



The Global AAM/UAM Market Map

**A guide to advanced and
urban air mobility projects
around the world**



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Australia

Country introduction

Australia is likely to be a UAM global pioneer, as Government high-level strategic plans and industry bottom-up plans move closer together. Melbourne was originally chosen as a launch city for Uber's UAM services, but since the takeover by Joby of Uber these plans have been delayed. The city is still on Joby's list of target cities and the company has been reported as working towards launching its first commercial services there as early as 2024, though other operators are targeting the start of 2026 for first commercial operations.

Eve, Joby and Wisk are all developing eVTOL routes in the country, while cities and states are drawing up regional service plans, with Brisbane's target of having air taxi operations in place for the 2032 Olympic Games an important focus for accelerating eVTOL route planning. In parallel, several projects in the country are under way to use eVTOL platforms for medical and emergency services in rural and urban areas.

From a high-level viewpoint, in December 2020 EmbraerX, Embraer's business subsidiary, and Airservices, Australia's Civil Air Navigation service provider, published a new "concept of operations" (CONOPS) for the air taxi market. Using the City of Melbourne, Australia as a model, CONOPS has examined how existing air traffic management solutions can initially enable UAM operations, while simultaneously preparing for the scale of operations through new traffic management technologies.

In July 2022 Australia's Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) published its remotely piloted aircraft system (RPAS) and advanced air mobility (AAM) roadmap. Here are the highlights for the near-term.

Immediate term (2022 to 2023)

Aircraft and aircraft systems

- Publish acceptable industry consensus standards for piloted AAM
- Review applicable maintenance policies for AAM.
- Review international frameworks, standards and methods for certification and assurance of RPAS. This includes consideration of adoption of the FAA durability and reliability process for low-risk RPAS.
- Review applicable maintenance policies for RPAS.
- Publish guidance on the evidence requirements from the OEM versus the operator for RPAS operational approvals.
- Airspace and traffic management.
- Through the AFAF (Australia Future Airspace Framework), develop a transparent, consistent and scalable method to manage Australian airspace that supports RPAS and AAM integration.
- Research how existing separation standards may apply to RPAS and AAM. Identify future changes required including conspicuity and equipage considerations.
- Review existing flight rules against the future needs for RPAS and AAM.
- Work with DITRDC (Australia's Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts) and Airservices Australia to develop a regulatory oversight framework for UTM.

Operations

- Develop and publish further guidance material for RPAS operations already enabled in existing regulations, including acceptable means of compliance.

- Develop and publish guidance material for approval of research and development operations.
- Review and publish guidance on the carriage of dangerous goods by RPAS.
- Implement regulatory changes from the post-implementation review of CASR Part 101. Conduct a gap analysis of CASR parts to identify regulatory changes required to support RPAS and AAM operations. Publish more standard scenarios and SORA guidance for low-risk RPAS operations and emergency services.
- Talk with model aircraft, drone sport and recreation flyers to find opportunities for improved collaboration and consultation.

Infrastructure

- Develop guidance material, design requirements and regulations for vertiports and other infrastructure required to support AAM operations.
- Develop guidance for the infrastructure required to support research and development activities.
- Work collaboratively across government to understand and establish spectrum requirements for RPAS and AAM.
- Work with DITRDC to set up the National Drone Detection Network and support all safety aspects of the infrastructure planning framework.

From the bottom-up, industry development perspective:

- In January 2022 Skyportz, the Australia-based air taxi infrastructure start-up, announced a partnership with Secure Parking to deliver up to 400 potential new vertiport sites. Skyportz is working with the Australian Federal and State governments to help develop the standards, regulations and zones which will enable “mini airports” in new locations in and around cities and regional centres.
- In September 2021 Eve Urban Air Mobility, an Embraer company, and Microflite, an Australian helicopter operator, announced a partnership to commercialise UAM services in the country by 2026.
- In February 2022 Eve Urban Air Mobility announced a partnership with Aviair and Helispirit leading to “an order of up to 50 Eve eVTOLs”, followed by a collaboration with Microflite in the purchase of up to 40 eVTOLs.
- In July 2022 Switzerland-based Dufour Aerospace announced it had partnered with V-Star Powered Lift Aviation to fly the eight-seat piloted Aero3 aircraft, with a targeted cruising speed of 350 km/h (215 mph), a range of up to 1,020 km (630 mi), and a useful load of 750 kg (1,650 lb) on regional routes throughout Australia. Certification is planned for 2025.

Press reports suggest all-electric flights are planned from Sydney to Canberra three times a day and over the Great Barrier Reef by 2026, following the deal between Sydney Seaplanes, Nautilus and Eve Air Mobility to fly 60 eVTOLs in Australian airspace by 2026. Tourism flight operator Nautilus – which has bases in Cairns, Port Douglas, Townsville, Horn Island and Darwin, plans to fly 10 Eve eVTOLs on scenic flights over the Great Barrier Reef and other tourist attractions. Sydney Seaplanes will also take delivery of 50 Eve eVTOLs by 2026 to fly new routes from the company's Rose Bay terminal (subject to community consultation). Sydney Seaplanes currently operates inter-urban flights from its Rose Bay terminal to destinations such as Palm Beach in Sydney's north.

Australia is also embracing the concept of using eVTOLs in medical and healthcare roles. In November 2020 aeromedical charity CareFlight and eVTOL aircraft developer AMSL Aero – manufacturer of the Vertii airborne ambulance – teamed up in Sydney to launch a new eVTOL air ambulance service to tackle rural and regional healthcare inequality in the

country. The programme is part of a AD3 million Cooperative Research Centres Project grant from the federal government, for a two-year collaborative project with the University of Sydney and autonomy and sensing specialists Mission Systems. Test flights were planned to take place at the company's facility in Narromine Airport in regional New South Wales. In early September 2022 AMSL Aero announced it had received AD23 million in private equity funding to develop its 300kmph Vertiia eVTOL, with a range of 1,000 km in its hydrogen-powered version. According to a report in the *Australian Financial Review*: "If the aircraft are adopted for commuting between regional areas and cities...people at the outset could expect to pay about USD130 for a trip from Melbourne to Geelong on a 15-minute flight. In NSW, a trip from Sydney to Terrigal would be similar."

Skyportz has selected Electra as preferred OEM partner with up to 100 eSTOL aircraft for extensive air mobility infrastructure network in Australia. Electra is currently developing a hybrid eSTOL aircraft that can take off and land in a space the size of a soccer field yet cruise at 175 knots, with in-flight battery recharging, The piloted fixed-wing aircraft will initially carry up to nine passengers or 2500 pounds of cargo up to 400 nautical miles in all weather conditions.

In October 2023 MONTE Aircraft Leasing Limited announced a three-party agreement with Cranfield Aerospace Solutions (CAeS) and Australian air charter company Torres Strait Air to convert up to ten Britten-Norman Islander aircraft to hydrogen-electric power. The deal, which comes shortly after Torres Strait Air signed a letter of intent for ten new conventional Britten-Norman Islander aircraft, the company says will see MONTE, a "pioneer in financing low emission and zero emission technologies in the sub-regional aviation market", provide financing to Torres Strait Air for the conversion of existing Britten-Norman Islanders, and CAeS integrate its hydrogen-electric propulsion system technology into the aircraft.

"The deal will enable Torres Strait Air, which currently operates a fleet of eleven aircraft from Horn Island, to serve the vital air transport needs of the Torres Strait community in a sustainable way with zero-emission flight."

Eviation Aircraft in November 2022 announced that Northern Territory Air Services (NTAS), an Australian scheduled airline and charter aircraft operator, has signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) for 20 all-electric Alice commuter aircraft. In a press release the company Alice will typically operate flights ranging from 150 miles to 250 miles.

NTAS is based in Alice Springs, the gateway to the Northern Territory of Australia's outback, providing a link to major airlines for passengers arriving and departing from Alice Springs, Uluru and Mt. Isa Airports. It specializes in scheduled and charter air services for business groups, private and tourist travel, and cargo transport. The company has prioritized the adoption of carbon-free and sustainable technologies and is working with a range of stakeholders to support the introduction of all-electric flight," said the press release.

In December 2022 the New South Wales Government published its [electric aviation brochure](#). "Our vision is to ensure this new technology is fully integrated into a multi-modal network that benefits passengers....New and emerging electric aviation has the potential to reshape how people and goods travel in regional NSW" reads the statement which continues: "Emergency medical supplies, urgent freight and even passengers could soon be transported by state-of-the-art electric aircraft. Electric planes and drones could make transport cheaper, cleaner and more convenient than ever before. They could open new routes for passengers, connect communities and increase freight efficiency." The statement elaborates further saying "The electric aviation sector must grow in a manner that is safe, secure and considerate of the environment. It should enable economic activity, create new job opportunities and strengthen existing communities."

At the end of February 2023 Skyportz and property developer Pelligra announced a partnership to explore jointly developing vertiport networks to attract air taxi and drone delivery services to Australia.

Skyportz says the agreement builds on previous partnerships between the company and other property owners such as Secure Parking which has hundreds of inner city car parking sites.

Sources

<https://www.montecleantech.com/news>

Canberra

Timeline

Planned – to be launched within two to five years; funds have been committed and key industry partners identified

Route(s)

Canberra – Sydney (286 km)

Programme description

The Government of the Australian Capital Territory has published its [National Emerging Aviation Technologies Policy](#) covering drone and eVTOL industries.

Some key passages from the document include:

The ACT Government is optimistic about the potential benefits of drones and drone delivery services, from empowering local businesses to reach more customers, to cutting greenhouse gas emissions and making life easier for Canberrans living with mobility challenges. We are also interested in further exploring the wide range of situations and possible applications for drone technology, including in the context of Emergency Services.

The ACT Government supports the proposed policy approach that the Australian Government should lead the development of a coordinated and informed approach to infrastructure planning, investment, requirements and approvals. The two areas that the Australian Government might focus on are:

- *site selection for “launch” sites for commercial operators, and*
- *site and operational requirements, particularly in relation to technical and assessments considerations once a site has been identified.*

Guidance for operators and land-use regulators on criteria for site selection will be invaluable in the future consideration of drone sites, as well as for the planning of such sites in future land releases. This might include guidance on considerations including appropriate location of such sites, sizes, connectivity to ground-based transport, proximity considerations (e.g. sensitive receptors, utility services and powerlines, vulnerable environments, privacy, potential flightpaths and approach zones, and proximity to other secure facilities), appropriate configuration of sites and compatible and incompatible land uses.

Site selection also raises a fundamental threshold question of when a site and its associated operations are insignificant enough to be considered as a type of “local aviation depot” (albeit closely integrated within the urban environment), and when it becomes a proposal to consider the site to be of greater land use significance with more significant potential impacts, i.e. 4 Paragraph 3.26 Inquiry into Drone Delivery Systems in the ACT, when does it become a de facto airport or heliport for UAVs or eVTOL operations?

Some clarification or guidance at a Commonwealth level about this would be gratefully received. On site and operational requirements currently there is very little, if any, guidance for regulators from the Commonwealth in their consideration of a potential launch/operational site for eVTOL operations. This could potentially cover a wide range of matters, such as sizes of launch pads, onsite storage facilities and maintenance requirements, securing the site (including fencing, lighting and surveillance requirements), utility services requirements, vegetation clearance requirements, site rehabilitation (in the case of temporary use), likely trip generation rates (and corresponding likely flight generation rates) for different operators, signage, access and parking requirements.

Meanwhile, Press reports suggest all-electric flights are planned from Sydney to Canberra three times a day and over the Great Barrier Reef by 2026, following the deal between Sydney Seaplanes, Nautilus and Eve Air Mobility to fly 60 eVTOLs in Australian airspace by 2026. Tourism flight operator Nautilus – with bases in Cairns, Port Douglas, Townsville, Horn Island and Darwin – plans to fly 10 Eve's eVTOLs on scenic flights over the Great Barrier Reef and other tourist attractions.

Gold Coast

Timeline

Intended – *an outline vision has been agreed*

Programme description

In March 2022 Skyportz and Sea World Helicopters announced a partnership to bring eVTOL operations to the Gold Coast. John Orr-Campbell, CEO of Sea World Helicopters said: "We intend to be at the forefront of the industry as it morphs into cleaner and quieter electric propulsion. We have existing helicopter landing infrastructure on the Gold Coast which we can activate with electric eVTOL aircraft as soon as they become available." He added: "We can foresee that many of our tourist operations will be very well suited to electric aviation."

The announcement builds on the previous partnership announcement in Victoria between Skyportz and Microflite helicopters, as well as with Secure Parking which has over 50 sites in the Gold Coast/Brisbane regions that could potentially be activated.

Tom Tate, Gold Coast Mayor, said: "I can see a place for Skyportz' s operations not only in our city, but across the SEQ region. Between the major SEQ cities, more than three million people reside but equally, we attract in excess of 13 million annual visitors, so the market is certainly there for innovative transport solutions like this."

Partners

AAM/UAM aircraft operator

Sea World Helicopters

Vertiport/airport developer/operator

Skyportz

Melbourne, Victoria

Timeline

Planned – *to be launched within two to five years; funds have been committed and key industry partners identified*

Programme description

In August 2022, at the Australian Association for Uncrewed Systems (AAUS) annual Advanced Air Mobility summit in Melbourne, Skyportz announced it would develop the first vertiport in Australia at Caribbean Park in Melbourne's east, in conjunction with Contreras Earl Architects, to70 aviation, Arup and Microflite.

At the end of August 2022, the Victoria government also published its [Advanced Air Mobility Vision report](#). According to the report:

"Victoria's regional centres, such as Traralgon, Geelong, Ballarat and Bendigo, have growing commuter markets, thriving commercial centres and strong tourism opportunities. AAM has the potential to provide fast, cost-effective methods for connecting city/town pairs, especially where the cost and complication of scaling traditional aviation, or constructing fixed infrastructure, do not justify the likely demand."

Melbourne was originally chosen as a launch city for Uber's UAM services but since the takeover by Joby of Uber, these plans have been delayed. The city is still listed as one of Joby's list of target cities and the company has been reported as working towards launching its first commercial services there as early as 2024.

In March 2020 Skyportz and planning group Arup announced they were jointly developing specifications to support property developers wanting to prepare their buildings for UAM and eVTOL aircraft, in anticipation of the launch of Uber Elevate services.

Advancing UAM services has the support of the Victorian Government and Invest Victoria. Meanwhile, the partnership between Eve Urban Air Mobility and Microflite, an Australia-based helicopter operator, foresees the introduction of eVTOL flights to the city as early as 2026.

In October 2023 Skyportz, Contreras Earl Architecture and Pascall+Watson Architects released a concept for an Australian waterfront e-mobility hub at the World Air Taxi Congress in San Francisco.

"The proposal will replace an existing heliport on the Yarra River in Melbourne, with a new purpose built vertiport to accommodate the introduction of clean, quiet, electric air taxis" according to the press release.

"Under this plan the site would also be a multi modal hub for electric scooters, bikes, ferries and hire boats. A cafe would provide an area for people to view the action."

"We have been developing designs and concepts for vertiports for five years and we keep coming back to waterfront sites being the most practical to retrofit cities for Advanced Air Mobility. The reality is that waterfront sites provide the safest access for electric air taxis in terms of aviation requirements for clear approach and departure paths", said Skyportz CEO, Clem Newton-Brown.

Partners

eVTOL manufacturer

Eve

AAM/UAM aircraft operator

Microflite

Vertiport/airport developer/operator

Skyportz, Pascall+Watson Architects

Others

Arup

Contreras Earl Architects

to70 aviation, AruMicroflite

Perth

Timeline

Planned – *to be launched within two to five years; funds have been committed and key industry partners identified*

Route(s):

Initially, tourism routes

Programme description

In March 2022 electric aircraft dealer FlyOnE announced a collaboration with eVTOL maker AIR "to facilitate the delivery of 25 two-seater aircraft", reported a Press release.

FlyOnE announced the rollout of "mobile water-landing pads with aircraft recharge capabilities as well as partnerships with key airfields to operate recharge nodes for existing electric fixed-wing aircraft on the Lilypad Elevate electric aviation network with operations beginning this month."

Korum Ellis, Founder of FlyOnE, commented: "FlyOnE is excited to be working with AIR to bring the world's first metropolitan eVTOL network to Perth as early as 2025." He continued: "With our unique Lilypad landing and charging system, the AIR ONE personal two-seater electric VTOL can access a variety of waterfront destination sites and airport locations up to 100 kilometres away.

"In addition, existing fixed-wing electric aircraft available now can access select runway sites on this same network from March 2022."

Key aspects of the partnership include:

- Some of the world's earliest delivery of recreational eVTOL aircraft being allocated to FlyOnE clients in Australia.
- Enabling the world's first International standard AS6968 eVTOL network of charge nodes, and metro eVTOL self-piloted air travel to be established and operated in Perth.
- Construction of the network and operation and training around the aircraft piloting and maintenance will generate jobs in western Australia, stimulate employment and drive unique tourism opportunities.
- The connection of new and existing tourism destination sites with point-to-point self-piloted electric air travel.

Partners

eVTOL manufacturer

AIR

Queensland, Brisbane

Timeline

Planned – *to be launched within two to five years; funds have been committed and key industry partners identified*

Route(s)

Brisbane city centre – Olympic Park (6km)
Great Barrier Reef tourism routes

Country introduction

Skyportz is planning to build a series of vertiports to take visitors from the city centre to the Olympic Village for the 2032 Olympic Games, establishing a Moreton Bay air taxi hub. The hub would be part of the planned Australian Advanced Manufacturing Centre of Excellence, to be constructed in the Moreton Bay council area by 2023.

In parallel, UAM facilitator consortium Greenbird is building an industry collaboration platform to bring together UAM players and engaging with government to develop commercial eVTOL operations for the Olympic Games. According to press reports Greenbird is initially focused on establishing AAM/UAM operations in Queensland in time for the Olympics, with a view to expanding throughout the country.

Founding Greenbird partners comprise eVTOL ground infrastructure specialist Skyportz; Australian eVTOL developer AMSL Aero which has designed and developed the Vertiia electric battery and hydrogen-powered aircraft; Queensland-based helicopter operator Nautilus Aviation, which has an order for 10 of Eve's eVTOL aircraft; specialist helicopter operator Aviator Group; Queensland's Archerfield Airport and Griffith University; clean energy company H2 Energy Company (h2ec); engineering consultancy AvLogix Solutions; and uncrewed systems management platform FlyFreely.

In June 2022 Wisk Aero signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Council of Mayors, which will see the two organisations "working together to introduce a safe, sustainable and scalable, autonomous air taxi service to South East Queensland".

Wisk intends its presence in Queensland to be "long-term, and will be working with local government toward providing the city with green tourism and transport options. The company will also be displaying its 5th-generation aircraft in Brisbane in July." Lord Mayor Cr Adrian Schrinner said: "Council of Mayors kickstarted our Brisbane 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games journey because we knew it would attract global businesses and innovative industries to our region, bringing with it new jobs and new economic opportunities. On the back of the Brisbane 2032 Games, we're delighted to be working with Wisk to look at how South East Queensland can capitalise on the new jobs and economic opportunities associated with this new and exciting industry. We expect to see the emergence of advanced air technology in places like Paris and Los Angeles, and by 2032 I'd love to see it supporting new and innovative experiences for tourism and travel in South East Queensland."

In December 2021 Eve and Nautilus Aviation, a division of Morris Group and Northern Australia's largest helicopter operator, announced a collaboration to develop the UAM ecosystem in Australia. The partnership will see the introduction of Eve's eVTOL Aircraft serving various Queensland tourism attractions including the Great Barrier Reef. As part of this agreement, Nautilus has ordered up to 10 of Eve's eVTOL aircraft, with flights taking off over the Great Barrier Reef by 2026.

In February 2023 Wisk Aero and the South East Queensland Council of Mayors (COMSEQ), Australia's largest regional local government organization, published a paper outlining the

benefits Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) will bring South East Queensland (SEQ). Queensland Government modelling suggests that by 2036, skies across SEQ could host hundreds of daily passenger and freight services. Existing aviation infrastructure, such as Brisbane Airport, Sunshine Coast Airport and Wellcamp Airport, and heliports, are likely to be key locations in SEQ's AAM network.

According to the report:

"It is envisaged AAM will complement existing infrastructure development, like the fully electric fleet from Brisbane Metro and Cross River Rail, and connect with existing modes of transport, such as bus and rail networks. In regional communities such as Scenic Rim, Somerset, Toowoomba and Lockyer Valley, AAM can enable shorter travel times from the city fringe and regional areas to major metropolitan centres and transport hubs. AAM can also provide regional, remote and island communities with enhanced mobility options at significantly lower infrastructure cost.

"Importantly, the geographic distribution of urban and regional centres throughout SEQ presents significant opportunities for air taxi services. Advanced aircraft, such as Wisk's Generation 6 air taxi, will unlock new opportunities that have the potential to transform mobility such as:

- Connecting travellers at Brisbane Airport to the Sunshine Coast in only 22 minutes, saving at least an hour sitting in traffic,
- Opening new tourism possibilities with flights from Brisbane CBD to the islands of Moreton Bay, or to the pristine wilderness areas of the Scenic Rim, in under 15 minutes, and
- Improving health outcomes for regional communities by connecting communities in the regional communities to medical services in major centres in less than 25 minutes.

"With Australia poised to capture around 3% of the global AAM market, according to a recent Roland Berger study, it is projected that AAM could contribute over AUD66 billion, or 3.1% of national GDP, to the Australian economy by 2040. A recent Nexa Capital study (December 2022) has identified, with the adoption of AAM, the SE Queensland GDP will increase by an estimated USD3.7 billion over the coming 25 years. The revenue forecast for AAM services in the SEQ region over the next 12-15 years is expected to be significant: driving major investment in infrastructure, job creation and advances in technology. Forecasts are for an AAM industry with a combination of passenger, business aviation, urban and regional air mobility to receive revenues of up to USD1.7 billion by 2045."

Partners

eVTOL manufacturer

AMSL Aero

Eve

Wisk

AAM/UAM aircraft operator

Aviator Group

Nautilus

AAM/UAM aircraft charging and power supplies

H2 Energy Company

Vertiport/airport developer/operator

Skypartz

Airspace integration

FlyFreely

Others

Archerfield Airport

Griffith University

AvLogix Solutions

Sydney

Programme description

In December 2021 Eve announced a partnership with Sydney Seaplanes for electric air taxi operations in Greater Sydney.

“With the partnership, Sydney Seaplanes has placed an order for 50 of Eve’s electric vertical take-off and landing aircraft (eVTOL), with progressive deliveries expected to commence from 2026,” said a company press release. “The new partnership accelerates the progress towards 100% of Greater Sydney’s local tourism and commuter flights coming from zero emission electric aviation.”

“Subject to community consultation, we expect some flights will operate from our iconic Rose Bay aviation terminal in Sydney Harbour. This service will have a widespread appeal which will allow us to open new routes beyond the Harbour and throughout the Greater Sydney region,” said Aaron Shaw, CEO of Sydney Seaplanes.

Meanwhile, Press reports suggest all-electric flights are planned from Sydney to Canberra three times a day and over the Great Barrier Reef by 2026, following the deal between Sydney Seaplanes, Nautilus and Eve Air Mobility to fly 60 eVTOLs in Australian airspace by 2026.

Denmark

Country introduction

Germany's Evia Aero airline plans to fly electric aircraft services from Elde in the Netherlands to London, Brussels, Duesseldorf, Hamburg, Frankfurt and Copenhagen, as part of a network of 15 European destinations in place by 2027. The company has also signed a letter of intent with the UK company Cranfield Aerospace Solutions (CAS) for the delivery of ten Britten Norman Islanders powered by hydrogen fuel cells. The aircraft is aimed at coastal routes in Germany, the Netherlands and Denmark.

Copenhagen AirTaxi, Copenhagen Helicopter, VÆRIDION "to deliver 100% electric regional services in Denmark"

In September 2023, the Danish companies Copenhagen AirTaxi and Copenhagen Helicopter – both based at Roskilde Airport – along with German aircraft manufacturer VÆRIDION signed a cooperation agreement aimed at accelerating the green transition of regional aviation in the Nordic region. By 2030 at the latest, the first 100% electric flights are expected to be introduced on domestic routes in Denmark, according to a joint company press release.

"We believe that the Nordic region will become the first in the world to implement this new form of air transport, made possible by the launch of our 100% electric Microliner aircraft. And with Copenhagen Air Taxi and Copenhagen Helicopter, we have found the ideal partners to promote our transportation concept in the Nordic countries, starting in Denmark," says Ivor van Dartel, CEO and Co-founder of VÆRIDION.

Copenhagen AirTaxi and Copenhagen Helicopter will contribute with their networks, extensive market knowledge, and operational experience, while VÆRIDION provides the flight technology.

VÆRIDION's Microliner is a 9-seater, 100% electric aircraft. The Microliner will be certified and delivered before 2030, after which it can be deployed on shorter routes of up to 500 km. According to Henrik Bendix, Co-founder and Chairman of Copenhagen Helicopter, the Microliner could have a significant impact on people's mobility and contribute to increasing cohesion within each country.

"The introduction of the Microliner will encourage a development where people can live, work, and study more freely, while maintaining a good work/life balance. Additionally, it will remove a significant amount of CO2 from the roads and reduce the need to maintain and expand road infrastructure," he said.

Jimmy Arly Larsen, Accountable Manager of Copenhagen AirTaxi, said that approximately 1.6 million passengers are transported annually on domestic routes in Denmark alone. The Microliner could play a key role in realizing the Danish government's ambition for all domestic flights to be fossil-free by 2030. "It would be a logical first step for us to test the Microliner on our Læsø route and subsequently expand our domestic route network with Microliner aircraft," said Jimmy Arly Larsen.

According to Martin Winther Andersen, Co-founder and CEO of Copenhagen Helicopter, the Microliner could play a crucial role in the future of Mobility as a Service-based (MaaS) personal transport. MaaS involves a shift away from personally owned modes of transport towards mobility delivered as a service. Specifically, this means that people will be able to plan, book, and pay for various mobility services in one digital solution.

“The new green aircraft type requires significantly shorter take-off and landing distances than traditional aircraft, which allows the use of smaller airfields that are no longer utilized for commercial routes. These routes were abandoned as aircraft types gradually became larger. The Microliner can change that, allowing us to create a dense network of domestic routes again,” said Martin Winther Andersen.

Meanwhile, Odense has become the centre of the country's urban air mobility programme. In May 2022 Odense Municipality announced it was targeting future green mobility solutions at Hans Christian Andersen Airport (HCAA). According to a report from the local authority's economics committee:

“It is the Mayor's Administration's assessment that the airport faces a unique opportunity to become an epicenter in Denmark and (Northern) Europe for the use, testing and development of drones for passenger transport. An assessment that is based, among other things, on:

- A brief initial screening of opportunities and potential carried out by the Mayor's Administration in February 2022, which is attached to the case as an appendix.
- Strong support from Naviair (the state's company for airspace traffic management), which points to Odense as a natural center for this development.

“Based on these assessments, the Mayor's Administration is now uncovering the potential for urban air mobility (UAM) and vertiports (landing facilities for personal drones) in more detail - in order to be able to position Odense Municipality and Hans Christian Andersen Airport as visionary players in drone mobility in the long term. On the basis of the above, the mayor's administration has set up a fast-working working group, which in future will facilitate a focused and short-term cover-up effort, which will uncover the potential and prepare a business case, a project plan, defined milestones and a draft budget.

“The working group works on the basis of the attached memorandum of the case, and consists of Odense Municipality and relevant actors, who must jointly prepare solutions to the above objectives. In this connection, the focus will be particularly on the establishment of a Danish/Finnish solution for personal drone mobility in the context of future infrastructure.”

In late April 2023 Nordic research agency Nordregio published a [report](#) which identified the most viable regional/commuter electric aircraft routes.

The primary focus of this project was to assess route viability based on a fully electric airplane with a 19-passenger capacity, flying a maximum distance of 200 km for a duration of one hour.

According to the report:

“Specific Nordic routes are recommended for selection as case studies based on the regional power grid capacity. In general, all Nordic countries consider electrification as a key enabler for decarbonising the energy and transport sector. However, increased power production and consumption necessitate improvements and extension of current power grid, to meet future energy demand and avoid congestion. Additionally, power consumers need to apply smart consumption measures, to assist in stabilising national power grids, where fluctuating renewable energy production will constitute a high share.

“In Denmark, Aalborg airport currently has a strong foundation for establishing electric aviation, based on the power grid in the municipality. However, Karup and Rønne airport can connect rural areas with urban areas, such as Copenhagen. While the power capacity situation in Karup is uncertain in terms of adequacy for supplying electric aviation, the benefits of introducing electric aviation are interesting to investigate, since the airport”.

Odense

Timeline

Imminent – *to be launched within the next three years*

Route

Odense – Funen (17km)

Programme description

In November 2023 Copenhagen Helicopter and its partner Copenhagen AirTaxi – both based at Roskilde Airport – signed a letter of intent with Dufour Aerospace for a conditional order to purchase the Aero2 UAV for cargo and aerial work and the Aero3 for passenger transportation.

“The aim is to establish a route between Odense and possibly other parts of the southern Funen archipelago with the Aero2 for cargo purposes by 2026, initially on a trial basis” according to a press release. “This will serve as a learning process for the operation and maintenance of Dufour’s tiltwing aircraft. Once the equivalent but larger 8-seater Aero3 is ready in 2030, Copenhagen Helicopter plan to expand the service to include passenger transport in this region and beyond.”

Thomas Pfammatter, CEO and co-founder of Dufour Aerospace said “In an area with huge geographical obstacles, these aircraft have the potential to change the transportation setup of a country. This is true for Aero2 in uncrewed critical cargo applications and for Aero3 in crewed aviation. These aircraft will make connectivity and logistics dramatically simpler, more ecological and cheaper than today, and Denmark is an ideal place for this.”

Copenhagen Helicopter offers transport such as taxi flights in traditional helicopters, which the company says is a growth area. According to Andersen, Copenhagen Helicopter’s own calculations, which are based on international and national reports, indicate that the AAM area has huge potential and could transport 84,000 passengers a day and remove 120,000 tonnes of CO2 from Danish roads by 2035.

A first stage of the partnership between HCA Airport in Odense and Copenhagen Helicopter was announced in February 2023 the “first in Denmark to build an infrastructure for electrically-powered flying taxis to ferry people between the country’s largest cities” according to UAS Denmark Test Center.

eVTOL manufacturer

Dufour

AAM/UAM aircraft operator

Copenhagen Helicopter

Vertiport/airport developer/operator

HCA Airport

Source

www.uasdenmark.dk

<https://www.urbanairmobilitynews.com/logistics/dufour-aerospace-and-copenhagen-helicopter-sign-letter-of-intent/>

Pintang Island

Timeline: Planned – to be launched within two to five years; funds have been committed and key industry partners identified

Programme description

In November 2023 EHang Intelligent Equipment (Guangzhou) Co., Ltd., Fujian Xinyun Technology Investment Co., Ltd. and the Experimental Zone Investment Promotion Committee signed a low-altitude flight tourism project covering the resort island of Pingtan, according to China's *Baidu* news agency.

Pingtan is an island off the east coast of mainland China in Fujian Province.

"It is reported that the Pingtan low-altitude flight tourism project initially plans to invest 120 million yuan (USD16.4 million) and will focus on research and development around the implementation of the "low-altitude flight and tourism" scenario," said the news agency report. "The project plan is based on scenic spot tourism, giving full play to the policy advantages of the experimental zone and the technical and operational capabilities of investors and operators, and extending the application of unmanned aircraft technology to multi-level fields such as transportation, logistics, medical care, emergency and urban management, and gradually achieve full-chain development in the low-altitude flight industry in terms of resource integration, development and operation, and brand building."

"Li Xiaona, Vice President of EHang Intelligent Equipment (Guangzhou) Co., Ltd. and General Manager of East China Region, said that after the project is implemented, the low-altitude tourism industry ecology will be introduced in Pingtan, efforts will be made to explore low-altitude tourism development models, and create a "Pingtan model" of low-altitude tourism.

"Fujian Xinyun Technology Investment Co Ltd. is mainly responsible for the investment and operation management of the project. In the next stage, it will focus on the integration and utilization of corresponding resources, and plans to connect with state-owned enterprises in the district to promote the cooperative development of low-altitude flight cultural tourism projects based on sightseeing and tourism.

Partners

eVTOL manufacturer:

EHang

Others

Fujian Xinyun Technology Investment Co., Ltd.
Experimental Zone Investment Promotion Committee

Sources

<https://baijiahao.baidu.com/s?id=1781443712721533196&wfr=spider&for=pc>

NEOM

Timeline: Planned – to be launched within two to five years; funds have been committed and key industry partners identified

Programme description

NEOM is a new concept in urbanisation – a series of interlinked cities covering 26,500 sq km on the Red Sea coast of Saudi Arabia. The cluster of urban centres, financed by USD500 billion from the Public Investment Fund of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, comprises a floating industrial complex (Oxagon), a global trade centre, tourist resorts (including the Trojena ski and Sindalah luxury yacht resorts) and a linear city called “The Line”. The development work of the project's first phase, Neom Bay, has been completed and includes NEOM Bay airport which launched regular flights from the region to Riyadh in 2019. A carbon-free transport network is one of the features of the new city. According to its website: “Shared autonomous and electric shuttles will provide for on demand urban passenger mobility, along with urban air mobility and a high-speed underground transit system. No cars, no traditional roads: NEOM will be the world's first zero-carbon region.”

In December 2021 NEOM and Volocopter announced they were collaborating to design, implement and operate the world's first bespoke public vertical mobility system. According to a Press release: “Air taxi and vertical logistics services will be fully integrated with the overall multi-modal and zero-emission public transit system in NEOM.” It continues: “The joint venture will be the sole operator of initial public transit routes across NEOM, while enabling an open eVTOL ecosystem for vertical mobility services including logistics, emergency response and tourism.”

NEOM City transport authorities plan to use eVTOLs to ferry passengers between the main urban conurbations as well as being used as emergency response vehicles. NEOM's multimodal mobility system will be powered by 100% renewable energy generated by solar and wind energy sources. NEOM has made a EUR 175 million investment in the German eVTOL manufacturer. To link all the region's aviation eco-systems NEOM City has developed an innovative low altitude UAS traffic management system, which it presented to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) General Assembly in September 2022. The UTM system will integrate drone and eVTOL traffic flying between NEOM Bay Airport, NEOM International Airport, the LINE, TROJENA, Gulf of Aqaba, OXAGON and NEOM islands, integrated within the airport air traffic management system and will be one of the most complex and dynamic UTM ecosystems being developed anywhere in the world.

According to the text of the presentation:

“..initial requirements on operator/pilot training and human factors with details on knowledge, skills, and abilities to be competent for jobs and tasks associated with advanced air mobility (AAM)/uncrewed aircraft (UA) flight management; initial requirements on AAM/UA capabilities, performance, and manoeuvrability covering communication, performance-based navigation, and detect and avoid; requirements on UTM System architecture framework including principal elements, functions, interfaces of the system, communications, and monitoring/surveillance capabilities, including decisions for spectrum, data exchange, and cybersecurity standards.”

GACA is working to develop a regulatory framework for NEOM UTM as a precursor for rolling out a network of UTM eco-systems throughout the country.

In June 2023 Volocopter announced the successful completion of a series of air taxi test flights in Saudi Arabia's NEOM. “This marks the first time an eVTOL (electric vertical takeoff and landing) aircraft has received a special flight authorization and performed test flights in

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the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,” according to a press release. “The flight test campaign lasted over a week and built on 18 months of collaboration between NEOM, the General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA), and Volocopter, with the aim of implementing and scaling an electric UAM ecosystem and testbed in NEOM. The parties worked closely to ensure full regulatory compliance and safety ahead of the test campaign.”

NEOM has placed a confirmed order of 15 Volocopter aircraft to commence initial flight operations within the next two to three years.

The partnership between NEOM and Volocopter is to lead the design and development of “a three-dimensional public transportation system, advancing the technical, regulatory, and infrastructure solutions for eVTOL operations across NEOM” and offers vertical mobility services as an integral part of the city’s “multi-modal and zero-emissions public mobility system, providing seamless connectivity for passengers and goods.”

The release continues, “Volocopter and NEOM have agreed an initial order of 10 VoloCity passenger and five VoloDrone logistics aircraft to support early activation of flight operations. The joint venture will scale-up its activities from the beginning of 2022 to incubate urban air mobility (UAM) in the region and seed a vertical mobility ecosystem.”

In October 2023 the NEOM Investment Fund (NIF) said it has closed an investment into REGENT, the US-based electric seaglider manufacturer.

“The investment positions NEOM as the largest single contributor in REGENT’s Series A round, enabling the company to take its technology to the next stage,” said the organisation in a press release. “NEOM’s investment is part of a multi-year partnership with REGENT to establish innovative seaglider passenger operations in the region.

NEOM is located in Tabuk at the far north-west of Saudi Arabia. It will cover a total area of 10,200 square miles and extend along the coast of the Red Sea. Saudi Arabia aims to complete the first section of NEOM by 2025. The project has an estimated cost of USD500 billion.

Partners

eVTOL manufacturer:

Volocopter

Sources

[NEOM and Volocopter: First Electric Air Taxi Flight in Saudi Arabia](https://www.neom.com/en-us/newsroom/neom-invests-in-regent-series)

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