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Skydio Dock, Remotely Operated Drones Get Major Win in Japan Miriam

McNabb June 08, 2023 by DRONELIFE Staff Writer Ian M. Crosby



This week, autonomous flight leader [Skydio](#) announced that it has been granted an unprecedented, nationwide approval by the Japan Civil Aviation Bureau (JCAB) to remotely operate drones beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS). The approval allows for streamlined BVLOS operations utilizing [Skydio Dock and Remote Ops](#). Skydio's

AI and autonomous technology allows for the safe operation of drones near structures beyond what would be possible with manual drones.

The JCAB approval does not require the use of additional crew members like visual observers or technology to detect crewed aircraft, **removing major hurdles** faced by operators. The approval applies across Japan with few exceptions. Prior to takeoff, operators must first submit a notification of the flight area through JCAB's web portal. Operators will be able to inspect critical infrastructure remotely, quickly and safely.

"This waiver represents a landmark moment for the drone industry and is a reflection of regulators responding to the advances in AI and autonomy that are already defining the next chapter in drones and delivering enormous value for organizations," said Skydio CEO Adam Bry. <https://dronelife.com/2023/06/08/skydio-wins-nationwide-bvlos-waiver-in-japan/>

Aloft Offers New APIs, Allowing Deep Linking LAANC Capabilities and More: It's a Big Deal Miriam McNabb June 06, 2023



[Aloft](#) announced today that they have added native LAANC integrations to their portfolio.

The deep-linking integration is a significant new capability for the enterprise drone industry ecosystem. With these new APIs, Aloft is knocking down barriers to entry for the FAA's Low Altitude Authorization and Notification Capability (LAANC) and more for developers and users of apps for the commercial drone industry.



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Aloft, formerly Kittyhawk, has been an approved service provider since 2018 and worked with the FAA to develop the free [“B4UFly” app](#) for recreational pilots. Aloft has become the leading provider of LAANC services in the country, [powering more than 70%](#) of requests in 2021.

For many providers of other enterprise drone applications, however, offering LAANC capabilities to their customers has proven difficult. LAANC service providers must go through an FAA approval process, which is only opened periodically. Pilots have been faced with clunky connections, sometimes having to exit the app they’re using and sign into a new system to get LAANC approvals. The tools announced today allow providers of enterprise drone applications without their own authority to offer LAANC services to offer a seamless experience to their customers, bringing Aloft’s LAANC, airspace, and fleet management capabilities natively into their own software. The “deep-linking” API’s mean that customers don’t have to sign on to more than one application to get automated, efficient authorizations.

<https://dronelife.com/2023/06/06/aloft-offers-new-apis-allowing-deep-linking-laanc-capabilities-its-a-big-deal/>

The Drone Industry Wants a BVLOS Rule. The Public Isn’t So Sure. Miriam

McNabb June 08, 2023



Federal docket [FAA-2023-1256](#), issued in May, calls for public comments on a proposed rule on four requests for commercial operations beyond visual line-of-sight (BVLOS), performed at or below 400 feet in altitude.

If the permission is granted, says the FAA, “[Phoenix Air Unmanned](#), [uAvionix](#), [Zipline](#), and [UPS Flight Forward](#) will continue to expand the envelope of FAA-approved BVLOS drone operations. Data collected from these operations will inform the [FAA’s ongoing policy and rulemaking activities](#).” The request seeks comments on specific aspects of BVLOS drone ops, including detect and avoid, UTM, and shielded operations.

The BVLOS Aviation Rulemaking Committee was formed in June of 2021; the committee’s findings were published in March of 2022. Still, the FAA has not published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) on BVLOS flight. Instead, they have ramped up the pace of BVLOS waivers, allowing limited advanced operations to gather more data.



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The proposed BVLOS permissions for Phoenix Air, uAvionix, Zipline, and UPS Flight Forward could move the rulemaking process forward, providing a bigger data set and proving the safety case. <https://dronelife.com/2023/06/08/comments-on-faa-proposed-bvlos/>

Infrastructure bill proposes \$100M in grants for US-made drones Ishveena Singh | Jun 9 2023



Senators Jacky Rosen (D-Nev.), John Boozman (R-Ark.), and Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) have proposed new legislation to increase the use of US-made drones in infrastructure projects. The bipartisan bill would authorize \$100 million in competitive grants to help local governments leverage American drones in critical infrastructure inspections, maintenance, and construction activities.

Blumenthal stresses that drone technology can be a valuable tool to help the country modernize its roads and bridges. Further, the bill would provide a boost to educational institutions preparing the next generation of skilled drone technicians. Research universities, including the University of Nevada, Reno, and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, would also get access to grants to train drone operators.

Michael Robbins, chief advocacy officer at the Association for Uncrewed Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI), points out that the role of drones as indispensable tools for critical operations, including infrastructure inspections, will only grow as the technology advances further. <https://dronedj.com/2023/06/09/us-infrastructure-drone-grant-2023/>

Russia Has a Big Drone Problem ELLIE COOK ON 6/1/23



Russia's military drone production cannot keep up with Moscow's demand for unmanned aerial vehicles as the war in Ukraine drags on, according to a new report.

"The Russian military-industrial complex is still trying to match UAV production with need," a new report published by the Center for Naval Analyses, a U.S.-based think tank, concluded.

Drones have played an important role in the ongoing war for both Moscow and Kyiv. Anton Gerashchenko, an adviser to Ukraine's internal affairs ministry, [previously told Newsweek](#) that "this war is a war of drones."



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Ukraine has doubled down on [efforts to produce a "drone army."](#) The British government promised earlier this month to furnish Ukraine with "hundreds of new long-range attack drones" with a range of over 200 kilometers, or around 125 miles.

Russia has frequently launched drone attacks on Ukrainian critical infrastructure targets using Iranian-made Shahed 131 and 136 drones, also known as "kamikaze" drones. Russia also uses intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) drones. But Russia's inability to keep pace with its domestic production of drones is "well known by the Russian leadership," the CNA noted. <https://www.newsweek.com/russia-drone-production-ukraine-iranian-shahed-uavs-1803816>

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FAA Floats Certification Path for Leonardo AW609 Tiltrotor [Mark Huber](#) - June 9, 2023



As certification of the Leonardo AW609 civil tiltrotor appears to be nearing the finish line, the FAA today requested public comment on [proposed certification criteria](#) for the aircraft. The comment period closes July 10.

It appears the FAA intends to certify the AW609 as a special class aircraft under FAR 21.17 (b) and before issuing formal powered-lift airworthiness standards, the latter widely anticipated in 2024 and that will largely impact eVTOL aircraft. Ahead of that, the FAA is announcing applicable regulations and other airworthiness criteria developed specifically for the AW609 that include applicable parts of certification standards for both helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft under FAR Parts 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, and 35.

According to the FAA, "The proposed certification basis incorporates by reference existing transport category airplane and rotorcraft standards, one normal category airplane standard, Category A rotorcraft standards, optional Category B rotorcraft standards, and criteria for operation under instrument flight rules. This certification basis is not established for flight-into-known-icing conditions." <https://www.ainonline.com/aviation-news/business-aviation/2023-06-09/faa-floats-certification-path-leonardo-aw609-tiltrotor>



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DroneUp seeks BVLOS tech for its drone deliveries June 8, 2023 Sally French



This May, DroneUp announced a partnership with Iris Automation, which makes AI-based vision technology for drones designed to prevent airborne collisions (Iris' primary product is its Casia G technology for BVLOS operations).

And under the new deal, DroneUp will employ Casia G tech among additional sensors on its delivery drones, which will be able to detect other aircraft approaching. DroneUp already has a network of launch and recovery points in the areas it operates, so now Iris will place nodes at those places and throughout delivery areas, enabling it to act like a cellular tower-type service providing DroneUp with visibility of its airspace.

In short, whenever an object flies into DroneUp's operating area, Iris' tech will send an alert to the DroneUp flight team, which in turn enables them to respond — and in theory avoid any potential collisions.

"Through the use of Casia G, DroneUp will be able to remove visual observers, creating a path to more economical scaling of their operations while simultaneously improving safety," said Iris Automation CEO, Jon Damush. <https://www.thedronegirl.com/2023/06/12/summer-2023-bvlos-drone-dispatches-big-approvals-for-skydio-percepto-and-more/>

Percepto earns BVLOS waiver for staff to operate drones near U.S. critical infrastructure sites June 8, 2023 Sally French



In May 2023, Percepto received a BVLOS waiver that enables employees of Percepto to operate the company's own autonomous drones at any critical infrastructure site in the U.S. — all without requiring them to be at the actual site. It also eliminates any requirements to use ground-based or airborne detect and avoid (DAA) systems, which can be cumbersome.

More specifically, the waiver authorizes low risk "shielded" BVLOS operations 200 feet above and around assets located on critical infrastructure sites. At non-critical infrastructure sites, shielded BVLOS operations are permitted an even-closer 50 feet higher than the tallest obstruction located within a half-mile of the site.



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While Percepto sells products for any customers to run their own drone operations, this waiver only applies to Percepto employees who would operate the drones — as well as to customers who have been trained and certified by Percepto on the company's systems. A Percepto spokesperson said the company would be able to "support and guide customers to gain a similarly FAA-issued waiver if they would like to self-operate drones at their facility."

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?tab=wm#inbox/WhctKKXxBvSZMRdIRXzRxCPmHKvIPpmBWncFrMlttWbLbqxLFnqPvRLtqbsnPctdnJLCPRG>

Drones for Yachts: Beluga Drones Take to the Water Miriam McNabb June 09, 2023

by DRONELIFE Staff Writer Ian M. Crosby



EuroLink Systems has partnered with Drones for Yachts, an organization championing drone utilization for connecting marinas and ports with yachts. The organization offers guidance to yacht clubs and other groups to reinforce compliance with FAA regulations, licensing, insurance considerations, race management application requirements, education and safety

measures. The partnership will see Drones for Yachts utilize EuroLink's Beluga family of mini-drones, which will be utilized for filming yachts and races, transporting goods and supplies to yachts at sea, and for essential applications such as intelligence gathering and weather monitoring.



Beluga boast a variety of features that are unique for its class of mini drone, ranging from distinctive aerodynamic design, endurance, speed, payload capacity, and environmental dexterity, to on-board AI capabilities, advanced communications, and breakthrough propeller/blade technology, as well as a unique water take-off/landing feature. Each of these versatile features have use cases that bridge Commercial and Defense target applications (dual use).

<https://dronelife.com/2023/06/09/drones-for-yachts-beluga-drones-take-to-the-water/>



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Percepto raises \$67 million to meet demand for automated drones Ishveena

Singh | Jun 12 2023



Autonomous drone solutions provider Percepto has raised a whopping \$67 million in Series C funding. Led by Koch Disruptive Technologies (KDT), this fresh equity and debt funding brings the total investment in the drone company to more than **\$120 million** to date.

Israel-based [Percepto](#) recently received a [groundbreaking beyond visual line of sight \(BVLOS\) waiver](#) from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The nationwide waiver allows the company to remotely operate autonomous drones at any critical infrastructure site in the US without requiring site-specific approvals from the FAA.

Further, the waiver frees Percepto's clients from several logistical and cost barriers because it negates the need for ground-based or airborne radars and people on the ground alike. Overall, the drone solution automates the entire visual inspection workflow, from data collection to AI-powered analysis and insights. And problems such as gas leaks, overheating, and infrastructure deterioration are detected faster so companies, such as Siemens Energy, can take preventative measures before they escalate into incidents.

Percepto gives the example of another oil and gas client as well who is using its Air Max OGI drone. According to Percepto, this customer detected within hours a methane gas leak that could have gone unnoticed for months using conventional methods. Automated inspection drones saved the company millions of dollars while minimizing safety risks to workers and preventing environmental damage. <https://dronedj.com/2023/06/12/percepto-automated-drones-series-c/>

Korean Air advances use of drone swarms in plane inspections Bruce Crumley | Jun 12 2023



Flag carrier [Korean Air](#) is forging ahead with its trail blazing test program using drone swarms for [inspection](#) of its planes to measure wear of fuselage components, and detect any weaknesses or damage requiring repairs.

Though [Korean Air initially announced](#) its plan to develop drone swarms with the aim of incorporating them in its regular inspection of its [passenger and cargo planes](#) way



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back in 2021, the company has continued added increasing levels of sophistication and functionality to those activities.

Use of drones in Korean Air's maintenance, repair, and operation operations has been replicated by other major carriers since, notably [Dutch flagship KLM](#), which has made [swarm inspections](#) a key focus of its routine craft oversight development.

Recent [reports](#) say Korean Air has enhanced early drone inspections from basic scans and analyses of data collected by nearby pilots, to automated functions enabled and improved by artificial intelligence applications. <https://dronedj.com/2023/06/12/korean-air-advances-use-of-drone-swarms-in-plane-inspections/>

sees.ai earns broad UK BVLOS approval for drone electricity asset inspections

[Bruce Crumley](#) | Jun 12 2023



Specialized drone services company sees.ai has obtained what it describes as unprecedented authorization to conduct routine [beyond visual line of sight](#) (BVLOS) [inspections](#) of live overhead electricity infrastructure in the UK.

Sussex-based [sees.ai says](#) its [Civil Aviation Authority](#) (CAA) permission clears the way for regular, open-ended BVLOS [drone inspections](#) of live powerlines and supporting infrastructure across two specific sites for client National Grid Electricity Transmission. The startup foresees that authorization being broadened to the rest of NGET's UK assets after demonstrating the safety and effectiveness of its work at the initial locations.

Though sees.ai – which has been working closely with [the CAA](#) in its Regulatory Sandbox project since 2019 – earned initial [BVLOS inspection approval](#) of industrial sites two years ago, it says the new authorization breaks new ground by permitting up-close drone imaging of high voltage electrical transmission networks while still transmitting power, thereby eliminating disruption from temporary cuts. <https://dronedj.com/2023/06/12/sees-ai-earns-broad-uk-bvlos-approval-for-drone-electricity-asset-inspections/>



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Wing Demonstrates Drone Delivery Anywhere – Delivering Beer and Peanuts to Coors Field

Miriam McNabb May 23, 2023 by DRONELIFE Staff Writer Ian M. Crosby



Ever been stuck in the middle of a row on the bleachers? Drone delivery might be a real “game changer.” Wing Delivers Beer and Peanuts to Coors Field in Colorado

Earlier this month, Google’s [Wing](#) held a demonstration delivery at Colorado’s Coors Field, where it delivered beer and peanuts to the field. Though not held on a game day, over

1,000 people were present in the stands to celebrate the kickoff party for AUVSI’s annual autonomous systems conference.

Coors Field was selected for the demonstration due to its challenging environment. Located in Denver, Colorado, one of the country’s fastest growing cities, the stadium is filled with obstacles for delivery such as stadium seating and jumbotrons. At 5,200 feet, Coors Field sits a “mile high” in North America’s second tallest city.

Wing has seen major success within the increasingly dense environments in which it has operated, ranging from rural farms and lightly populated suburbs to more dense suburbs and even large metropolitan areas such as Brisbane, Australia, Helsinki, Finland, and Texas’s Dallas Fort Worth metro area. On some days, the company delivered nearly **1,000 packages a day** in Brisbane, averaging at around [one delivery every 25 seconds](#).

https://dronelife.com/2023/05/23/wing-demonstrates-drone-delivery-anywhere-delivering-beer-and-peanuts-to-coors-field/?utm_campaign=Energy%20Drone%20%26%20Robotics%20Coalition%20Content&utm_medium=email&_hsmt=262259348&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-_bZ9QKmwcpP9xqFt6zb9BTtlkDsgHqTqp59TLkKBfloIHxm5W_OX4ztAExeGA4Xk_4IWSPBnUKh4_rhMJloDz6NnlhQ&utm_content=262259348&utm_source=hs_email



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MFE Inspection Solutions Teams Up with Voliro: Innovative Drone to Transform Inspections June 13, 2023 FROM MFE INSPECTION SOLUTIONS



Houston, TX, June 13, 2023 --MFE Inspection Solutions, a leading provider of advanced inspection technology, announces a new partnership with Voliro, the innovator behind the revolutionary Voliro T drone. This advanced drone combines omnidirectional capabilities with the ability to exert significant force and torque to structures, opening up new dimensions of maneuverability in any

orientation, height, or location.

The Voliro T drone stands out for its reliability and stability even in the most challenging environments, thanks to thrust-vectoring and 6DoF control. Equipped with semi-autonomous flight modes and sophisticated pilot assistance, the Voliro T ensures safe and effortless navigation even in environments where GPS is unavailable, making it ideal for close proximity structural inspections. With its modular payload system, the Voliro T is equipped with multiple integrated sensors for diverse inspection needs and is open for custom third-party payloads.

https://innovateenergynow.com/resources/mfe-inspection-solutions-teams-up-with-voliro?_hsmi=262259348&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-9UvOllj3Mx6RVa3swgFXzhczV6fy1-70lrnVHNgpS7RzXigkulel0AMHEaOva5W67KMu89otPcesMXnCAUryRoJxv58Q&utm_content=262259348

Air taxi maker Supernal to use TruWeather micro-climate tech for low-altitude operations Bruce Crumley | Jun 13 2023



Supernal, the advanced air mobility (AAM) unit of South Korean automotive giant Hyundai, has taken a minority shareholding stake in micro-climate specialist TruWeather Solutions, whose hyper-localized atmospheric tech solutions will be used in operating safe and comfortable air taxi services.

Supernal announced it had taken a minority capital position in TruWeather earlier this month and said it will use the partnership to build their overlapping activities together. The Hyundai AAM affiliate says it will integrate the Reston, VA-based startup's low and medium



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altitude climatic data analytics and forecasting technology for use in the testing phases and eventual launch of its air taxis.

Supernal will notably rely on TruWeather's V360° software-as-a-service product as an interface between its air taxis while in flight or preparing for departure, and monitoring systems. The asset will supply pilots and ground staff rapidly updated data feeds on atmospheric conditions that often change quickly at the lower levels where AAM craft operate.

TruWeather's approach in monitoring climatic evolutions at those altitudes calls for using denser networks of sensors positioned at future vertiports and along corridors next-generation aircraft will use. <https://dronedj.com/2023/06/13/air-taxi-maker-supernal-to-use-truweather-micro-climate-tech-for-safe-low-altitude-aam-operations/>

Doroni Aerospace Celebrates Over 50 Successful Test Flights in New eVTOL Flying Car Facility

June 12, 2023 News



Doroni Aerospace, the leading innovator in sustainable transportation and urban air mobility, is pleased to announce a significant milestone in its journey to revolutionize personal mobility. The company has successfully completed over 50 test flights of its groundbreaking electric Vertical Takeoff and Landing (eVTOL) aircraft, the Doroni Aerospace H1.

Equipped with advanced electric motors, their vehicle offers zero-emission flights, contributing to a cleaner and more sustainable future. Its autonomous flight capabilities and integrated navigation systems ensure safe and reliable operations.

With a targeted range of up to 60 miles on a single charge, and Doroni Aerospace plans to increase this range to 100 miles as battery and motor technology advances. The vehicle incorporates features such as redundant systems, collision avoidance technology, and emergency landing capabilities. https://uasweekly.com/2023/06/12/doroni-aerospace-celebrates-over-50-successful-test-flights-in-new-evtol-flying-car-facility/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=doroni-aerospace-celebrates-over-50-successful-test-flights-in-new-evtol-flying-car-facility&utm_term=2023-06-13



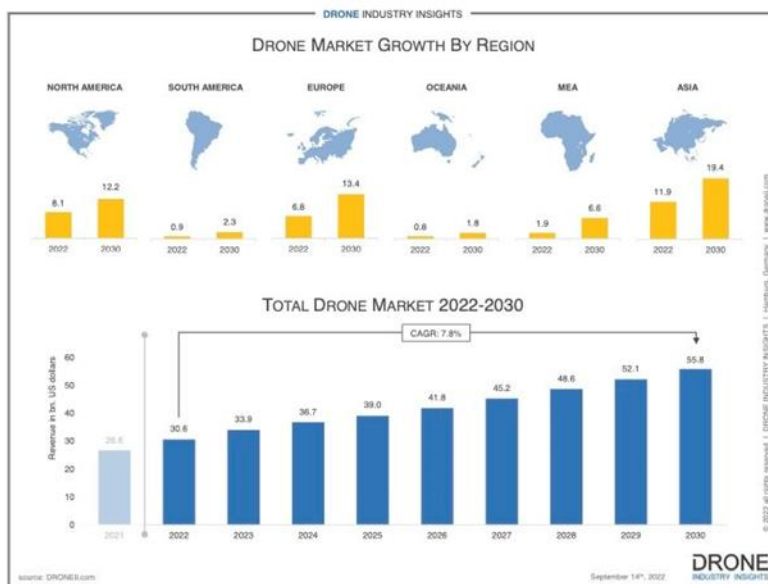
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DRONEII: Industry Investment and Growth, from the Energy Drones and Robotics Summit Miriam McNabb June 13, 2023

As the [Energy Drone and Robotics Summit 2023](#) began its second day in Houston, Hendrik Bödecker of [Drone Industry Insights \(DRONEII\)](#) took the keynote stage to present *Money & Markets: What's Hot Today & Tomorrow for Robotics/Drones – Analysts Perspective*.

Europe-based DRONEII is the leading global drone industry research and consulting firm, providing deep research into market size, use cases, ecosystem players, and more. In his keynote this morning, Co-Founder and CFO Hendrik Bödecker discussed the market size and investment environment in the drone industry today – and what DRONEII's research indicates is coming next.



“We’re still at the beginning of the drone industry,” says Bödecker. “But the adoption rate is growing, and over the last several years we’ve seen a tremendous change.”

DRONEII’s research shows significant growth in the drone industry overall. While drone hardware makes up a little over 22% of the industry value, the vast majority of the value in the industry is in services. “You have to use that hardware,”

Bödecker comments. “And you have to train people.”

Currently, Bödecker says that Asia holds the majority of the market value – and that’s likely to continue. Asia’s regional growth is reflected in drone industry investment trends.

<https://dronelife.com/2023/06/13/droneii-drone-industry-investment-and-growth-from-the-floor-of-energy-drones-and-robotics-summit/>



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AMERICAN DRONE MAKER SET TO LAUNCH NDAA COMPLIANT DRONE June 13, 2023 Sally French



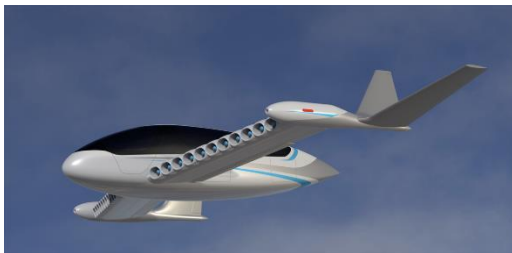
Companies seeking an NDAA-compliant drone for inspections, mapping or conducting LiDAR surveys are set to get another [American-made drone](#) option.

California-based Inspired Flight Technologies this month announced a medium-lift drone called the IF800 Tomcat, and it's set to ship before the end of the year. The reason why it is turning heads is because this is **the first** NDAA-compliant industrial-grade drone to deliver greater than 40-minute flight time while carrying a high-resolution camera or sensors.

It has all sorts of interesting features and specs going for it, but it has **three specs** of sorts that make it stand out: NDAA compliance, 40 minutes of flight time, and ability to fly high-resolution cameras and/or sensors weighing up to 3 kilograms.

While not necessarily a "spec," a huge highlight is, in fact, NDAA compliance. NDAA compliance means that the drones don't contain parts that were produced by certain companies that the U.S. government deems unfit to produce products for use by federal agencies — and generally speaking, many of the companies on the U.S. government's NDAA-prohibited list are made in China or Russia. <https://www.thedronegirl.com/2023/06/14/if800-tomcat-inspired-flight/>

Whisper Aero reveals propulsor design and jet mockup for quiet, hybrid electric flight PAUL BRINKMANN | JUNE 12, 2023



AIAA AVIATION FORUM, San Diego, Calif. — Whisper Aero's quiet flight technology consists of a relatively slow spinning ducted fan with a high number of blades, the company revealed in engineering papers presented here on Monday.

The company founded in Tennessee by former NASA engineer and Uber Elevate co-founder Mark Moore described its propulsion method and business plan in three papers presented at the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics 2023 Aviation Forum.

The Whisper ducted fan has been "optimized for lowest noise and highest efficiency," Moore wrote in his paper, "Unlocking Low-Cost Regional Air Mobility through Whisper Aero-Propulsive Coupling." Whisper, Moore and his co-founder Ian Villa presented the papers Monday



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afternoon. The high efficiency is “achieved with a very high blade-count fan. The blades are tensioned to an outer shroud, like the spokes of a bicycle wheel, for sustained rigidity throughout operation.”

Another Whisper paper describes how the company’s propulsion technology could be installed on aircraft to provide regional air service in trips of 50 to 500 miles. The company envisions integrating its propulsors on the leading edge of an airplane’s wings to maximize aerodynamic efficiency and thrust. Whisper has run various tests on its ducted fans, including flight testing of a drone powered by a single such ducted fan. <https://aerospaceamerica.aiaa.org/whisper-aero-reveals-propulsor-design-and-jet-mockup-for-quiet-hybrid-electric-flight/>

Eve, United announce SF air taxi services as UAM commuter option to clogged roads [Bruce Crumley](#) | Jun 14 2023



[Eve](#), the [urban air mobility](#) (UAM) unit of Brazilian aircraft manufacturer Embraer, has announced joint plans with [United Airlines](#) to launch future [air taxi](#) flights across the San Francisco Bay Area as an aerial commuter option to the region’s frequently clogged roadways.

On Wednesday [Eve announced](#) its first operational project with [United, which last](#) year took a \$15 million investment stake in the startup, and placed a conditional [order for 200](#) of its [air taxis](#) while reserving an [option for 200 more](#). The plan revealed today calls for the two companies to launch [UAM commuter services](#) across San Francisco and its surrounding area sometime after Eve’s intended type certification and commercialization of its electric vertical takeoff and landing planes (eVTOL) in 2026.

In addition to announcing the first air taxi services in the densely populated, road-saturated San Francisco Bay Area, the move marks [United’s apparent intention](#) to keep its options open in developing its [UAM activities](#).

“Our shared goal is to provide residents and visitors to the San Francisco Bay Area with efficient and cost-competitive transportation in one of the most densely populated urban areas in the US,” said Andre Stein, co-CEO of Eve – whose communiqué only mentioned the service with United as a “quick, economical and lower-carbon way to get to its hub airports” as a passing detail. “The Bay Area is perfect for eVTOL flights given its size, traffic, focus on sustainability, innovation, and commitment to add other options for mobility.”



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<https://dronedj.com/2023/06/14/eve-united-announce-sf-air-taxi-services-as-uam-commuter-option-to-clogged-roads/>

EASA publishes final guidelines on drone noise levels [Ishveena Singh](#) | Jun 14 2023



The European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) has published its final guidelines explaining how UAS manufacturers and government agencies can measure the noise level of their drones, ensuring they are not a nuisance to people and wildlife.

The guidelines, aimed at providing harmonized procedures to measure the noise of drones used in the low and medium-risk operations of the ‘specific’ category, build on the [initial public consultation phase](#) which commenced in October 2022. They apply to a wide variety of drone platforms – such as multicopters, fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters, and powered-lift aircraft – if their **weight is below 600 kg**.

In addition to the final guidelines, EASA is also providing a template for a typical noise report that drone makers can use to submit noise data, as well as a self-explanatory spreadsheet assisting the noise adjustment procedures. You can download all this material [here](#).

It’s worth highlighting that these guidelines are to be used voluntarily and do not constitute applicable requirements for the certification of drones. All they intend to do is close the gap relating to noise measurement standards in the “specific” category. Operations within this category might include activities such as package deliveries, powerline inspections, bird control, mapping services, aerial surveillance, or roof inspections. <https://dronedj.com/2023/06/14/easa-drone-noise-level-regulations/#more-94027>

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Sharper Shape Launches Powerline Inspection Software for Drone Service

Providers Miriam McNabb June 14, 2023 by DRONELIFE Staff Writer Ian M. Crosby

Powerline management solutions provider [Sharper Shape](#) has announced a contract with drone solutions leader [Volatus Aerospace](#), officially launching Sharper Shape’s new drone service providers (DSP) management. DSP Management grants drone service providers a digital platform (CORE) for coordinating, managing, and delivering data collection projects all in one place. The service is also available to arborists and inspection companies that utilize unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) for the inspection of utility transmission and distribution systems, like



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power lines. CORE is available both on a web browser and as an app, enabling real-time and remote use in the field.



The first to strike a deal with Sharper Shape for its DSP Management software solution, Volatus Aerospace has established itself in the drone services market through its offerings of infrastructure inspection, mapping, and modeling services. Volatus has leveraged its expertise into the key sectors of industrial inspection, precision agriculture, public safety, drone cargo logistics, and security and defense. <https://dronelife.com/2023/06/14/sharper-shape-launches-powerline-inspection-software-for-drone-service-providers/>

Electra unveils hybrid-electric demonstrator aircraft to begin flight testing

INSIDENOVA STAFF 21 hrs ago



Electra's electric ultra-short takeoff and landing, or eSTOL, aircraft was introduced at the company's development facility at the Manassas Regional Airport Monday.

[Electra.aero](https://www.insidenova.com/headlines/electra-unveils-hybrid-electric-demonstrator-aircraft-to-begin-flight-testing/article_1ff8c40c-0acc-11ee-8239-4bb81424e84c.html), Inc. has unveiled the test vehicle for its first hybrid-electric ultra-short takeoff and landing aircraft. The electric ultra-short takeoff and landing, or eSTOL, aircraft was introduced at Electra's development facility at the Manassas Regional Airport in a ceremony Monday that included guests from the aviation industry, government, the investor community and Electra customers, according to a news release.

The bright yellow aircraft is named the Electra Model EA-2 "Goldfinch" in celebration of the nimble American Goldfinch bird indigenous to North America.

Electra's technology demonstrator is **the world's first** blown-lift aircraft using distributed electric propulsion which enables the airplane to take off and land in very short spaces. Electra's proprietary blown lift technology uses eight motors to provide additional wing lift and hybrid-electric power that provides internal recharging capabilities for aircraft batteries, eliminating the need for new ground infrastructure.

https://www.insidenova.com/headlines/electra-unveils-hybrid-electric-demonstrator-aircraft-to-begin-flight-testing/article_1ff8c40c-0acc-11ee-8239-4bb81424e84c.html



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Leading eVTOL OEMs Hold Steady In June Reality Index Ben Goldstein June 14, 2023



The ranking of electric air taxi startups was unchanged in the latest edition of the AAM Reality Index, with Joby Aviation and Volocopter leading the pack followed by a three-way tie between Archer Aviation, Beta Technologies and EHang.

Joby's front-runner position, with a score of 8.7 out of 10, largely stems from its hefty cash cushion relative to its main competitors, according to Sergio Cecutta, founder and CEO of SMG Consulting, which publishes the bimonthly AAM Reality Index in conjunction with Aviation Week. As a comparison, the company finished the March quarter with **nearly \$1 billion in cash** versus roughly \$450 million for rival Archer.

Joby also benefits from its production line, which can churn out dozens of aircraft per year compared to single-digit production capacity at rival Archer, Cecutta says.

<https://aviationweek.com/aerospace/advanced-air-mobility/leading-evtol-oems-hold-steady-june-reality-index>

Tomorrow.io raises \$87 million for weather satellite constellation Debra Werner June 14, 2023



Rendering of Tomorrow.io's microwave sounder satellite.

SAN FRANCISCO – Tomorrow.io raised \$87 million in a Series E funding round to support its campaign to gather weather and climate data.

Boston-based Tomorrow.io announced the news June 14 after launching its second satellite, R-2, on the [SpaceX](#)

[Transporter-8](#) rideshare flight.

Tomorrow.io's \$87M Series E round was led by Activate Capital. Joining the round were RTX Ventures, Seraphim Space and Chemonics. Existing Tomorrow.io investors, SquarePeg Capital, Canaan, ClearVision, JetBlue Ventures and Pitango, also provided funding.

Tomorrow.io launched its first radar satellite, R-1, April 15. Since then, the company has confirmed that all systems including its space-based radar are functioning well.



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"This is **the world's first commercially built weather radar satellite**," Rei Goffer, Tomorrow.io co-founder and chief strategy officer, told *SpaceNews*. "Only a handful of weather radar satellites have flown" and those were developed by NASA, the Japanese space agency JAXA and the European Space Agency. <https://spacenews.com/tomorrow-io-raises-87-million-for-weather-satellite-constellation/>

Unmanned aerial systems company Hush Aerospace adding 80 jobs in Tupelo

Daily Journal reports Jun 13, 2023



TUPELO - Unmanned aerial systems designer and manufacturer Hush Aerospace is locating operations in Tupelo. The project represents a corporate investment **of \$13.98 million** and will create 80 jobs.

According to information released by the company, Hush Aerospace will establish a state-of-the-art facility for the assembly, manufacturing, testing and evaluation of UAS in The Hive Industrial Park in Tupelo. The company said they will develop unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) and robotic platforms and components that meet rigorous federal standards for NASA or military use.

"In turn, this will enhance national security by onshoring UAS design and production," the company said in its official release. "In addition to government contract work, the company's drones may be used in various commercial applications, including package delivery, agriculture, photography, cinematography, infrastructure inspections, mapping and surveying."

Hush Aerospace is headquartered in Virginia Beach, Virginia, with an international office in the United Kingdom. https://www.djournal.com/news/business/unmanned-aerial-systems-company-hush-aerospace-adding-80-jobs-in-tupelo/article_b981ef44-0a00-11ee-bcd3-6ba2a2308bf1.html

Dufour Aerospace Unveils Aero2 Design and Specifications for Innovative Tilt-Wing Drone June 15, 2023 News

Today, Dufour Aerospace, the innovative Swiss eVTOL company, released the final design and design specifications for its Aero2 drone. The Aero2 is an uncrewed, aerial vehicle with a hybrid-electric propulsion system and an aerodynamically-efficient tilt-wing design. The Aero2 is the precursor to the Aero3, a larger tilt-wing aircraft which could support options for uncrewed or crewed operations.



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Simon Bendrey, Head of Design at Dufour Aerospace said: "Aero2 is an uncrewed aerial vehicle without equal. Aero2 is able to transport 40 kg (88 lbs) over a distance of 400 km (215 NM).

In May, the company announced it had been selected for a grant of CHF2.5M (\$2.8M) from Innosuisse, the innovation agency of the Swiss Confederation. In January, the company closed a Series B financing round led by Vista Global. In late 2022, Dufour announced the largest civilian drone purchase in U.S. history, made with Spright, the drone division of Air Methods. Spright will purchase 40 Aero2 with options for an additional 100 units. Flight testing of X2.3 is expected to start early in 2024. The start of series production of Aero2 is planned for 2025. https://uasweekly.com/2023/06/15/dufour-aerospace-unveils-final-aero2-design-and-specifications-for-innovative-tilt-wing-drone/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=dufour-aerospace-unveils-final-aero2-design-and-specifications-for-innovative-tilt-wing-drone&utm_term=2023-06-15

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DOES THIS AIRLINE HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BECOME AMERICA'S LARGEST DRONE AIRLINE? June 13, 2023 Sally French



A drone airline? Ameriflight has its sights set on becoming American's largest drone airline. And depending on how you define it — by some standards — it already is.

Ameriflight recently announced a big win stemming from its partnership with drone delivery company Matternet, in that it has received approval from the Federal Aviation Administration to operate the Matternet M2 drone for commercial drone deliveries.

If you've never heard of Ameriflight, that's because it's a cargo — not a passenger — airline. But in fact, Ameriflight is the nation's largest Part 135 Cargo airline, operating to destinations in 250 cities across 43 U.S. states plus Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, and South America. And now, it's taken a big step ahead in its ability to **deliver cargo via drones**.

With this step in the partnership, Ameriflight will soon operate the Matternet M2 drone for package delivery to Matternet's customers. The flights will occur nationwide, but will be managed from a central, regulatory-compliant Remote Operating Center located in the Dallas-Fort Worth area of Texas.



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While flights under the new system haven't occurred yet, a spokesperson said the two companies are working on developments over the summer to make those first flights happen. Already, though, Ameriflight is claiming itself to be **the first** fully operational, large-scale drone airline in the United States. <https://www.thedronegirl.com/2023/06/16/ameriflight-drone-airline/>