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July 2026

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ELROY AIR TO BECOME A PUBLICLY TRADED COMPANY WORTH APPROX. \$1 BILLION; TRANSACTION IS EXPECTED TO CLOSE Q4 2026

**BETA TECHNOLOGIES AND SURF
AIR MOBILITY PARTNER ON
LANDMARK DEMONSTRATION
PROGRAM IN HAWAII**

**AUTOFLIGHT AND EHANG
SELECTED FOR HONG KONG'S
'REGULATORY SANDBOX X'
FLIGHT TRIALS**

**MANNA AIR DELIVERY
ANNOUNCES PAUSE OF
DELIVERY OPERATIONS
IN DUBLIN AND CORK**

**EVTOL INSIGHTS READERS
ELIGIBLE FOR 15% TICKET
DISCOUNT FOR ELECTRIC
AIRCRAFT SYMPOSIUM**

**REGENT COMPLETES
WORLD'S FIRST SEAGLIDER
MANUFACTURING FACILITY
IN RHODE ISLAND**

**ERC SYSTEM LAUNCHES HEAVY-
LIFT CARGO DRONE 'VICTOR'
FOR MILITARY RESUPPLY AND
CRITICAL LOGISTICS**

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Contents

P4. News - North America

P9. News - Europe

P13. News - Asia-Pacific



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Welcome



Another month ends and the latest stories from across the Advanced Air Mobility sector paint a picture of an industry continuing to mature through steady, measurable progress.

Recent developments throughout June reported illustrate an ecosystem advancing on multiple fronts—from aircraft testing and manufacturing to regulation, commercial operations and international market expansion.

Flight testing remains one of the clearest indicators of progress. During this period, SkyDrive announced that its SD-05 aircraft had surpassed 100 km/h during testing, marking another important step in its development programme, while Sora Aviation successfully completed VTOL flight testing of its subscale S-1 demonstrator.

Although these milestones represent different stages of the certification journey, both reinforce the industry's continued focus on validating aircraft performance and reducing technical risk ahead of commercial operations.

Elsewhere, regulators continue to play an increasingly active role in shaping the future of AAM. Hong Kong's selection of AutoFlight and EHang for the city's inaugural Regulatory Sandbox X flight trials demonstrates how governments and aviation authorities are creating structured environments to evaluate new technologies safely while supporting innovation. As more regions establish similar programmes, regulatory engagement is becoming a defining feature of the industry's evolution rather than simply a future objective.

Manufacturing also took a significant step forward with REGENT completing the world's first seaglider manufacturing facility in Rhode Island. Infrastructure investments of this scale are a reminder that success in Advanced Air Mobility will depend not only on aircraft development but also on the production capabilities needed to support long-term commercial growth.

Not every headline reflected expansion. Manna Air Delivery's decision to pause operations in Dublin and Cork serves as a timely reminder that commercial deployment remains challenging. As companies balance investment, market demand and operational realities, strategic adjustments are likely to remain part of the industry's development. Such announcements should not be viewed solely as setbacks, but as evidence of a sector refining its business models as it moves towards sustainable growth.

And this month, myself and the team will be heading to this year's Farnborough Air Show and have lined up some excellent guest speakers as part of our live video interviews. We still have a few final slots available, so please email sam@evtolinsights.com to secure your space. In this edition, you'll also find more details about our Europe Conference in Toulouse, which is in October, and our upcoming Special Report which will be published in September.

We hope you enjoy this edition and thank you again for your continued support.

— Jason Pritchard, Executive Editor,
eVTOL Insights

Main news – North America

Horizon Aircraft Advances Cavorite X7 Flight Model Through Partnership With Marshall Aerospace

Horizon Aircraft and global partner Marshall Aerospace has successfully completed a flight dynamics and control model to support the development and certification of Horizon's hybrid-electric VTOL aircraft.

Horizon partnered with Marshall's Aero Engineering Services for their extensive experience and proven track record with platform modifications, special mission conversions and other applied engineering programmes related to the dynamics, stability and control of aircraft.

Horizon Aircraft Chief Technology Officer Tom Brassington, said: "The delivery of the first flight model for the Cavorite X7 marks a strong start to our partnership with Marshall Aerospace. Marshall's engineers have integrated seamlessly into our development process, serving as an extension of our team and applying their expertise to developing one of the safest, toughest, and most performant modern VTOL aircraft."

The Marshall team has now conducted extensive analysis to model how the X7's aerodynamic, propulsion and mass characteristics influence flight behaviour. The outcome is a six degrees of freedom (6-DOF) flight model to support development of the X7's safety-critical control system, enabling Horizon Aircraft to predict and optimise how the aircraft responds to control inputs.

Mark Hower, Aero Engineering Services Director, Marshall Aerospace, added: "We're delighted to support Horizon Aircraft



through safety-critical development work on a product that presents new possibilities for commercial and military aviation.

"This programme shows how our deep engineering experience translates across complex challenges ranging from platform modifications to special mission conversions and test beds."

Marshall Aerospace is a British aerospace and defence company with more than a century of engineering excellence. The company specializes in aircraft design, integration, certification, maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO), and advanced manufacturing.

A global leader in C-130 Hercules support since 1966, Marshall has earned multiple world-first accreditations and recognitions for its expertise on the platform. The company partners with governments, military operators, and leading OEMs worldwide to deliver complex aerospace and defence programs.

Elroy Air to become a publicly traded company worth approx. \$1bn, with transaction expected to close in Q4 2026

Elroy Air is to become a publicly traded company, after it entered into a definitive business combination agreement (BCA) with Columbus Circle Capital Corp II, a special purpose acquisition company led by the management team of Inflection Point Asset Management (Inflection Point) and Cohen & Company.

The transaction values Elroy Air at \$800 million pre-money and is expected to close in Q4 2026, subject to customary closing conditions including regulatory and shareholder approval.

In a press release issued at the end of last week, Elroy Air has more than \$165 million in committed PIPE capital, which is expected to fully fund commercial scale production of the Chaparral with U.S. manufacturing partner Kratos Defense & Security Solutions.

Sixty five million dollars of the more than \$165 million PIPE is funding in connection with the execution of the BCA. Post-transaction, Elroy Air is expected to have an enterprise value of approximately \$1.0 billion.

Elroy Air Chief Executive Officer Andrew Clare, PhD, said: "As a public company with access to significant capital, Elroy Air will be ideally positioned to meet the rising demand for Chaparral, our heavy-cargo drone."

"Autonomous flight is the next great logistics revolution — and Elroy Air intends to lead it. The U.S. has made drone dominance a national strategic priority, and that priority is only meaningful if American industry can actually deliver."

Elroy Air is redefining autonomous heavy-cargo transport with Chaparral — an advanced VTOL drone designed to carry 500+ pounds of cargo.

The aircraft was engineered with a hybrid-electric powertrain to deliver the reliability of electric propulsion but with extended range of up to 450 miles and with no charging infrastructure required.



Main news – North America

BETA Technologies and Surf Air Mobility Partner on Landmark Demonstration Program; Hawaiian Airlines Supporting Evaluation Activities

Surf Air Mobility and BETA Technologies have announced the launch of an electric aircraft demonstration program in Hawai'i, with Hawaiian Airlines, part of Alaska Air Group.

Announced today (Thursday), the program will provide support in key areas such as sharing insights on Hawai'i cargo and passenger routes, participating in feasibility assessments and supporting local stakeholder and community engagement activities.



The program brings together BETA's electric aircraft technology, Surf Air Mobility's regional airline expertise as Mokulele Airlines, existing Hawai'i airport ground infrastructure, and SurfOSTM software.

Hawaiian Airlines, Hawai'i's largest and longest-serving carrier, serves as a link between the islands, the continental United States, and international destinations across the Pacific. This landmark demonstration program will provide key learnings as to how electric aircraft can support future cargo and passenger operations across Hawai'i's interisland network.

Deanna White, Chief Executive Officer of Surf Air Mobility, said: "The aviation industry has talked about electric flight for years. The question is no longer whether electric aircraft can fly, but rather how they can now be successfully integrated into commercial service.

"The data generated through this program will help define the operational, economic, and infrastructure requirements needed to advance the next generation of regional air transportation."

Hawaiian Airlines hosted the launch event for the trial at its Charles I. Elliott Maintenance and Cargo Facility at Daniel K. Inouye International Airport in Honolulu. This is an important next step toward the deployment of these next-generation aircraft for real-world regional air service.

And beginning today, BETA's ALIA CTOL electric aircraft will conduct demonstration flights across Hawai'i as part of an approximately six to eight-week flight campaign to evaluate the operational, economic and infrastructure requirements for future electric aircraft operations in the state.

REGENT completes world's first Seaglider Manufacturing Facility in Rhode Island

REGENT Craft has announced the completion of the world's first Seaglider Manufacturing Facility in North Kingstown, Rhode Island.

The milestone was unveiled at the Reindustrialize conference in Detroit, where REGENT debuted a new 3D model and a fully immersive 3D experience that lets visitors virtually step onto the production floor and watch Seaglider vessels take shape.

Seaglider vessels are high-speed hydrofoiling wing-in-ground effect (WIG) craft that operate in three modes: float, foil, and fly. They start on their hulls at slow speed, transition on hydrofoils once safely away from the dock, and take off in flight over the water within a wingspan

of the surface, combining the speed of an aircraft with the convenience of a boat.

The Seaglider Manufacturing Facility will serve as the global production hub for REGENT's commercial order book, which exceeds \$10 billion across six continents, encompassing orders from leading airline and ferry operators worldwide. It will also support REGENT's growing defense business, including \$15 million in contracts with the U.S. Marine Corps.

Billy Thalheimer, co-founder and CEO, REGENT, said: "The Seaglider Manufacturing Facility is our part in helping America lead the next generation of manufacturing and transportation technology.

"From our facility at 1 Seaglider Way, we will deliver Seaglider vessels to customers on six continents, create hundreds of high-quality

American jobs, and show the world what it looks like when innovation and manufacturing meet at scale. We built this facility the way we build our vessels: with precision, purpose, and an uncompromising commitment to quality and safety."

Spanning 255,000 square feet, the facility features dedicated areas for structural assembly, wing and hydrofoil integration, battery and systems installation, and water-based test and acceptance operations, with tooling, metrology, and quality checkpoints embedded throughout.



WOMEN IN AAM SPECIAL REPORT



WOMEN IN AAM SPECIAL REPORT

eVTOL Insights is pleased to announce the launch of nominations for the 2026 edition of its Women in AAM Special Report, which celebrates the outstanding women making a significant impact across the global Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) market.

The report, which will be published on September 7th, aims to recognise individuals from all areas of the AAM ecosystem, highlighting the breadth of talent contributing to the industry's continued growth and success.

Nominations are now open and we invite companies, organisations, colleagues, and industry professionals to put forward individuals whose work deserves recognition. Self-nominations are also welcome.

To be considered, please send an email to jason@evtolinsights.com which has the following information:

- Full name
- Job title
- Company name
- Suitable headshot image (ideally 1MB in size)
- Description of your role and why you/your colleague should be considered (minimum of 250 words)

The deadline for submitting nominations is Friday, July 31st, after which the editorial team will review all submissions before finalising the list of featured individuals.

Jason Pritchard, Executive Editor of eVTOL Insights, said: "The Advanced Air Mobility industry continues to grow because of the exceptional people working across every part of the ecosystem. Our Women in AAM Special Report is an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the talented women whose dedication, expertise, and leadership are helping shape the future of sustainable aviation.

"We encourage the industry to nominate colleagues, partners, and peers who deserve to be recognised for their invaluable contributions."

Sponsorship opportunities are also available, should companies want to buy an A4 advert placement within the Special Report. Please email sam@evtolinsights.com for more information on the package options.

Main news – North America

eVTOL Insights Readers Eligible for a 15% Discount on Tickets to Electric Aircraft Symposium, As Event Returns to Oshkosh in July

This year's Electric Aircraft Symposium (EAS), hosted by the Vertical Flight Society Federal City Chapter (VFS FCC) will be held at the University of Wisconsin in Oshkosh from July 18th to 19th, two days immediately prior to EAA AirVenture.

EAS 2026 will feature 12 in-depth sessions with more than 50 speakers and moderators encompassing a broad range of topics covering a wide variety of electric aircraft categories — light sport, training, general and regional aircraft, as well as helicopters and VTOL — featuring battery, hybrid, and hydrogen-electric propulsion approaches.



EAS 2026 will also highlight two recent developments expected to stimulate renewed interest in electric aircraft across the United States:

- The FAA's new MOSAIC (Modernization of Special Airworthiness Certification) rule that revolutionizes general aviation by updating light sport aircraft (LSA) categories to include electric propulsion, rotorcraft and powered-lift aircraft for the first time
- The FAA and US DoT's new eVTOL Integration Pilot Program (eIPP), which will see eight projects spanning 26 states and involve leading aircraft manufacturers, operators, state partners, and airports.

EAS has grown over the past two decades and serves as a showcase of the increasing momentum and variety of electrically powered aircraft.

Registration and a detailed agenda can be found on the website www.eas2026.org.

eVTOL Insights EAS 2026 Discount Offer

Courtesy of the VFS FCC and eVTOL Insights, readers are eligible for a 15 per cent discount off the early-bird and regular ticket prices for in-person registration for the Electric Aircraft Symposium, and the discount can also be used to purchase the EAS2026 video and presentation package.

To receive the discount, proceed to the 'Buy Tickets' link, select the ticket option(s), and enter the discount code **15%EAS2026** on the payment page.

Vertiport Simulations acquired by Electro Ventures, to be known as VertiSim by ElectroVentures

Electro Ventures has acquired Orlando-based Vertiport Simulations and brought the company into its growing portfolio. As part of the agreement, Vertiport Simulations will now be known as VertiSim By ElectroVentures.

Announced last week, Vertiport Simulations is a Microsoft flight simulation-based vertiport design company and comprises Founder Joe Mattern, Wayne Smith, Fixed Wing, Rotary Wing & eVTOL Test Pilot, and Richard Doherty, Custom Scenery Graphics Designer. The team's ultra realistic vertiport designs and video presentations offer clients several benefits as opposed to traditional architectural drawings.

Additionally, they can design and turn around changes faster, provide designs more affordably and place their client in a VR environment, which allows us through the use of a Microsoft Xbox controller, the ability to fly into and around their conceptual vertiport, well before real-world groundbreaking occurs, anywhere in the world.

Mattern said: "Virtual Reality headsets are an incredible tool and foster the ultimate client presentation when it comes to vertiport zoning and compliance resolution as well the promotion of vertiport investment opportunities.

"My team and I are truly honored to continue to work with Joshua Portlock and his team and we are extremely grateful for their belief in our simulation based vertiport design capabilities."

ElectroVentures is the parent company of Electro Aero, based in

Perth, Australia. Their charging solutions are designed and built exclusively for the unique requirements of their aviation partners.

Electro Aero offers a range of plug in portable charging solutions as well as the CCU (Charge Control Unit) that sits on the aircraft. Their various partners provide a seamless integration and turn-key package for airports and vertiports. Electro Aero offer chargers which use international standards (AS6968) as well as car charging standards (CCS1 and CCS2) to offer flexibility to all their customers.

As well as Electro Aero, other companies featured in Electro Ventures' portfolio include Enautic, Fly On E, Aqua Flights, Electro Skimmer, Tiller E Rides and Jump Aero Asia-Pacific





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.

Main news – Europe

ERC System Launches Heavy-Lift Cargo Drone ‘Victor’ for Military Resupply and Critical Logistics Missions, Targeting First Deliveries in 2028

ERC System has today (Wednesday) announced the launch of ‘Victor’, a dual-use heavy-lift cargo UAS designed for critical missions in fields such as defense, commercial logistics and disaster response.

Presented publicly at ILA Berlin 2026, Victor aims to close a military capability gap through a scalable, deployable solution for infrastructure-independent, uncrewed aerial logistics above 200 kg of payload.



Victor is designed to transport up to 250 kilograms of payload over a distance of 300 kilometers, at a cruise speed of 250 km/h. Its lift-and-cruise architecture – taking off vertically, but using wings for fast forward flight – enables access to sites with limited infrastructure while providing higher speed, longer range, and faster cargo throughput than pure multicopter designs.

Maximilian Oligschläger, ERC’s Chief Commercial Officer, said: “Over the past 18 months, we were repeatedly approached by military and civilian operators and asked to apply our experience from building ‘Romeo’, the EU’s heaviest uncrewed eVTOL (electric Vertical Take-Off and Landing), towards a heavy-lift cargo drone.

“We have applied our technical learnings from the ongoing, crewed ‘Charlie’ program and combined

them with deep operator insights. The results were quite clear: High payload, long range, fast cruise, and operational flexibility matter most. ‘Victor’ combines these in one platform with a level of versatility that will enable numerous critical mission profiles.

ERC has set 2028 as the target for first deliveries, a challenging goal only few European companies would be able to achieve.

Beyond defense logistics, ERC sees initial demand for Victor in offshore and coastal logistics, critical infrastructure supply and maintenance, remote industrial operations, and civilian disaster response. The company is working with selected partners in these segments, including some from the existing ‘Charlie’ program, to refine the product and prepare for rapid entry into service.

Manna Air Delivery Announces Strategic Pause of Delivery Operations in Dublin and Cork

Manna Air Delivery is putting a strategic pause on its drone delivery service in Ireland, saying the absence of a clear national policy framework for commercial drone delivery means there is currently no defined pathway for the sector to scale in the country.

In a statement released at the end of last week, Manna stressed this decision represents a strategic pause rather, than a permanent withdrawal of delivery operations from Ireland.

The company said it remains confident drone delivery can play an important role in strengthening communities by helping local businesses thrive, improving access to essential goods and services and reducing congestion and emissions. This ensures people of all ages and abilities can access what they need, when they need it.

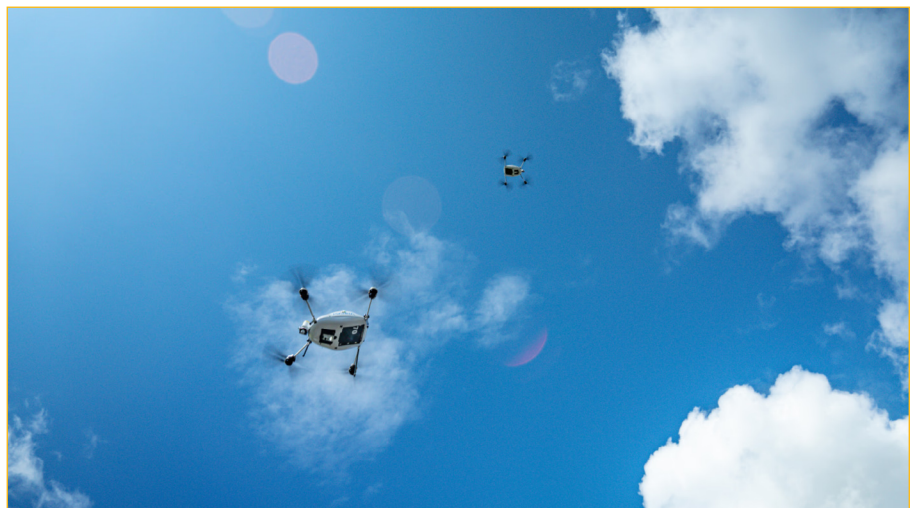
Should an appropriate national policy framework be established, Manna added it would welcome the opportunity to resume delivery operations in Ireland and remains ready to work with the Irish Government, the Irish Aviation Authority and other local bodies to help shape the National Drone Framework.

Bobby Healy, Founder and CEO of Manna, said: “This is a difficult decision because Ireland is where Manna was founded, built and first

proven. We are incredibly grateful to the communities, businesses, customers and employees who helped show that drone delivery can work at scale.

“However, in the absence of a clear national pathway to scale commercial drone delivery, we have to focus our investment in markets where that pathway is now clear.”

Founded in Ireland, Manna has spent the past seven years pioneering commercial drone delivery, successfully launching and operating services in Moneygall, Oranmore, Balbriggan, Blanchardstown and Cork. It has also expanded internationally to Finland’s capital city Helsinki and Texas, one of the USA’s largest states.



Main news – Europe

Vertical Aerospace's Final Full-Scale Prototype Completes First Piloted Flight

Vertical Aerospace's latest full-scale prototype aircraft has completed its maiden piloted flight at the Company's Flight Test Centre in the UK, marking the start of an expanded flight test campaign.

Test Pilot Paul Stone conducted the flight at 8:49 BST on June 5th, while the Company's existing prototype continues transition flight testing, having completed multiple piloted transition flights.

The flight follows the issuance of a new Permit to Fly from the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) after extensive ground testing and aircraft validation activities.

The new prototype is the final aircraft to join Vertical's flight test fleet before the Company completes Critical Design Review (CDR), a major programme milestone that establishes the design baseline for certification. Following CDR, Vertical will begin preparations for assembly of its first pre-production aircraft as it continues toward certification and commercial service.

Stuart Simpson, CEO of Vertical Aerospace, said: "Getting our latest prototype into flight testing is an important milestone because it allows us to learn faster in real world conditions and keep building momentum towards certification. Expanding the flight test fleet will help us validate the aircraft more quickly, reduce risk, and move more efficiently towards bringing Valo into service."

This aircraft doubles the Company's flight testing capacity and supports additional public demonstrations this year. Following the completion of all flight test phases — thrustborne, wingborne and



transition flight — in its all-electric configuration, Vertical intends to retrofit this prototype for hybrid-electric flight testing.

The hybrid-electric variant is expected to support applications demanding greater range and payload capability across defense, logistics, and wider commercial sectors.

The prototype shares the same configuration as Vertical's current full-scale aircraft, which has already completed all flight test phases.

Valour Consultancy publishes new report which suggests more than 6,500 electric air taxis will be flying by 2050

A new report published by Valour Consultancy has suggested nearly 7,000 electric air taxis will be in operation by 2050.

According to report author Craig Foster, outside China, take-off and landing sites are expected to remain heavily concentrated in megacities across much of the Western world, where high disposable incomes will enable enough of the affluent population to adopt such services. Valour's forecast expects the fleet to remain predominantly China-domiciled over the course of the next 25 years.

He said: "Landing fees are a significant component of cost per available seat mile (CASM) and, together with hugely expensive and frequent battery replacements, likely high insurance costs and pilot salaries, the long-touted Uber Black pricing model looks a distant prospect.

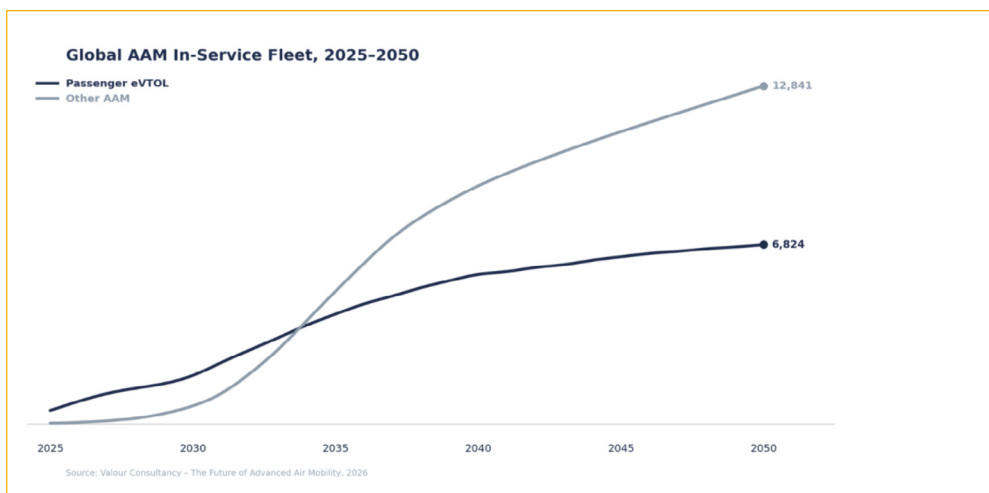
"China is already building vertiports at scale, which is not the case anywhere else. This, in addition to its uniquely centralised, top-down approach, generous subsidies supporting the development of its low-altitude economy, and platforms like EHang's pilotless EH216-S being

certified well ahead of overseas rivals, puts it leagues ahead of any other country when it comes to passenger eVTOL."

The report highlights stronger potential in other advanced air mobility (AAM) segments, with Foster identifying regional air mobility (RAM) as a particularly compelling opportunity.

Cargo drones also present viable near-term opportunities, particularly for industrial resupply where the incumbent option is typically a crewed helicopter that is both expensive and risky to operate at low altitudes.

Indeed, Valour's report forecasts a global in-service AAM fleet exceeding 19,500 aircraft by 2050 when RAM, cargo and specialist missions are added to passenger eVTOLs.





eVTOL Insights' Europe Conference 2026

eVTOL Insights has released an early draft of the agenda planned for its Europe Conference, which takes place in Toulouse, France on October 15th.

It is hoped the early release will provide potential delegates with a sneak peek at discussions set to take place when leaders from across the Advanced Air Mobility (AAM), uncrewed aviation and next-generation aerospace sectors gather in one of Europe's biggest aerospace hubs.

The conference will aim to bring together aircraft developers, drone operators, regulators, airports, air navigation service providers, investors, manufacturers and policymakers to explore how the industry can move from demonstrations and pilot projects towards large-scale deployment and commercial success.

Four Key Themes

The conference programme will be structured around four core pillars:

1. Commercialising Aerial Services
2. Scaling Autonomy
3. Integrating Airspace
4. Building Europe's Aviation Future

Potential speakers interested in contributing to keynote presentations, fireside chats or panel discussions are encouraged to register their interest. The draft agenda is intended as a framework for discussion and remains subject to refinement as industry input is gathered in the lead-up to the event.

Located at the heart of Europe's aerospace industry, Toulouse provides the ideal backdrop for discussions focused on the next phase of aviation innovation and deployment.

Early bird tickets are currently on sale for £500 until September 4th. After this date, tickets will go on general sale for £700. Students can also attend the event for £200.

The price includes entry to an evening networking reception, scheduled for the 14th, the conference on the 15th and a site visit planned on the 16th.

To buy your tickets, please [click here](#).

For all speaker enquiries, please email jason@evtolinsights.com.

Main news – Europe

Sora Aviation Achieves Major Development Milestone with Successful VTOL Flight Testing of Subscale S-1 Demonstrator

Sora Aviation has successfully completed an extensive programme of VTOL flight testing with its subscale S-1 demonstrator, marking a significant milestone in the aircraft's development.

Historically, scaled model flight testing has served as a critical, cost-effective bridge between theoretical design and full-scale flight, allowing engineers to validate aerodynamic behaviour, flight control laws and handling characteristics in a lower-risk environment.

The demonstrator has been flying regularly for several months, with dozens of successful flights completed to date. Flight testing has now become a routine weekly activity for Sora's engineering team, providing a continuous stream of valuable data to support the development of the full-scale S-1 aircraft.

Dr. Luke Bowen, Senior Aerodynamics Engineer at Sora Aviation, said: "Flight testing is one of several complementary tools we use to build confidence in the aircraft design. The data we've collected has shown excellent correlation with our flight dynamics models and simulation results.

"While subscale testing inevitably comes with limitations, particularly in perfectly matching full-scale Reynolds number effects, we have developed a targeted test methodology focused on the areas where representative data can be obtained most effectively."

The S-1 test vehicle was specifically designed to generate representative aerodynamic and flight dynamics data. The demonstrator's outer mould line (OML) faithfully replicates the geometry of the full-scale S1, including its control surfaces, proprotor positioning, and centre of gravity location.

Data gathered during the campaign has successfully demonstrated the effectiveness of the S-1 flight control system as well as validated low-speed handling qualities and aircraft performance predictions, providing increasing confidence in the design as development progresses.

Sora Aviation is targeting the first flight of its full-scale S-1 prototype in 2028, a major step toward delivering a new generation of high-capacity, economically viable electric air transport.



Acodyne raises €2.5 million capital for high-speed unmanned military and offshore logistics

Danish startup Acodyne has raised €2.5 million in pre-seed funding to scale its unmanned cargo aircraft for heavy-lift logistics in defence, offshore and remote operations.

The round, jointly led by Swedish defence VC Gungnir Capital and Danish PSV Hafnium with participation from EIFO, SAP9 Group and GreenUP IV Invest, supports Acodyne's contribution to European and NATO logistics resilience and to Danish industrial growth in defence-tech.

Jasmina Pless, Co-founder & CCO, Acodyne, said: "This round gives us the runway to take Acodyne from validated concept to flight-tested platform, and to do it alongside investors who understand both the operational reality of defence and offshore logistics and the technical demands of building heavy-lift unmanned aircraft.

"The cross-border setup with Gungnir, PSV Hafnium and EIFO is a strong signal that European capital is willing to back the hardware bets needed for true logistics resilience."

In defence, resupply still relies on either slow land transportation or helicopter missions that expose personnel and aircraft to threat. In offshore operations, a single missing

component can halt production at hundreds of thousands of euros per day, and a helicopter is typically the only way to deliver it on time.

In remote regions such as Greenland, where towns are not connected by roads, critical supplies can take days to arrive. Demand for resilient, on-demand logistics is rising across all three areas, and the manned helicopter is no longer enough on its own.

Acodyne develops unmanned cargo aircraft for the most time-critical heavy-lift missions, combining vertical take-off and landing with fixed-wing flight at jet speeds. The platform is all-electric, modular and built to deliver payloads directly to forward drop-off points where helicopters are today the only fast option.



Main news – Asia-Pacific

SkyDrive Reaches 100km/h milestone as testing of its SD-05 eVTOL aircraft continues to progress

SkyDrive has successfully accelerated its SD-05 model to a speed of 100km/h, a viable speed for the commercialization of short hop inter-urban air mobility.

Through a series of high speed tests, the company has verified the aircraft's high-speed stability, controllability, and maneuverability, as well as the performance of the propulsion systems, flight control systems and on-board avionic equipment.

The data gathered through the high-speed flight test campaign allows SkyDrive's engineers to confirm the accuracy of the aircraft characteristics and dynamic behavior predicted in advance of actual aircraft testing through advanced design and analysis, marking another major step towards type certification and the planned commercialization of the aircraft in 2028.

While SkyDrive is pleased to announce this high-speed milestone, the significance of achieving stable flight at 100km/h goes beyond simply reaching a certain number on the airspeed indicator.

As part of its press release, the company said: "Aircraft development begins with design and analysis, proceeds through individual system tests and ground tests, and

then moves on to the manufacture of a full-scale aircraft and flight testing. At the same time, simulators are used to repeatedly verify flight characteristics, propulsion systems, and flight control systems.

"Simulation, analysis and ground testing are all key parts of the process, but the final flight testing stage is critical. There are some things that cannot be known until the aircraft actually flies.

"This is particularly true of high-speed flight, where aerodynamic forces, vibrations, structural loads, and flight control system response all change and interact in complex ways. Flight testing is the only way to verify whether the results predicted during the design phase accurately describe the aircraft's in-flight behavior."



AutoFlight and EHang among those selected for Hong Kong's Inaugural 'Regulatory Sandbox X' Flight Trials

AutoFlight and EHang have been selected for the inaugural round of Hong Kong's "Regulatory Sandbox X" – a flagship initiative to advance the city's low-altitude economy and explore innovative applications.

Launched by the Transport and Logistics Bureau and supported by Hong Kong's Civil Aviation Department, 'Regulatory Sandbox X' takes an open, forward-looking approach to compliant test flights, scenario validation, and iterative technology upgrades for innovative unmanned aircraft. The aim is to pave the way for low-carbon, high-efficiency air mobility.

AutoFlight will work with partners including China Travel Service (Hong Kong) Automobile Services Limited and AECOM Limited on route planning, flight-parameter calibration and end-to-end flight validation. Together, these efforts will steadily widen the scope of low-altitude commercial applications across the region.

While EHang has been selected, together with its partners Kwoon Chung Smart Mobility Co.,Ltd and Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Limited.

All parties will leverage their respective resource advantages to steadily advance compliant demonstration flights, scenario validation and a series of coordinated efforts, contributing to the high-quality growth of Hong Kong's low-altitude economy.

As the world's first company to obtain the type certificate, production certificate, and standard airworthiness certificate for a pilotless human-carrying eVTOL in China, EHang has remained committed to advancing practical applications for the low-altitude economy.

As of May 2026, EHang's flagship product, the EH216S pilotless human-carrying eVTOL has completed more than 90,000 safe flights and has been operating routine commercial trial services in Guangzhou and Hefei in China. These efforts are generating replicable and scalable practical experience for the industry's transition to commercial operations.

Hong Kong is a key gateway connecting with the Greater Bay Area and global markets, and an ideal testing ground for low-altitude economy innovation and development.



Main news – Asia-Pacific

UrbanV and Japan Airport Consultants (JAC) announce strategic partnership to develop AAM in Japan

UrbanV and Japan Airport Consultants have established a long-term framework aimed at supporting the planning, design, regulatory integration and commercialization of Advanced Air Mobility infrastructures and services, with a primary focus on the Japanese market and selected international opportunities.

The first initiative under the partnership will focus on the Tokyo Metropolitan Area project, where UrbanV will act as strategic technical partner of JAC within a consortium led by Japan Airlines, together with Archer Aviation and other key industry stakeholders in the aviation and airport sectors.

The project represents a concrete step toward the structured development of Advanced Air Mobility in one of the world's most complex and dynamic urban environments.

The agreement establishes a flexible framework for joint Research & Development initiatives and consulting, enabling long-term vision and collaboration.

A strategic collaboration combining global experience and local leadership:

Japan Airport Consultants brings its long-standing leadership in airport development and its deep understanding of the Japanese aviation ecosystem to the partnership

UrbanV will support public and private stakeholders by

providing international benchmarking and cross-border knowledge transfer, aligning local AAM initiatives with emerging global standards and regulatory frameworks, including EASA, FAA and ICAO best practices

Ivan Bassato, Chairman of UrbanV, said: "We are honored to enter this market through a solid and long-term partnership with Japan Airport Consultants, a trusted local leader. As UrbanV begins its journey in the Japanese ecosystem, we look forward to contributing international experience, innovation and sustainable solutions to the future of mobility in Japan and beyond."

Through this strategic partnership, UrbanV and Japan Airport Consultants reaffirm their shared commitment to supporting airports, public authorities and private stakeholders in navigating the transition toward new forms of sustainable, efficient and integrated air mobility.



CHINA: GAC Group rolls out first production of its GOVY AirCab eVTOL Aircraft

GOVY officially inaugurated its manufacturing facility in Huangpu District, Guangzhou, and celebrated the rollout of its first multicopter aircraft, the GOVY AirCab.

Incubated by GAC Group, GOVY is a low-altitude mobility technology company specialising in the research and development, manufacturing, sales, and services of flying vehicles.

The build marks a significant milestone for the GOVY AirCab, signifying its transition from the prototype development phase into a new stage characterised by industrial-scale production, airworthiness certification, and commercial deployment.

GOVY Founder Qingpeng Su said: "The ultimate purpose of what we create is to make advanced mobility accessible to all and to build a three-dimensional transportation system that benefits both the nation and the public."

This achievement follows another major milestone.

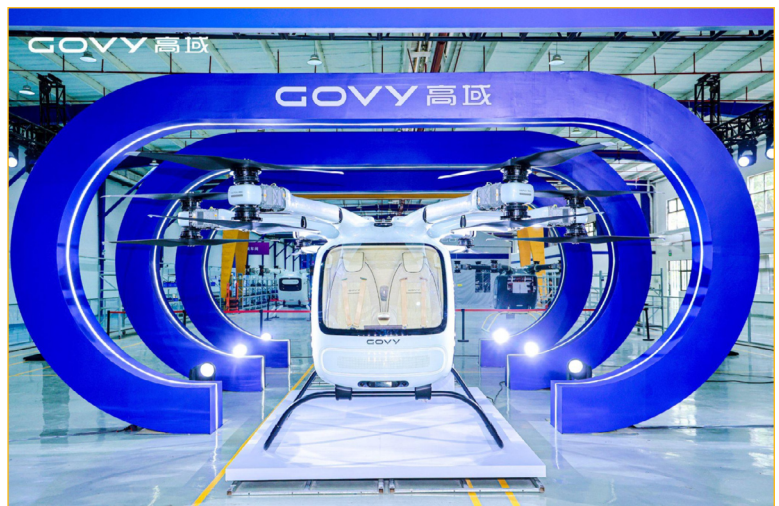
On March 20th of this year, GOVY successfully completed the maiden flight of the GOVY AirCab in Guangzhou's Haixinsha CBD, demonstrating its suitability for real-world urban low-altitude mobility scenarios. These chapters represent a major step forward in GOVY's development journey, highlighting simultaneous breakthroughs in both production capacity development and product certification readiness.

The production line features a composites workshop built

to aviation-grade Class 100,000 cleanroom standards, enabling the precision manufacturing of carbon-fibre components. The final assembly workshop incorporates an innovative pulse production line, achieving positioning accuracy of up to ± 0.1 mm.

Its flexible manufacturing architecture also allows for rapid capacity expansion to meet future production demands. In support of this activity, GOVY has filed 264 patent applications, establishing end-to-end capabilities spanning R&D, intelligent manufacturing, and mass-production delivery.

With the roll out of the first GOVY AirCab, GOVY's Guangzhou Intelligent Manufacturing Facility has officially commenced operation and has a projected annual production capacity of 100 aircraft.





eVTOL INSIGHTS

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF
ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY



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