

Advanced Air Mobility

Korea Aerospace Industries details UAM plans

Korea Aerospace Industries (KAI) is developing a 60-75% subscale hybrid-electric UAM eVTOL to test key technologies and vehicle performance. The prototype is expected to fly in 2024. The EIS date for the production eVTOL has not been announced.

OUR TAKE

After announcing their interest in the UAM market, KAI joins fellow Korean companies Hanwha and Supernal in launching a formal program. The company believes that its experience in helicopters and UAVs will be a competitive advantage.

Ehang gets access to additional capital

Ehang unveiled a comprehensive banking services partnership with one of the world's ten largest commercial banks, the Agricultural Bank of China (ABC). Part of this partnership is the availability of new credit facilities of RMB 1 billion (\$149 million).

OUR TAKE

Ehang plans to use the new credit facilities to support R&D, manufacturing, and operations. However we need to understand the color of money: this is a loan, not additional funding from a new investor.

Porsche might be entering the AAM industry

After being involved with the AAM industry through its consulting arm and Boeing, it seems Porsche is ready to formally enter the AAM market. It has quietly opened a new company, P3X Management, led by two of their AAM experts, with the goal to develop its own eVTOLs.

OUR TAKE

Porsche consulting arm has been involved in the AAM industry for years and the company is an automotive engineering expert. We think it is more probable that the new company will support AAM OEMs rather than compete with them.

Start-up H3X is working on a motor for 50- to 100-seat all-electric aircraft

H3X is developing the 2.8-MW HPDM-3000, an integrated modular motor designed to convert existing 50- to 100-seat aircraft to all-electric propulsion. Prototype units of the highly redundant motor should be available in 2024.

OUR TAKE

The start-up goal is very ambitious, especially considering the competition from companies like Rolls-Royce. In order to bring the product to market the company itself recognizes the need for partners and funding.

The Rest of Aerospace

Embraer partners with Toyota on manufacturing

Embraer is partnering with the Brazilian subsidiary of Toyota to learn and implement in its manufacturing facilities the Toyota Product System (TPS) lean principles and concepts.

OUR TAKE

TPS is an industry-best manufacturing process, combining lean methodology, continuous improvement and JIT inventory management. Embraer is taking a page from AAM OEMs, including its very own Eve, learning industrial efficiency from automotive OEMs.