eVTOL INSIGHTS

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY

December 2025

evtolinsights.com

# DUBAI AIRSHOW 2025 REVIEW


**SKYPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE**
DXV VERTIPORT IN DUBAI NOW 60 PER CENT COMPLETE

**JOBY AVIATION**
COMPLETES LANDMARK FLIGHT, NEXT DUBAI VERTIPORT LOCATIONS ANNOUNCED

**LODD AUTONOMOUS**
FIRST TRIAL FLIGHTS OF HILI AIRCRAFT COMPLETED

**EHANG**
FIRST URBAN-CARRYING PILOTLESS FLIGHTS IN QATAR

**ARCHER**
SHOWCASES FLIGHT TEST CAMPAIGN IN UAE

**SKYPORTZ**
UNVEILS AEROBERM CONCEPT FOR MIDDLE EAST MARKET

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eVTOL Insights is a leading source of news, information and analysis into the global Advanced Air Mobility market.

Since our launch in April 2020, we've been covering the latest industry news and offering insight for leading executives in the manned and unmanned market, across both passenger and cargo-carrying services.

Our in-depth news and intelligence cover a range of different topics, from new company partnerships to industry updates on certification, infrastructure, battery developments and regulation.

As well as daily news, we interview industry professionals as part of our popular podcast series, produce short news videos for our YouTube channel and publish four Special Reports each year; our Powerbook (January) , CTO Report (June), Women in eVTOL (September) and Ones to Watch (December).

We also have a dedicated WhatsApp news channel with more than 340 subscribers and host a monthly room on Clubhouse on the first Thursday of each month, where we discuss the latest stories and developments.

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# Welcome

We're nearly at the end of 2025 and the global aviation industry finds itself at a defining moment, one shaped by rapid innovation, bold commitments, and a renewed vision for the future of flight.

Nowhere was this more evident than at the Dubai Airshow 2025 last month, where the world's leading aerospace companies, innovators and policymakers gathered to showcase the technologies reshaping our skies. This year's event delivered an extraordinary lineup of announcements, partnerships and breakthroughs, many of which you'll find featured throughout this issue. From next-generation airframe designs to cutting-edge propulsion systems and transformative digital solutions, the airshow set a powerful tone for the industry's trajectory.

Beyond the headline news from Dubai, this year has been a pivotal one for the Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) sector. The market saw remarkable progress across the development, autonomous flight testing, regulatory alignment and early-stage commercial planning of eVTOL aircraft.

Cities across the globe advanced infrastructure strategies, while manufacturers continued to expand test programs and demonstrate real-world viability. These achievements bring the market closer than ever to becoming an integrated part of modern transportation ecosystems

But before we see in the new year, I'd like to remind readers that the Early Bird deadline for entering our Global AAM Awards ends on Friday, December 31st, 2025. All the details on how to enter, as well as the 30+ categories spread across Company, Team and Individual sections, are available on the Awards page of our website.

Our focus is then fully on our first event of 2026, where we head to Ohio for our North America Conference & Awards. Taking place from April 29th to May 1st, we've already had a huge amount of interest from companies wanting to attend and participate.

If you'd like to be part of our programme, either as a speaker, exhibitor or even sponsor, please email sam.bromley@iigroup.global

Thank you for your continued support. We hope you enjoy this month's edition.

**— Jason Pritchard, Executive Editor, eVTOL Insights**

## DXV Vertiport in Dubai Now 60 Per Cent Complete, On Course to Open For Flights Next Year


Skyports Infrastructure and Dubai Roads & Transport Authority (RTA) have conducted the ceremonial 'topping-out' ceremony of the DXV vertiport, which has now reached its highest point.

Located adjacent to Dubai International Airport (DXB) and now 60 per cent complete, construction is currently running on schedule and planned to be completed in Q1 2026.

Once open, the vertiport will cater to flights with Joby Aviation's S4 eVTOL aircraft, with commercial services planned next year. The vertiport will be the central node of Skyports' and RTA's Dubai Vertiport Network, with further network nodes in collaboration with different developers in Dubai.

Designed for high capacity, the facility will being able to cater for 42,000 aircraft movements and serve approximately 170,000 passengers per year.

Ahmed Hashem Bahrozyan, CEO of Public Transport Agency at RTA, said: "The progress achieved at the vertiport near Dubai International Airport marks a defining moment in our journey toward launching the world's first aerial taxi service.

"This milestone reflects Dubai's commitment to transforming mobility through innovation, efficiency, and seamless integration across all modes of transportation. Our objective is not only to introduce a new mode of transport, but to enhance the customer experience, offering faster, safer, and more seamless journeys across the city.

The facility features two take-off and landing areas, alongside all the technologies and facilities to accommodate eVTOL aircraft flights, such as fast-charging infrastructure and safety equipment specified to the highest global aviation standards. It can also accommodate conventional helicopter traffic.

The terminal spans four floors with a footprint of 3,100m², housing the main passenger terminal alongside central operations for the vertiport. The passenger terminal has been designed to provide a frictionless passenger experience, incorporating automated electronic check-in, advanced security screening, a premium lounge and briefing rooms.

The development includes a multi-deck car park, ensuring seamless transfers between air and ground transport. It is also a short walk from the Emirates metro station, supporting onward intermodal connectivity.

## REGENT Craft and DHL Express to Explore Use of All-Electric Seagliders for Sustainable Cargo Logistics

REGENT Craft and DHL Express have signed a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to explore the use of electric Seaglider vessels for short haul, coastal, and island logistics.

Both parties will work together to assess the potential integration of REGENT's Seaglider vessels into DHL's existing logistics network to extend the capabilities of its regional and coastal cargo operations.

The partnership, set to begin in January 2026, will see DHL Express explore deployment opportunities for the Seaglider vessels in the Middle East initially, followed by other key markets to pave the way for a more sustainable future of logistics.

Billy Thalheimer, Co-founder and CEO of REGENT, said: "This collaboration marks another important milestone as we build a more sustainable and connected global logistics ecosystem. Partnering with a global logistics pioneer like DHL allows us to demonstrate how Seaglider vessels can enhance efficiency, reduce emissions, and connect key trade routes across the Middle East and beyond."

REGENT and SDF previously announced a joint venture that will manufacture REGENT's Seaglider vessels in the UAE in addition to its manufacturing facility in Rhode Island.

The joint venture will also provide aftermarket services such as maintenance, and parts distribution, boosting local manufacturing capabilities and strengthening the UAE's industrial base.

Bachi Spiga, VP Network Operations, DHL Express Middle East and North Africa, said: "At DHL Express, we are constantly exploring innovative solutions that can help us decarbonize logistics while improving efficiency and service for our customers.

"REGENT's all-electric Seaglider represents a transformative step forward in sustainable maritime transport. Through this partnership, we aim to explore how this technology can enhance our regional and global operations — starting here in the Middle East, one of the world's most dynamic logistics hubs."

The partnership builds on REGENT's work in the Middle East region, with Abu Dhabi's Integrated Transport Centre having signed an MoU with REGENT in 2024, and ADNOC L&S selecting the Seaglider vessel for a proof-of-concept trial to assess the craft's suitability for transporting personnel to and from offshore energy infrastructure earlier in 2025.

## SkyGrid and High Lander Aviation to Develop AAM Technology and Regulatory Frameworks in Abu Dhabi

SkyGrid and High Lander Aviation will explore the development of a cutting-edge airspace management ecosystem to support the safe integration of crewed and uncrewed aerial vehicles, including cargo drones and eVTOL) aircraft.

Signed at this week's Dubai Airshow, both parties will work together to assess Advanced Air Mobility Supporting Operational Environments (SOE), focusing on key areas such as airspace integration, digital operations, vertiport integration, cybersecurity and regulatory frameworks.

The goal is to develop technology roadmaps, regulatory frameworks, and infrastructure plans for AAM operations in Abu Dhabi and other regions across the world.

Jia Xu, CEO of SkyGrid, said: "This collaboration represents a significant milestone in shaping the digital foundation of Advanced Air Mobility in the UAE and across the Middle East.

"Together with High Lander, we're bringing the world closer to a unified vision of safe, scalable, and sustainable airspace integration. By combining SkyGrid's expertise in high-assurance autonomous flight services with High Lander's proven UTM technologies, we can help Abu Dhabi realise its vision of becoming a global leader in next-generation aviation and autonomous transportation."

The initiative aligns with Abu Dhabi's Economic Vision 2030, reinforcing its commitment to technological innovation, economic diversification, and sustainability.

By leveraging SkyGrid's expertise in next-generation digital airspace integration solutions and High Lander's leading UTM technology, both companies believe this partnership will accelerate AAM adoption in the region and position Abu Dhabi as a global hub for autonomous air transportation.


Alon Abelson, CEO and founder of High Lander, added: "This partnership between High Lander and SkyGrid marks an exciting step forward in advancing a connected and intelligent AAM ecosystem. Our shared goal is to create a harmonized operational environment where uncrewed and crewed aircraft can coexist safely and efficiently.

"The UAE's leadership and their commitment to innovation, with the support of industry giants such as Boeing, make it the perfect environment to demonstrate how automation, data-driven management, and cross-industry collaboration can transform the future of air mobility."

## EHang Conducts First Urban Human-Carrying Pilotless electric air taxi Flights in Qatar

EHang has completed a trial of pilotless electric taxi flights in Qatar with its EH216-S eVTOL aircraft, which included point-to-point and human-carrying flights.

Conducted in close partnership with Qatar's Ministry of Transport, these point-to-point flights between the Port of Doha and the Katara Cultural Village represent the first urban flights of a pilotless eVTOL aircraft in the Middle East.

The trial operation campaign demonstrated the real-world potential and future commercial operation value of the EH216-S in Urban Air Mobility (UAM) scenarios through point-to-point flights between the Port of Doha and Katara Cultural Village — two prominent urban landmarks.

Ms. Victoria Jing Xiang, Chief Operating Officer for Europe & LatAm at EHang, said: "These groundbreaking flights mark the first-ever trial operations of a pilotless eVTOL aircraft for passenger transport in a Middle Eastern city center. We sincerely thank the MOT and the Civil Aviation Authority of Qatar for their vision, support, and trust. Together, we are building a safe, intelligent, and efficient regional AAM ecosystem."

This strategic route served as proof of concept for aerial shuttle service connecting transport hubs with key urban destinations. More than just a test flight, it showcased a visionary model for intermodal connectivity, seamlessly linking maritime and aerial transport to bypass ground congestion—transforming a 30-minute car journey into a sustainable, eight-minute flight.

These flights marked the first point-to-point flight of the EH216S pilotless eVTOL in an urban environment in the Middle East,

It will provide valuable references for civil aviation regulators in the Middle East and other countries worldwide to formulate and promote the improvement of policies and regulations, strengthens the confidence of operators of the EH216S, and will accelerate the global commercialization of EHang's pilotless human-carrying eVTOLs.

Executed with the operational authorization from the QCAA, and the strategic support of the MOT of the State of Qatar, this flights reflect Qatar's

# Main news - Middle East

## Joby Aviation Completes Landmark Flight and Announces Next Vertiport Locations For Dubai's Air Taxi Network

Joby Aviation has announced the next three vertiports to be added to Dubai's electric air taxi network, alongside Dubai's Road and Transport Authority (RTA) and Skyports Infrastructure, who will be responsible for building the vertiports.

The sites, at the American University of Dubai, Atlantis the Royal and the Dubai Mall, will enable Joby to deliver high-speed, emissions-free connections between some of Dubai's most high-profile destinations, as part of its six-year exclusive agreement with the RTA to establish air taxi services in the Emirate.

The news comes as Joby successfully completed a landmark flight test, becoming the first electric air taxi company to conduct a point-to-point flight in the UAE.

JoeBen Bevirt, founder and CEO of Joby Aviation, said: "From flight demonstrations to infrastructure, we're making incredible progress on all fronts as we look ahead to launching commercial passenger service in Dubai next year.

The vertiport announcement brings together three major Dubai property developers — Emaar Properties, Atlantis The Royal, and Wasl Asset Management Group — to deliver a network of valuable and high-traffic sites across the emirate:

Dubai Mall: The world's largest shopping and entertainment destination, attracting nearly 111 million visitors in 2024 to its vast array of attractions, such as the Burj Khalifa

Atlantis the Royal: A global landmark resort located at the center of Palm Jumeirah, offering unmatched connectivity to premier beachfront destinations, world-class dining, and entertainment

American University of Dubai: Strategically located to serve both Dubai Marina's vibrant residential and entertainment hub and Dubai Internet City's leading technology and corporate districts

On Sunday, November 9th, Joby landed its aircraft at Al Maktoum International Airport (DWC) following a 17-minute piloted flight from its test facility in Margham, underscoring Joby's commercial market readiness and ability to operate in shared airspace.

Tens of thousands of attendees also watched Joby's aircraft fly for the first time at the Dubai Airshow on Monday, with demonstration flights planned the week of November 17th to 21st.

## Archer, THC, PIF, RSG Collaborate to Launch eVTOL Air Mobility in Saudi Arabia

Archer Aviation, The Helicopter company (THC), Saudi Arabia's premier helicopter commercial operator, The Public Investment Fund (PIF) and Red Sea Global (RSG) are collaborating on the development, testing and potential integration of Archer's eVTOL aircraft into RSG's operations.

This will be one of the first deployments of eVTOL aircraft in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

The signing marks a major step forward in the Kingdom's efforts to explore and integrate eVTOL aircraft into its emerging mobility ecosystem. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by Captain Arnaud Martinez, CEO of THC, John Pagano, Group CEO of Red Sea Global, and Adam Goldstein, Founder & CEO of Archer Aviation.

Captain Martinez commented: "Our partnership demonstrates confidence in emerging technologies and a shared commitment to shaping a smarter, more connected tomorrow, together."

In the initial phase of the agreement, Archer Aviation will work together with THC and RSG to help build the foundational framework for their planned eVTOL operations in Saudi Arabia.

This includes establishing a structured sandbox environment to conduct test flights with Archer's Midnight eVTOL under real-world conditions to assess aircraft performance, operational feasibility, regulatory alignment, passenger acceptance, and overall ecosystem readiness.

They will also collaborate on testing advanced aerial technologies, exploring long-term strategic partnerships for large-scale deployment, and supporting regional innovation to advance next-generation aviation systems.

As the project progresses, RSG will lead the sandbox testing with Archer's Midnight aircraft to evaluate the potential for integrating eVTOL aircraft into the company's future operations.

Given RSG's controlled airspace, sustainable infrastructure and its position as a flagship developer under PIF, this offers a suitable platform to demonstrate the potential of AAM in supporting regenerative tourism and next-generation transportation options for the Kingdom.

Following completion of the sandbox program, all parties will review the results and consider further initiatives to support large scale introduction of eVTOL services.

# Main news - Middle East

## Skyportz unveils Aeroberm Vertipad Concept to Enable Middle East Property Industry to Join Air Taxi Revolution


Skyportz has unveiled at the Dubai Airshow its Aeroberm vertipad to the Middle East, launching an important opportunity for the property industry to participate in the Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) sector.

The Australian-based Vertiport infrastructure company is addressing, "The critical infrastructure gap — the need for a dense network of new take-off and landing sites beyond traditional airports and heliports," explains the release.

The Aeroberm™ patented modular vertipad system, has been engineered specifically to enable rooftops, car parks, industrial sites, hotels, mixed-use precincts, tourism assets and private properties to join the aviation network, affordably and safely.

Clem Newton-Brown, Founder and CEO of Skyportz, commented, "The property industry is the missing piece of the AAM puzzle. It will play a decisive role and Aeroberm is that enabling technology. It offers a safe, compliant and affordable way to join this exciting new aviation sector."

The concept solves the three primary barriers that have prevented new urban vertipad approvals:-

: Downwash Management — The unique patented surfaces diffuse and redirect air taxi downwash, protecting pedestrians, vehicles and surrounding structures. Property footprints may be safely reduced using the Aeroberm.

: Noise Reduction - The design breaks up rotor vortices and reduces noise signatures — critical for community acceptance and regulatory compliance.

: Fire Safety & Rapid Deployment — The modular, patented Aeroberm incorporates a battery fire solution for peace of mind — a design that experts have said is the only viable option to immediately halt thermal runaway and make a property site safe again.

This combination makes the Aeroberm the first practical solution for establishing a fine-grained network of air taxi destinations across dense urban environments."

Newton-Brown continued, "The property sector is now able to deliver the multitude of destinations needed for a truly functional AAM network. The design offers property owners an affordable plug-and-play vertipad solution and gives aviation companies the landing infrastructure they urgently need."

## LODD Autonomous Conducts First Trial Flight of Hili Aircraft in Al Ain Region

LODD Autonomous has conducted its first trial flight of Hili, a hybrid heavy-lift cargo aircraft designed, built and manufactured in Abu Dhabi, at the company's flight testing facility at Emirates Falcons Aviation in Al Ain Region.

The event took place during the Abu Dhabi Autonomous Week and was watched by UAE's President, His Highness Sheikh Zayed bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

The Hili aircraft can transport payloads of up to 250 kgs across distances of close to 700 kms. It is powered by a hybrid propulsion system that combines electric and internal combustion technologies within a modular design, ensuring high levels of efficiency, safety and sustainability in aerial cargo operations.

His Highness affirmed the flight reflected Abu Dhabi's Middle East leadership in developing and manufacturing advanced air mobility due to the continued support of the Smart and Autonomous Systems Council.

Rashid Al Manai, Chief Executive Officer of LODD Autonomous, added: "Our vision has created a thriving environment for innovation. LODD Autonomous continues to solidify its position as one of the UAE's leading national entities in advanced air mobility, supporting the country's vision to be a global destination for autonomous systems, logistics and future aviation technologies."

The first test flight, attended by senior representatives from government entities and private sector companies operating in air mobility and autonomous systems, marks a significant engineering and operational achievement that demonstrates Abu Dhabi's growing capabilities in designing and manufacturing advanced aviation systems.

The aircraft was developed under an intensive engineering program focused on safety, precision and quality, highlighting the emirate's ability to transform a vision into tangible, real-world solutions with speed and efficiency.

This achievement is the result of broad strategic collaboration, which reflects international confidence in the UAE's innovation ecosystem and underscores the success of Abu Dhabi's approach to fostering public-private partnerships that accelerate the development of advanced technologies and the transformation towards sustainable, autonomous air mobility solutions.

Founded in 2023, LODD designs, develops, and deploys next-generation autonomous systems to tackle the emerging challenges of middle-mile cargo logistics. Hili is the company's flagship UAV. LODD's breakthrough platform delivers scalable, efficient and reliable cargo transport solutions for diverse industries.

## Archer's Midnight Showcases eVTOL Flight Test Campaign in UAE as Part of Its Commercial Launch Edition Program


Archer Aviation has completed an in flight test campaign in the UAE, which aimed to showcase Midnight's full eVTOL flight envelope, including vertical takeoff, transition, and wingborne flight.

The campaign marks a major step forward in the implementation of Abu Dhabi's Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) vision, developed under the supervision of the Integrated Transport Centre (ITC).

The tests were conducted in close coordination with the UAE's regulator, the General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA), Integrated Transport Centre and Archer's operations partner, Abu Dhabi Aviation.

Adam Goldstein, Archer's Founder and CEO, said: "We designed Midnight to be able to handle challenging weather environments like the UAE with its sand and heat, and it delivered the results we expected it to across all phases of flight.

"Our 'Launch Edition' program has proven to be an effective framework to help accelerate Archer and our partners' progress toward commercialization in Abu Dhabi and the rest of the UAE."

With this phase of in-country testing now complete, Archer will move into the next phase of its "Launch Edition" program.

This will be supported by the Abu Dhabi Investment Office (ADIO) and the Integrated Transport Centre, which will be working to recruit and train local pilots in partnership with Etihad Aviation Training, further advance certification work with the GCAA, conduct additional flight test operations with Abu Dhabi Aviation and continue preparing for early-stage commercial operations in Abu Dhabi.

This latest announcement marks another key step in Archer's expansion into the United Arab Emirates. It is part of the company's Launch Edition commercialization program, which aims to make Abu Dhabi the first region in the world to begin commercial operations with Midnight.

Archer's flight test campaign in Abu Dhabi successfully demonstrated key aspects of Midnight's performance and reliability under UAE-specific operating and environmental conditions, supporting the company's path toward operational readiness in the region.

The tests were conducted in close coordination with the UAE's regulator, the General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA), Integrated Transport Centre and Archer's operations partner, Abu Dhabi Aviation.

## Falcon Aviation Services selects AutoFlight's eVTOL aircraft for use by Abu Dhabi National Oil Company

Falcon Aviation Services has signed a 50-strong order for eVTOL aircraft from AutoFlight, with the first batch to be delivered by Q4 2025 and used to provide services to the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC).

As a strategic partner of the UAE government in Advanced Air Mobility (AAM), Falcon Aviation Services plays a key role in developing future aviation projects, such as the Abu Dhabi Hybrid Vertical Landing vertiport network, demonstrating its commitment to supporting the UAE's vision for a sustainable and future-ready aviation ecosystem.

The order includes 15 V2000CG CarryAll cargo aircraft and 35 V2000EM Prosperity passenger aircraft

The V2000CG CarryAll cargo aircraft will be the first to be delivered, supporting missions such as transporting emergency supplies, providing timely resupply, and delivering equipment parts and tools between oil extraction sites and logistics centers.

Falcon Aviation Services CEO Captain Raman Oberoi said: "Falcon Aviation Services is always at the forefront of innovation and committed to supporting the UAE's Advanced Air Mobility initiatives. We are dedicated to providing more efficient and sustainable travel and cargo solutions.

"Our strategic partnership with AutoFlight, backed by their substantial technological expertise and tangible advancements in eVTOL airworthiness, represents a significant milestone.

"The established delivery timeline will be instrumental in accelerating the adoption of low-altitude air mobility, fostering a revolution in regional transportation, and reinforcing Falcon's leadership in pioneering the future of aviation, including within the energy industry."

The collaboration between Falcon Aviation Services and AutoFlight opens significant market opportunities for AutoFlight within the Middle East's energy sector.

As the world's first ton-class or larger eVTOL to obtain all three major airworthiness certificates, AutoFlight has previously partnered with CNOOC and CITIC Offshore Helicopter to complete the world's first offshore oil platform flight using V2000CG CarryAll — a ton-class+ eVTOL.

## China: "Urban-Air Port, Hangzhou Starports Tech Announce Collaboration for Vertiport Development"

UK-based Urban-Air Port (UAP) and Hangzhou Starports Tech announced this week a collaboration to develop such infrastructure across China.

Unveiled by Andrea Wu, CEO of Urban-Air Port, at the Asia-Pacific Low Altitude Economy and Advanced Air Mobility Conference (ALMAC) at the Hong Kong Convention Centre, this collaboration positions UAP and Starports to shape the global Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) revolution by capitalising on China's Low Altitude Economy (LAE).

Their first project will be a joint design and delivery of UAP's AirOne vertiport model in Qinjdao, Hangzhou & Hainan China. The collaboration is to focus on key activities, including the joint design and engineering of vertiports for high-profile locations such as Shanghai, Shenzhen, Wuxi, Guangzhou, and Zigong (Chengdu).

Wu said: "This partnership is a game-changer for Urban-Air Port and the global AAM industry. By collaborating with Starports, we are not only entering the largest market for vertiports but also shaping the future of urban air mobility and cargo logistics globally.

"Our Air-One vertiports, combined with Starports' local expertise and manufacturing capabilities, will deliver sustainable, efficient infrastructure to meet China's ambitious goals."

Under a Letter of Intent (LOI), UAP will deploy its award-winning Air-One modular and scalable vertiport technology to design and deliver compact, efficient vertiport solutions tailored to China's regulatory and environmental requirements.

These vertiports will support autonomous cargo drones and passenger air taxis, addressing the diverse needs of urban connectivity and logistics.

Starports, headquartered in Shanghai with operations in Hangzhou and manufacturing facilities in Zhejiang, will serve as UAP's exclusive development partner in China, marketing and promoting its vertiport solutions to secure projects.

The company will also provide local design, engineering and manufacturing support, leveraging its facilities to fabricate and install vertiports, reducing costs and enhancing scalability.

Starports' proprietary heliport/vertiport automation management system will be offered as a first-option solution to optimise operational efficiency for both passenger and cargo operations.

Hongfei Zhang, President of Starports, commented, "Collaborating with Urban-Air Port enables us to combine our operational and manufacturing strengths along with its cutting-edge vertiport technology. We will accelerate vertiport deployment across China, supporting the nation's vision for a Low Altitude Economy that integrates passenger and cargo solutions."

## AMSL Aero, Stralis Benefit From World-first Fabrum liquid-hydrogen refuelling System

New Zealand and Australian companies developing and deploying liquid-hydrogen technologies to enable Australasia's first hydrogen-electric flights (HEF), have made a significant step forward in the transition to zero-emission aviation.

Fabrum, AMSL Aero and Stralis Aircraft have successfully filled aviation tanks with liquid hydrogen produced and stored on-site for the first time, at the New Zealand Christchurch international airport in preparation for pre-flight testing.

Fabrum designed and manufactured the advanced composite liquid-hydrogen tanks for the two aircraft companies. The refuelling was successfully completed at the company's dedicated liquid-hydrogen test facility at the airport.

Christopher Boyle, MD of Fabrum, commented, "Our lightweight composite tanks, together with our hydrogen liquefier and refuelling systems, are critical enablers for hydrogen-powered flight.

"By bringing all the elements together for the first time on site at an international airport — producing, storing and dispensing liquid hydrogen into composite aviation tanks as a fuel — we're proving that such technologies for aircraft are now available and that HEF will soon be a reality in Australasia."

The company's composite manufacturing techniques are the culmination of over two decades of R&D in the fields of cryogenics and composites. Its proprietary triple-skin liquid hydrogen tank technology provides enhanced thermal insulation and fast refuelling, compared to conventional double-skin tank designs, delivers up to 70 percent faster refuelling times and an 80 percent reduction in boil-off losses.

These tanks are to be installed on AMSL's Vertiia aircraft for long-range flights. They store liquid hydrogen (with a boiling point much lower than room temperature). Using this fuel, Vertiia will achieve optimal range, payload and speed.

Meanwhile, Stralis Aircraft's hydrogen-electric propulsion system are mounted on the wings of the company's fixed-wing test aircraft.

Stralis expects this will enable travel up to ten times further than battery-electric alternatives and save 20 percent to 50 percent on operational costs compared to fossil fuel. Its first hydrogen test flight is expected within six months.

## AutoFlight Unveils Water-based Green Vertiport and Debuts World's First Integrated Sea-Air Mobility Solution

AutoFlight Aviation Technology has unveiled what it has described as the world's first 'Integrated Sea-Air Low-Altitude Economy Solution', which comprises a zero-carbon water-based green vertiport (WGV).

The company says the system would extend eVTOL aircraft infrastructure across vast water areas, addressing key challenges such as difficult site selection, slow deployment and complex take-off and landing operations.

In addition, AutoFlight says it supports five major use cases: energy platform maintenance, emergency rescue, high-frequency commuting, marine-aerial tourism,and mobile vertiport clusters, paving the way toward a new era of integrated land-sea-air transport.

A public demonstration of the WGV took place on Saturday (November 22nd) at Dianshan Lake in Kunshan, a city located west of Shanghai in China. A two-ton-class eVTOL aircraft took off from the vertiport, showcasing the collaborative operational capabilities of the water-based vertiport and eVTOL under this innovative "water + low-altitude" model.

AutoFlight also conducted a multi-aircraft formation flight demonstration, in which three 2‑ton-class eVTOL aircraft flew in formation and successfully performed live airdrop missions. This included deploying supplies and life rafts. The demonstration fully illustrated the application potential of eVTOLs in fields such as emergency response and low-altitude logistics.

AutoFlight's self-developed, world-first Water-based Green Vertiport serves as a mobile aerial hub and intelligent command center on water. It integrates eVTOL landing platforms, photovoltaic energy storage and charging systems, an intelligent dispatch system, and communication facilities, enabling rapid deployment across rivers, lakes, and seas.

Designed specifically for eVTOL operations, the vertiport is fully electric. Its spacious deck serves as a landing pad covered with solar panels, while the cabin acts as a departure lounge and technical room. Together, these components form a flexible, zero-carbon vertiport that supports take-off, landing, and charging for eVTOLs, while also enabling data sharing and intelligent coordination with the aircraft.

As the low-altitude economy continues to grow, the limited availability of eVTOL infrastructure remains a bottleneck, with land-based vertiports often facing lengthy construction timelines. The water-based vertiport is compatible with several of AutoFlight's key eVTOL models, including the industrial-grade 'White Shark', the two-ton-class cargo aircraft 'CarryAll', and the six-seat passenger model 'Prosperity'.


## New Zealand's First Medical Drone Delivery Trial Hailed A Success, Featuring Real-Time Emergency Situation

Vertilink Advanced Air Mobility Group has helped to successfully complete New Zealand's first medical drone delivery trial, coordinated with a real-time trauma-related emergency simulation event on Matakana Island.

Hosted by Te Kutaroa Marae and in collaboration with Ngāi Te Rangi Iwi, Ferntech and PracMed NZ, the trial demonstrated how emerging aviation technologies can deliver tangible benefits for remote communities, from rapid medical response to supporting local economies.

A DJI FlyCart 30 aircraft operated by Ferntech delivered trauma treatment equipment from Ōmokoroa to the scene on Matakana Island in less than four minutes, enabling first responders to stabilise the simulated patient within 15 minutes — a critical improvement in trauma response times for the community, where minutes can literally determine the difference between life and death.

Subsequent flights carried prescription medicines from Ōmokoroa Pharmacy for locals on the island and returned with locally grown produce back to the mainland, highlighting multiple practical use cases for the island community.

Posting the update on LinkedIn, Vertilink Advanced Air Mobility Group said: "This milestone is a first step in validating the research outcomes from our MBIE research project with the University of Auckland for medical and commercial drone logistics. We are excited to continue working with communities, stakeholders and our partner organisations to explore the full potential of Advanced Air Mobility across New Zealand.

## EHang's Thailand AAM Sandbox: First Human-Carrying Flight of Pilotless eVTOL aircraft

EHang successfully flew the Director General of the Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand (CAAT), who was aboard its EH216-S eVTOL aircraft in Bangkok as part of the company's AAM Sandbox Initiative in the country.

In doing so, Air Chief Marshal Manat Chavanaprayoon became the world's first civil aviation authority chief to ride the pilotless EH216-S on an urban flight, which took place on November 24th.

The event received strong support from senior Thai government officials, with distinguished attendees including Han Kok Juan, Director General of Singapore's Civil Aviation Authority, Dr. Arak Sutivong, Deputy CEO of SCB X Public Company Limited, together with nearly 100 Thai business leaders and media representatives.

EHang's EH216-S completed a series of takeoffs and landings, as well as route flights. The company says these flights mark significant progress for Thailand's AAM Sandbox Initiative toward commercial operation. They also lay a solid foundation for EHang to deepen its presence in the Thai market and launch future commercial services, as well as establishing a benchmark for the path to commercialise the AAM industry in Southeast Asia.

Conor Yang, Chief Financial Officer of EHang, said: "This event represents a key practical achievement of EHang's overseas strategy. By continuously advancing human-carrying flights under the Sandbox Initiative in core urban scenarios such as Bangkok, EHang will further assist the Thai government and CAAT in improving Thailand's AAM operation and regulatory framework.

"With the support of the CAAT, Thailand is highly likely to achieve the world's first commercial eVTOL operations using an innovative regulatory approach of "sandbox", creating a demonstration model for Southeast Asia and the world. EHang will continue to provide advanced integrated air mobility solutions to benefit more countries across the globe."

This marked the first time EHang conducted overseas on-site demonstrations and validation of the EH216-S's comprehensive emergency scenario safety capabilities. During this collaboration, EHang and CAAT's UAM team held in-depth discussions on four core pillars: flight safety, product technology, after-sales maintenance, and operating systems.

## Odys Aviation Appoints Oliver Reinhardt as Head of Design

Odys Aviation recently announced the appointment of Oliver Reinhardt as its new Head of Design Organisation.

With over 30 years of experience across aviation and automotive disciplines, Reinhardt has built a career at the intersection of aircraft certification, safety and innovative design, most recently serving as the Chief Risk and Certification Officer at Volocopter."

Reinhardt's career spans nine aircraft certification projects and extensive international validations, as well as the setup of multiple EASA-approved Design Organisations.

He has also led the implementation of Safety Management Systems (ICAO SMS) and Quality Management Systems across multiple sectors; experience that will be critical as Odys moves towards pilot customer operations in 2026."

Reinhardt commented: "I had several opportunities to join other companies, but I chose Odys because of its clear roadmap, world-class team, and rapid go-to-market strategy. With its proven hybrid-electric propulsion technology, the company provides a solution that, in my view, the market is actively demanding."

James Dorris, CEO of Odys Aviation, added, "Oliver brings a rare combination of vision, technical expertise and regulatory depth. His ability to build certified design organisations from the ground up, while maintaining uncompromising safety and quality standards, is exactly what we need as we prepare for commercial operations in 2026."

Reinhardt has also worked in the automotive industry which adds another dimension to his profile. He gained first-hand experience in scaling high-quality production, a crucial skill as Odys positions its aircraft for wider deployment and higher manufacturing rates.

Reinhardt will be working alongside Jonathan Stephens, the company's Head of Airworthiness and Certification. They will both be based in Odys Aviation's Munich location, further strengthening the company's presence in the EU.

## Eve Air Mobility and Revo Deploy Its Urban Air Traffic Management Software at F1 Brazil Grand Prix in São Paulo

Eve Air Mobility has announced the first real-world deployment of its urban air traffic management software, Vector, in partnership with Revo.

The implementation was used by Revo's team at this year's F1 Brazil Grand Prix in São Paulo and represents a significant step in bringing scalable, automated traffic management solutions to Advanced Air Mobility (AAM).

The Vector Software was used to manage helicopter operations at the Interlagos racetrack. Designed with a modular and scalable architecture, the software currently offers a Vertiport and Ground Operations Module, enabling operators to smoothly manage high-volume vertiport and heliport activity.

A Fleet Operations Module, planned for launch in 2026, will support helicopter and eVTOL operator needs as UAM networks expand.

Johann Bordais, CEO of Eve, said: "This deployment was not only about technology, it was about building maturity in our Urban ATM solution.

"Real-world operations provide us with invaluable insights that accelerate the evolution of Vector and ensure we deliver reliable and agile solutions for customers worldwide. Partnering with Revo at such a high-profile event delivers on our vision to lead in advanced air traffic management."

Revo, an early adopter of the platform, has already collaborated with Eve through multiple training and deployment sessions.

Joao Welsh, CEO of Revo, added: "Two years ago, Revo innovated by offering helicopter flights with first-class service and booking in just a few minutes. Now, a new chapter begins. At major sporting events in the capital of São Paulo, such as the São Paulo GP, eVTOLs will be an advantageous, safe and sustainable alternative.".

In June 2025, Revo signed a framework agreement with Eve, which includes the purchase of up to 50 eVTOLs, as well as aftermarket services, forming the foundation for a turn-key solution that integrates and enables Revo's future operation.


Wednesday 29th April until Friday 1st May 2026

# eVTOL Insights' North America Conference & Awards 2026 — NAAMCE

eVTOL Insights is proud to announce that its 2026 North America Conference & Awards will take place at the National Advanced Air Mobility Center of Excellence (NAAMCE) near Springfield, Ohio.

The three-day event is scheduled for Wednesday, April 29 to Friday, May 1st, and promises to be a must-attend for professionals across the global Advanced Air Mobility market. It will follow previous eVTOL Insights conferences in North America, which include New York (2022), Montreal (2024) and Palo Alto (2025).

Located at the Springfield–Beckley Municipal Airport, the NAAMCE opened in September 2023 and is a premier research and development facility dedicated to advancing the field of Advanced Air Mobility.

Speaker and sponsorship opportunities are now available, and interested companies are encouraged to reach out to Sam Bromley, Sales Manager at eVTOL Insights, to learn more about how they can get involved. His email is sam.bromley@iigroup.global.

Scan the QR code to access exclusive early bird tickets and to discover more!

*https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/evtol-insights-north-america-conference-awards-ohio-2026-tickets-1433061117379?utm-campaign=social&utm-content=attendeeshare&utm-medium=discovery&utm-term=listing&utm-source=cp&aff=ebdsshcopyurl*

## UrbanLink Air Mobility and Signature Aviation Partner to Explore Development of All Electric Air Operations in Florida


Signature Aviation and UrbanLink Air Mobility have announced a letter of intent (LOI) to explore the safe and scalable expansion of all-electric air operations in Florida.

The partnership will allow for research and exploration of infrastructure for UrbanLink's future fleet of BETA Technologies eCTOL aircraft at Signature's extensive network of private aviation terminals across the state.

Ed Wegel, founder, chairman and CEO of UrbanLink, said: "We are honored to partner with Signature, the world's leading network of private aviation terminals, to expand our Florida network and establish our operations base at their location in South Florida.

"Signature is already collaborating with BETA Technologies to explore the installation of charging infrastructure across its Florida locations, and our operating teams are working closely together on route development and base planning to ensure a seamless transition to all-electric air mobility."

In addition, Signature and UrbanLink are actively pursuing the establishment of UrbanLink's operating and maintenance base at a South Florida Airport.

Tony Lefebvre, chief executive officer, Signature Aviation, added: "We're always focused on creating exceptional experiences for our guests and elevating every moment of their journeys.

"This partnership showcases how our team is looking to the future to deliver those great experiences and together with UrbanLink, we're looking forward to growing the infrastructure and access for all-electric air mobility throughout the state of Florida."

UrbanLink is poised to become the first independent operator of a fully electric fleet across both Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) and maritime platforms. Its future fleet includes BETA Technologies' ALIA aircraft, REGENT Seagliders, Artemis Technologies Sea Crafts and Traverse Aero's Orca unmanned drones.

Signature Aviation is the world's preeminent aviation hospitality company, offering exceptional experiences and essential support services to business and private aviation guests.

## Joby Aviation Celebrates First Flight of Turbine Electric Demonstrator Aircraft

Joby Aviation has completed the first flight of its turbine electric, autonomous VTOL aircraft.

The demonstrator builds on Joby's fully-electric air taxi platform and integrates a hybrid turbine powertrain along with the Company's SuperPilot™ autonomy stack to deliver greater range and payload capability.

The start of flight testing comes just three months after Joby announced the aircraft concept alongside a new partnership with L3Harris Technologies. The company plans to equip Joby's commercial hybrid aircraft to address defense applications, such as contested logistics, "loyal wingman" operations and low-altitude support.

The U.S. government has prioritized the acquisition of resilient, autonomous and hybrid aircraft, requesting more than $9 billion in the FY26 budget for next-generation platforms.

JoeBen Bevirt, CEO and Founder of Joby Aviation, said: "It's imperative that we find ways to deliver new technology into the hands of American troops more quickly and cost-efficiently than we have in the past.

"Our vertical integration puts us in a unique position to deliver on this goal, moving from

concept to demonstration — and from demonstration to deployment — at a pace that is unprecedented in today's aerospace and defense industry."

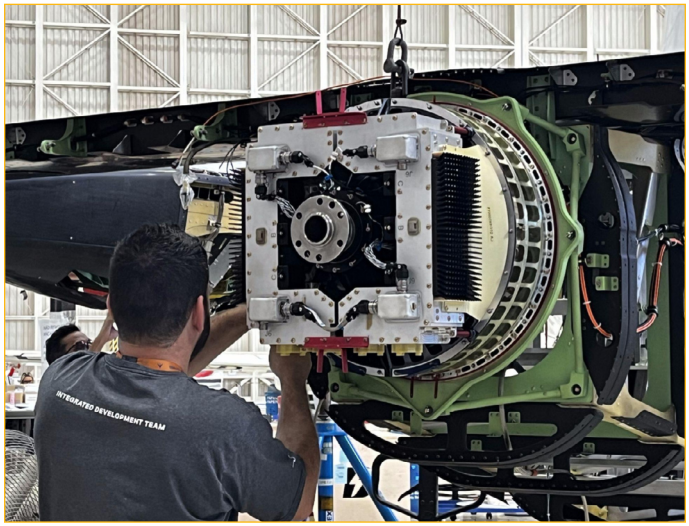
The hybrid aircraft builds on a proven all-electric technology platform that has completed more than 50,000 miles of flight testing and has entered the final stage of the FAA's Type Certification process for commercial aircraft.

Joby's SuperpilotTM autonomous technology stack has been in development for more than five years and, in July, the company successfully participated in REFORPAC, a landmark Department of War exercise over the Pacific Ocean.

Using a conventional Cessna 208 aircraft, the company logged more than 7,000 miles of autonomous operations across more than 40 flight hours in and around Hawaii, managed primarily from Andersen Air Force Base in Guam, more than 3,000 miles away.

The aircraft completed its first flight at Joby's Marina, California, facility on November 7th. It will continue ground and flight testing before taking part in operational demonstrations with government customers, planned for 2026.

**Eve Air Mobility has selected BETA Technologies to supply electric pusher motors for its conforming prototypes and production aircraft.**




With a current backlog of 2,800 eVTOL aircraft, Eve is strengthening its supply chain through this collaboration. The agreement represents a potential 10-year opportunity for Beta of up to $1 billion and reinforces Eve's commitment to proven technologies and dedication to exceeding mission requirements.

The agreement follows an initial evaluation period in which Eve purchased, tested, and validated the performance of BETA motors in its Engineering Prototype in anticipation of its first flight, which is expected to take place late this year/early 2026.

BETA's proven expertise in electric propulsion systems and its commitment to robust, high-performance designs were key factors in this strategic supplier addition.

Johann Bordais, Chief Executive Officer of Eve Air Mobility, said: "Integrating Beta Technologies into our supply chain is a pivotal milestone in advancing our eVTOL program. Their electric motor technology will play a critical role in powering our aircraft during cruise, supporting the maturity of our propulsion architecture as we progress toward entry into service.

"This collaboration underscores our commitment to working with suppliers who share our rigorous safety standards and deliver proven engineering solutions — driving performance, efficiency, and sustainability as we bring urban air mobility to life."

BETA designs and manufactures its proprietary electric propulsion systems, offering industry-leading power-to-weight ratios and energy-conversion efficiencies. The simple designs feature segment redundancy and significantly fewer parts than traditional aircraft engines, translating into high safety and low cost.

Through this supplier agreement, BETA joins an elite group of legacy suppliers supporting Eve's development, including U.S.-based leaders such as BAE Systems for batteries, Garmin for avionics, Honeywell Aerospace for external lighting, Intergalactic for thermal management, and Nidec Aerospace for lifter motors.

BETA's CEO and Founder, Kyle Clark, said: "We're excited to work with Eve Air Mobility and supply our electric propulsion technology to their production program. Our pusher motors have already proven high performance and reliability in thousands of demanding real-world operations across the globe, and our manufacturing capability will allow us to deliver these systems at scale to support Eve's aircraft. This collaboration is another step in moving electric aviation toward commercialization and adoption."

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**Virgin Galactic Test Pilot Jameel Janjua joins Horizon Aircraft's Board of Directors**

New Horizon Aircraft Ltd, doing business as Horizon Aircraft, have announced esteemed test pilot-astronaut Jameel Janjua has joined its Board of Directors.

The company said Janjua's knowledge and extensive experience with aerospace flight and business operations will be a valuable addition to the Board, as the company builds its full-scale prototype of the Cavorite X7 and prepares it to undergo the aircraft certification process.

Commenting on his new role, Janjua said: "Horizon Aircraft is revolutionizing regional air mobility with its hybrid electric, fan-in-wing VTOL design. The Cavorite X7 has the ability to provide enhanced solutions for both civilian and military missions, and by joining the Board I can help ensure our business execution strategy is tightly aligned with delivering the safest possible certified aircraft."

Janjua is a world-leading expert in experimental test flight and has provided leadership for space missions, billion-dollar aerospace programs and has been an advisor to aerospace startups as they navigate through technical and business milestones.

Formerly serving as a fighter pilot in the Royal Canadian Air Force and as an instructor at USAF Test Pilot School, Janjua moved on to become an experimental test pilot with more than 5,500 hours flown in more than 65 aircraft. Currently, he is a test pilot for Virgin Galactic.

Jameel also holds a Bachelor of Engineering from the Royal Military College of Canada, a Master of Science from MIT in Aeronautics and Aeronautics and recently earned an MBA from The Wharton School.

Horizon Aircraft Co-Founder and CEO Brandon Robinson, added: "Jameel joining our Board is a huge win for our team in more ways than one. Having someone of his caliber provide insight and mentorship will help us make the Cavorite X7 a leader in aerospace safety and be ready to fly real-world missions."

## AAMG, Zuri VTOL Sign Investment Terms "to Accelerate Hybrid-Electric VTOL Aircraft for Cargo, Defence and Regional Air Mobility


It's Hello Zuri, goodbye Lilium as the Ambitious Air Mobility Group (AAMG), weary of its wranglings with the 'liquidator' of the former German eVTOL company, has jumped ship and wooed a new partner, the Czech VTOL firm, Zuri.

Truth be told, AAMG found itself in a bidding war with Archer Aviation, ultimately losing out on Lilium's patent portfolio, even though it made a higher bid at one point. Yet, the insolvency administrator ultimately chose Archer's bid citing, once more, a need for secure financing and execution. In their eyes AAMG could not be trusted over the forthcoming finances.

AAMG and Zuri have signed binding investment terms to advance the development, certification and deployment of Zuri's hybrid-electric vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) aircraft platform for passenger, cargo and defence applications. The investment also supports unmanned and optionally piloted variants developed for cargo and defence operations.

The investment amount has not been disclosed.

The agreement establishes a framework for collaboration in three primary areas:-

: Strategic investment — AAMG joins as a long-term industrial and financial partner supporting Zuri's hybrid-electric aircraft program and business growth.

: Aircraft orders — AAMG will place forward orders for unmanned and optionally piloted aircraft for logistics, cargo, and defence operations.

: Program collaboration — Joint initiatives will focus on accelerating certification readiness and preparing for commercial production and operational deployment.

Michal Illich, CEO of Zuri, commented, "AAMG brings not only investment, but also experience and an international network which strengthens our ability to accelerate certification and production toward operational deployment. This partnership reinforces Zuri's mission to deliver sustainable hybrid-electric aviation across defence and civilian markets."

Robert Kamp, CEO & Senior Partner of AAMG, added, "Zuri's manned and unmanned platforms provide class-leading performance for both cargo and civilian VTOL operations. They have a compelling vision that maximises the impact of our vertiport network and regional air mobility."

## AltoVolo Now Accepting Customer Deposits For Three-Seat Sigma eVTOL

UK-based AltoVolo announced this week that future customers of its Sigma eVTOL can now apply for a build slot after a deposit of UKP860, reports a press release.

The release states, "Having validated an autonomous control system and constructed an impressive flight simulator, the company has now opened the world's first online eVTOL vehicle configurator."

Will Wood, Founder and CEO of AltoVolo, explained, "Visitors to our website can define the finest details of their hybrid-electric aircraft, down to the seat belt and stitch line colour."

He continued, "Much like you would expect from a supercar brand we are focused on performance and technology, rather than minimising costs."

The release adds, "The Sigma features a hybrid-electric tilting jet propulsion system for improved efficiency and reduced noise, resulting in a 500-mile range and cruise speed of 220mph. It is over 80 percent quieter than helicopters making it suitable for use in residential areas."

And goes on, "Safe, stable flight is possible following failure of one jet. It also has a ballistic parachute. The eVTOL is also of a compact size and light weight design, just 4.8m wide and 980kg with three passengers on board.

AltoVolo is planning a global dealer and servicing network with detailed consideration already being given to the maintenance, repair and overhaul schedules for Sigma aircraft.

The first 100 customer units are to be adorned with unique material finishes and have specification options that series produced vehicles will not have available.

To assist new eVTOL pilots, AltoVolo has created a simulator that is an exact replica of Sigma's cockpit, made in carbon fibre and soft leather.

Customers can fly a digital twin of their exact customised aircraft and learn the controls before taking flight in the real world. The simulator allows pilots to gain accreditation towards their pilot's licence."

It is unclear what the final price of a Sigma will be, but as the London company suggests this eVTOL is aimed at the top end of the personal flying vehicle market.

## UK Civil Aviation Authority Opens Consultation on VTOL Regulations Ahead of Commercial Flight Target by End of 2028

A consultation has been launched by the UK Civil Aviation Authority (UK CAA), which sets out proposals on how the country will regulate VTOL aircraft and their operations.

The document, which is open until Thursday, January 29th, 2026, also includes proposals on the regulatory frameworks for pilot licensing, landing sites and aerodromes, airworthiness and flight operations.

Some of the top-level proposals in the consultation include:

- Classifying these new aircraft as either 'Powered-Lift' or 'Non-Conventional Helicopters'
- Developing a pilot licensing framework based on existing requirements, including an option for a private pilot licence for non-commercial flying
- Putting in place operational rules for commercial flying, using existing helicopter and aeroplane requirements as far as is possible
- Adapting rules for landing sites and aerodromes where required for the differences in VTOL aircraft. We also propose to allow operations from unlicensed aerodromes if the operator has permission to do so

Sophie O'Sullivan, Director of Future Safety and Innovation at the UK Civil Aviation Authority, said: "We're working to facilitate the safe introduction of VTOL aircraft in the UK. This consultation proposes the regulatory framework needed to support commercial flights from 2028.

"We need to hear from everyone involved in the introduction of these new aircraft to help shape the UK's approach."

The UK CAA has set a target to have the rules and regulations in place to allow commercial passenger VTOL flights by the end of 2028 and the proposals also aim to utilise existing aviation regulations as far as possible.

This will help these new aircraft successfully integrate into the aviation system, while ensuring compatibility with international rules.

Following feedback on this consultation, the UK CAA will issue further consultations on the detailed regulatory wording and associated guidance next year and submit our recommendations for legislative change to the government.

The consultation is available to view on the UK CAA's website.

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## Vertical Aerospace Receives Permit to Fly Approval Allowing Piloted Transition Testing to Proceed

Vertical Aerospace has received its Permit to Fly from the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and commenced 'Phase 4 – Transition' flight testing, the final stage of its VX4 prototype flight-test programme.

This regulatory approval enables Vertical's flight-test team to begin testing the prototype of its VX4 eVTOL aircraft's defining transition manoeuvre — seamlessly shifting between hover 'helicopter mode' and wingborne flight 'airplane mode'.

Vertical's Test Pilot, Paul Stone, flew the first flight of this phase on November 13th.

Stuart Simpson, CEO, Vertical Aerospace, said: "Receiving our Permit to Fly and starting Phase 4 marks a defining moment for Vertical Aerospace.

"Our team has spent months verifying every core system under close regulatory oversight, reflecting our unique and robust approach to certification. Phase 4 is a critical demonstration of the VX4's unique tiltrotor capability and a major technical and certification unlock."

Vertical's piloted flight test programme explained:

**Phase 1:** Tethered: the VX4 prototype will perform stabilised hover while loosely tethered to the ground. Completed in September 2024

**Phase 2:** Thrustborne: the VX4 prototype will take-off and land vertically and conduct low speed flight manoeuvres with lift generated by the propellers. Completed in February 2025

**Phase 3:** Wingborne: the VX4 prototype will take-off, fly and land like a conventional aircraft, with lift generated by the wing. Completed in September 2025

**Phase 4:** Transition: The VX4 prototype will transition between thrustborne and wingborne flight, and vice versa. Underway and full transition expected before YE 2025

To prepare for piloted transition flight, Vertical's engineering and test teams recently completed extensive simulation, ground, and flight testing in collaboration with the UK CAA, verifying all 200 Minimum Safe Aircraft requirements.

In support of its Permit to Fly, more than 20,000 pages of safety and technical information were updated and submitted to the CAA.

The CAA is working closely with the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) on the certification and concurrent validation of the VX4 to the highest global safety standards required for commercial use.


# eVTOL Insights' Global AAM Awards 2026

## Enter now!

The 2026 edition follows on from successful ceremonies in Montreal, Canada (2024) and Palo Alto, California (2025). It will be our biggest event to-date.

The 2026 event will take place on Thursday, April 30th, 2026, immediately after eVTOL Insights' North America Conference which is at the National Advanced Air Mobility Center of Excellence (NAAMCE), Springfield-Beckley Airport near Springfield, Ohio, USA.

For 2026, there are now 30 categories to enter. Early Bird entries will cost £249 until December 31st, 2025. After this date, entries will cost £299 until the final entry deadline on Friday, February 27th, 2026. Judging will begin on Monday, March 1st.

You can enter as many categories as you wish.

Please note: Entries on the platform is limited to 200 words. However, you can send no more than two pages of A4 as part of a supporting statement should you wish. Please ensure it is emailed to jason@evtolinsights before the final deadline and is correctly labelled to avoid confusion.

For any questions regarding the entry process, please email Jason Pritchard, Executive Editor at eVTOL Insights, at jason@evtolinsights.com. Good luck!

Scan the QR code to enter the eVTOL Insights' Global AAM Awards 2026

*https://globalaamawards2026.awardsplatform.com/page/XRgQkvzM*

eVTOL INSIGHTS

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY




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