

WEEKLY REWIND

OUR TAKE ON THE NEWS THAT CAUGHT OUR ATTENTION
IN ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY & THE REST OF AEROSPACE

ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY

- Ehang commenced operations at its Yunfu plant, a site capable of initially producing up to 600 EH216 with room for expansion, that includes a research and training center - **Ehang's plant is the largest AAM plant to date and it shows their commitment to the market in preparation for their future CAAC certification**
- Joby flew the longest eVTOL flight to date, covering a distance of 154.6 miles on a single charge - **While this is the first flight of this duration in AAM to include a vertical takeoff and landing, the flight was unmanned and it was flown in a circuit in very controlled conditions**
- Joby has started the process of obtaining their Part 135 AOC from the FAA, the first step towards establishing their own aerial ridesharing service - **The company will start by operating conventional aircraft, followed by its eVTOL, as soon as they are certified, and they will need to raise additional funding to scale the service**
- Lilium partnered with the lithium-ion battery developer Customcells to manufacture their batteries - **With the first prototype cells expected to roll out this year, Lilium still has a very steep road ahead due to its claimed battery energy density of >330Wh/Kg**
- Volocopter showcased its eVTOL at the EAA in Oshkosh, flying its first public crewed test flight in the US - **This demonstration is a part of the company plans to increase public acceptance of this new type of aircraft**
- The team of Electra and USC won a contract with NASA to mature aerodynamic blown lift technologies for AAM eSTOL aircraft - **Electra is cooperating with NASA to validate their CFD models against the full-scale vehicle for these unique configuration**
- Archer and Atlas Crest Investment Corp., its SPAC partner, have agreed to a lower pro forma enterprise value of \$1.7 billion, down 38% from the previous one - **While the companies have called the operation a "strategic reset" meant to provide more value to shareholders, this is clearly a sign of times, due to the waning interest in SPACs from the highs of the beginning of 2021**

THE REST OF AEROSPACE

- General Atomics revealed the first artist's impression of an air-to-air combat unmanned aircraft launched from a manned aircraft, engaging aerial threats using its own missiles in more hostile airspace, being developed under the DARPA LongShot program - **The project is meant to give the warfighter new options to enhance the air combat capabilities of manned and unmanned aircraft, potentially with a lower price tag**
- Airbus, not known for producing successful freighters, has stepped up the competition with Boeing with plans for an A350 freighter - **With international travel in the doldrums of COVID and wide body market at an all time low, Airbus sees the development of an A350-based cargo aircraft as a winning strategy**
- Business jet operations are back in full swing, with large-cabin aircraft activity topping 2019 levels in both the US and Europe - **While airlines continue to hurt, business aviation has regained its footing, even if Delta variant restrictions might hamper the trend**

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"The freighter market is underserved by Airbus today"
Christian Scherer, CCO, Airbus
