eVTOL INSIGHTS

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY

April 2026

evtolinsights.com

PIVOTAL LAUNCHES EVTOL EMERGENCY RESPONSE OPS WITH HYDE COUNTY AND CODE BLUE RESOURCES

VERTICAL AEROSPACE ASSEMBLES $850M FINANCING PACKAGE

EVE AIR MOBILITY PROGRESSES FLIGHT TEST CAMPAIGN IN BRAZIL

JOBY COMPLETES PILOTED FLIGHT ACROSS SAN FRANCISCO BAY

SKYDRIVE AND JAPAN'S JCAB AGREE ON CERTIFICATION PLAN

COMPANIES REVEALED FOR THE USA'S EIPP PROGRAM

ROTUNDA HOSPITAL AND MANNA AIR SIMULATE URGENT MEDICAL DELIVERY MODEL IN IRELAND

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Welcome

The past month has underscored both the momentum and the maturing realities of the Advanced Air Mobility sector. Since the start of March, the industry has continued to demonstrate technical progress and strategic alignment, while also facing the practical constraints that come with scaling a new mode of aviation.

A notable highlight came from the United States, where Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy unveiled the eVTOL Integration Pilot Program (eIPP), selecting eight projects spanning 26 states. The initiative is designed to accelerate real-world testing and integration of next-generation aircraft and represents one of the most significant government-backed efforts to date.

By bringing together OEMs, operators and public agencies, the programme aims to generate critical operational data to inform future regulation and de-risk commercial deployment at scale.

Encouragingly, several leading eVTOL developers have also reported continued advancements in flight testing and certification engagement, signaling that the pathway to entry-into-service is steadily becoming clearer. Partnerships have remained a defining theme, with collaborations across infrastructure, energy, and airspace management reinforcing the ecosystem approach required for AAM to succeed.

At the same time, the market is showing signs of increased discipline. Program timelines are being refined, funding strategies are evolving, and stakeholders are placing greater emphasis on near-term viability rather than long-term vision alone. This shift reflects a broader transition from ambition to execution, a necessary step for sustainable growth.

We aim to discuss all of this in more detail at our North America Conference & Awards at the end of this month. Tickets are still on sale and our agenda is packed with industry experts who will share their insights on the current state of the market. I hope you can join us.

— Jason Pritchard, Executive Editor,

eVTOL Insights

US Transportation Secretary Sean P. Duffy and FAA Unveil Companies Selected for Country's eVTOL Integrated Pilot Program (eIPP)

Archer, BETA Technologies, Electra, Joby Aviation and Wisk are among those selected by US Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to be part of the country's eVTOL Integration Pilot Program (eIPP).

The OEMs have been included in eight proposals, which form the first-of-its-kind initiative outlined in President Trump's 'Unleashing Drone Dominance' Executive Order.

It aims to accelerate the safe integration of Advanced Air Mobility aircraft into the US National Airspace, ensuring the country leads the way in aviation innovation. Other companies named include Ampaire, Elroy Air and Reliable Robotics.

These pilot projects will create one of the largest real-world testing environments for next-generation aircraft in the world.

In addition, data from the pilot projects will be used by the FAA to develop new regulations that safely enable this futuristic technology at scale. The American public will start to see operations begin under this program by summer 2026.

The eight selected projects span 26 states and involve leading aircraft manufacturers, operators and state partners. They include a range of operational concepts, including:

- Urban air taxi services
- Regional passenger transportation (including short Takeoff and Landing aircraft)
- Cargo and logistics networks
- Emergency medical response operations
- Autonomous flight technologies
- Offshore and energy-sector transportation

Duffy said: "Thanks to President Trump, the future of aviation is here — and it's going to dramatically improve how people and products move. Congratulations to the great American innovators behind each of these exciting pilot programs.

"Working together, we will ensure America leads the way in safely leveraging next-gen aircraft to radically redefine personal travel, regional transportation, cargo logistics, emergency medicine, and so much more."

Joby Completes Piloted Electric Air Taxi Flight Across San Francisco Bay and Around Golden Gate Bridge

Joby Aviation has completed a series of demonstration flights across the San Francisco Bay Area, where it showcased its operational readiness and demonstrated the future of quiet, emissions-free flight is nearing commercial readiness.

The flight marked the kickoff of Joby's 2026 Electric Skies Tour, a national showcase timed to celebrate the United States' 250th anniversary.

After departing Oakland International Airport, Joby's (N545JX) aircraft, piloted by Andrea Pingitore, soared quietly across the Bay toward the Golden Gate Bridge and turned above the Marin Headlands, set against one of the world's most recognizable skylines.

Population growth and urbanization is stretching ground transportation to its limits, making the Bay Area a natural early market for air taxis. San Francisco drivers lost an average of 112 hours to traffic in 2025, ranking it the third most congested city in the nation.

Joby's goal is to reclaim these hours by turning long commutes into seamless, minutes-long journeys. Backed by strategic partnerships with Uber and Delta Air Lines, the company is building an integrated ecosystem to streamline every leg of the trip.

JoeBen Bevirt, founder and CEO of Joby, said: "The Bay Area is home to the world's most innovative companies, including Joby, but it's also an area with significant traffic and unique geographical barriers.

"Our technology provides an opportunity to build on the immense potential of this region while protecting it for the next generation. By providing clean, quiet service with minimal infrastructure investment we are making flight an everyday reality for the community."

The company continues to make progress towards certification, marked by the successful flight of its first FAA-conforming aircraft for TIA, which paves the way for FAA pilots to carry out 'for credit' tests later this year.

Main news - North America

REGENT has announced the start of its 2026 test campaign as the company continues testing its Viceroy Seaglider prototype and autonomous Squire Seaglider drone.

The campaign marks an important step toward bringing a new category of high-speed maritime mobility to market for commercial and defense applications.

REGENT is actively testing its full-scale Viceroy Seaglider prototype, a 12-passenger electric vessel designed to operate over water in float, foil, and flight modes, at its headquarters in North Kingstown, Rhode Island. The company is continuing its hydrofoiling campaign and progressing toward first flight with humans on board this year.

Billy Thalheimer, co-founder and CEO of REGENT, said: "2026 is a defining year for REGENT as we continue advancing from prototype testing toward scaled production. Demand for Seagliders is growing quickly across both commercial and defense markets, and we're focused on continuing to prove the technology, scale production, and prepare for entry into service."

Across the broader program, REGENT is also continuing to test and optimize Squire, its autonomous Seaglider drone, validating systems, controls, and operational envelopes step by step through an ongoing test campaign.

Following a winter focused on design improvements, data review, and simulation, REGENT entered 2026 with a comprehensive testing effort spanning both on-water operations and simulation-based development. These efforts are helping the company further refine vehicle performance, de-risk operations, and accelerate readiness for commercial service and defense applications.

Mike Klinker, co-founder and CTO of REGENT, added: "Sea trials are where breakthrough engineering is tested, refined, and proven. Every hour on the water, every simulation, and every data point helps us validate our systems, improve performance, ensure high safety standards and reinforce our robust technical moat."

Surf Air Mobility and BETA Technologies to Launch First Commercial Passenger Electric Aircraft Service and new MRO center in Hawaii

Surf Air Mobility has signed a firm order for 25 of BETA Technologies' ALIA eCTOL aircraft, with the option to add up to 75 additional aircraft, as it plans to launch the first commercial electric passenger service in Hawaii.

As part of the strategic partnership, Surf Air Mobility will combine its operating expertise, existing passenger demand, and established airport infrastructure with BETA's market-leading electric aircraft and charging infrastructure.

In addition to flight operations, Surf Air Mobility is preparing to operate a new Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul center, which, once certified, will be the exclusive factory-authorized service center for BETA electric aircraft in Hawaii.

The MRO facility is anticipated to add a new and growing revenue stream for Surf Air Mobility. The companies also plan to collaborate on the deployment of BETA's charging and ground support equipment at mutually agreed locations to support Surf Air Mobility's fleet operations. Surf Air Mobility intends to designate BETA as its preferred supplier for electric ground infrastructure supporting its aircraft.

Deanna White, CEO of Surf Air Mobility, said: "BETA's aircraft are being designed for commercial operations, with the performance, operating cost, and reliability we believe can be utilized across our scheduled passenger, on-demand, and cargo services.

"Our Aircraft Purchase Agreement grants us the ability to benefit from BETA's unique product strategy, starting with the ALIA CTOL variant perfect for missions using existing regional airports, and ending with the introduction of a VTOL variant."

Surf Air Mobility is a Los Angeles-based air mobility platform. With its AI-enabled SurfOS software and electrification programs, Surf Air Mobility provides technology designed to support the modernization of air operations and the adoption of next-generation aircraft.

NORTH AMERICA CONFERENCE

eVTOL Insights is pleased to confirm the full schedule for the upcoming exclusive tour of Hartzell Propeller's manufacturing facility in Piqua, Ohio, which forms part of eVTOL Insights North America Conference 2026.

The tour will take place on Friday, May 1st, from 9:30am to 11:30am ET, offering conference attendees a unique opportunity to gain behind-the-scenes access to one of the aerospace industry's leading propeller manufacturers.

Attendees joining the Hartzell Propeller tour can expect:

- A comprehensive overview of propeller design and production
- First-hand exposure to cutting-edge aerospace manufacturing technologies
- Opportunities to engage with industry experts and technical specialists

Event schedule: Friday, May 1st

9:30am ET: Delegates arrive. Coffee break, presentation and Q&A

10:30am — 11.20am ET: Tour

11.20am — 11.30am ET: Wrap up, discussion and departure

The tour will wrap up the three-day conference, which will also feature a tour of the National Advanced Air Mobility Center of Excellence on Wednesday, April 29th between 4pm and 6pm ET.

A pre-event networking reception will also take place at NAAMCE on the 29th from 6pm to 8pm ET, bringing together industry leaders, innovators, and stakeholders from across the global advanced air mobility ecosystem.

Spaces for both tours and the networking drinks are only available to registered conference participants. **You can purchase your ticket by visiting our Eventbrite page here.**

Eve Air Mobility Progresses Flight Test Campaign and Flies Full-Scale eVTOL Prototype for Brazilian Authorities

Eve Air Mobility has successfully conducted a flight of its full-scale engineering prototype for Brazilian government authorities, including Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

The milestone, which was completed at Embraer's test facility in Gavião Peixoto, Brazil, marks further progress in Eve's flight test campaign toward the future certification pathway of its eVTOL aircraft.

The event was also attended by the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Luciana Santos; the Minister of Ports and Airports, Silvio Costa Filho; the National Civil Aviation Agency of Brazil (ANAC) President, Tiago Chagas Faierstein; Brazil's National Development Bank (BNDES) President, Aloizio Mercadante; and members of the media covering the sector.

Eve continues advancing its flight test campaign, with its engineering prototype having completed 35 flights and accumulated nearly 1.5 hours of total flight time since its first flight in December 2025.

The aircraft has reached an altitude of 140 feet above ground level (AGL), equivalent to 43 meters, establishing new program milestones and demonstrating consistent flight behavior under the tested conditions, including maneuvers with simultaneous inputs across three axes.

Preliminary results indicate efficiency gains, with propulsion and battery performance above initial expectations, while noise levels remain within projections, significantly lower than those of conventional helicopters.

Flights conducted to date have focused on low-speed operations (up to 15 knots, approximately 28 km/h), enabling validation of control laws, rotor aerodynamic efficiency, thermal behavior and the propulsion model. Eve continues to advance its campaign, expanding the flight envelope and testing at higher speeds.

In addition to flight tests, Eve has completed ground testing and related activities, including sensor calibration for measuring aerodynamic loads during flight. These efforts support the expansion of the aircraft's flight envelope, enabling flights of up to 30 knots (approximately 56 km/h).

Pivotal Launches eVTOL Emergency Response Operations with Hyde County, North Carolina and Code Blue Resources

Pivotal has announced a proof-of-concept project with Hyde County and Code Blue Resources which will establish a scalable emergency medical response model using eVTOL aircraft, which until now have mainly been used by citizens in the private sector.

Flight-trained paramedics serve as volunteer pilots, deploying Pivotal eVTOL aircraft to provide rapid, advanced medical care directly at high-acuity emergency scenes when conditions are appropriate.

Hyde County Emergency Services (HCES) will utilise the ultralight vehicles with Pivotal serving as an integral partner, providing the vehicles, comprehensive flight training and operational integration support. Code Blue Resources will lead the medical component of the initiative, which is focused on significantly accelerating emergency response and on-scene time to treatment for critical care calls.

This pilot project will evaluate the operational requirements for deploying Pivotal eVTOL aircraft as an EMS dispatch vehicle under a Public Aircraft Operation (POA). No persons or property will be carried for compensation or hire. The vehicle will not be used to transport patients, cargo, or delivery equipment.

Ken Karklin, CEO, Pivotal, said: "Creating this program with Hyde County and Code Blue Resources marks a definitive milestone for advanced air mobility. For the first time, eVTOL technology is being deployed to support active public safety operations.

"The initial phase is designed to build the framework for sustained Airmobile Emergency Services response, and we expect it could deliver measurable life-saving benefits from the start."

In addition to EMS response, Hyde County intends to deploy Pivotal's eVTOL aircraft to support law enforcement, fire and emergency management operations. A definitive example would be incident damage assessments following natural disasters or mass casualty incidents.

Honeywell has announced a collaboration with Odys Aviation to deliver a persistent airborne defense solution designed to protect critical infrastructure and strategic assets from rapidly evolving drone threats.

The collaboration on this counter-unmanned aerial system (C□UAS) builds on more than a year of joint development and systems integration work to adapt Honeywell Aerospace's Stationary and Mobile UAS Reveal and Intercept (SAMURAI) Autonomous Airborne platform for deployment on Odys' long-range Laila UAV.

The effort supports the broader United States national strategy to further strengthen domestic leadership in advanced aviation and accelerate the deployment of American-built drone technologies across defense and critical infrastructure protection missions.

Matt Milas, president, Defense and Space, Honeywell Aerospace, said: "SAMURAI delivers critical counter-UAS capabilities with proven reliability, scalability and seamless integration into existing defense architectures.

"By leveraging Honeywell's long history in avionics, sensors and defense systems, we are enabling C□UAS capabilities that protect farther, respond faster and operate with minimal downtime."

Together, the Laila-SAMURAI system introduces a new defensive layer between ground-based sensors and high-end missile defense systems, reducing reliance on costly kinetic defenses while extending protection coverage across vast and remote areas.

This capability is particularly relevant for distributed energy infrastructure including refineries, pipelines and offshore production platforms.

Odys is a dual-use aerospace company building hybrid-electric vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) aircraft. Laila will serve as the first airborne application of the Honeywell SAMURAI system, and its hybrid propulsion system – compatible with Jet A, Jet A□1, and JP□8 fuels – produces enough power to stay in flight for up to eight hours across a 450-mile range.

Laila also eliminates the need for dedicated charging infrastructure, enabling rapid deployment in remote, expeditionary and offshore environments.

NUAIR Names Craig Marcinkowski as Next President & CEO, taking over from Ken Stewart

Northeast UAS Airspace Integration Research (NUAIR), operator of the nation's most advanced FAA-accepted surveillance-as-a-service infrastructure for low-altitude airspace, has announced Craig Marcinkowski as its next President and Chief Executive Officer

Marcinkowski brings more than 25 years of experience in surveillance systems, unmanned aircraft, defense technology, and business development. He succeeds Ken Stewart, who has led NUAIR since 2020.

Marcinkowski's connection to NUAIR predates the organisation itself. In 2017, while serving as a leader at Griffin Technologies (now SRC Inc.), he collaborated with Stewart to establish the first Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) drone corridor in the United States, in Ohio — the operational proof-of-concept that laid the groundwork for NUAIR's New York corridor.

Marcinkowski also played a key role in developing the original Empire State Development (ESD) grant proposal that provided NUAIR's founding investment.

Stewart said: "Craig is someone I've worked alongside since the very beginning of this industry. He didn't just watch NUAIR get built — he helped build it. He brings exactly the combination of technical depth, commercial experience, and mission alignment that this organization needs for its next chapter. I have no doubt this is the right call."

NUAIR is a nonprofit driving economic development through innovations in UAS and Advanced Air Mobility to safely integrate into the national airspace.

With support from Empire State Development and the State of New York, NUAIR operates the Center of Excellence for Advanced Air Mobility at Syracuse Hancock International Airport in Syracuse, New York and manages 1,900 square miles of FAA-approved surveillance-as-a-service infrastructure — one of the largest low-altitude airspace management systems in the United States.

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.

Vertical Aerospace Assembles Comprehensive Financing Package of up to $850 million

Vertical Aerospace has announced the signing of an agreement in principle as part of a financing package totaling up to $850 million.

The new comprehensive financing package provides Vertical with access to a capitalized runway to build upon the Company's significant operational progress and support achievement of its strategic milestones over the next 12 months and beyond.

These include completing piloted transition flight, public flight demonstrations of the current prototype, progressing its hybrid-electric demonstrator, expanding the Vertical Energy Center, advancing construction of its aircraft manufacturing facility, and beginning production of the first full-scale Valo certification aircraft.

The Company is now positioned to have approximately $160 million of working capital in the near term, combining the $50 million of equity capital raised and $30 million to be drawn under the facilities immediately on their execution with existing cash on hand and anticipated tax relief and government grants.

This comprehensive financing package enables Vertical's delivery of the technical and operational milestones on its strategic road map.

Vertical also maintains freedom and flexibility to access other capital sources outside of the package in the future. By shoring up its balance sheet, the Company believes the market can now focus on its core product potential and business fundamentals.

Dómhnal Slattery, Chairman of the Board, Vertical Aerospace, said: "Over the past year, we've had extensive conversations with existing and prospective shareholders about what matters most as we move through our next phase: disciplined, milestone-aligned access to capital.

"This financing package provides immediate working capital and provides management with flexible tools to access additional capital in a manner that promotes capital efficiency, as we progress through our certification milestones. We are more excited than ever about Vertical's prospects."

UK: Loganair and BETA Technologies Complete Electric Flight Demos on Royal Mail Postal Routes across Scotland

Loganair, the UK's largest regional airline, has worked with BETA Technologies to launch a series of electric flights across Scotland, which will be used to inform the Royal Mail on how it can use BETA's ALIA CTOL aircraft to deliver letters and parcels to remote communities in the country.

The first of a series of demonstration flights across Scotland's regional airport network took place between Glasgow and Dundee, with further flights planned between Aberdeen, Inverness, Wick and Orkney.

The flights will carry representative letters and parcels, replicating the daily mail flights Loganair operates so Royal Mail can deliver to Orkney and the wider Scottish Highlands and Islands.

Luke Farajallah, CEO at Loganair, said: "This is a landmark day for European aviation, and in-particular for Scotland's airline Loganair. We are not talking about concepts, prototypes, or distant ambition, this is a real tangible programme of flying across our network which will provide invaluable data on how an electric aircraft could perform in a real commercial environment."

Royal Mail is the only delivery company to deliver to all 32 million addresses in the UK every day, including the country's most remote communities. Fulfilling this Universal Service Obligation on routes across the Scottish Highlands and Islands depends on a complex network of road, sea and air, and on Loganair's six decades of experience connecting communities that depend entirely on reliable air connections.

Royal Mail announced it was halving its use of domestic flights in 2024 as part of its Net-Zero by 2040 strategy, keeping only essential routes. Electrifying some of the remaining mail flights would further reduce Royal Mail's emissions, building on wider work including the use of 8,000 electric vans for deliveries and the use of drones to connect island communities.

Elevate Racing Shares Final Design of AirKart P1, as It Starts Building 50 Per Cent Scale Prototype

Elevate Racing has confirmed it has started building the 50 per cent scale prototype of AirKart, which is a single-seat eVTOL vehicle designed for both flying and racing.

The company was launched by former Lilium employee Marcin Michalczyk and emerged from stealth mode in July 2025.

AirKart is designed primarily for low-altitude, high-speed competitive flight, yet it's engineered to be accessible, even for beginners. While it includes comprehensive safety features, it's not intended for commuting or errands.

Fully compliant with FAA Part 103 regulations, AirKart can be flown without a pilot's license in the U.S. and select countries. It's electronically limited to a top speed of 100 km/h and altitude of 400 meters.

Propelled by eight electric motors —with only four needed for a safe landing—it delivers both safety and sport-grade performance. The in-house battery system provides a 15-minute flight time and is easily swappable for quick turnarounds between flights.

Providing eVTOL Insights with an update, Michalczyk said: "We just started building 50 per cent scale prototype, where we plan to test electronic control logic, especially low-level flight anti-collision systems, that are crucial for our product. Planned flight is early Q3 later this year."

"We also plan to gather initial aerodynamics data regarding our DDCP (Double Ducted Coaxial Propulsion) System and test battery pack we are building in house. We have fully redesigned power arms, from beam to wishbone, making the design stiffer keeping the same challenging weight target."

He added: "We believe current design will significantly increase the 'sporty' feel of flying. And what is not less important for flying super cars, it just looks way better."

In the first stage of the ASONE Park development, the partnership will see the St Merryn Aerodrome at ASONE Park joining the Open Skies Network, providing a new destination for New Aviation Technologies in Cornwall.

In line with the ASONE Park masterplan, Open Skies Network will lead development of an aviation campus on site, establishing a DronePort to support future eVTOL and eSTOL piloted aircraft.

Gareth Whatmore, CEO of Open Skies Network, said: "We are really excited to announce this partnership, which will position Open Skies Network at ASONE Park as a centre for next-generation aviation technologies. Cornwall is already home to several growing aerospace and space clusters, including activity around Newquay Airport and Spaceport Cornwall.

"St Merryn Aerodrome will complement these initiatives, providing additional testing, development and operational capacity for future aviation services, such as the drone delivery service we are currently developing for the NHS between Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly."

Plans for the campus include installing themed infrastructure to support new aviation platforms — such as drones and electric aircraft — to operate commercially, or at High Technology Readiness Level (TRL) tests, within the medical, logistics, search and rescue, agricultural, environmental monitoring and creative industries sectors.

Rob Simpson, Director at ASONE Park, said: "We are delighted that Open Skies Network has agreed to lead development of the aviation campus at ASONE Park. Its work opening up the skies to support the next generation of aviation technologies continues St Merryn Aerodrome's long history of aviation innovation and promises, not only to add value for the aviation industry itself, but also to create a unique capability proposition for the park."

Rotunda Hospital and Manna Air Delivery simulate a new model for urgent medical delivery in Ireland

A flight simulation of medical drone delivery has taken place in Ireland, demonstrating the potential for rapid aerial transport of blood and other life-saving medical supplies between hospitals.

Led by the clinical expertise of Rotunda Hospital and enabled by Manna Air Delivery's drone delivery platform — with software and drones built in Ireland — the demonstration simulated a delivery to Connolly Hospital in Blanchardstown, a suburb of Dublin.

The medical partners are driving the ambition to explore how drones can safely deliver between two hospital sites. This simulation is designed to show what is now technically possible and how it could support faster, cleaner and more connected healthcare in the near future.

John O' Loughlin, Laboratory Manager at Rotunda Hospital said: "The ability to move blood, samples and other critical supplies between hospitals at speed could transform how we support emergency and planned care in Ireland. Today's simulation is a glimpse of that future."

The test reflects an ambition to upgrade how Irish hospitals operate as a system — moving vital supplies such as blood, pathology samples and emergency medicines in minutes, not hours. At a time when clinical pressure and population needs are growing.

Last year, a simulation flight involving Manna's drones and the rapid delivery of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) showed how drone delivery could dramatically improve survival rates for cardiac arrest patients in the community.

The project, led by Dr Glenn Curtin in collaboration with the HSE, National Ambulance Service and Community First Responders, demonstrated how a defibrillator could be delivered to a home within two minutes — significantly faster than the average ambulance response.

VINI expands regional air connectivity in Europe by adding flights from Mannheim and Bern

VINI is further expanding its regional air mobility offering in Europe and will strengthen its activities in 2026 from the locations of Mannheim in Germany and Bern, Switzerland's capital city.

The company, which was formerly flyvbird, is a AI-powered regional airline which serves underserved and smaller airports located across Europe. It uses a demand-driven model, it offers on demand, single-seat bookings.

With the new services from Mannheim to Berlin and the test phase from Bern to Munich, VINI and its airport and airline partners are sending a clear signal for a new form of regional connectivity: more direct, more efficient and closer to the actual mobility needs of businesses, regions, and travellers.

At the core is a model that combines regional air services with a demand-driven approach. The aim is to connect regions that today are often only accessible through time-consuming transfers via major hubs or long overland journeys. To achieve this, VINI works with small, efficient aircraft and certified operating partners.

Tomislav Lang, Founder and CEO at VINI, said: "Following a successful test phase, the Mannheim-Berlin route will be operated several times per week during selected months. At the same time, a pilot project is being launched on the Bern-Munich route, designed to serve as the basis for the further development of data-driven, flexible regional air connections.

"Both initiatives follow the same objective: to better connect underserved regions while simultaneously generating real market data for the future expansion of regional air mobility."

VINI sees this development not only as the operational expansion of individual routes, but as part of a broader concept to rethink regional aviation.

The platform combines digital demand analysis, flexible network planning, and cooperation with certified aviation partners.

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)

SkyDrive has reached agreement with the Japan Civil Aviation Bureau (JCAB) on the General Certification Plan for its SD-05 eVTOL aircraft, representing a major step forward in the aircraft's type certification program.

The General Certification Plan describes the overall plan of activities required to demonstrate the aircraft's compliance with legal requirements, including the processes and cooperative steps that will be required between JCAB and SKYDRIVE to achieve type certification.

As agreement with the plan shows that the JCAB is aligned with SkyDrive on how to demonstrate the overall safety of the aircraft, the agreement represents a core certification milestone that significantly reduces future type certification risk.

Arnaud Coville, Chief Technology Officer, SkyDrive, said: "Reaching agreement with JCAB on the General Certification Plan represents an extremely significant milestone for SkyDrive.

"The agreement, which shortens the projected timeline for compliance activities and reduces future risk, shows that we are on the right track for the certification of our Aircraft with the JCAB and FAA. Only a very limited number of players worldwide have reached this stage in the type certification process."

When certifying an aircraft, agreement with the regulatory authority must be reached not only on the General Certification Plan, but also on the various other certification plans which cover other aspects of the aircraft hardware and performance.

Examples include the individual Certification Plans for structure, systems, electric motors and noise. SkyDrive has already submitted all of these other certification plans to the Japan Civil Aviation Bureau (JCAB), where they are currently under review.

TCab Tech and China Simulation Sciences (CSS) Solidify Partnership to Advance eVTOL Ecosystem Development

Chinese eVTOL OEM TCab Tech has officially signed a commercial cooperation agreement with China Simulation Sciences (CSS), a specialist in advanced flight simulation systems.

The agreement focuses on the synergy between aircraft R&D and training infrastructure. Leveraging TCab Tech's proprietary E20 tilt-rotor eVTOL aircraft alongside CSS's high-fidelity simulation technology, the two companies will co-develop next-generation flight simulators.

It marks the transition from a strategic memorandum of understanding signed during the 2025 China International Import Expo (CIIE) to commercial and technical execution.

The collaboration will also encompass airworthiness certification support and joint market expansion, paving the way for scalable commercial eVTOL operations.

The agreement was signed by TCab Tech Founder and CEO Ng Yon Wui and CSS Chairman Ji Guangping, and witnessed by industry leaders including Wang Junjin, Chairman of JuneYao Group, and Yang Guoping, Chairman of Dazhong Transportation Group.

Wang Junjin, Chairman of JuneYao Group, said: "Building on the Group's aviation platform, CSS has established proven capabilities in Level⊠D full-flight simulators for commercial aircraft and developed eVTOL simulation systems with strong performance and cost efficiency.

"JuneYao Group will continue to integrate its resources in aviation operations and financial services to deepen collaboration, establish an operational framework aligned with international aviation safety standards, and accelerate commercialization."

The rapid progression from strategic alignment to execution underscores strong alignment in both technology and development strategy.

By advancing aircraft development in parallel with pilot training systems, TCab Tech is strengthening key elements of the eVTOL ecosystem and enabling the scalable growth of advanced air mobility.

TCab Tech is a leading innovative enterprise in China specializing in the development of electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft.


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