

The AAM Rewind

Blade India, Jaunt Sign MoU to Launch India eVTOL Operations by 2027

Blade India and AIRO Group Holdings subsidiary, Jaunt Air Mobility, have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) that centers around the implementation of eVTOL operations in India by 2027. The two parties will establish air taxi services in the Indian subcontinent and build the supporting infrastructure, including recharging stations..

Our take:

India will be a large market for AAM. The partnership between Blade India and Jaunt will allow the OEM to better understand the characteristics of the Indian market, especially the infrastructure necessary in such high-density urban environments. The cooperation also comes with a non-firm order and options totaling 250 Jaunt Journey eVTOLs.



Honeywell CEO Sees Limited Air Taxi Demand, Predicts USD\$2 Billion in Sales

Mike Madsen, the President and CEO of Honeywell International's Aerospace division, said there will be limited demand for eVTOL air taxi services initially before it starts gaining traction. He also expects Honeywell's eVTOL sales to reach USD\$2 billion by 2030.

Our take:

Honeywell was one of the first Tier-1 suppliers to bet on AAM. Its investment in avionics and power systems have made it one of the industry suppliers of choice. The projected sales in 2030 would translate to thousands of products shipped to the OEMs. Honeywell forecasts for business aviation are the industry standard: will a yearly AAM forecast be in the making?

Vertaxi Completes Air Taxi Assembly

Chinese air taxi startup Vertaxi finished the final assembly of the first Matrix 1 electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft in Shanghai. This has laid a solid foundation for group testing and the first flight of the five-seat aircraft.

Our take:

Chinese AAM OEMs are advancing very fast in the development of a certificated product. Vertaxi joins five other Chinese startups in rolling out a full-scale demonstrator. Its progress is also seen in the latest AAM Reality Index that now counts two Chinese OEMs in its ranks, AutoFlight and new entrant Aerofugia, which recently received approval for its cert project by the CAAC.



Volocopter Opens Production Facilities in Germany

Volocopter announced the official opening of its production facilities in Bruchsal, Germany to boost air taxi production. The new location has a hangar that will house the company's final assembly line and an airfield where development flight tests and quality checks will be conducted.

Our take:

Volocopter joins Joby Aviation as the only western OEMs with an open LRIP production line that is ready for production of conforming aircraft. Volocopter expects to roll out its first conforming aircraft in July. The facility will be the final assembly for all the aircraft that the OEM will produce to support its initial operations in Paris during the 2024 Olympics.

EvFly Signs Letter of Intent with Flight Simulation Company for Pilot Training

EvFly has signed a letter of intent with German flight simulation developer F.A.S.T.-Group centered around pilot training. Under the agreement, the Singapore-based air fleet management and operation company will utilize F.A.S.T.-Group's all-new Mixed-Reality technology to provide its pilots with a realistic eVTOL flight experience.

Our take:

Pilot training is one of the critical items needed for the entry into service of any AAM vehicle. It takes on average around 36 months to establish a comprehensive training curriculum for an AAM manufacturer or a new AAM operator. To train the AAM pilots in a cost effective and timely way, the training providers are introducing mixed-reality technology, replacing, and augmenting the classic simulators.

