eVTOL INSIGHTS

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY

March 2026

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JOBY AVIATION DEBUTS UBER AIR AND HOW USERS WILL BE ABLE TO BOOK ITS ELECTRIC AIR TAXI

ERC SYSTEM BEGINS FLIGHT TESTING ITS FULL-SIZE ROMEO PROTOTYPE

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS SKYPORTZ WITH $250,000 GRANT

ARCHER CHOOSES BRISTOL AS THE HOME OF ITS UK ENGINEERING HUB

AIR NEW ZEALAND AND BETA TECHNOLOGIES WRAP UP FIRST PHASE OF NEXT GENERATION AIRCRAFT PROGRAMME

LYNEPORTS AND AEROVECTO TO DEPLOY VERTIPORT PLANNING TECHNOLOGY ACROSS MIDDLE EAST

MIGHTYFLY CLOSES $10M FINANCING TO SCALE AUTONOMOUS HYBRID EVTOL AIRCRAFT

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Welcome

As we move in March, the global Advanced Air Mobility industry continues to progress and the last month has seen a number of key developments across the market.

One of the most noteworthy milestones was in Germany, where Munich startup ERC System took to the skies with its one of the industry's heaviest eVTOL prototypes. Similarly in China, AutoFlight's groundbreaking five-ton Matrix eVTOL completed a full transition flight also marked a pivotal step for heavy-lift and large-payload electric aircraft.

At the same time, partnerships designed to integrate infrastructure with aerial operations are accelerating: Korean Air and Skyports inked an MoU to develop an end-to-end eVTOL platform that could streamline vertiport and flight management functions.

The period also saw heightened industry competition and regulatory progress. Public markets are responding to sector headwinds: Vertical Aerospace's stock declined after an analyst downgrade, highlighting investor sensitivity to capital intensiveness even as companies pursue certification and service milestones. Legal battles over design patents between Archer and Vertical further reflect competitive intensity as players jockey for market leadership.

Across regions, from Europe and the Middle East to Asia, eVTOL technologies are evolving in both capability and commercial strategy, proving that while challenges remain, the pathway to certified, operational electric flight is clearer than ever.

At eVTOL Insights, we're getting closer to our North America Conference & Awards in Ohio so if you'd like to attend and participate, you can find all the details on our website. The event is from April 29th to May 1st and promises to be another great industry gathering. Hope you can join us!

— Jason Pritchard, Executive Editor,

eVTOL Insights

Archer sues Vertical Aerospace over Alleged Design Patent Infringement for its Midnight eVTOL aircraft

Archer Aviation has filed a patent infringement complaint in the Eastern District of Texas against Vertical Aerospace, saying Vertical has allegedly infringed at least two design patents for Archer's Midnight aircraft.

The suit, which was filed on February 24th, says the patents protect the unique visual identity of Midnight's V□tail, fuselage and wing configurations.

Additionally, the suit says Vertical's Valo aircraft, unveiled in December 2025, allegedly infringes on one of Archer's utility patents which covers critical flight control systems and 'control allocation' methods used to manage electric propulsion units and battery power on its tilting architecture.

A quote from the filing said: "Vertical has knowingly, willfully, and in reckless disregard leveraged and exploited the substantial goodwill and reputation associated with Archer's patented designs.

"Vertical's infringement is readily apparent from a visual comparison of the overall appearance of the Valo to Archer's patented designs."

Vertical Aerospace was in in Miami between February 23rd and 24th as part of a two-day public roadshow to showcase Valo in North America. A similar public event was held in New York back in January.

Soon after the news from Archer surfaced, Vertical Aerospace provided its own statement in response.

The company said: "Archer's recent claims are without merit, and Vertical intends to defend those claims vigorously. Vertical has developed a robust aircraft design with a clear path to certification, underpinned by Vertical's proprietary and market-leading technology and international IP portfolio.

"Archer's claims are merely an attempt to distract from the challenges Archer is facing competing in the marketplace."

Domhnal Slattery, Chairman at Vertical Aerospace, added: "Our focus remains firmly on execution and certification. That is where sustainable value is created — and that is where we are leading."

NASA Investigates How People Respond to Electric Air Taxi Noise

New research from NASA has shared more insights into the sounds people might hear overhead once electric air taxis take to the skies in cities and regions across the world.

From August through to September 2025, 359 participants in the Los Angeles, New York City, and Dallas-Fort Worth areas took part in NASA's Varied Advanced Air Mobility Noise and Geographic Area Response Difference (VANGARD) test.

Researchers played 67 unique sounds simulating aircraft, including NASA-owned industry concept designs. To ensure unbiased feedback, the research team withheld aircraft manufacturer names. Participants were also not shown images of the aircraft they were hearing.

Initial results reveal that residents living in noisy areas reported being more bothered by the air taxi sounds than those in quieter areas.

Sidd Krishnamurthy, lead researcher at NASA's Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia, said: "With air taxis coming soon, we need to understand how people will react to a variety of future aircraft sounds.

"This test filled a critical gap, and its results will improve how we predict human reactions to noise, guiding the design and operation of future aircraft."

During the study, participants listened to individual aircraft flyover sounds and rated their annoyance levels.

Many factors influence how humans respond to aircraft noise. This study was not designed to answer every question — for example, it did not look at the potential effects of high background noise masking air taxi noise — but it provided the VANGARD team with initial insights.

The results from this study, and any follow-on efforts, will guide the design and operation of future advanced air mobility aircraft to help designers and regulators determine how and where these aircraft may fly.

Featured image: This artist's concept shows several advanced air mobility aircraft concepts staged for a medical transport. NASA's recent aircraft noise study included sounds from multiple types of advanced air mobility concept aircraft. Credit: NASA/Lillian Gipson

Main news - North America

Joby Aviation has introduced Uber Air, giving users a first look at how they'll be able to book the company's electric air taxi directly in the Uber app.

Joby expects to carry its first passengers later this year in Dubai, which will mark a major milestone for the Joby-Uber partnership to bring multi-modal transportation to cities around the world.

Sachin Kansal, Chief Product Officer at Uber, said: "We've long believed in the power of advanced air mobility to transform how people move through cities.

"With Uber Air, riders will be able to book Joby's electric air taxi through a simple and familiar, one-tap experience on Uber, seamlessly connecting every leg of their journey – making ground-to-sky travel even more effortless."

Here's what Uber riders can expect:

- One-tap booking
- Aircraft details
- Designed for cities
- Path to US flights

Eric Allison, Chief Product Officer at Joby, said: "We set out to build a new layer of urban transportation. Our focus has always been on creating a flight experience that operates quietly and integrates naturally into the rhythm of city life.

"By partnering with Uber, we're making this new mode of transportation familiar and accessible, connecting the ground and the sky through a system designed to save people time and fit seamlessly into how they already move."

Joby and Uber have been working together to deliver the future of urban air mobility since 2019. In 2021, Joby acquired Uber's Elevate division which played a pivotal role in establishing the urban air mobility sector and developing the tools required for market selection, demand simulation and multi-modal operations.

MightyFly Closes $10M Financing to Scale Autonomous Hybrid eVTOL Aircraft for Expedited Logistics and Defense

MightyFly has closed $10 million in funding from investors, which will continue to support the scaling of its autonomous hybrid eVTOL aircraft for the logistics and defense sectors.

This new funding, which came from Draper Associates, At One Ventures and 500 Global, brings MightyFly's total funding to $15 million.

MightyFly is developing a dual-use autonomous eVTOL platform purpose-built for middle-mile and last-mile B2B and defense expedited logistics, with the capability to carry 100–500 pounds across 600–1,000 miles range and execute multiple stops within a single flight route.

The company's platform is designed to deliver rapid, reliable logistics with low emissions—supporting both commercial supply chains and mission-critical defense operations.

Manal Habib, Founder and CEO of MightyFly, said: "MightyFly is built around autonomy as a force multiplier—delivering speed, reach, and operational flexibility that traditional logistics simply can't match. By eliminating infrastructure dependencies, we unlock rapid expansion."

MightyFly has already developed three full-scale aircraft and completed more than 400 autonomous flights. The company has obtained a Special Airworthiness Certificate covering multiple flight areas, corridors, and airports, and has generated over a million dollars in revenue to date.

The company's timing also aligns with evolving FAA pathways for commercial autonomous aircraft operations, enabling rapid expansion into the $319 billion expedited-delivery market. MightyFly has signed a $220 million, 20 year LOI for intra island delivery and most recently, signed a $50 million, five-year healthcare contract.

Tim Chae, Managing Partner, 500 Global, said: "We invested in MightyFly early because we believe autonomy can redefine the future of logistics. We're excited to continue supporting the team as they help lead the way in long-range eVTOL cargo delivery for next-generation supply chains.

Preliminary Topics Revealed for eVTOL Insights' North America Conference in Ohio

Preliminary discussion topics for eVTOL Insights' North America Conference have now been released, as preparations for its 2026 event in Ohio start to gather pace.

It will take place from April 29th to May 1st at the National Advanced Air Mobility Center of Excellence (NAAMCE), which is based near Springfield-Beckley Municipal Airport near Springfield, Ohio.

Among the companies which have confirmed to participate include SkyGrid, EHang, SMG Consulting, NAAMCE, Seraph, Wisk, Vertiport Chicago, Future Flight Global, ANRA Technologies, AeroX BETA Technologies, Joby Aviation, National Air Transportation Association (NATA) and Pivotal, EagleNav Sky Vision, Evolito, Future Flight Global, Eve Air Mobility, Volocopter, Hartzell Propeller and Office of Ohio Governor Mike DeWine.

Topics to be discussed in Ohio (subject to change):
Ohio's Role in Advancing Air Mobility
Industry Readiness: How Close are We to Commercialisation?
China's Low Altitude Economy: Strategy, Scale and Global Implications?
Airspace Integration and ATM/UTM
Electric Propulsion & Battery Development
Building the AAM Workforce of the 2030s
Manufacturing & Supply Chain
Flight Testing: Expectations for 2026
Certification & Regulation

As well as the conference, eVTOL Insights is organising two site visits and also hosting its Global AAM Awards which will celebrate and recognise industry achievements across individual, team and company categories.

Tickets to attend eVTOL Insights' North America Conference are on sale and priced at $950. This includes entry to both the conference and awards, plus the two site visits and networking receptions planned. Student concessions are also on sale for $200. You can buy yours here.

There are still speaking opportunities available and any company interested in participating should email jason@evtolinsights.com

North Aircraft Industries to Manufacture the Wings of Horizon Aircraft's hybrid-electric Cavorite X7

Horizon Aircraft has partnered with North Aircraft Industries to manufacture and test the custom-engineered wings for the Company's full-scale VTOL aircraft, the Cavorite X7.
North Aircraft Industries is globally recognized for its expertise in complex aerospace composite engineering, manufacturing, and testing.

Further differentiated for its in-house structural testing capabilities, North Aircraft Industries will conduct wing structural testing upon manufacturing completion.

Joost List, CEO of North Aircraft Industries, said: "The Cavorite X7's design represents a genuinely new approach to VTOL aircraft performance and operational flexibility. It aligns perfectly with our strengths in advanced composite structures and integrated aerospace component development."

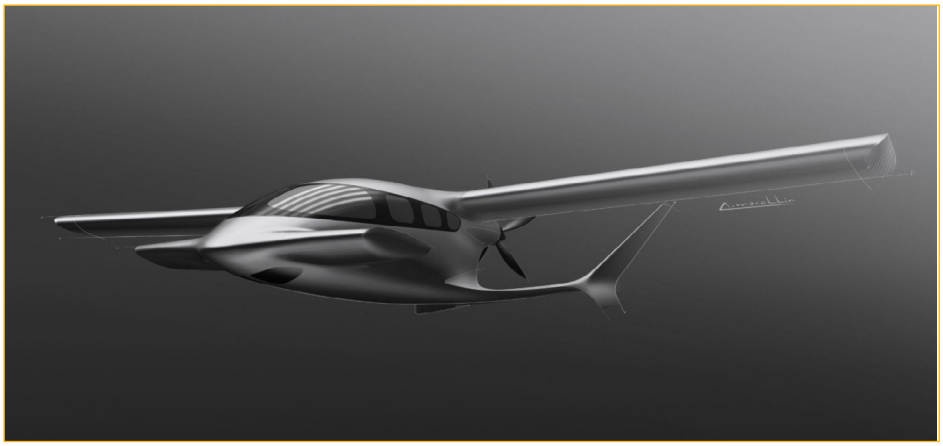
The Cavorite X7's novel wing architecture enables vertical takeoff and landing by opening wing covers to reveal 12 embedded electric lift fans. In forward flight, the covers close seamlessly, transforming the aircraft into an efficient, fixed-wing aircraft.

Horizon Aircraft Co-Founder and CEO Brandon Robinson, added: "Building our proprietary wing demands an exceptional composite manufacturing team with deep experience in complex structures. North Aircraft Industries has the experience, skill, and agility to keep our production of the Cavorite X7 on track.

"We are proud to partner once again with a leading Canadian aerospace company that will play a critical role in completing the X7 and prepare it for testing in 2027."

This latest partnership with North Aircraft Industries adds to the growing list of suppliers which Horizon Aircraft has now signed agreements with. It includes a recent announcement with RAMPF Composite Solutions at the end of January, which will build the Cavorite X7's fuselage.

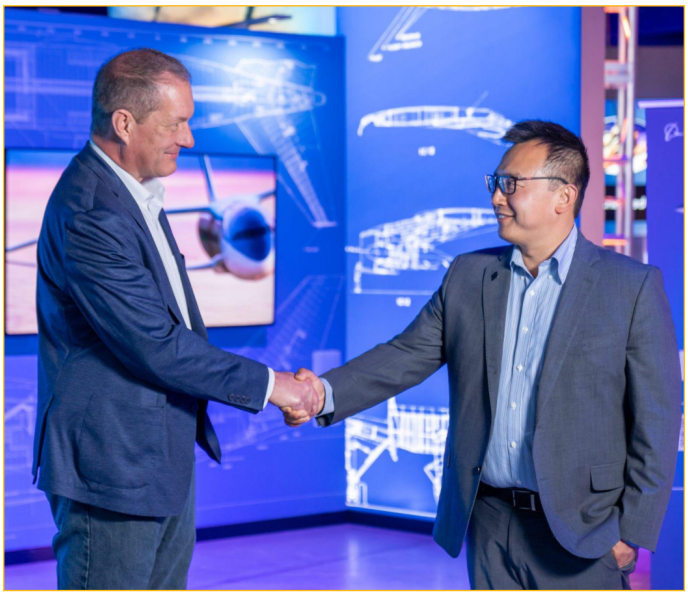
Additionally, Horizon Aircraft confirmed it had selected Pratt & Whitney's PT6A engine for its full-scale model. in October 2025.



SkyGrid and Port San Antonio Partner to Enable Advanced Air Mobility at a Joint-Use Airfield

SkyGrid and Port San Antonio will jointly explore technologies, services and operational frameworks to safely integrate Advanced Air Mobility operations on the Port's 1,900-acre Tech Port campus and beyond.

Both companies will collaborate to assess the technical, regulatory and operational requirements necessary to enable and scale crewed and uncrewed aircraft operations, leveraging Port San Antonio's Tech Port campus and SkyGrid's expertise in digital airspace services, automation, and operational assurance.



The collaboration will also explore potential alignment with state and federal initiatives, including future proposals for the eVTOL Integration Pilot Program (eIPP), Center for Advanced Aviation Technologies (CAAT) task orders, and other activities supporting national aviation modernization priorities.

Jia Xu, CEO of SkyGrid, said: "Advanced Air Mobility will only scale if it can be tested in environments that reflect real operational complexity.

"Kelly Field's joint-use setting, combined with Port San Antonio's infrastructure and vision, makes it an ideal proving ground to evaluate how digital airspace services and cyber-resilient systems can support the next generation of aviation."

SkyGrid and Port San Antonio will build on the Port's efforts to build a vertiport as well as prior analyses demonstrating the strategic value of the Port's infrastructure, airspace, existing critical mass of technology partners and the site's operational advantages as an ideal environment for AAM research, development, and operations.

Jim Perschbach, President and CEO of Port San Antonio, added: "SkyGrid is an invaluable partner as we begin proving advanced air mobility.

"Their focus on digital airspace infrastructure and operational assurance aligns directly with the realities of a joint-use airfield. This partnership is a major validation of what we've long believed—that Port San Antonio is uniquely positioned to help shape the future of aviation."

SkyGrid and Wisk Release 'Enabling Scalable Urban Air Mobility Through Automated Flight Rules' White Paper

SkyGrid and Wisk have published a new white paper outlining how Automated Flight Rules (AFR) can enable the safe and scalable integration of Urban Air Mobility operations into global airspace.

Titled Enabling Scalable Urban Air Mobility Through Automated Flight Rules, the document builds on the Automated Flight Rules Concept of Operations which was jointly released by SkyGrid, Wisk, and Boeing in December 2025.

As passenger-carrying eVTOL aircraft move closer to commercial operations, integrating high-tempo flights into already complex urban airspace remains a critical challenge.

The white paper focuses specifically on how AFR can support UAM operations in low-altitude (< 4000ft. AGL) urban environments, where flights are expected to operate at tempos comparable to major airports and in close proximity to existing Class B, C, and D airspace.

Jia Xu, CEO of SkyGrid, said: "Urban Air Mobility cannot scale under today's human-centric traffic management model alone. Automated Flight Rules represent the next logical evolution in aviation — leveraging certified automation to enable predictable, high-density operations while maintaining the highest standards of safety. This white paper provides a practical framework for how that future can be realized."

The paper also introduces a layered approach to automated conflict management, beginning with strategic conflict management prior to takeoff through demand-capacity balancing and operational intent validation.

Erick Corona, Head of Systems and Operations Integration at Wisk, said: "As we prepare for commercial operations, airspace modernization must evolve alongside aircraft innovation, which is why Wisk is designing the Gen 6 aircraft to be compatible with the AFR concepts outlined in this whitepaper.

"This paper outlines how AFR and automated traffic management can unlock scalable, efficient operations in urban environments, enabling us to deliver safe and accessible autonomous AAM at scale."

Electra Joins Virginia Smart Airspace Program to Establish National Blueprint for Advanced Air Mobility Instrument Flight Rules

Electra will design, implement and test a first-of-its-kind, low-cost instrument flight rules (IFR) network for Ultra Short and other aircraft, complete with new, FAA-certified access points, as part of a new partnership with the Virginia Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) Smart Airspace Program.

The program is led by Virginia Tech's Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership (MAAP), supported financially by the Virginia Small Aircraft Transportation Systems Lab and supported financially and technically by the Virginia Department of Aviation.

Parker Vascik, Director of Product Strategy at Electra, said: "This partnership marks a critical step forward on our path to unlocking a new era of aviation – one that is simpler, faster, and without the hassle of today's commercial services.

"By creating the necessary operational, physical, and digital infrastructure in an affordable package, we are one step closer to enabling safe, scalable, and reliable all-weather AAM operations across the country. Ultimately, our goal is to transform the future of travel, giving people the freedom to travel from where they are to where they want to go."

Electra's team of aerospace engineers and pilots will work with the other technical leads to design, implement, and test instrument procedures for Ultra Short aircraft, including during the most technically difficult part of flying in poor weather – proceeding from cloud coverage to a landing site.

Tombo Jones, the Director of MAAP, an FAA Designated Test Site, said: "The Virginia AAM Smart Airspace Program is establishing the regulatory, procedural, and operational foundation for real-world AAM deployment—not in the future, but now.

"With FAA engagement, proven technical methods, and scalable infrastructure, Virginia is helping to define the national blueprint for how Advanced Air Mobility will operate in everyday airspace."

Get in front of the camera with eVTOL Insights and secure a live video interview opportunity at this year's Farnborough Airshow.

eVTOL Insights is offering live video interview opportunities at this year's Farnborough International Airshow, providing aerospace and advanced air mobility companies with a powerful platform to share insights, announcements and perspectives directly from one of the industry's most influential global events.

Taking place from July 20th to 24th, eVTOL Insights will conduct and broadcast live, on-site video interviews on the 20th and 21st, which will help exhibitors and participants maximise their presence at the airshow by engaging audiences well beyond the show floor.

Live interviews will usually last between 10 to 12 minutes and can explore the most pressing topics shaping the future of the Advanced Air Mobility market, including certification progress, infrastructure development, propulsion technologies, sustainability, autonomy and emerging commercial strategies.

In addition to live broadcast exposure, each interview will receive amplification across eVTOL Insights' editorial and digital platforms, including written coverage, social media promotion and inclusion in post-event content packages, ensuring continued visibility long after the airshow concludes.

Interview slots are being charged at £999 each and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. The price includes an edited version which can be used to promote on social media for marketing purposes.

Companies interested in participating are encouraged to contact Sam Bromley, Sales Manager at eVTOL Insights. His email is sam@evtolinsights.com.

ERC System begins flight testing its full-size Romeo prototype, one of Europe's heaviest and largest eVTOL aircraft

Munich startup ERC System has begun flight testing of its full-size, third-generation prototype of its eVTOL aircraft prototype, known as Romeo.

Weighing nearly three tonnes and sporting a 16-metre wingspan, ERC says Romeo is among the largest and heaviest eVTOL aircraft flown in Europe so far. Flight testing initially began back in November 2025.

Dr. David Löbl, Co-Founder and CEO of ERC System, said: "We are excited to have reached this key milestone in our mission to make aerial transportation more economically feasible, especially for critical missions.

"The crewed aircraft we intend to certify in 2031 is hybrid-electric. It takes off and lands vertically like a helicopter but uses wings to cruise efficiently like an airplane. This allows us to operate at a fraction of the cost of helicopters, while reducing transport times significantly compared to less costly, but slower ground-based vehicles. A clear benefit for critical missions, such as in interhospital patient transports."

Its successful maiden flight comes as the startup intensifies strategic partnerships with airrescue and HEMS operators and prepares an extension into the uncrewed aerial logistics market.

ERC's flight tests on full-size, full-mass prototypes are intended to tackle the challenges of flying heavy eVTOL aircraft as early as possible in the development process.

The learnings generated during the current flight test campaign will inform the development of ERC's first commercially available aircraft.

ERC's flagship product will be a crewed, hybrid-electric lift-and-cruise aircraft optimized for inter-hospital patient transport.

The company has confirmed it intends to add an uncrewed cargo aircraft (UAS) to its portfolio. It is expected to release details of the uncrewed product by Q2 2026.

Ambitious Air Mobility Group confirms order for up to 50 of LODD Autonomous' Hili hybrid VTOL aircraft

Ambitious Air Mobility Group (AAMG) has signed an agreement with LODD Autonomous, which establishes a framework for the development, deployment and potential acquisition of up to 50 of LODD's Hili hybrid VTOL cargo aircraft.

Both parties will collaborate on the participation in experimental operations, a fleet roadmap planning and logistics deployment, joint market development across Europe and the Middle East and integration within AAMG's expanding vertiport and route network.

The deal will be a 50:50 split, between European and UAE and Middle East deployment.

Robert Kamp, CEO of Ambitious Air Mobility Group, said: "This agreement aligns aircraft capability with infrastructure readiness. Hili presents a strong hybrid cargo solution, and we look forward to supporting its operational validation while preparing scalable deployment across our network."

LODD is developing the Hili Cargo UAS, a hybrid VTOL platform designed to carry payloads of up to 250 kg over ranges of up to 700 km.

The platform is being developed for scalable middle-mile and hub-to-hub cargo operations. Experimental operational trials are planned for between Q4 2026 – Q4 2027.

The collaboration will also explore advanced materials, composite optimisation and production efficiencies, alongside potential application of LODD's autonomy software architecture across selected aircraft programmes within the AAMG portfolio.

Rashid Mattar Almanai, CEO of LODD, added: "AAMG brings infrastructure vision and access to key markets. This collaboration enables us to align development milestones with real-world deployment pathways."

Ambitious Air Mobility Group – NL Holding N.V. is a European industrial and investment holding company focused on accelerating the sustainable transformation of aviation through hybrid-electric aircraft, defence mobility systems and vertiports supported by off-grid energy infrastructure.

LODD is an autonomous aerospace company headquartered in Abu Dhabi, pioneering the future of cargo transportation.

AeroTesseract: EA Maven Launches Online Portal to Help Operators Forecast AAM Demand and Build Work Schedules

EA Maven has unveiled AeroTesseract, a Full-Stack online portal unifying Market Analysis (Indexing), Demand Modelling, Scheduling Analysis and revenue/energy/carbon analytics for Regional Aviation, Urban Air Mobility (UAM) and Regional Air Mobility (RAM).

The single workflow enables operators, OEMs, airports/vertiports and investors to size markets, forecast demand, build executable schedules, and quantify commercial and environmental outcomes.

AeroTesseract moves programmes from 'Where could we fly?' to 'What should we fly, when, with what fleet and what will it deliver commercially and environmentally?'. It replaces top-down guesswork with bottom-up mobility data, schedule realism and integrated revenue/energy/carbon accounting.

Who it's for

- Operators & start-ups: build schedule-ready networks and fleet plans
- OEMs: evidence best-fit missions and business cases
- Airports & vertiports: plan stands/turns, fees, and energy infrastructure
- Investors & policymakers: quantify returns, time savings and emissions impact

Darrell Swanson, Co-Founder, EA Maven, said: "AeroTesseract unifies analysis, forecasting and execution so teams can move from potential to operations with confidence."

AeroTesseract
See all dimensions

Jarek Zych, Co-Founder, EA Maven, added:: "With one portal you identify the right routes, forecast uptake, build an optimised schedule, and quantify revenues, energy needs and carbon savings end-to-end."

AeroTesseract is introduced at www.eamaven.com/aerotesseract . In-depth tours and briefings can be arranged on request.

EA Maven is a consultancy firm focused on Advanced Air Mobility strategy, demand modelling, system planning and infrastructure design, supporting OEMs, airports, operators, investors and government clients worldwide.

AtkinsRéalis teams with Anduril UK to accelerate sovereign autonomous systems for British defence

AtkinsRéalis has entered into a teaming agreement with Anduril UK to provide critical safety, assurance and regulatory expertise that will accelerate development and deployment of autonomous aircraft for UK defence programmes.

The teaming agreement positions AtkinsRéalis to support Anduril UK in navigating emerging certification pathways and establishing the assurance standards, including cyber security, which is essential for trusted autonomous operations.

David Clark, Vice President — Global Defence at AtkinsRéalis, said: "Autonomous systems have rightly been identified as a priority for defence transformation. Delivering this vision requires proportionate approaches which turn innovative technologies into operationally assured, deployable capabilities.

"Through this agreement with Anduril UK, we can contribute our decades of defence delivery and sovereign programme expertise to help deliver trusted, deployable autonomous systems that bolster national security."

Beyond providing safety and assurance expertise, AtkinsRéalis is supporting Anduril UK's establishment of a UK manufacturing site for the uncrewed platform, leveraging its capabilities in delivering complex infrastructure and industrial facilities.

The manufacturing site would support Anduril UK's investment to provide for the British Armed Forces and enable potential exports to wider Europe, contributing to UK jobs, the economy and the defence industrial base.

Rich Drake, Managing Director of Anduril UK, said: "This collaboration is about how the UK builds and fields modern defence systems, not just a single platform. We're helping create sovereign autonomous capability that can be delivered faster, alongside our valued partners across the British defence ecosystem.

"By pairing Anduril's software-first approach with AtkinsRéalis' strengths in assurance and regulation, we will ensure that our armed forces stay ahead for the long term."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LYNEports and AeroVecto Aviation Services to Deploy Vertiport Planning Technology Across Oman and Middle East

LYNEports have entered into a new commercial agreement with AeroVecto Aviation Services (AVAS), which brings its advanced vertiport planning technology and consultancy services under AVAS's umbrella in Oman.

The partnership enables AVAS to implement and localise LYNEports' digital twin platform for government entities, developers, airports and city planners strengthening national readiness for emerging Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) operations.

LYNEports contributes its AI-native digitaltwin platform for vertiport planning, airport modernization and drone corridor design translating complex aviation regulations into practical, visual decision tools that can be used by both aviation professionals and nonspecialist stakeholders.

While AVAS contributes its aerospace engineering depth and local ecosystem development capability. Together, the companies aim to help governments and private sector leaders move from concept to real, implementable aerial mobility projects.

Fahad Al Riyami, CEO of AVAS, said: "This agreement moves our collaboration from exploration to execution. By bringing LYNEports' platform and consultancy services under the AVAS solutions umbrella,we offer Omani stakeholders a locally supported pathway for vertiport planning and AAM readiness.

"It strengthens Oman's position in the regional aerial mobility landscape and ensures that global standard tools are delivered with homegrown aviation capability."

As part of the agreement, AVAS will integrate LYNEports' platform into its AAM solutions, offering localized implementation, technical consultancy, and training programs tailored to Omani regulatory and geographic contexts.

The collaboration will also incorporate AeroVecto aircraft model into the LYNEports environment, enabling realistic simulations for stakeholders evaluating operational concepts for both crewed and uncrewed AAM operations.

Rasha Alshami, CEO of LYNEports, added: "Working with a respected Omani aerospace partner allows its technology to be applied in real market contexts, supporting cities that want to prepare responsibly for new forms of aviation."

Vertical Aerospace and Saudi National Industrial Development Centre to Accelerate AAM in the Kingdom as part of Vision 2030

Vertical Aerospace has signed a strategic three-party Memorandum of Understanding in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, aimed at developing the framework for an Advanced Air Mobility ecosystem as part of the country's Vision 2030.

The agreement has been signed by Abdel Hadi Abdullah Al-Qahtani & Sons Group of Companies (AHQ Group), a leading Saudi industrial conglomerate and the Saudi National Industrial Development Centre (NIDC), part of the Ministry of Industry and Mineral Resources.

All parties will evaluate a broad set of opportunities spanning manufacturing localisation, commercial eVTOL operations and potential investment and incentive opportunities, supporting Vertical's certification programme and long-term growth.

Stuart Simpson, CEO of Vertical Aerospace, said: "Saudi Arabia is one of the most strategically important future markets for Advanced Air Mobility. Signing this MoU here in Riyadh reflects the Kingdom's ambition to build a world-class aerospace industrial capability under Vision 2030."

Vertical says Saudi Arabia represents one of the largest and most attractive emerging markets for Advanced Air Mobility, with the potential to support the operation of more than 1,000 of its Valo aircraft.

Together, Vertical, AHQ Group and NIDC will explore how Saudi Arabia can become a regional hub for electric aircraft manufacturing, battery systems and AAM services, supporting Vision 2030's ambitions for industrial diversification, highly skilled job creation and clean transport.

Chairman Tariq Abdel Hadi Al-Qahtani, AHQ Group, said: "Advanced Air Mobility represents a new frontier for Saudi Arabia's industrial and mobility ambitions. Through this MoU with Vertical Aerospace and NIDC, we are exploring potential investment opportunities to build a scalable, globally competitive AAM ecosystem that combines advanced manufacturing, sustainable mobility and long-term economic value."

Main news - Middle East

Global law firm Reed Smith has announced the appointment of Anders Nilsson as managing partner of its Middle East offices.

Global law firm Reed Smith has announced the appointment of Anders Nilsson as managing partner of its Middle East offices.

Nilsson, who joined the firm in November 2025, will oversee the firm's operations in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, and its recently opened office in Riyadh. He succeeds Sachin Kerur, who has served as managing partner of the Middle East offices since 2018 and is leaving the firm to pursue entrepreneurial opportunities.

Commenting on his new role, Nilsson said: "I am honoured to take on this role at such an exciting time for the firm and for the region. Reed Smith has an outstanding platform, a collaborative culture, and a long history of supporting clients in the Middle East.

"I look forward to working closely with our teams in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, and Riyadh to help clients navigate their most complex matters and to continue building our capabilities across this dynamic and rapidly evolving market."

Nilsson brings more than 25 years' experience, including 12 years practising in the Middle East, advising multinational clients on public and private M&A, joint ventures, strategic investments and general corporate matters. He joined Reed Smith from Bird & Bird, where he served as head of the firm's Middle East offices.

Nilsson has a particular focus on Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) — Africa cross border transactions as well as the aviation, aerospace and defense sector, where his experience extends throughout the Middle East, Europe and Africa.

He also advises some of the leading global players within the area of future mobility and transport. He has advised many of the world's leading aviation and aerospace companies on their operations internationally as well as government entities in the GCC on aviation related matters.

LODD Autonomous to explore integration of unmanned Hili aircraft model into DHL Express' delivery operations

LODD Autonomous is to work with DHL Express on how its unmanned Hili aircraft could be integrated into DHL's express delivery network.

Hili is LODD's flagship solution for last- and middle-mile delivery. The unmanned aircraft has a maximum payload of 250 kg and the ability to carry two Euro pallets. The aircraft features VTOL capability and has a range of 700 km (+30 min reserve) with a maximum cruise altitude of 14,000 ft.

Both companies will now begin operational workshops to identify priority routes and use cases for unmanned cargo delivery.

Rashid Al Manai, CEO of LODD, said: "Partnering with DHL Express reflects the UAE's ambition to lead the world in advanced air mobility and smart logistics. Designed and developed in the UAE, the Hili unmanned aircraft is purpose-built for the region's operational demands, from urban density to long-distance connectivity.

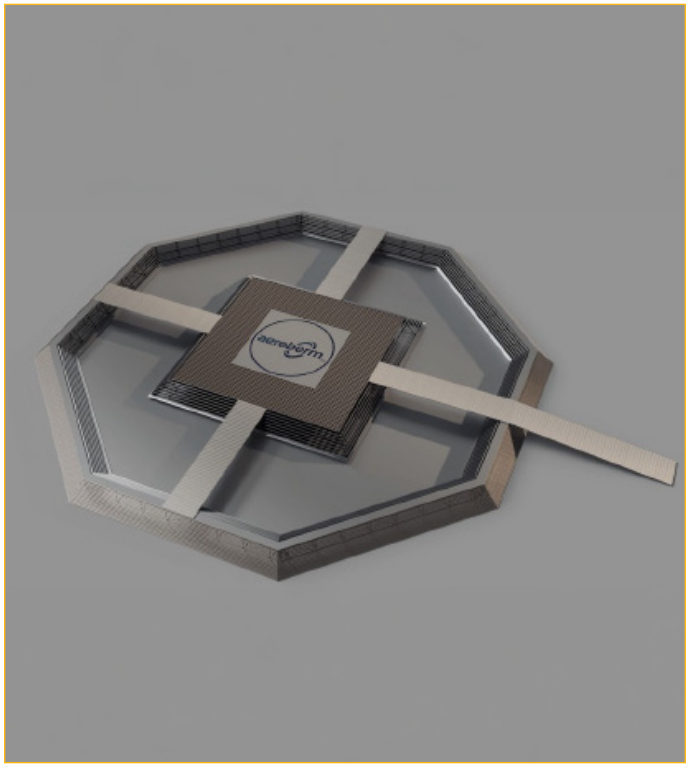
"This collaboration positions the UAE at the forefront of autonomous cargo operations and supports the nation's vision for innovative, future-ready infrastructure. Through joint operational workshops, we will focus on route definition, payload optimization, turnaround times, and system interoperability to ensure safe, reliable, and scalable deployment."

DHL Express manages an extensive network of around 40 locations in the UAE, including service points, gateways, and hubs, and more than 350 vehicles.

Bachi Spiga, VP Network Operations Middle East and North Africa, DHL Express, said: "As the global leader in international express delivery, speed and reliability are essential to maintaining our strong market position.

"In fast-growing regions like the UAE, where road congestion poses new challenges, innovations such as LODD's unmanned Hili aircraft present a sustainable way forward to meet the rising demand effectively."

Australian Government supports Skyportz with $250,000 grant to develop air taxi Aeroberm™ vertipad



The Australian Government has awarded Skyportz a grant of $250,000 to advance the development of its revolutionary patented elevated Aeroberm™ vertipad.

Aeroberm is designed to enable safe and scalable operations for electric air taxis in urban and regional environments. Skyportz says the modular vertipad system can be installed on rooftops, carparks or bespoke structures to support the emerging Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) industry.

This project, supported under the Australian Government's Industry Growth Program, will develop a minimum viable product to address three of the most significant infrastructure challenges facing the industry; downwash and outwash management, noise mitigation, and fire suppression.

The funds will be matched by Skyportz to create a $500,000 research and development pool to engage researchers, patent specialists and industrial designers to bring the product to the prototype phase.

Clem Newton-Brown, Skyportz CEO, said: "This grant will help us take our patented vertipad technology from concept to prototype.

"We're focused on delivering a safe, affordable and deployable solution that will enable property owners and developers to future-proof their sites for the coming era of electric air taxis."

The Aeroberm™ patent covers a modular, elevated landing platform that incorporates integrated air management channels, acoustic dampening, and a built-in fire suppression system.

These innovations are designed to address the key operational and safety issues that will prevent eVTOL aircraft from operating in built environments.

With international research partnerships in USA, UK, India and China, and growing global interest in its patented design, Skyportz says it is positioning Australia to play a leading role in the rollout of Advanced Air Mobility infrastructure worldwide with the Aeroberm™

7A Drones to Purchase 10 SD-05 eVTOL Aircraft from SkyDrive, Both Companies to Work on Proposed Emergency Medical Route Near Taiwan

SkyDrive has reached a general understanding with Taiwanese firm 7A Drones for the purchase of 10 of its SD-05 eVTOL aircraft.

Both companies signed a business partnership agreement in May 2025 to work toward the development and public acceptance of eVTOLs in the region.

The schedules include the delivery of one aircraft in 2028 and four aircraft in 2029.

Tomohiro Fukuzawa, CEO of SkyDrive, said: "We are delighted that 7A Drones, our business partner in Taiwan, has signed this Letter of Intent for the purchase of SKYDRIVE aircraft. As our first Letter of Intent in the Asian market, this agreement marks a significant milestone in the expansion of SkyDrive's overseas businesses."

SkyDrive and 7A Drones have also been exploring how eVTOL aircraft could provide for the emergency medical transportation of patients and medical staff in Taiwan's Penghu Islands.

This new agreement includes developing a proposed emergency medical evacuation route connecting Magong City on Penghu's main island with Hujing Island, a more remote island within the Penghu Islands.

Hsin-Sheng Hsu, CEO of 7A Drones, said: "This LOI represents an important starting point for 7A Drones to explore the potential for cooperation with SkyDrive and other Japanese companies in the field of next-generation air mobility.

"In particular, the concept of utilizing advanced air mobility solutions for emergency medical transportation in the Penghu Islands has drawn our strong interest, as it may serve as one possible approach to addressing the challenges faced by remote island communities, including transportation constraints and equitable access to medical services."

新樂飛無人機 7A DRONES | SKYDRIVE

Skyports Infrastructure and Korean Air partner to develop real world eVTOL operations technology

Skyports Infrastructure and Korean Air have entered into a partnership to explore the development of a holistic technology platform for the management of eVTOL aircraft operations, creating a system that will support safe and efficient real-world commercial services.

The partnership was signed during Drone Show Korea (DSK) between Ankit Dass, Chief Technology Officer at Skyports Infrastructure, and Kyung-Nam Kim, Managing V.P, Head of R&D Center, Korean Air.

Dass said: "Whilst eVTOL aircraft development is progressing at a good pace, there are still various unknowns around how they would operate and navigate effectively in the real world environment. This partnership with Korean Air reflects our shared vision to create the technologies and operational frameworks needed to bring Advanced Air Mobility to life."

The new solution will bring together leading technologies that both organisations already have in development – Skyports' Vertiport Automation System (VAS) will support core vertiport operational capabilities, while Korean Air's Air Control & Routing Orchestrated Skyway System (ACROSS) platform will contribute flight operations and traffic management expertise.

The partnership will also explore approaches to technical alignment to support future interoperability between Skyport's VAS and flight operations systems.

Kwang-Oh Moon, Head of Future Technology Development Center, Korean Air, added: "ACROSS aims to provide seamless services in both flight operation control and low-altitude air traffic management once AAM aircraft are commercialised.

"From a systems perspective, close integration with vertiports, which will assume the role of traditional airports for commercial aviation, is critically important. The synergy between Skyports's infrastructure and Korea Air's ACROSS will set the global standard for AAM operations."

Air New Zealand and BETA Technologies wrap up first phase of Next Generation aircraft demonstrator programme

Air New Zealand and BETA Technologies have completed their four-month Next Generation Aircraft Technical Demonstrator Programme, marking an important step in understanding how emerging aircraft technologies could operate in New Zealand in the future.

During the programme, the battery-electric ALIA CX300 completed more than 100 flights, flew 13,000 kilometres and visited 12 airports or aerodromes across the North and South Islands.

Two Air New Zealand pilots and eight BETA Technologies pilots flew the aircraft in a range of conditions, building real-world operational experience alongside the Civil Aviation Authority and airport partners in Hamilton, Wellington and Marlborough.

Air New Zealand's General Manager Strategy, Networks and Fleet, Baden Smith, says the programme delivered valuable insights on how an electric propulsion aircraft performs, what's required to operate within New Zealand's existing aviation systems, and how future technologies could integrate into the aviation network.

He added: "This programme was about learning by doing. Flying the aircraft in real conditions, across real routes, with our people and partners involved has given us a much deeper understanding of what next-generation aircraft could mean for New Zealand aviation in the future.

The programme highlighted the operational efficiencies that emerging aircraft technologies could offer, including the Wellington-Blenheim route showing a significant difference between conventional fuel costs of approximately $110 in a Cessna Caravan and electrical energy use of $20 in the ALIA CX300.

Air New Zealand also carried more than 20 tonnes of mock cargo during the programme, and beyond flying, around 700 people experienced the ALIA CX300 up close.

BETA Technologies' Head of Sales & Support, Simon Newitt, said: "This programme showed what's possible when electric aircraft are flown in real airline environments."

Later this year, *eVTOL Insights* will publish two further Special Reports which will shine a spotlight on the people shaping the future of Advanced Air Mobility.

Designed to inform, inspire and provoke discussion across the global industry, these reports go beyond headlines to deliver insight, analysis and perspective you won't find elsewhere.

The **Women in AAM Special Report** will be published in **July,** which will celebrate the incredible women driving progress across eVTOL manufacturing, infrastructure, regulation, investment, operations and technology.

Later in the year, **Ones to Watch**, published in **December,**, will turn its focus to the individuals, companies and ideas set to define the next phase of AAM. This forward-looking report will identify emerging leaders, disruptive startups, breakthrough technologies and pivotal projects that are gaining momentum beneath the surface.

Together, these Special Reports reinforce *eVTOL Insights'* commitment to thoughtful, independent journalism and deep sector knowledge.

Keep an eye out later this year as *eVTOL Insights* continues to tell the stories shaping the future of flight.

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)
- A summary of the job role and why you/they should be included

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)

eVTOL INSIGHTS

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY

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