

**JOB OFFER**  
**Drone Technician**  
**MECA > Robotics and Autonomous Systems**  
**Project GENIUS**  
**Publication: 19 DEC 2025**

The Robotics & Autonomous Systems research unit at the Royal Military Academy is hiring a **Drone Technician** to support its aerial robotics researchers in their research on autonomous navigation for drones.

## **CONTEXT**

[The Royal Military Academy \(RMA\)](#) is fully recognized as a university, fulfilling the same criteria as civilian universities. The RMA conducts scientific research on behalf of the Belgian Defence and through competitive research projects funded by national and international sources, including the European Union.

The [Robotics & Autonomous Systems \(RAS\)](#) research unit is part of the Department of Mechanics of the Faculty of Polytechnics at RMA. RAS does applied research on all types of autonomous robots and systems, including marine vessels, unmanned aerial vehicles, and mobile ground robots. We focus on defensive and security applications, such as reconnaissance, surveillance, and demining, aiming to improve the autonomy of field robot systems.

The RAS unit's aerial division consists of six researchers, all working on autonomous navigation of UAVs. The lab is equipped with a drone cage for indoor flight tests and is supported by technicians and a mechanical workshop.

## **MAIN TASKS**

- Build drones and maintain our drone fleet.
- Integrate specialized sensors (LIDAR, cameras, ...) on the drones for autonomous navigation.
- Programming of the drone flight controller.
- Pilot drones during field trials.
- Support with the acquisition of new drone systems.
- Support the ground robot division of the lab if they have questions related to your expertise.

## **SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**

We are looking for candidates with a bachelor's degree in electronics-ICT, data science, computing, automation, AI, programming, software development, electromechanics, aerospace, applied informatics, vehicle technologies, unmanned aircraft systems, or similar.

### **Must-have skills**

- Proven experience of working with UAV / drone systems (hardware, electronics, software)
- Ability to devise innovative solutions to technical challenges in the field

### **Nice-to-have skills**

- Experience with mobile robots or embedded systems.
- Experience in CAD modeling and 3D printing of components

- Training or experience in a mechanical workshop
- Drone piloting license (we offer possibilities to obtain the A1/A3 and A2 license, if needed)
- Knowledge of PCB design and soldering
- Experience with flight control and robotics software (e.g. PX4, ArduPilot, ROS)

### Personal skills

- You have a practical mindset with a hands-on approach to problem solving, finding practical and efficient solutions.
- You take initiative, are involved, and results oriented.
- You have good communication skills in English to support international colleagues.
- A minimum knowledge of both French and Dutch is an added value for collaboration.

## SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

- The applicant may be exposed to classified information and will therefore have to obtain the required security clearance. The candidate must consent with the background check required to obtain this clearance, which will be executed by Belgian Defense.
- **Only applicants with a nationality of a country that is both part of NATO and the EU will be eligible.**
- Working for RMA-Patrimony requires living in Belgium for the duration of the study.

## APPLICATION

Please send by email your CV to Mr. Maxim Vochten ([maxim.vochten@mil.be](mailto:maxim.vochten@mil.be)) and to [ERM-DEAO-STAFF-HRMGT-PATRIMONY@mil.be](mailto:ERM-DEAO-STAFF-HRMGT-PATRIMONY@mil.be).

Please use the following format in the email subject header: **"Drone Technician application <Firstname> <Lastname>"** and **mention your nationality in the email body.**

The application deadline is: **18/01/2026**, after which we make a selection of the candidates. The interviews will take place online. The date and time of the interview will be communicated to the preselected candidates.

## CONTRACT

- Probable date of recruitment: From **March 2026**, earlier or later in consultation with the applicant.
- Status: Full-time employment based on an open-ended contract with the Patrimony of the Royal Military Academy (you will not be a civil servant).
  - Please note that your contract will be open-ended, but the financing of the contract will be tied to the funding project, which is guaranteed **until the beginning of 2030**. The financing of your contract beyond that period is therefore not 100% guaranteed. However, the Patrimony has a policy to keep the good elements on board and the research focus of this job offer fits within our core research activities, so there is a high chance that we will be able to offer you follow-up projects beyond that date if you decide to stay.
- Wage scale: **NBI1**. RMA-Patrimony applies a merit-based research career track, allowing researchers to advance in wage scale based upon annual evaluations. Wage simulator: [Simulateur de salaire | BOSA](#).
- Holiday pay.

## EXTRA LEGAL BENEFITS

- Possibility to benefit from a bilingualism allowance (Dutch/French) following a SELOR test.
- End-of-year bonus.
- Free DKV hospitalization insurance. Possibility of additional affiliation for one or more persons living under the same roof: spouse, child(ren) (50% of the price per additional member).
- Bike allowance / Free public transport (home-work commute).
- Meal vouchers (6€/ day).
- Free access to campus sports facilities outside working hours.
- On-campus restaurant and cafeteria with democratic prices (discount on the daily menu).
- Flexible working hours within the 38-hour week.
- Teleworking possible with allowance (2 days / week max).
- Holidays:
  - 29 days holiday / year from the 1st year of contract (then from 45 years: +1-day holiday every 5 years)
  - 1 week OFF every year between Christmas and New Year's Eve (independent of the annual balance of holidays).
- Advantages and interesting offers thanks to the Benefits@work card (discounts, vouchers...).
- Entitlement to services offered by the 'Office Central d'Action Sociale et Culturelle de la Défense' (OCASC): among others holiday centres, discount on travel organised by the tour operator...
- Possibility to benefit from the nursery funded by Belgian Defence (subject to availability).

## WORKPLACE

Royal Military Academy, Avenue de la Renaissance 30, 1000 Brussels.

Occasional travels abroad for scientific conferences.

We value diversity and equal opportunities. Whether you are a man, a woman or X, or come from any background, we firmly believe that diversity enriches our community, and we encourage all qualified candidates to apply.