

Drone technology: Taking off from Greater KL

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DHL Express, the world's leading logistics company, will continue to invest in Malaysia by expanding and modernising its ground and air infrastructure to meet these demands. - Courtesy pic

KUALA LUMPUR: Challenges that arose from the Covid-19 pandemic have pushed businesses to innovate and accelerate digital transformation. The Movement Control Order shed light on the importance of the logistics industry and its growing demands for last-mile delivery services.

DHL Express, the world's leading logistics company, will continue to invest in Malaysia by expanding and modernising its ground and air infrastructure to meet these demands.

The concept of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), commonly known as drones, has matured within the logistics sector.

According to DHL Express Malaysia and Brunei managing director Julian Neo, the company has been working towards using UAVs for maritime deliveries (shore to ship to shore). This initiative is a collaboration with Pen Aviation, a provider of unmanned automated solutions (UAS).

Currently, a proof of commercialisation (POC) is ongoing to demonstrate the commercial viability of this new service, which involves first-, mid- and last-mile maritime logistics missions jointly conducted by DHL Express and Pen Aviation with Raya Airways as the appointed cargo drone operator.

"The medium-sized cargo UAV will pick up and drop off shipments weighing up to 12kg from shore to ship and vice versa, day and night. The long-term goal is to set up a mixed fleet with Pen Aviation's heavier-duty drones capable of carrying 770kg payload over 675km," said Neo.