators, all while balancing advanced tech needs with practical, cost-effective deployment.

Future potential

The potential use of drones in human rescue operations over the next 1-3 years will focus on the transportation of goods, medical aids and other resources. In the long-term, the future of rescue operations is shifting toward a "human-machine teaming" model, where artificial intelligence will provide actionable insights to human rescuers, accelerating the "golden hour" of survival. One of the key trends in the next decade is the operational integration of drones into "Drone as First Responder" (DFR) programs, allowing them to launch automatically upon receiving emergency calls, reaching the scene before human responders. Moreover, the future potential focuses on full autonomy, AI-driven analysis, and swarming capabilities that allow drones to operate in complex and restricted environments and conditions, with minimal human intervention.

LEARN MORE ABOUT COLLARIS NETWORK



Follow us on LinkedIn or the UCPKN:
[LinkedIn](#), [UCPKN profile](#)



Contact us via mail:
Collaris-network@cbk.waw.pl