eVTOL INSIGHTS

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY

January 2026

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VERTICAL AEROSPACE UNVEILS VALO - ITS NEW COMMERCIAL EVTOL AIRCRAFT

JOIN EVTOL INSIGHTS IN OHIO FOR ITS 2026 NORTH AMERICA CONFERENCE

EVE AIR MOBILITY COMPLETES FIRST FLIGHT OF ITS FULL-SCALE PROTOTYPE

US DOT UNVEILS AAM NATIONAL STRATEGY

JOBY IN PLAN TO DOUBLE MANUFACTURING CAPACITY IN USA

WISK COMPLETES FIRST FLIGHT OF ITS GEN 6 AIRCRAFT

ARCHER ANNOUNCES PLAN TO OPEN UK ENGINEERING HUB

Contents

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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

Welcome to the first edition of 2026, where the Advanced Air Mobility sector finds itself at a pivotal moment. What was once a future-facing vision is now steadily transitioning into a commercial reality, shaped by maturing technology, clearer certification pathways and growing confidence from investors, regulators, and end users alike.

Across the global ecosystem, eVTOL developers, infrastructure providers, airspace managers and policymakers are moving from concept validation toward scalable deployment, signalling a defining year ahead for the industry.

In this January edition of eVTOL Insights, we take stock of the progress made and look ahead to the challenges and opportunities that will define the next phase of AAM.

From aircraft certification milestones and battery advancements to vertiport development and public acceptance, the conversation has evolved from "if" AAM will succeed to "how" and "when." As urban congestion intensifies and sustainability targets sharpen, the role of eVTOL aircraft has never been more relevant.

This forward momentum will be on full display at the eVTOL Insights' North America Conference, taking place from April 29th to May 1st at the National Advanced Air Mobility Center of Excellence near Springfield, Ohio.

Our events have firmly established themselves as a must-attend forum for industry leaders, innovators and decision-makers shaping the future of AAM across the country. Demand from prospective speakers is already exceptionally high, reflecting the pace of development and the appetite to share insights, lessons learned and strategic direction.

Companies interested in securing a speaking role are strongly encouraged to get in touch as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. As 2026 begins, collaboration, clarity, and action will be key. Please email sam@evtolinsights.com for more information on the packages currently available.

— Jason Pritchard, Executive Editor, eVTOL Insights

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 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

US DOT Unveils Its AAM National Strategy with Initial Flights Planned for 2027, Strong Industry Support from eVTOL OEMs

Senior leaders from Archer, BETA Technologies, Eve Air Mobility, Joby Aviation and Wisk have shown their support to the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) National Strategy, which was unveiled on December 17th in Washington D.C. by Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy.

Advanced Air Mobility National Strategy: A Bold Policy Vision for 2026–2036, signals a clear and coordinated commitment to accelerate the development and deployment of Advanced Air Mobility aircraft and systems across the United States.

The plan seeks to leverage existing infrastructure, modernise air traffic management, prioritize US manufacturing and develop a domestic workforce to meaningfully scale operations in the country.

Additionally, it envisions initial flights in 2027 and new operations in rural and urban areas by 2030. The plan also points to the many applications for AAM technology, which include inter-community and regional passenger flights connecting small towns to large cities and enhancing cargo, military and emergency missions.

For several years, Archer has worked closely with the DOT, the FAA and other federal, state and local agencies to help shape this path to market.

That collaboration has included participation in the Advanced Air Mobility Interagency Working Group, contributions to the development of the Special Federal Aviation Regulation (SFAR) covering air taxis and engagement through the crafting of the eVTOL Integration Pilot Program.

This approach from the US DOT complements BETA's mission to create access and deliver enduring impact for both rural and urban communities across America and beyond through minor improvement to existing infrastructure for safe, reliable, low-cost electric aviation.

BETA's integrated model – which spans aircraft, charging infrastructure, training and components – uniquely positions the company as a partner in advancing the U.S. DOT's goals of strengthening the domestic industrial base and creating high-quality aviation jobs.

Like most of the other OEMs in the US, Eve Air Mobility were actively involved in discussions surrounding the Strategy. The company is currently in the late stages of integrating a full-scale prototype of its eVTOL aircraft, with ground testing largely complete and the first flight expected by late 2025 or early 2026.

Joby's advanced progress towards certification and operational maturity uniquely positions the company to immediately engage on the Strategy's core recommendations, which include leveraging existing or repurposed infrastructure, data sharing with respective government agencies and building the workforce.

Wisk has also strongly endorsed the publication of the Strategy and the company's Certification and Policy team were present in Washington D.C. to hear how it will provide the national framework needed to accelerate the safe, efficient and equitable integration of autonomous and piloted AAM into the National Airspace System (NAS).

Wisk's foundational perspective on autonomy was directly integrated into the National Strategy, reinforcing the company's vision that autonomy is a critical enabler for safety and the industry's success.

Eve Air Mobility Completes Successful First Flight of Full-Scale Prototype of Its eVTOL Aircraft

Eve Air Mobility has completed the first flight of its uncrewed full-scale eVTOL prototype at Embraer's test facility in Gavião Peixoto, state of São Paulo in Brazil.

The inaugural flight, which took place on December 19th, initiates Eve's flight test phase and confirms the integration of key systems, including the fifth-generation fly-by-wire concept and the fixed-pitch lifter rotors.

The company will perform multiple flights following today's hover flight, gradually expanding the envelope to transition into full wingborne flights throughout 2026.

Johann Bordais, CEO of Eve, said: "This is a historical milestone for our employees, customers, investors and the entire ecosystem.

"This flight validates our plan, which has been executed with precision to deliver the best solution for the market. We were able to capture high-fidelity data that will allow us to move forward with safety and confidence towards the certification path."

Eve will manufacture six conforming prototypes to conduct the flight test campaign, aiming for certification.

The Company continues to engage with Brazil's Civil Aviation Agency (ANAC), Eve's eVTOL primary certifying authority, to advance the certification process. Looking ahead, Eve expects type certification, first deliveries and entry into service in 2027.

Next steps for the program include progressive envelope expansion and transitions to wingborne flight, as well as continued engagement with ANAC, other regulators and validating authorities, including FAA and EASA.

Luiz Valentini, Chief Technology Officer at Eve, said: "We exercised our control laws, verified the integration of the eight lifters and assessed energy management, the aircraft's dynamic response and noise footprint.

"The prototype behaved as predicted by our models. With these data points, we will expand the envelope and progress toward transition to wingborne flight in a disciplined manner, ramping up to hundreds of flights throughout 2026 and building the knowledge required for type certification."

Jorge Bittercourt, Chief Product Officer at Eve, added: "This flight gives the product a clear green light to advance what matters to operators: reliability, efficiency and simplicity. We validated critical elements, from our lifter architecture to aircraft flight mechanics, and now we move into the flight test phase, aiming to advance the product maturity."

Joby Aviation Announces Plans to Double Manufacturing Capacity in United States And Produce Four Aircraft Per Month in 2027

Joby Aviation is making investments to double its manufacturing capacity in the United States, as it plans to support the production of four aircraft per month in 2027.

The company has recently disclosed more than $1 billion in potential aircraft and service sales and the news follows on from a number of key milestones aimed to jumpstart electric air taxi operations in the country.

They include the US Government's eVTOL Integration Pilot Program (EIPP) being announced in September and a Presidential Executive Order directed the Department of Transportation and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). This is to enable mature eVTOL aircraft to begin operations in select markets as early as next year, ahead of receiving full FAA certification.

JoeBen Bevirt, founder and CEO, Joby Aviation, said: "We are entering the next golden age of aviation. From factories in California and Ohio, we plan to redefine how people travel across the world, as Joby becomes one of a small number of companies in the world with the industrial capability to build aircraft at this pace and quality.

"Given the maturity of our air taxi program and the significant demand we're seeing for our aircraft, we're confident now is the right time to invest in the equipment, facilities and people required to accelerate production, and we look forward to doing so with Toyota, the world's largest auto manufacturer, at our side."

In July, Joby celebrated the completion of an expanded manufacturing facility in Marina, California and in October, confirmed the start of propeller blade production in Ohio ahead of planned manufacturing expansion in the state.

To support the growth in output announced by Joby, the company has begun procurement of the capital equipment required to double manufacturing capacity from two to four aircraft per month. It is also hiring to support round-the-clock manufacturing operations at its site in California.

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. Entries will cost £299 until the final entry deadline of 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

Wisk Completes First Flight of Gen 6 Aircraft, Latest Milestone in Journey to Deliver First Autonomous eVTOL to US Market

Wisk has completed the first flight of its Generation 6 aircraft, representing a pivotal step forward in the company's journey to deliver the first certified, autonomous passenger-carrying eVTOL aircraft in the USA.

The aircraft performed its initial vertical takeoff, hover, and stabilized flight maneuvers at Wisk's flight test facility in Hollister, California. Wisk says this validates the aircraft's core flight systems and is a critical first step in an extensive testing campaign.

Leveraging learnings from Wisk's previous five generations of aircraft and more than 1,750 test flights, Gen 6 is the first-ever candidate for an FAA-certified commercial autonomous passenger aircraft in the USA, with launch markets including Houston, Los Angeles and Miami.

Wisk aircraft are all-electric and autonomous, with dedicated human oversight from a ground-based Multi-Vehicle Supervisor—a pioneering model Wisk believes is key to achieving high levels of safety, scalability, and affordability. Wisk has an active certification program with the FAA and is designing its aircraft to meet or exceed today's rigorous commercial aviation safety standards.

Brian Yutko, VP of Product Development at Boeing Commercial Airplanes and Chairman of the Board at Wisk, said: "We are excited to see Wisk achieve this milestone, and I'm so proud of the team that made it possible.

"The team at Wisk has built advanced technologies across flight controls, sensing, navigation, mission management, electric power, systems integration, and many others for a product that is designed to meet a rigorous safety case for a focused concept of operations.

"The engineering methods and technologies are all a valuable source of insight for Boeing as we work together and thoughtfully apply them to the future of flight."

With the successful first hover flight completed, Wisk is now executing a rigorous flight test program focused on safely validating the Gen 6 design, simulation models and system performance.

The initial phase of testing will focus on building out the hover regime, concentrating on takeoffs, landings, and low-speed stability before expanding to higher speeds and altitudes, including complex maneuvers such as longitudinal transition, lateral transition, and pedal turns. Each test provides crucial data to verify our control laws, structural loads, and aircraft dynamics, allowing for refinement as needed.

In parallel, Wisk continues to mature its autonomy technologies, including detect-and-avoid and navigation systems, and is collaborating closely with the FAA, NASA, SkyGrid, and others to build a more efficient airspace.

Elroy Air Makes First A to B Cargo Delivery With Its Hybrid-Electric VTOL Aircraft Chaparral

Elroy Air has successfully completed its first point A to point B cargo delivery using the first-of-its-kind drone, Chaparral.

Chaparral is an advanced VTOL aircraft built to carry up to 300 pounds of cargo across 300 miles without a crew onboard. It was engineered with a hybrid-electric powertrain to meet the needs of our commercial and defense customers, with high utilisation, no charging infrastructure required and increased range.

During the historic milestone flight on December 10th, the hybrid-electric VTOL drone autonomously carried 213 lbs over a flight distance of 2.6 miles in Byron, California.

The aircraft took off vertically, accelerated to a speed of approximately 60 mph and then performed a vertical landing at a second location half a mile away, where Chaparral delivered lunch to the Elroy Air team to celebrate the milestone.

Elroy Air CEO Andrew Clare, Ph.D, said: "This delivery is the realization of the value of the Chaparral, an autonomous, hybrid-electric drone capable of delivering hundreds of pounds of cargo without the need for runways or infrastructure. We thought about what the first delivery should be and decided to deliver lunch to the team who has worked tirelessly to make this vision a reality.

"As we move into 2026 having completed these critical milestones and now focused on scaling production with Kratos, Chaparral is ready to go to work to unlock unprecedented operational capacity for our commercial and defense customers."

Designed with speed, safety, and operational efficiency in mind, Chaparral enables next-generation logistics at a fraction of the capital and operational costs of traditional piloted helicopters.

The delivery was conducted with the company's Hatch Load Pod. The pod is a rear-access cargo module designed for rapid ground operations, enabling streamlined workflows, and minimal ground handling requirements.

This pod is one of the many payload designs to enable multi-mission operations. Others include the Express Pod, Heavy Payload Pod, Pelican Case, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) Pod, Climate-Control Pod, and Air Drop Pod.

The announcement comes after an eventful year for the company, which this summer began longer range flights, including multiple 25-mile flights in September, and the company also recently announced Kratos Defense & Security Solutions as its exclusive U.S. manufacturing partner for the Chaparral in a strategic manufacturing agreement to accelerate high-volume production.

AIR Reveals First Production-Ready eVTOL Aircraft As Company Begins Commercial Rollout

AIR has unveiled its production model eVTOL aircraft, marking the company's transition from aircraft development to commercial-scale manufacturing and deliveries.

The completed production model follows the prototype aircraft delivered to the launch customer in Q4 2023 and advances AIR's mission to support commercial cargo operations and strengthen logistical capabilities in contested environments.

Its first flight will take place in Southern Israel before entering operational service. Subsequent aircraft are scheduled to be sent to AIR's US-based operation for demonstration efforts and certification advancement.

Rani Plaut, CEO and Co-founder of AIR, said: "This production model represents years of engineering refinement and collaboration with industry leaders, stakeholders, and regulatory bodies. We've moved beyond proof of concept to proven performance and commercial deployment, supported by vital partnerships. We look forward to continuing to deliver on the promise of transforming how cargo moves around the world."

Drawing from nearly two years of operational deployment with AIR's launch customer, the new production aircraft was shaped using field insights.

Operational activities included sustained Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) missions, remote resupply in challenging environments, integration with ground elements, and additional mission profiles.

These field-proven milestones demonstrate how eVTOL systems are transitioning from experimental platforms to mission-ready assets, underscoring their practical value and driving adoption across sectors.

Capable of taking off and landing vertically while carrying a 550lb payload, AIR's new airframe and next-generation electrical and avionics architecture will support fast-growing uncrewed cargo applications, as well as the overall emerging advanced air mobility market.

These capabilities stem from deliberate design choices that prioritize both operational efficiency and mission flexibility. Enhancements to the design include optimized battery integration and a larger cargo bay, along with foldable wings and motor arms that enable compact storage, easy transport, and greater mission versatility.

This latest milestone follows a series of achievements from AIR, including issuance of its FAA airworthiness certificate, a $23 million Series A funding round, extensive nighttime BVLOS uncrewed cargo operations, and successful flight operations across diverse mission scenarios.

Joby and Metropolis Announce Partnership to Develop 25 Vertiport Sites Across USA, Using New And Existing Facilities

Joby Aviation has announced a partnership with Metropolis Technologies to develop 25 vertiports across the United States, utilising Metropolis' extensive network of parking locations.

The partnership will incorporate Metropolis' AI-based recognition technology, as well the company's extensive footprint across aviation and baggage services.

Following its $1.5 billion acquisition of SP+, and $1.6 billion Series D financing, Metropolis is the largest parking network and operator in North America, operating more than 4,200 parking locations, as well as aviation services in over 350 locations.

The planned vertiports will be strategically selected across Metropolis' portfolio in early electric air taxi markets and use Metropolis' computer vision technology; the companies will be evaluating both new and existing facilities for the integration of vertiports.

JoeBen Bevirt, CEO and founder of Joby, said: "For air taxis to deliver on their promise of seamless urban travel, they must connect directly with the existing ground transportation ecosystem.

"By leveraging existing parking infrastructure to create mobility hubs, we can deliver on our vision of seamless connectivity for our customers and also maximize the value of those sites without needing to build infrastructure from scratch."

The companies plan to leverage Metropolis' world-class technology, including biometrics, broader computer vision and services like baggage handling, to accelerate Joby's efforts to integrate its air taxi service directly into existing ground transportation hubs and deploy compact, high-throughput vertiport designs that satisfy safety and regulatory standards.

Under its Bags Inc. subsidiary, Metropolis will initially bring its Bags VIP service to Joby's Blade Urban Air Mobility, which provides flights between Manhattan and JFK or Newark airports in five minutes, bypassing up to two hours of traffic and eliminating common airport pain points.

By providing baggage handling to Blade passengers in the New York City area, this partnership will remove friction and allow more people to take advantage of Blade's service without needing to worry about luggage requirements.

Metropolis already operates parking, advanced luggage logistics, remote check-in and in-terminal guest services that streamline the traveler experience across more than 350 airports in North America.

Nominations are now open for the eVTOL Insights' first Special Report of 2026, which this year will combine both the Powerbook and CTO editions into one main supplement.

Due to be released in February, nominations need to be submitted by Monday, February 2nd as eVTOL Insights continues to recognise more influencers, innovators and technology leaders from the global Advanced Air Mobility market.

You can download and see previous Special Reports we have published by clicking here.

For the Powerbook, we are looking for senior leaders (Founder, CEO, COO, CCO etc.) and for the CTO Report, we are looking for CTOs or individuals who work in the technology side of AAM.

Please note, individuals who have previously been included in either the Powerbook or CTO Report will not likely be featured in this edition.

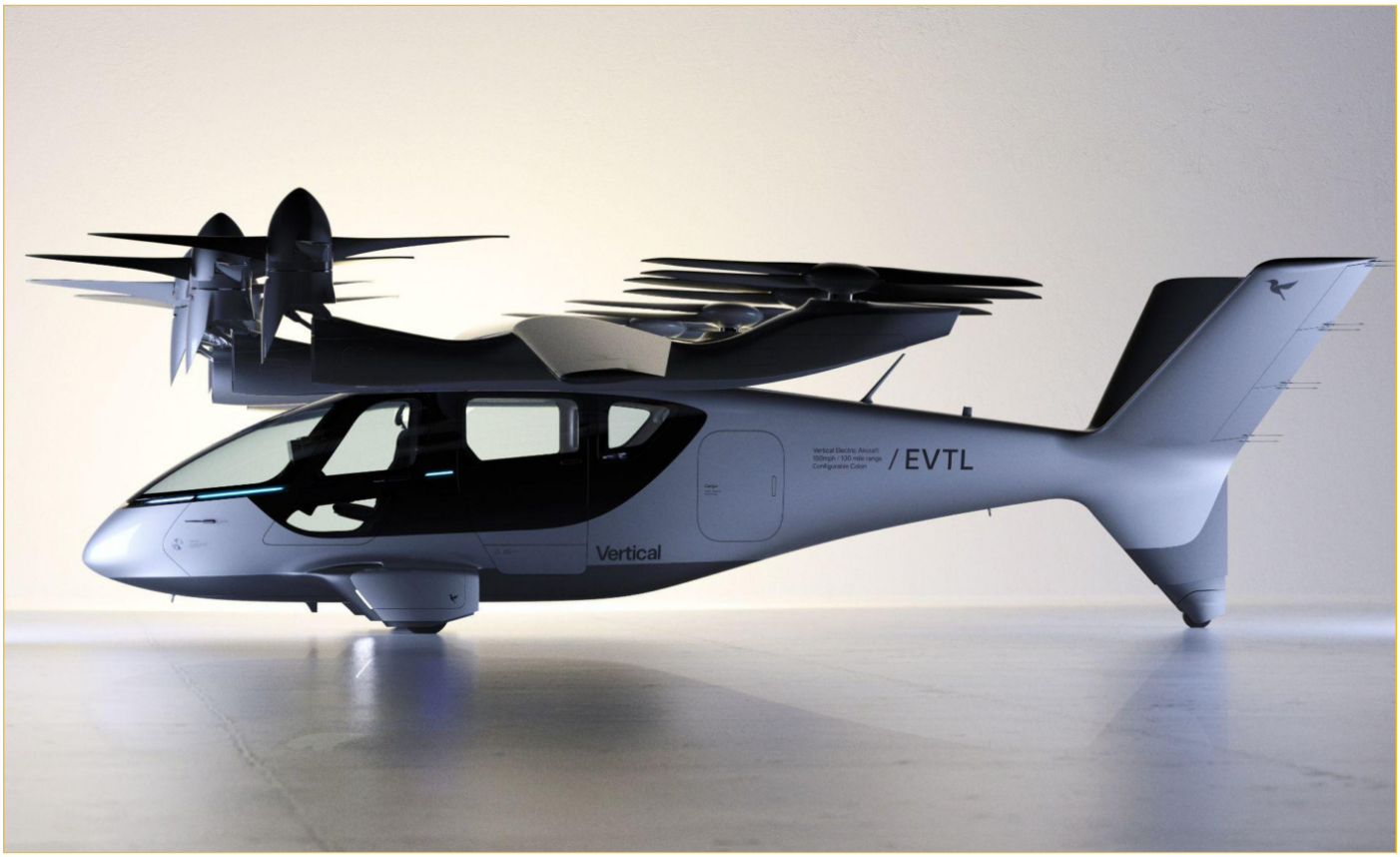
Self-nominations will be accepted, and all you need to do is send an email to jason@evtolinsights.com with the following information:

- Full name, job title and company of the person being nominated
- Which Special Report the nomination should be considered for
- A suitable headshot picture
- Company logo (optional)
- Summary of the job role and why you/they should be included in the Special Report

We are also selling A4 adverts for any company interested in wanting exposure and awareness. For more information, please email Sam Bromley, Sales Manager at eVTOL Insights (sam@evtolinsights.com)

Vertical Aerospace - Valo

Vertical Aerospace unveils Valo — it's New Commercial eVTOL Aircraft, Shares Planned Routes for Its Electric Air Taxi Network in UK



Vertical Aerospace has unveiled Valo, its new commercial eVTOL aircraft which the company is targeting certification by 2028 following regulatory approval.

The aircraft, which is today (Wednesday) displayed at The Pelligon in London's Canary Wharf, succeeds Vertical's VX4 prototype — with a new, more advanced design shaped by extensive insights from the Company's piloted test programme and direct feedback from airline and operator customers.

Developed in collaboration with leading aerospace partners including Honeywell, Syensqo and Aciturri, Valo introduces a more aerodynamic airframe, an under-floor battery system, redesigned wing and propeller architecture, upgraded materials, and full certifiable redundancy to meet the world's most rigorous safety standards.

Stuart Simpson, CEO of Vertical Aerospace, said: "With the launch of Valo, Vertical moves from prototype developer to aerospace manufacturer.

"Valo is the aircraft that turns electric flight into a commercial reality — clean, quiet, fast and engineered for everyday service. It marks a new dawn in transport, one that will connect people in minutes, not hours."

Valo's premium cabin will launch with four seats, offering panoramic windows, generous personal space, and a cockpit divider for enhanced safety and privacy.

The aircraft's flexible design enables expansion to six seats, with the potential to improve operator economics and lower fares for passengers. Valo's platform also supports emergency medical services, cargo missions and, in the future, defence, hybrid and autonomous variants.

Vertical Aerospace - Valo

Crucially, Valo features the largest cargo hold within its class, developed in response to airliner feedback. With room for six cabin bags and six checked bags, passengers can travel without compromise – a major advantage on airport-to-city services.

Vertical is now close to completing full piloted transition flight with its full-scale prototype — the defining manoeuvre of electric aviation in which the aircraft shifts from vertical lift to forward flight.

Earlier test phases validated hover, thrustborne and wingborne performance, generating thousands of data points that directly shaped Valo's certifiable design.

Vertical will now build seven certification aircraft in the UK to support final testing with the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) ahead of targeted Type Certification in 2028. After certification, Valo will enter commercial service.

Domhnal Slattery, Chair at Vertical Aerospace, said: "Valo sets a new standard — bigger, safer and more capable than anything in the sector. It's a breakthrough for aviation and a clear sign of the UK's leadership in aerospace.

"Valo embodies the best of Vertical — precision engineering, passenger-first design and deep collaboration with global aerospace partners — creating an aircraft with the most compelling operator economics."

The introduction of Valo will mark the UK's return to designing and manufacturing new whole commercial aircraft for the first time in over 30 years and a significant opportunity for the national economy.

According to an independent report published last week by Frontier Economics, Vertical is expected to create over 2,000 high-skilled UK jobs and contribute £3 billion annually to the economy by 2035.

Additionally, Vertical has announced plans with Skyports Infrastructure and Bristow Group to launch the UK's first electric air-taxi routes between Canary Wharf and major transport hubs, including London Heathrow, London Gatwick, Cambridge and Oxford.

The first phase, planned from Q1 2029, will focus on the UK's highest-value mobility corridors. The proposed routes, operated by Bristow, would dramatically cut journey times compared with traditional ground travel. For example, cutting a typical Canary Wharf-to-Heathrow transfer from 60–90 minutes on the ground to 12 minutes in the air.

Archer Announces Plans for UK Engineering Hub, Dr. Limhi Somerville to Join in Early 2026 From Vertical Aerospace

Archer has announced plans for a new UK engineering hub in South West England, to support the company's intention to build and develop a team in the country to support its work in the region.

Last week's announcement from Anduril UK and GKN Aerospace highlighted the companies' joint work in support of the British Army's Project NYX and the Ministry of Defence's Land Autonomous Collaborative Platform programme. It will also involve exploration of other opportunities at GKN Aerospace's Isle of Wight airframe production facility.

GKN Aerospace will be working alongside Archer and Anduril, with Archer contributing its latest advancements in eVTOL aircraft development and hybrid propulsion to meet the British Army's operational requirements.

Adam Goldstein, Archer's founder and CEO, said: "The UK has the talent and industrial base to be a major player in driving the next era of advanced aerospace and defence. Archer's plans to open a UK engineering hub underscores our commitment to being an integral part of the next-generation of aerospace and defence in the country.

"Bringing a leader of Limhi's caliber onto the team is critical as we look to continue to accelerate the development of our hybrid propulsion, dual-use aircraft."

Additionally, Archer has confirmed Dr. Limhi Somerville will be joining the company in early 2026 from Vertical Aerospace, where he spent the last six years and most recently led the company's engineering program. Prior to joining Vertical Aerospace, Somerville held engineering and research roles at Jaguar Land Rover and the University of Warwick.

Dr. Somerville added: "Archer is pairing realistic innovation with the capital, manufacturing capabilities, and strategic partnerships required to actually deliver next-generation aerospace and defence technologies at scale. The opportunity to support the development of their dual-use vertical lift platform is compelling. I'm excited to get to work."

This expansion builds on recent remarks by the UK's Minister for Defence Procurement and Industry highlighting the defence sector's role in driving long-term economic growth. Working alongside Anduril UK and GKN, Archer plans to invest in local engineering talent, creating high skill roles aligned with the UK's defence priorities.

World First Medical Drone Delivery Service To Be Launched In the UK Between Cornwall and Isles of Scilly

Open Skies Network and Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust have announced a pioneering agreement for the adoption of an NHS medical drone delivery service in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

Starting in 2025, this multi-year partnership will support the adoption of cargo drones. Initially, this will include delivery of things like pathology samples and medical supplies across the region. In the future, there will be discussions to explore the potential to use piloted electric aircraft for medical transport.

Gareth Whatmore, CEO at Open Skies Network, said: "From drone deliveries of testing kits and PPE during Covid, to the first long-haul and intra-island medical drone operations, our previous work in Cornwall has led UK capability for the NHS when it comes to drone-enabled healthcare logistics.

"This agreement — the first of its kind in the NHS — will see Open Skies Network and Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust working together to adopt a model for drone-enabled, digitally integrated health and care logistics. This supports delivery of the 10-year Health Plan to move care out of hospitals into communities and make better use of technology to help healthcare teams focus on preventing sickness, not just treating it.

Geographic isolation and weather dependency present unique challenges when it comes to delivering equitable access to healthcare across Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. This agreement will be a boost to the existing transport infrastructure and the delivery of urgent diagnostics, medications, and specialist interventions.

Informed by work previously carried out as part of the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Future Flight Challenge programme, the landmark agreement will see Open Skies Network formalise take-off and landing locations and infrastructure for active medical drone use, in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.

It will also pave the way for future adoption of piloted electric aircraft, creating a blueprint for a future-ready health and care system that can be replicated across urban, rural and island communities around the world.

Main news - Middle East

AeroVecto Aviation Services and Modern College of Business and Science To Partner And Support Growth of AAM in Oman

AeroVecto Aviation Services (AVAS) and the Modern College of Business and Science (MCBS) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate on research, education and industry engagement related to Advanced Air Mobility in Oman.

The MoU was signed in the presence of the Civil Aviation Authority and focuses on applied research and feasibility studies examining how AAM solutions could be integrated into Oman's existing transportation systems.

It also supports policy and regulatory discussions where research findings highlight practical considerations or gaps, in line with national development priorities and Oman Vision 2040.

Fahad Al Riyami, CEO of AeroVecto Aviation Services, said: "AeroVecto is committed to bringing practical AAM solutions to market while nurturing local talent. Working with MCBS allows us to deepen research into AAM deployment within the context of Oman.

"Together we combine industry experience with fresh academic ideas, giving students the opportunity to contribute to projects with clear industry relevance."

Founded in 1996, the Modern College of Business and Science (MCBS) is one of Oman's leading higher education institutions, offering programs from Foundation and Undergraduate to Master's and PhD levels. A proud member of AACSB International, MCBS is dedicated to academic excellence, innovation, and research that advance Oman Vision 2040.

Both parties will undertake joint research projects and provide opportunities for MCBS students to gain industry exposure through internships and placements at AeroVecto.

The agreement also supports the development and commercialization of selected AAM-related projects emerging from MCBS's Innovation Hub.

The collaboration marks a step toward building local knowledge and expertise in advanced air mobility, bringing together academic research and industry practice to support informed decision-making and long-term sector development in Oman.

Dr. Moosa Al Kindi, Dean – Modern College of Business & Science, added: "This partnership strengthens MCBS's focus on applied research and student engagement.

"As an institution recognised in Times Higher Education and QS international rankings, and as we approach 30 years of educational excellence, collaborations such as this reflect our continued commitment to quality education, research relevance, and future-focused learning. It provides students with practical research experience and exposure to an emerging sector closely linked to Oman's economic development."

Main news - Asia-Pacific

UrbanV and Alatau Advance Air Group to Design Test Center in Kazakhstan And Enable Testing and Demo Flights of eVTOL Aircraft

UrbanV and Alatau Advance Air Group (AAAG) have announced a new international collaboration to design Kazakhstan's first vertiport network.

The initiative will initially focus on the emerging Smart City of Alatau and the metropolitan area of Almaty, Kazakhstan's largest city, to support the country's ambition to become a leading hub for next-generation mobility in Central Asia.

The first project will be the design of a Test-Center in Alatau City, a dedicated facility that will serve as the foundational infrastructure to enable early testing and demonstration flights with eVTOL aircraft.

AAAG has recently strengthened this commitment by signing a Letter of Intent with Joby Aviation, one of the global pioneers of eVTOL technology.

Ivan Bassato, Chairman of UrbanV, said: "We are delighted to work with AAAG on a project that contributes to building a safer, more connected, and more sustainable form of mobility. Kazakhstan is investing with ambition and vision in the future of AAM, and UrbanV is ready to bring its international experience to support this important transformation."

Through this partnership, UrbanV and AAAG will work together on the design of a vertiport network. This includes the network demand analysis, the profiling of potential routes, the assessment of attractive locations across Alatau and Almaty and the preliminary evaluation of airspace, operational models, and technological requirements.

UrbanV further expands its international presence by entering the Central Asian market with its expertise in vertiport planning, design, and operations.

The collaboration will include stakeholder engagement and regulatory support to help shape the national framework for Advanced Air Mobility, enabling the future rollout of AAM services across the region.

This initiative is also aligned with UrbanV's broader strategy to develop safe, efficient and next-generation vertiport infrastructure capable of supporting future eVTOL services, contributing to the global transition toward clean and innovative air mobility.

As part of this effort, UrbanV will also collaborate with Korea Airports Corporation (KAC), marking the activation of one of the key commitments of the MoU signed last year, which foresees close cooperation between UrbanV and KAC in overseas vertiport development – sharing expertise, information, and project insights to support the coordinated development of emerging AAM ecosystems.

eVTOL INSIGHTS

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY

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