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Akira Sato was educated in Aeronautical Engineering at Kyoto University. He joined YAMAHA Motor Co.,LTD in 1982. For more than 30 years, he has been involved in developing industrial use unmanned helicopters for crop dusting and observation / measurement in disaster areas. He has also been active in the area of developing control systems.

In 2001 he received an Outstanding Technology Award from The New Technology Development Foundation in Japan for his contribution to using unmanned helicopters to observe erupting volcanos.

Akira Sato has served as a director of the Japan UAV Association for 8 years, which is an organization representing the industries which develop, manufacture, and operate UAVs in Japan. This organization was created in 2004 for the purpose of promoting safety and contributing to the development of the UAV market in Japan.