

Advanced Air Mobility

Horizon Aircraft introduces prototype of the Cavorite X5 eVTOL

Horizon Aircraft presented a half-scale prototype of its hybrid-electric 280 mph 5-seater eVTOL, the Cavorite X5. The prototype will perform flight envelope testing, with hover tests expected in August. EIS is scheduled for 2025, following FAA certification.

OUR TAKE

Considering Horizon has not yet completed its Series A funding round, the capital needs for certification and the complexity of the design, we think their proposed EIS date is highly optimistic.

Volkswagen introduces their eVTOL developed in China

Volkswagen has entered the AAM market by unveiling their V.MO eVTOL prototype in Beijing, China. It is a full electric, autonomous, Lift + Cruise vehicle built for China from China. It will be marketed to HNW individuals as a shuttle service. First flight is expected later this year.

OUR TAKE

The fact that Volkswagen, the world's second largest car manufacturer, decided to develop its eVTOL entrant in China tells us how advanced are the country's AAM capabilities and supply chain as well as how interesting is the market potential size.

VerderGo Aero Announces \$12M Series A Funding Round

VerderGo Aero, one of the leading startups developing hybrid-electric powertrains, closed its Series A, raising \$12 million. The lead investor was the venture arm of Raytheon Technologies, parent of engine manufacturer Pratt & Whitney (P&W).

OUR TAKE

What caught our attention is the announced cooperation with P&W to develop propulsion systems for AAM applications, as well as the possibility to expand in the future to other market segments served by P&W.

AirAsia and Skyports partner on vertiports in Malaysia

AirAsia, one of Asia's largest LCCs, signed an LOI with Skyports to develop eVTOL infrastructure and scout potential vertiport sites. The one-year pact will initially focus on Malaysia's capital, Kuala Lumpur.

OUR TAKE

AirAsia expertise in low cost air travel, coupled with the order for Vertical Aerospace VX4s and Skyports vertiport infrastructure knowledge, could become a competitive differentiator in the Asian eVTOL market.

The Rest of Aerospace

US DIU publishes solicitation for an advanced aircraft configuration

The US DOD Defense Innovation Unit (DIU) published a solicitation for digital concepts of design (CoD) of an advanced aircraft configuration that provides at least 30% more aerodynamic efficiency than the B767 and A330 aircraft. This RFI could pave the way for a full-scale demonstrator aircraft by 2026.

OUR TAKE

The DOD, which consumes 77% of the federal government fuel, wants to reduce fuel consumption where possible and an advanced configuration, like a Blended Wing Body (BWB), could be the answer for transport and tanker fleets, as well as an interesting dual use commercial technology.