

Advanced Air Mobility

Volant receives additional funding

Chinese eVTOL OEM Volant Aerotech closed an additional financing round, bringing the total funding for the company at an estimated \$25 million. The company plans to use the funding to build and fly a full-scale prototype.

OUR TAKE

Chinese eVTOL companies development speed is staggering: the company went from founding to a full scale prototype in a little over two years. Western OEM should closely monitor the eVTOL development in China.

Evolito acquires aerospace battery company Electroflight

Evolito, the aerospace spinoff of axial-flux electric motor innovator and Mercedes Benz subsidiary YASA Motors, acquired aerospace battery solutions company Electroflight with the goal to offer fully-integrated electric powertrains.

OUR TAKE

The axial-flux motors introduced by YASA have quickly become the standard for high-performance hybrid cars, like the Ferrari SF90 Stradale. This is a technology to watch for its possible impact on AAM.

Vertical Aerospace partners with Molicel on batteries

Vertical Aerospace partnered with battery experts Molicel to supply lithium-ion battery cells for its eVTOL. The OEM expects to achieve 180-220 Wh/kg energy density at pack level and 0.9-1.1 kW/kg power density.

OUR TAKE

Vertical Aerospace has chosen to use current state-of-the-art battery technology, a risk-reduction program choice. This is in stark contrast to Lilium battery plans, with its pouch cell-level energy density of 330 Wh/kg.

Overair selects Toray for its composite material needs

Overair selected autoclave and out-of-autoclave curing prepreg carbon fiber from Toray Composite Materials for its Butterfly full-scale prototype. The company plans to start test flights in 2023.

OUR TAKE

Toray is emerging as the leading supplier for carbon fiber materials in the AAM industry, after being selected by Joby Aviation and Lilium. Competitors Solvay and Hexcel were respectively selected by Vertical Aerospace and Archer.

The Rest of Aerospace

Bristow Group's AAM program manager flies the AW609

The AAM program manager for the AW609 launch customer Bristow Group and former MV-22 Osprey military tiltrotor pilot recently flew the the Leonardo civil tiltrotor at the Philadelphia production line, where the first Bristow AW609 is being assembled.

OUR TAKE

With the new FAA power-lift eVTOL regulations, the experience gained by the Bristow Group with the AW609 will be a competitive differentiator from other AAM operators. The company has 250 orders from Electra, Eve Holding, Overair and Vertical Aerospace