

The AAM Rewind

Beta Technologies target certification for new electric aircraft

Beta Technologies unveiled plans to develop and certificate its new electric fixed-wing aircraft - the CX300 - within the next two years. The announcement comes after Air New Zealand, Bristow Group, and United Therapeutics Corporation all placed orders for the eVTOL aircraft.

SMG's take

We see Beta's updated strategy as a competitive advantage as it will allow the company to de-risk their eVTOL certification, because of the commonality with the fixed-wing CX300 and the additional time to define the FAA Power Lift regulations, as well as give them a revenue stream and customer experience/feedback with electrification ahead of the Alia-250 EIS.



SITA partners with Volocopter to create Vertiports IT System

SITA has joined forces with Volocopter to develop IT systems for vertiports, which are facilities eVTOLs use to take off and land. Under the agreement, the air transport technology company will invest in Volocopter's Series E funding for their electric air taxis.

SMG's take

When we attended the demo in Pontoise last year, we identified the seamless biometric security as a competitive differentiator and a way to make the customer journey speed through the vertiport comparable to a train station. The partnership will allow more comprehensive and integrated testing of a complex system that cannot have any downtime.

Vertical Aerospace opens battery development facility

Vertical Aerospace has opened its very own battery development facility in Bristol, which will be utilized to help power its eVTOL aircraft, known as the VX4. The Vertical Energy Centre (VEC) will also be used to design, test, manufacture, and commercialize the batteries for the VX4.

SMG's take

Any OEM that decides to manufacture their battery packs in house needs a certified/certifiable battery production line up and running much earlier than the final assembly line for the entire eVTOL. While this is an important first production milestone for Vertical, it trails by around two years similar milestones at some of its competitors.



VPorts to build vertiport in the UAE

VPorts will build a vertiport for eVTOL aircraft at Ras Al-Khaimah (RAK) Airport in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The announcement comes after the Quebec-based AAM infrastructure company signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the airport to help make the UAE a "world-class global AAM hub".

SMG's take

UAE is positioning itself as an early adopter of advanced air mobility, following the unveiling of a network study of vertiports for Dubai and the agreement with VPorts to create an Advanced Air Mobility Integrator Centre in the same city. Now, another emirate, Ras Al-Khaimah, joins the AAM country market with another VPorts project.

EvFly places order for 205 eVTOLs from AutoFlight

EvFly, the Singapore-based air fleet management and operation company, has ordered 205 Prosperity I and Prosperity Cargo electric vertical-takeoff-and-landing (eVTOL) aircraft from AutoFlight. Specializing in autonomous and electric aircraft for passengers and cargo, AutoFlight expects the order to be fulfilled in 2025.

SMG's take

AutoFlight is one of the few OEMs in AAM to have accumulated thousands of hours of flights covering the entire envelope. Yet, it had not announced any customer commitments yet. The announcement with EvFly puts them on the map and it also unveils a previously unannounced Prosperity Cargo version, that could be first to market.

