

## Two PX4 x500\_depth Drones in One Gazebo Gz World – Quick Steps

### 1. Prerequisites (done once)

- Ubuntu 22.04 with PX4-Autopilot cloned.
- Gazebo Gz (Harmonic) installed via PX4 setup script.
- ROS 2 Humble (optional, for camera feed) and ros\_gz\_bridge installed.

Build PX4 SITL at least once:

```
cd ~/PX4-Autopilot
make px4_sitl
```

### 2. Start Drone 1 (rear drone, instance 1)

Open Terminal 1:

```
cd ~/PX4-Autopilot
PX4_SYS_AUTOSTART=4002 PX4_GZ_MODEL=x500_depth \
./build/px4_sitl_default/bin/px4 -i 1
```

Wait for the pxh> prompt, then in that shell:

```
param set NAV_DLL_ACT 0
```

This starts Gazebo Gz with the default world and spawns model x500\_depth\_1.

### 3. Start Drone 2 (front drone, instance 2)

Open Terminal 2:

```
cd ~/PX4-Autopilot
PX4_SYS_AUTOSTART=4002 PX4_GZ_MODEL=x500_depth \
PX4_GZ_MODEL_POSE="3,0" \
./build/px4_sitl_default/bin/px4 -i 2
```

In the second pxh> shell:

```
param set NAV_DLL_ACT 0
```

Now the world contains two drones: x500\_depth\_1 at the origin and x500\_depth\_2 about 3 m in front along the +X axis.

### 4. Arm and Take Off (per drone)

In each pxh> shell (Terminal 1 and Terminal 2):

```
commander arm
commander takeoff
```

Make sure the Gazebo simulation is unpause so both vehicles lift off.

### 5. Camera Topics (optional, for ROS 2)

Each drone publishes its RGB camera over Gz topics, for example:

```
/world/default/model/x500_depth_1/link/camera_link/sensor/IMX214/image
/world/default/model/x500_depth_2/link/camera_link/sensor/IMX214/image
```

To bridge the rear drone camera to ROS 2:

```
ros2 run ros_gz_bridge parameter_bridge \
"/world/default/model/x500_depth_1/link/camera_link/sensor/IMX214/image@\"
```

```
"sensor_msgs/msg/Image@gz.msgs.Image" \
"/world/default/model/x500_depth_1/link/camera_link/sensor/IMX214/camera_info@"\
"sensor_msgs/msg/	CameraInfo@gz.msgs.CameraInfo"
```

Then visualize in rqt\_image\_view or RViz2.

Summary:

- Use separate terminals and PX4 instance IDs (-i 1, -i 2) to run two vehicles.
- PX4\_GZ\_MODEL=x500\_depth selects the drone model; PX4\_GZ\_MODEL\_POSE sets spawn offset.
- Set NAV\_DLL\_ACT=0 in SITL to bypass the "no GCS" preflight check.
- Arm and take off both drones via commander, and optionally bridge cameras into ROS 2.