

Dear publisher, editors and reviewers,

With this cover letter, we would like to give you more information regarding our submission entitled “A proof of concept of the in-flight launch of unmanned aerial vehicles in a search and rescue scenario” to the Special Issue of the IMEKO journal. As you may know, this is an extended version of our ISMCR 2018 conference paper “In-flight launch of unmanned aerial vehicles”. We would therefore like to indicate the main differentiating aspects between the two papers:

- The problem statement has been improved in order to better make the link between the two parts of the paper: the in-flight launch system and the validation in a search and rescue case.
- The previous work section has been vastly extended to include more state of the art on in-flight launch systems. In addition, a state of the art analysis on semantic segmentation has been added.
- In order to enhance the readability, a new section, discussing the overall system design was included. This section is made up of 2 parts:
 - o The hardware and software used: this was previously in section 1
 - o A discussion on the aerodynamic constraints: this is a whole new section
- The validation of the controller in sections 4.2 to 4.5 has been vastly extended, including more information on the validation protocol, the initial testing phase and new graphs showing the real-time reaction of the PID controller, all discussed in the text.

We hope that these improvements will make the paper valid for publication into your esteemed journal and thank you in advance for the time and effort you spend in reviewing this submission.

With Kind Regards,

Geert De Cubber (corresponding author)