

Amazon is issued patent for delivery drones

Notes & Cues:**Article:**

Amazon.com has been granted a new patent by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office for a delivery drone that can respond to human gestures such as screaming voices, flailing arms.

The concept is part of Amazon's goal to develop a fleet of unmanned aerial vehicles that can get packages to customers in 30 minutes or less. Issued earlier this week, the patent may help Amazon solve the problem of how flying robots might interact with customers waiting on their doorsteps.

Depending on a person's gestures — a welcoming thumbs up, shouting or frantic arm waving — the drone can adjust its behavior, according to the patent. The machine could release the package it's carrying, alter its flight path to avoid crashing, ask humans a question or end the delivery, the patent says.

Since announcing its plans to develop an air delivery service, Amazon has applied for several ambitious patents that include designs for drones that self-destruct during an emergency. However, there's no word on when the gesture-recognition system might debut. Amazon declined to comment. In 2016, the company made its first autonomous drone delivery to a shopper in the United Kingdom. A private customer trial for drone delivery in Britain is ongoing.

Summary: