

## Business

### Fla. businesses get 2nd-largest no. of drone approvals

Florida businesses have obtained the second-largest number of Federal Aviation Administration approvals to fly unmanned aircraft systems, such as drones, according to nonprofit Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International.

More than 300 businesses across the state have been granted the "exemptions" — the formal term for approvals — since the FAA began approving low-risk commercial applications of drones and similar equipment in September 2014.

In South Florida, drones are frequently used to capture photographs of luxury real estate for potential buyers. For instance, Two Roads Development, the firm behind the Edgewater condominium Elysee, uses drones to capture units' balcony views and create more realistic renderings.

"Before you used to have to get helicopters and fly to each unit," said managing partner Taylor Collins. "But now we use drones ... to get a whole smorgasbord of views to make our rendering. And it also helps to show buyers different shots of the site from the water, from downtown or the causeway, so it's really helped."

California leads the country in approvals, with 360. Texas is third, with 268.

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