

## **RESPONSE TO EDITOR'S COMMENT**

Comment:

Improve conclusions on the use of remotely piloted aircraft systems (RPAS).

### **RESPONSE**

The following text was added in the conclusions (line 467-478):

"The findings from this study indicate that UAV-based photogrammetry can be a low cost alternative to LiDAR surveying for developing DTMs. Acquisition of a UAV with a high-resolution camera is significantly less expensive than the acquisition cost of a LiDAR or a TLS unit that generates similar (i.e., point cloud) data. In addition, deployment of UAVs is simpler and less expensive. Among the many advantages of UAV-enabled SfM is the ability to access areas that are relatively inaccessible. This advantage is particularly important in emergency response and reconnaissance following natural disasters such as landslides, floods, earthquakes and hurricanes.

However, experience is necessary to generate data of appropriate quality (spatial distribution and resolution), as data quality is significantly affected by the sensor data as well as the flight characteristics. Ground control points are critical to properly scale the point clouds and reduce distortions."