THORBURN
SECURITY SOLUTIONS



# SECURITY FROM ABOVE

## WHY DRONES ARE CHANGING THE FUTURE OF INTELLIGENT PROTECTION

Security risks are changing. The way businesses protect themselves needs to change with them.

Across South Africa, organisations operating large, remote and high-value sites face an increasingly complex security environment.

Mining and industrial operations in particular must protect people, assets and infrastructure across vast areas, often in difficult terrain and during hours when conventional surveillance becomes more challenging.

The threat is not theoretical. The Minerals Council South Africa identifies rising theft, illegal mining and organised crime targeting mining operations and supply chains as a principal industry risk, with consequences including operational disruption, safety risks and direct economic losses.

SAPS operations during 2025 and 2026 also continue to demonstrate the scale and complexity of illegal mining and associated criminal activity, including mineral theft, firearms and organised criminal networks.

Against this backdrop, security cannot rely exclusively on what can be seen from a guard post, vehicle or fixed camera.

The next generation of protection needs to see further, understand sooner and respond faster.

## FROM SURVEILLANCE TO AERIAL INTELLIGENCE

Drones are changing what is possible.

Traditional security technologies remain important, but each has physical limitations. Fixed cameras monitor predetermined areas. Ground patrols can only be in one place at a time. Large perimeters and remote terrain take time to cover.

A drone introduces another dimension: **visibility from above.**

It can provide an aerial perspective across large operational environments and support security teams with real-time information about what is happening on the ground. But the real opportunity is not the drone itself. It is what happens when **drones, data, people and security operations become connected.**

That is where aerial surveillance becomes **intelligent protection.**

**INTELLIGENT PROTECTION**

# FIVE WAYS DRONE-ENABLED SECURITY CHANGES THE EQUATION

1

## Greater visibility

Remote aerial coverage enables security teams to observe large areas, perimeters and difficult-to-access locations from a different perspective.

Thorburn's planned DJI Matrice capability includes advanced surveillance payloads and night-operation capability, expanding surveillance beyond conventional daytime patrol environments.

2

## Faster detection and response

Seeing an incident is only valuable if intelligence reaches the people who can act on it.
Live drone feeds and alerts can provide operators with information that helps them assess developing situations and coordinate an appropriate response.

The objective is simple: See more. Know sooner. Respond faster.

3

## More effective use of security resources

Drone surveillance does not replace people. It helps security teams deploy people more intelligently.

Instead of relying solely on repetitive physical patrols, aerial intelligence can help identify areas requiring attention and give response teams greater situational awareness before they arrive. The result is a security model in which technology extends human capability.

4

## Scalable protection

For organisations operating multiple sites, scalability is increasingly important.
Thorburn's longer-term strategy is to develop a scalable national drone operations platform capable of supporting multiple mining and industrial clients.

That means drone-enabled security can ultimately become part of a broader security architecture rather than a standalone intervention.

5

## Improved operational control

Centralised drone operations allow information from multiple locations to be brought into a common operating environment.

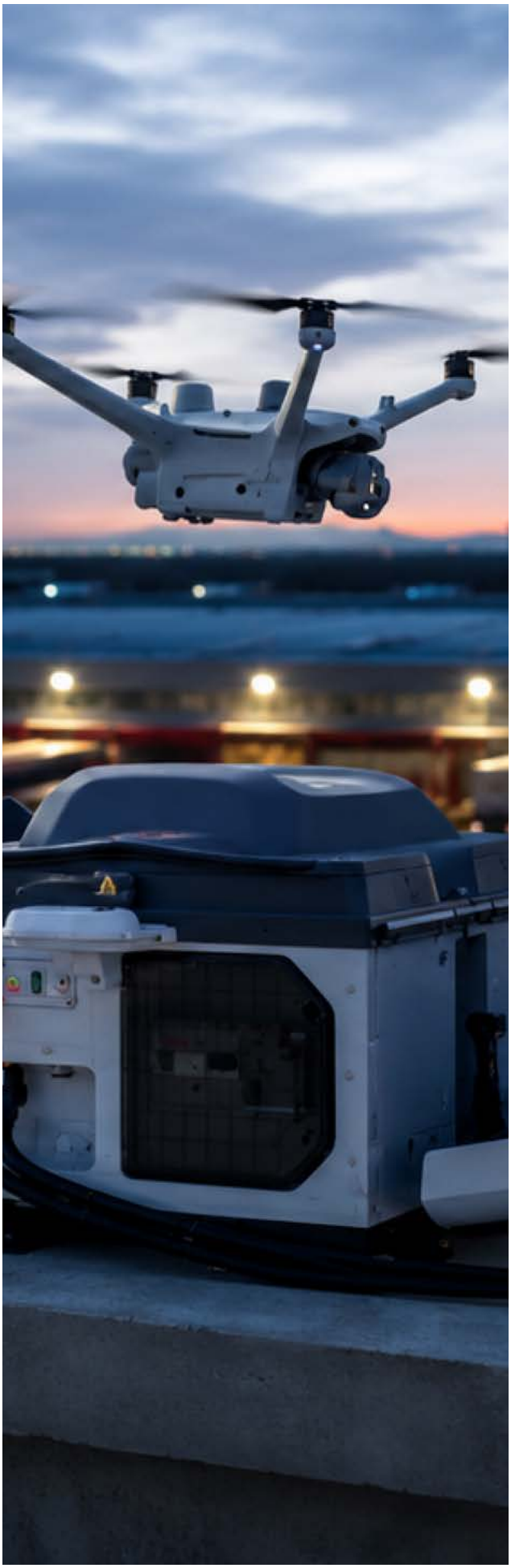
Thorburn's programme is being designed around live video feeds, automated alerts and flight logging, reporting dashboards, KPI tracking and integration with the Thorburn Security Operations Centre. This creates an important shift from isolated surveillance technologies towards connected security intelligence.

# DRONES ALSO INTRODUCE COMPLEXITY

Deploying drones professionally is not as simple as purchasing an aircraft and putting it into the air.

Commercial drone operations in South Africa operate within a regulated aviation environment. SACAA states that applicable UAS must be approved and registered and that operations outside the defined private-use framework are governed by Part 101 requirements, including operator certification requirements.

There are also practical considerations. Pilots need appropriate skills and accreditation. Aircraft need to be managed and maintained. Connectivity must remain reliable. Data needs to reach the control environment securely. Flight activity must be recorded and governed by operating procedures.



For the client, therefore, the question should not simply be:

**“Do you have drones?”**

It should be:

**“What security ecosystem sits behind the drone?”**

**The Thorburn difference: the intelligence behind the aircraft**

Thorburn Security Solutions is developing an in-house drone capability designed around exactly this principle.

The programme is intended to bring together aircraft, accredited pilots, secure connectivity, operational management, live surveillance, advanced reporting and the Thorburn SOC.

Thorburn's technology platform is built on DJI's enterprise docked-drone systems. Dock 3 with the Matrice 4TD delivers automated launch, recharge and thermal night operations today; the new Dock 4 with the Matrice 5TD adds automatic battery swapping in under a minute, up to 59 minutes of flight and on-board AI detection — near-continuous aerial coverage with minimal time on the ground.

Every site is connected through ROIP communications, satellite connectivity for remote locations and LTE redundancy, so coverage never depends on client infrastructure.

More importantly, the information generated by the aircraft is intended to feed into Thorburn's broader security operation.

That is an important distinction. We are not simply adding drones to traditional guarding. We are building drones into an intelligent protection ecosystem.

From reactive security to intelligent protection The future of security will increasingly be defined by how effectively organisations combine people, technology and intelligence.

Drones give security teams a powerful new perspective. Data gives that perspective meaning. Experienced operators determine what requires attention. Integrated response capability turns intelligence into action.

Together, they can help organisations move from simply reacting to incidents towards detecting and understanding risk earlier.

For South African organisations responsible for mines, industrial operations, infrastructure and geographically dispersed assets, that shift matters.

Because tomorrow's security challenge will not simply be about having more eyes on the ground.

It will be about having a better view of the entire risk environment.

**Higher perspectives. A safer tomorrow.**
Thorburn Security Solutions
Working with you for intelligent protection.

**Discover how drone-enabled intelligent protection could strengthen your security operation.**

**CTA: TALK TO A THORBURN SECURITY SPECIALIST**



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