

## OTHER TALENTS OF THE ULMA GROUP

# THE WORLD THROUGH THE EYES OF A DRONE

## "DURING THE PANDEMIC, DRONES HAVE MADE ME CURIOUS TO SEE THE POSSIBILITIES THE RECORDINGS OFFERED"

**Iker Otegi has worked at ULMA Handling Systems for 15 years, the last 5 at SAT Informática.**

At the beginning of last year, he had his first experience with the world of drones through an acquaintance. "One afternoon, on a walk in the mountains, I ran into an acquaintance who was taking some pictures and I went over to talk to him. Seeing the images and the drone itself piqued my curiosity," he tells.

Once he had seen the drone and the recorded images, Iker was able to appreciate the montage that his friend had prepared to upload to Social Networks and this increased his interest even more.

He got his first drone in the midst of the pandemic, which limited where he could record as he could only go to nearby areas, so his videos are of Legazpi and surrounding areas. After the first drone came the second, both are quadcopter type stabilized drones, i.e. with 4 propellers. One is small, weighing 249 grams, but with a very powerful camera. The other is 500 grams, with better features for recording video and photos, more control options, security, etc.

Iker has used his free time to record, but this is totally dependent on the weather, so on a good day he

makes the most of the conditions. Among his many recordings, the most special, so far, was at Lazkao Mendi. A relative, who is a photographer and also a drone pilot, took him there to take some shots of the sunrise; the setting was incredible, the mist was low and the colours were spectacular. With all these elements, Iker was able to produce an impressive montage.

But Iker's recording activities are not limited to the drone. After the recording, he works on the images, edits the video and, once a week, publishes his work in a Facebook group of people from Legazpi where the theme is the town itself.

When Iker is recording, people often approach him out of curiosity to ask him what he is recording and about the price of the drone and its features. Iker is clear that "When buying a drone you have to know what you want to do with it, how the regulations affect what you want to do and what features you need to be able to do it, whether or not it has tracking options, the sensors, 4k quality camera etc."

During lockdown he got himself up to date with all the laws, permits and regulations affecting the world of drones. He also got into video editing. "Once I started, the whole thing was a training pathway; these

devices are not toys, they are subject to regulations for their legal use and the learning process is complex if the material you record is going to be useful", Iker tells us. "I've taken lots of courses and obtained various qualifications from AESA (State Air Safety Agency) to be able to use the drone and make quality recordings", he says.

To record with a drone there are several regulations. To date, each country has developed its own laws, with the rules here being among the most restrictive in Europe. "Fortunately, this year, 2021, Spain has adopted the European regulations which are a little more lax than what we had previously. But there are several regulations specific to each country," Iker informs us.

There is a website listing the areas where flying is allowed and where it is not allowed, such as: airports, hospitals, military areas, natural parks and protected bird areas. It is not legal to record people who are not part of the operation for data protection reasons, and in urban areas the limitations are even stricter - you can only record with drones smaller than 250 grams, at a maximum height of 20 m. "For example, I would never fly without first asking permission from the authorities in the area", he points out.

**IKER OTEGI.**

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