

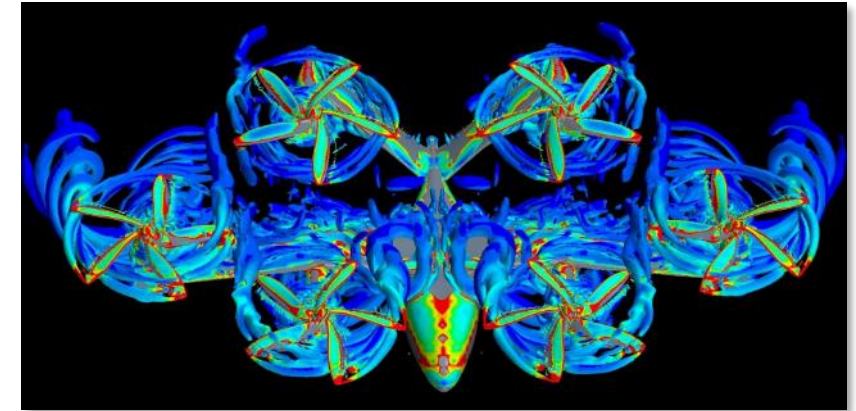
# The Electric VTOL Revolution



**Mike Hirschberg, Executive Director**  
**AHS International — *The Vertical Flight Society***  
**[www.vtol.org](http://www.vtol.org) & [www.evtol.news](http://www.evtol.news) | [director@vtol.org](mailto:director@vtol.org)**

# What is The Vertical Flight Society?

- The international **professional society** for those **working to advance vertical flight**
  - Founded in 1943 as the **American Helicopter Society**
  - Everything from VTOL **MAVs/UAS** to **helicopters** and **eVTOL** to **STOVL** (everything vertical except rockets)
- **Expands knowledge** about vertical flight technology and promotes its application around the world
- Advances **safety and acceptability**
- Advocates for vertical flight **R&D funding**
- Helps **educate and support** today's and tomorrow's vertical flight engineers and leaders



CFD of Joby S4, Aug 2015



VFF Scholarship Winners at Forum 71, May 2015



# VFS Technical Committees

[www.vtol.org/tech-committees](http://www.vtol.org/tech-committees)

- Acoustics
  - Advanced Vertical Flight
  - Aerodynamics
  - Aircraft Design
  - Avionics & Systems
  - Crash Safety
  - Crew Stations & Human Factors
  - Dynamics
  - Handling Qualities
  - Health & Usage Monitoring Systems (HUMS)
  - History
  - Manufacturing Technology
  - Modeling & Simulation
  - Operations
  - Product Systems Technology
  - Propulsion
  - Safety
  - Structures & Materials
  - System Engineering Tools & Processes
  - Test & Evaluation
  - Unmanned VTOL Aircraft
- Plus:** Integrating Technical Teams for *Electric VTOL*, Wind Energy, etc.

**Technical Experts Working to Help Shape the Future**

# VFS Technical Conferences

[www.vtol.org/events](http://www.vtol.org/events)

## 2018

Jan 16-19	Aeromechanics Design of Electric VTOL	San Francisco, Calif., USA
Feb 21-22	Airworthiness and HUMS	Huntsville, Alabama, USA
<b>May 14-17</b>	<b>Forum 74</b>	<b>Phoenix, Arizona, USA</b>
Sep 4-6	3rd Australia Indo-Pacific Army Aviation*	Adelaide, Australia
Sep 18-21	European Rotorcraft Forum (ERF)*	Delft, The Netherlands
Oct 24-25	Helicopter Military Ops Tech (HELMOT)	Hampton, Virginia, USA
Oct 30-Nov 1	7th Asian-Australian Rotorcraft Forum*	Jeju Island, South Korea
<b>Nov 13-15</b>	<b>Intl Powered Lift Conference (IPLC)*</b>	<b>Bristol, UK</b>

## 2019

<b>Jan 29-31</b>	<b>Autonomous VTOL &amp; Electric VTOL</b>	<b>Mesa, Arizona, USA</b>
Feb 20-21	Development of Complex Systems (FVL)	Huntsville, Alabama, USA
Feb 27-28	10th Australian Pacific Vertiflite Conference	Melbourne, Australia
<b>May 13-17</b>	<b>Forum 75</b>	<b>Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA</b>

\* co-sponsored event

# 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum

[www.vtol.org/forum](http://www.vtol.org/forum)

- Annual Forum attracts 1,200+ engineers, scientists and leaders from industry, academia and governments
- VTOL aircraft CEOs/VPs/engineers, military leaders, researchers, etc
- ~250 technical papers
- ~50 panelists
- ~65 exhibitors
- Grand Awards Banquet
- eVTOL short course & industry tours



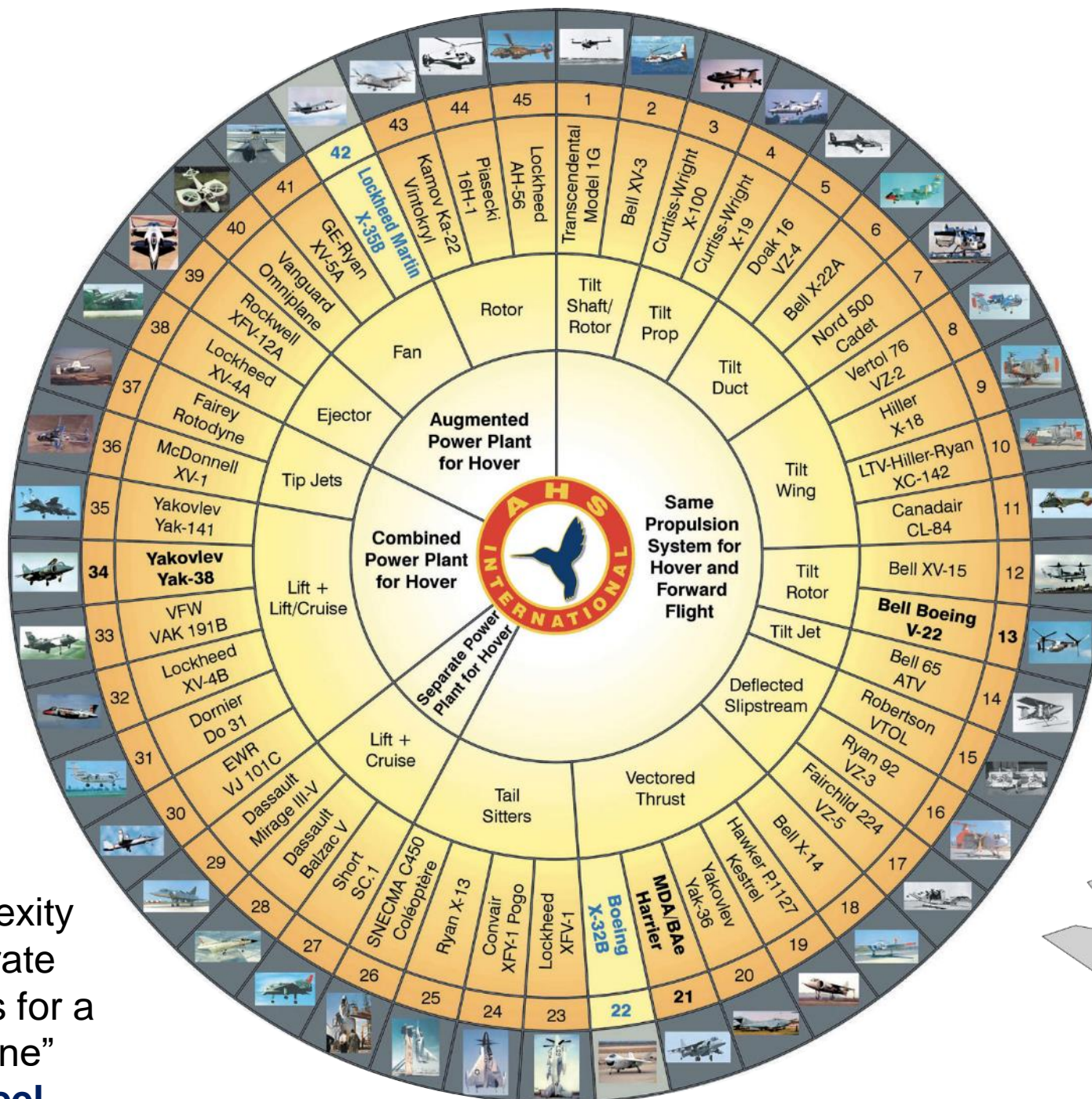
CEO Panel at Annual Forum, May 2018



Jay Carter at CarterCopter Exhibit Forum 74, May 2018

**Forum 75 is May 13-16, 2019 @ Philadelphia**

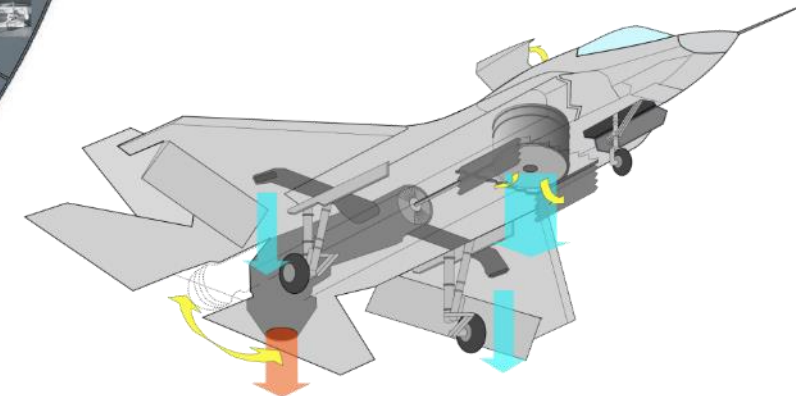




# Time to Reinvent the Wheel!

The 20<sup>th</sup> Century proved that vertical flight was possible with combustion engines and drive systems

ASTOVL/JAST/JSF proved that the engine location could be decoupled from the center of gravity



Mechanical complexity led to high failure rate and fatal accidents for a “Wheel of Misfortune”  
[www.vtol.org/wheel](http://www.vtol.org/wheel)





# The Electric VTOL Wheel of Fortune

Shown here are representative aircraft designs in major categorization of electric propulsion VTOL aircraft.

# Electric VTOL Categories

(120+ aircraft a/o Sep 2018 on [www.eVTOL.news](http://www.eVTOL.news))

## Vectored Thrust

*An eVTOL aircraft that uses any of its thrusters for lift and cruise:*

- [A<sup>3</sup> Vahana](#)
- [aeroG Aviation aG-4](#)
- [AgustaWestland Project Zero](#)
- [AirisOne](#)
- [AirspaceX MOBi](#)
- [Aston Martin Volante](#)
- [Aurora Flight Sciences LightningStrike](#) (defunct)
- [Autonomous Flight Y6S](#)
- [Bartini Flying Car](#)
- [Bell Air Taxi](#)
- [Carter Aviation Air Taxi](#)
- [DeLorean Aerospace DR-7](#)
- [Digi Robotics DroFire](#)
- [Digi Robotics Droxi](#)
- [Dufour aEro2](#)
- [EVA X01](#)
- [HopFlyt Venturi](#)
- [JAXA Hornisse 2B](#)
- [Jetoptera J2000](#)
- [Joby Aviation Lotus](#) (defunct)
- [Joby Aviation S2](#) (defunct)
- [Joby Aviation S4](#)
- [Karem Butterfly](#)
- [KARI PAV](#)
- [Lilium Jet](#)
- [Moller Skycar M200](#)
- [Moller Skycar M400](#)
- [Neoptera eOpter](#)
- [Opener BlackFly](#)
- [Piasecki eVTOL](#)
- [Pipistrel](#) (unnamed)
- [PteroDynamics Transwing](#)
- [Rolls-Royce EVTOL](#)
- [Sabrewing Draco-2](#)

## [Sikorsky VERT](#)

## [SKYLYS Aircraft AO](#)

- [Starling Jet](#)
- [Supervolant Pegasus](#)
- [Terrafugia TF-2 Tiltrotor](#)
- [Terrafugia TF-X](#)
- [Transcend Air Vy 400](#)
- [VerdeGo Aero PAT200](#)
- [Vertiia](#)
- [Vickers WAVE eVTOL](#)
- [Vimana AAV](#)
- [Vision VTOL](#)
- [VTOL Aviation Abhiyaan](#)
- [XTI Aircraft Trifan 600](#)
- [Zenith Altitude EOPA](#)

## Lift + Cruise

*Completely independent thrusters used for cruise as for lift:*

- [AeroMobil 5.0](#)
- [Aergility ATLIS](#)
- [Aurora Flight Sciences eVTOL](#)
- [AutoFlightX BAT600](#)
- [EAC Whisper](#)
- [Embraer DreamMaker](#)
- [Flexcraft](#)
- [Hi-Lite Lynx-us](#)
- [HoverSurf Formula](#)
- [Kitty Hawk Cora](#)
- [Napoleon Aero VTOL](#)
- [Pipistrel](#) (unnamed)
- [Ray Research VTOL Aircraft](#)
- [Terrafugia TF-2 Lift + Push](#)
- [Urban Aeronautics CityHawk](#)
- [Zee Aero Z-P2](#)



# Electric VTOL Categories

(120+ aircraft a/o Sep 2018 on [www.eVTOL.news](http://www.eVTOL.news))

## Wingless (Multicopter)

*No thruster for cruise – only for lift.*

- [Airbus Helicopters CityAirbus](#)
- [Alauda Airspeeder](#)
- [Astro AA360 \(“Passenger Drone”\)](#)
- [Avianovations Heparid](#)
- [Axix SkyRider SuvA](#)
- [Boeing Cargo Aerial Vehicle](#)
- [Cartivator SkyDrive](#)
- [chAIR Multicopter](#)
- [Davinci ZeroG](#)
- [Dekatone \(unnamed\)](#)
- [EHang 184](#)
- [EHang 216](#)
- [Jetpack Aviation \(unnamed\)](#)
- [Kármán XK-1](#)
- [Kenyan Passenger Drone](#)
- [Kitty Hawk Flyer](#)
- [ManDrone](#)
- [NUS Snowstorm](#)
- [PAV-UL Ultralight](#)
- [PAV-X](#)
- [Pop.Up Next](#)
- [Skypod Aerospace Skypod](#)
- [Sky-Hopper](#)
- [Swarm Multicopter](#)
- [Volocopter 2X](#)
- [Volocopter VC1/VC2 \(defunct prototypes\)](#)
- [Volocopter VC200](#)
- [VRCO NeoXCraft](#)
- [Workhorse SureFly](#)

## Hover Bikes/ Personal Flying Devices

- [Aeroxo ERA Aviabike\\*](#)
- [Assen A1](#)
- [Bay Zoltán Flike](#)
- [Electric Jet EJ-1](#)
- [Flyt Aerospace FlytCycle](#)
- [Georgia TechHummingBuzz\\*](#)
- [Gravity X](#)
- [Hero Flyer](#)
- [HoverSurf Drone Taxi R-1](#)
- [HoverSurf Scorpion](#)
- [Kalashnikov \(unnamed\)](#)
- [Kitty Hawk Flyer \(defunct prototype\)](#)
- [Leap Vantage\\*](#)
- [Malloy Aeronautics Hoverbike](#)
- [NASA Puffin](#)
- [Neva Aerospace AirQuadOne](#)

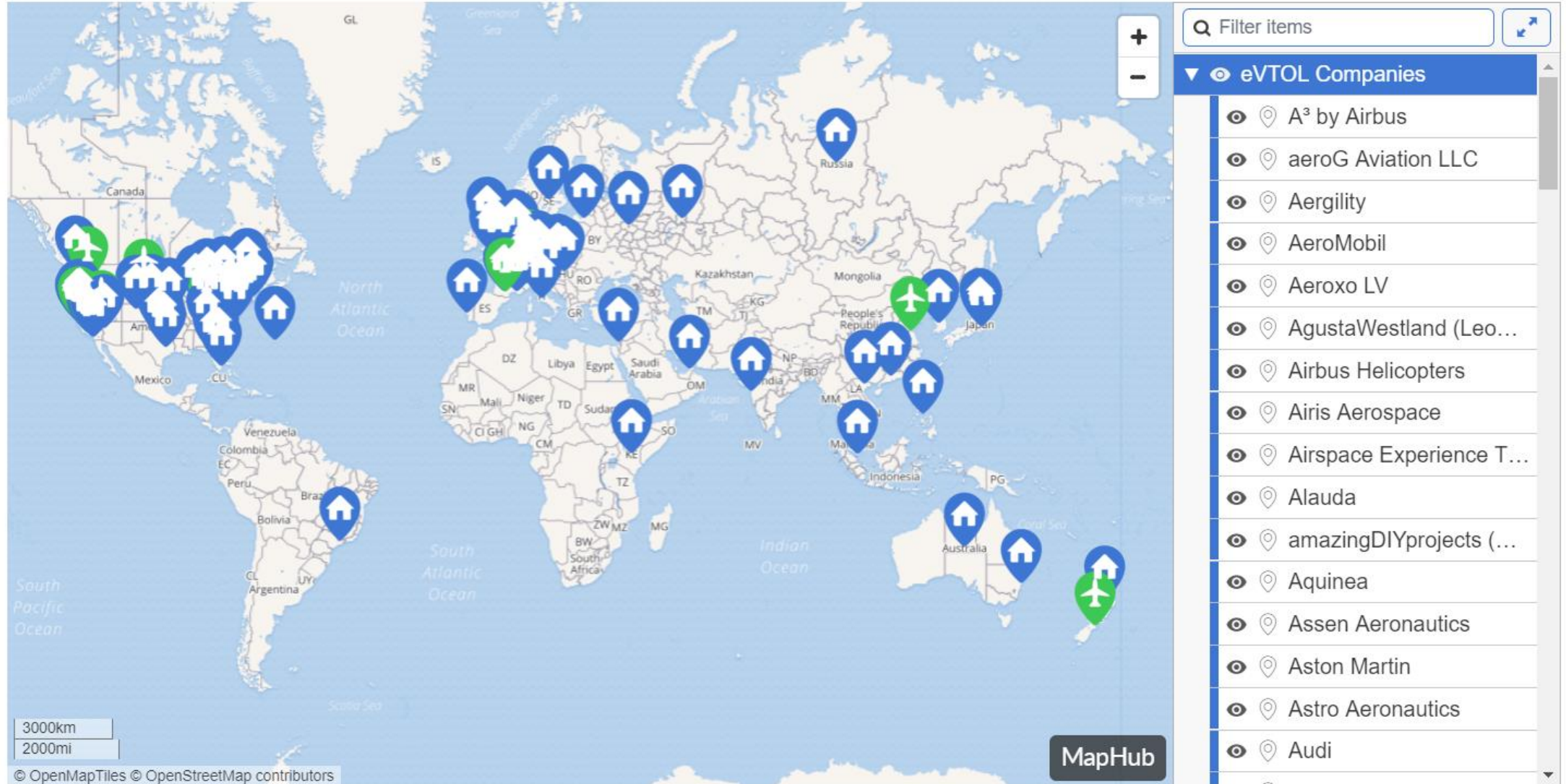
- [Penn State University Blue Sparrow\\*](#)
- [Ray Research Dart Flyer](#)
- [Scoop Pegasus 1\\*](#)
- [Silverwing S1\\*](#)
- [teTra 3\\*](#)
- [Telaria](#)
- [Texas A&M University Harmony\\*](#)
- [Trek Aerospace FlyKart 2\\*](#)
- [University of Kansas Mamba\\*](#)

## Electric Helicopters

*An eVTOL aircraft that utilizes a helicopter frame*

- [Sikorsky Firefly](#)
- [Solution F](#)
- [Tier One Modified Robinson R44](#)
- [Volta](#)

# Where in the World?





# 120 Electric VTOL Designs!?

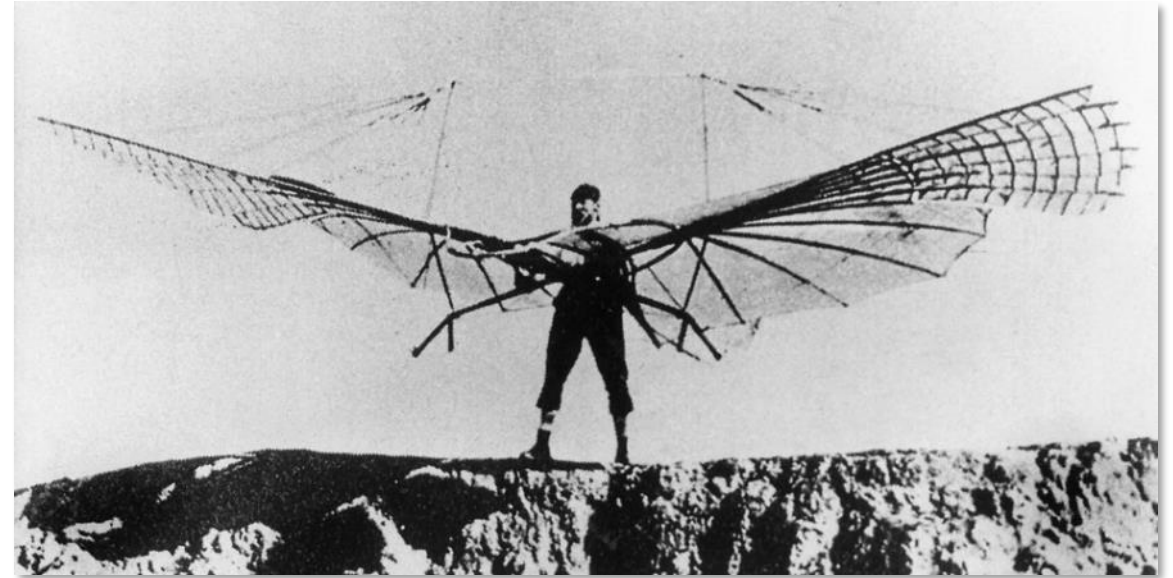
“To invent an airplane is nothing. To build one is something. To fly is *everything*.”

**Otto Lilienthal**



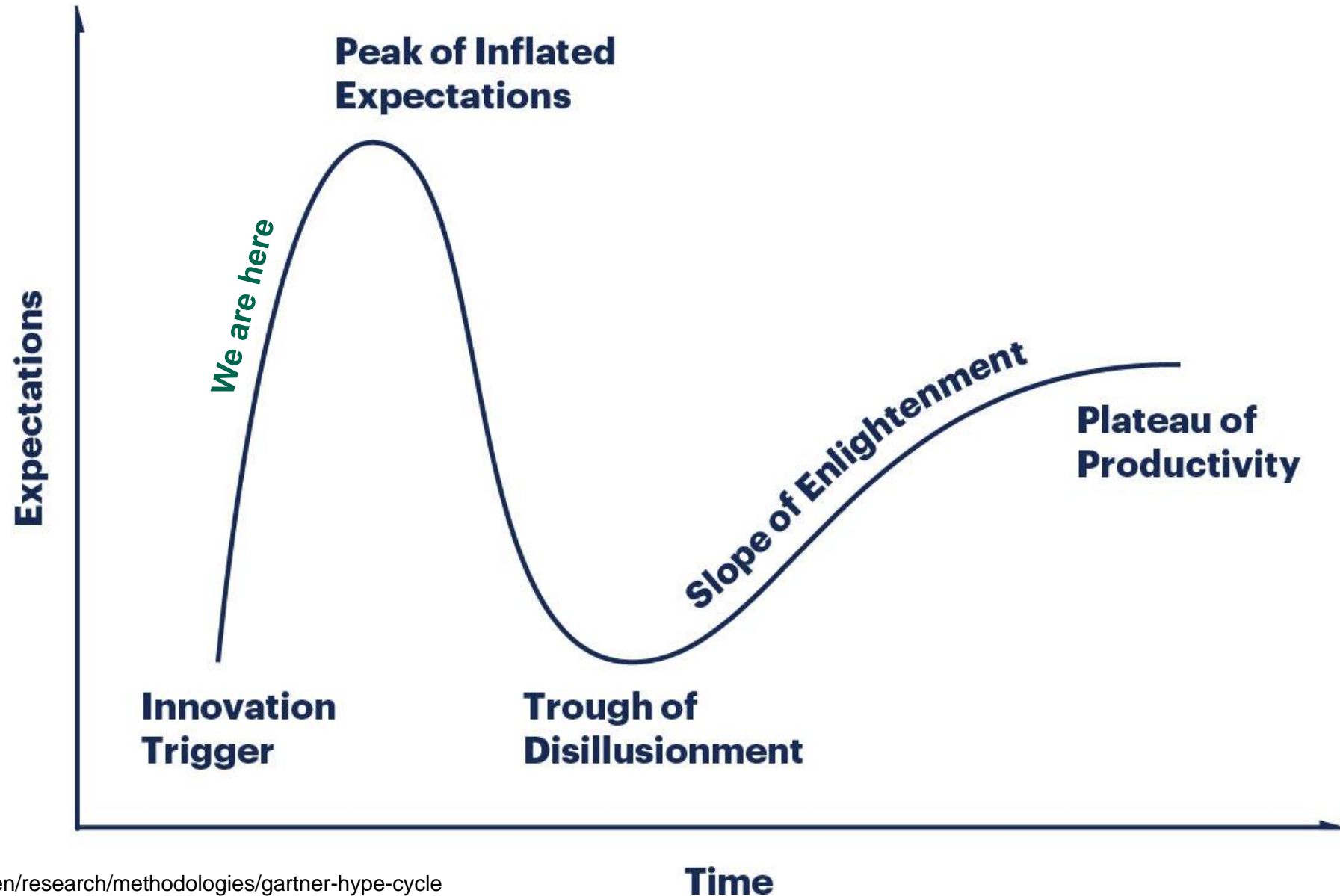
“If you want to end up with a *small fortune* in aerospace, you need to start out with a *large one*!”

**Anonymous**



*Is the Electric VTOL  
revolution going to  
revolutionize society ...  
or will it flame out as have  
so many ideas before it?*

# “The Hype Cycle”





# Why Now?

- Advancements in electric motors
- + Advancements in batteries
- + Advancements in computer modeling and simulation
- + Advancements in composites
- + Low cost manufacturing
- + Movement to performance regs
- + Tech innovations
- + Tech investments >> \$1B
- = **Enabling new configurations and new innovations**



# Electric Helicopters?



- Not this!
- Cars were not buggies with mechanical horses

- Eliminate complex rotors!
  - Cyclic, collective, swashplate
  - Transmissions, gearboxes, shafting, hydraulics, etc.
- Distributed Electric Propulsion
  - Replace single complex system with multiple simple thrusters
- Get on a wing for efficiency
  - Higher speed, longer range
- Environment
  - Noise, noise, noise!
  - “Tailpipe” emissions



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# Pre-Historic eVTOL

**NASA Puffin**  
**Single-Seat Electric VTOL**  
**Study**  
**(2010)**

**AgustaWestland Project Zero**  
**Unmanned**  
**(July 2011)**



**Solution F**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Electric VTOL flight**  
**By Pascal Chretien**  
**(Aug. 4, 2011)**

**e-volo**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Electric VTOL Multicopter**  
**Volocopter VC1**  
**(Oct. 21, 2011)**

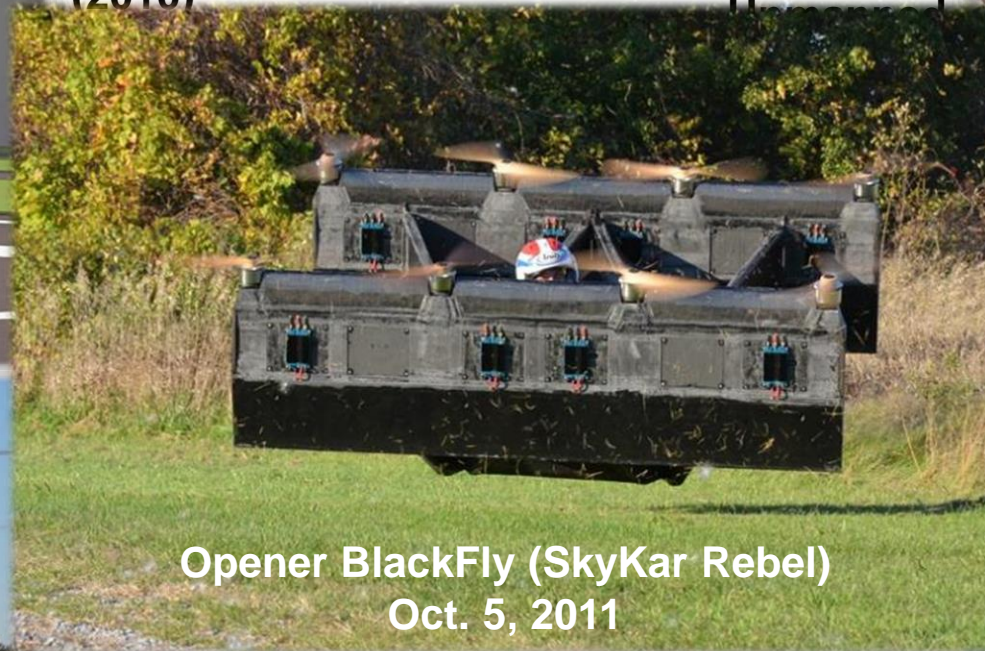




# Pre-Historic eVTOL

**NASA Puffin  
Single-Seat Electric VTOL  
Study  
(2010)**

**AgustaWestland Project Zero**



**Opener BlackFly (SkyKar Rebel)  
Oct. 5, 2011**

**1<sup>st</sup> Electric VTOL flight  
By Pascal Chretien  
(Aug. 4, 2011)**

**e-volo  
1<sup>st</sup> Electric VTOL Multicopter  
Volocopter VC1  
(Oct. 21, 2011)**





# Opener BlackFly

- SkyKar Rebel 1st fixed-wing eVTOL, followed by BlackFly V1, V2, V3
- V3 characteristics (predicted)
  - GTOW: 563 lb / 255 kg
  - Thrust: 900+ lb / 400+ kg
  - Max speed: 80+ mph / 130 kph
  - Max ROC: 1000 fpm (5 m/s)
  - Range: 40+ miles (65 km)



# Kitty Hawk Cora





# Kitty Hawk Flyer

Prototype



Production



Electric Ultralight (Part 103 <254 lb)

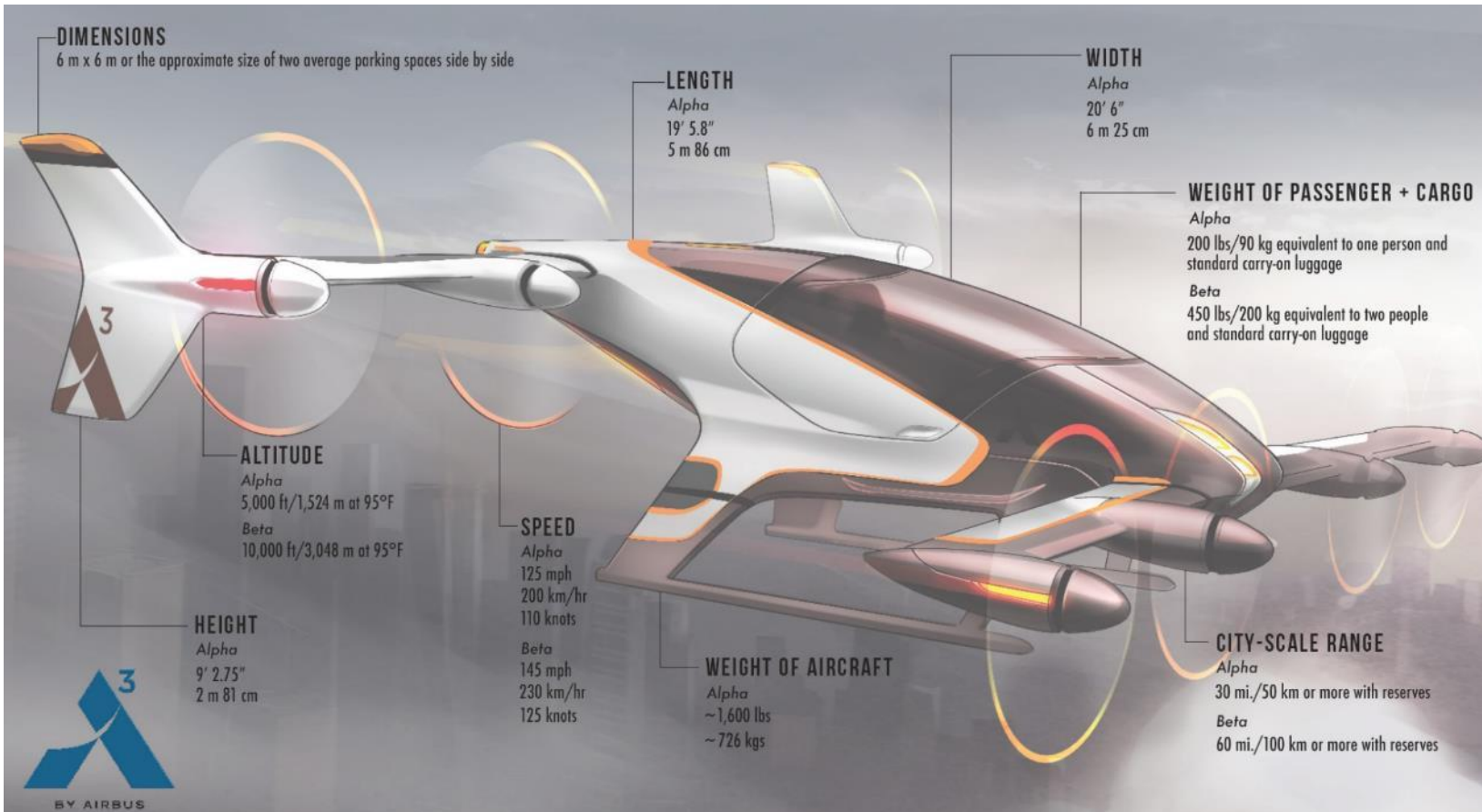
# e-volo 2x Multicopter Now in pre-production



Photos courtesy of Volocopter GmbH



# A<sup>3</sup> By Airbus Vahana



Autonomous tandem electric tiltwing



## Air-Taxi Startup Has a Working Prototype and a Fresh \$100 Million

● Joby Aviation hides its craft at a secretive private airfield.

By Ashlee Vance and Brad Stone

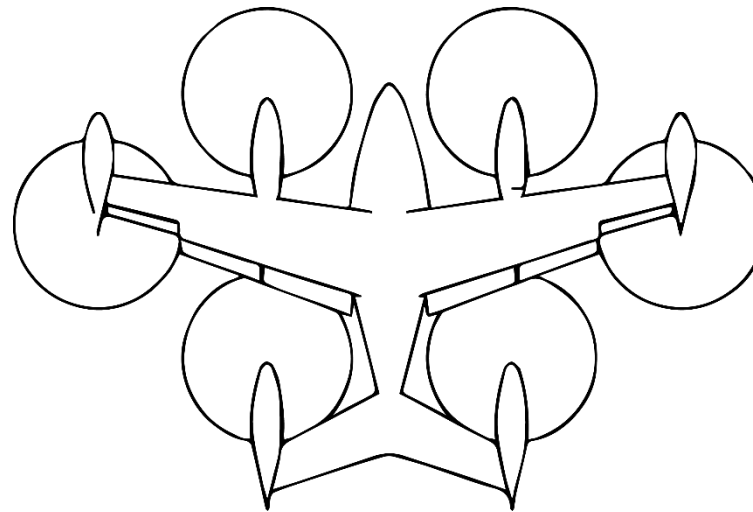
Hyperdrive



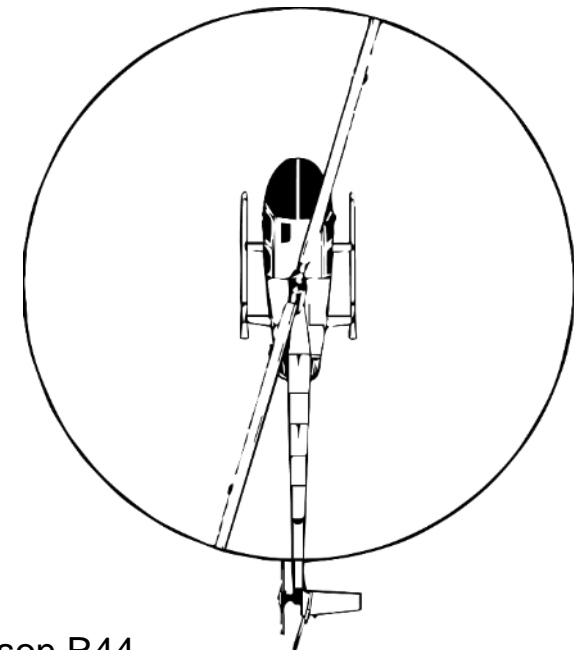
ILLUSTRATION: INKEE WANG FOR BLOOMBERG BUSINESSWEEK

# Joby Avation S4

“The pilot managed a vertical takeoff, 15 minutes of flight in a 15-mile loop, and a safe landing. Powered by electric motors and sophisticated control software, the taxi performs like a cross between a drone and a small plane, able to zip straight up on takeoff and then **fly at twice the speed of a helicopter while making about as much noise as a swarm of superbees.**”

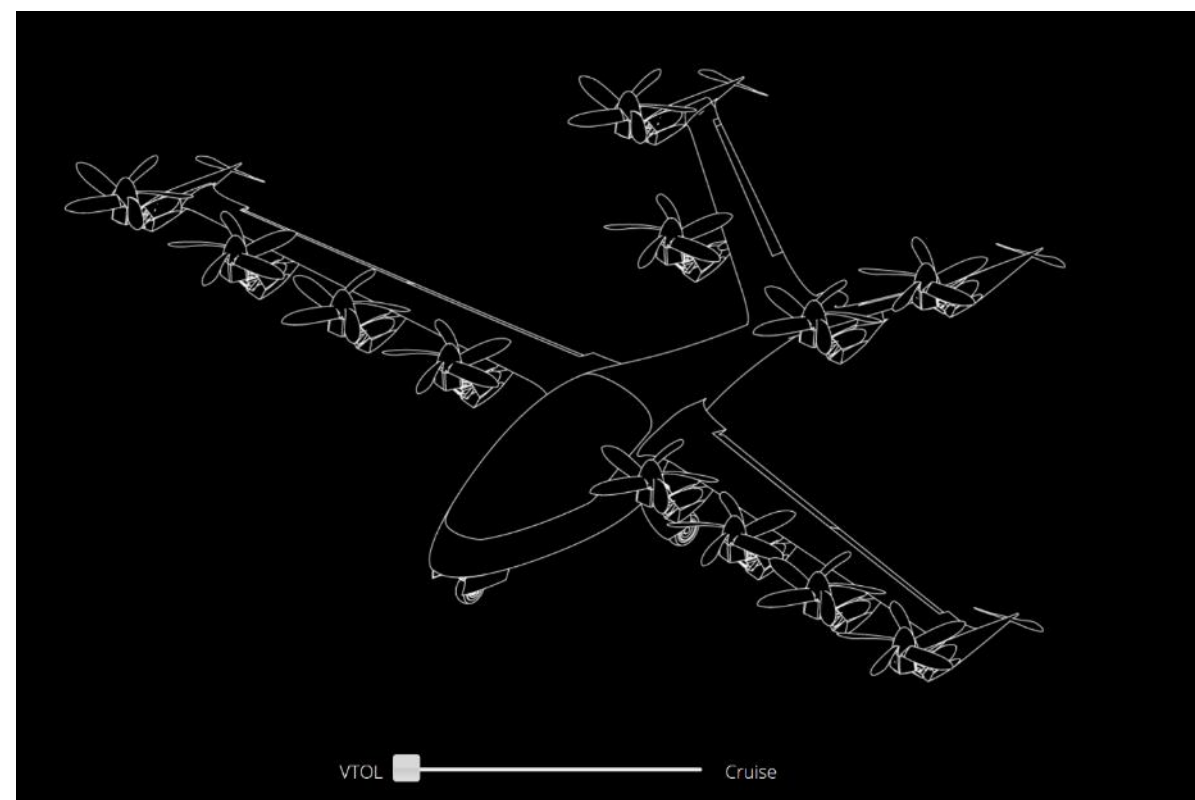


Joby S4  
4-Seat all-electric  
6-propeller tiltrotor  
Ultra-quiet  
200 mph

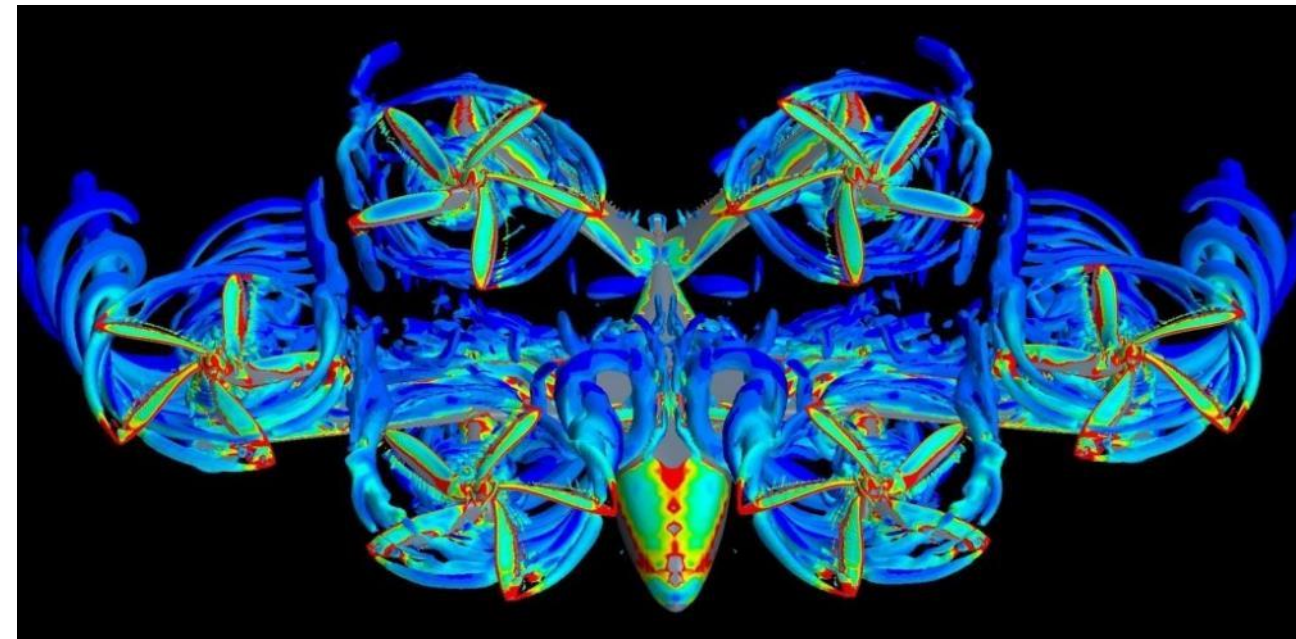


Robinson R44  
4-Seat piston  
Single-main rotor  
135 mph

# Joby Aviation



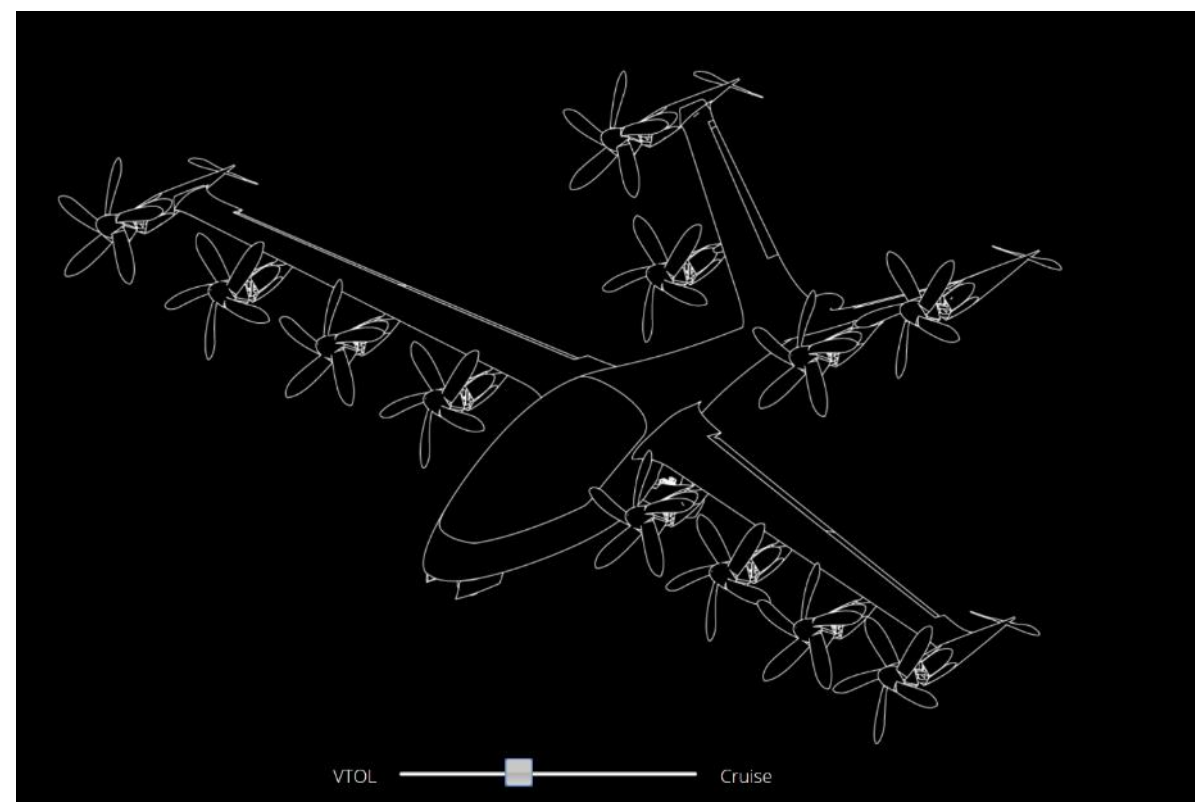
Original 2-seat Joby S2  
12 lift/cruise propellers + 4 cruise propellers  
All electric



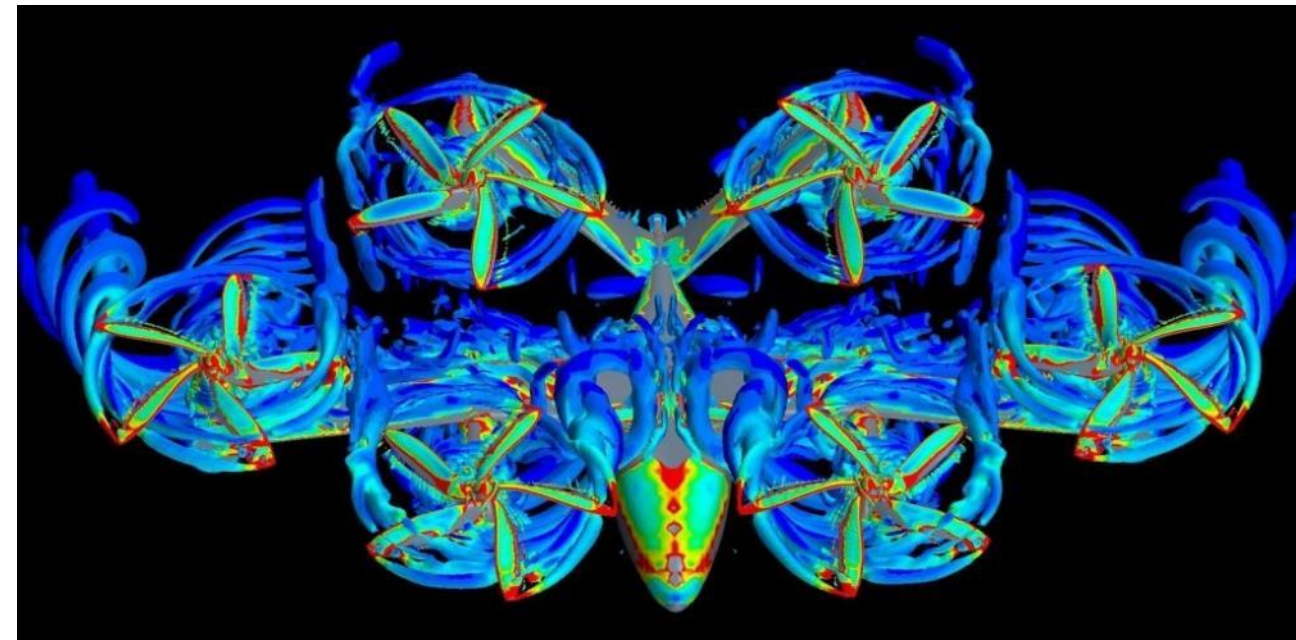
Current 4-seat Joby S4  
6 lift/cruise propellers  
All electric

Graphics courtesy of Joby Aviation  
Santa Cruz, California, USA

# Joby Aviation



Original 2-seat Joby S2  
12 lift/cruise propellers + 4 cruise propellers  
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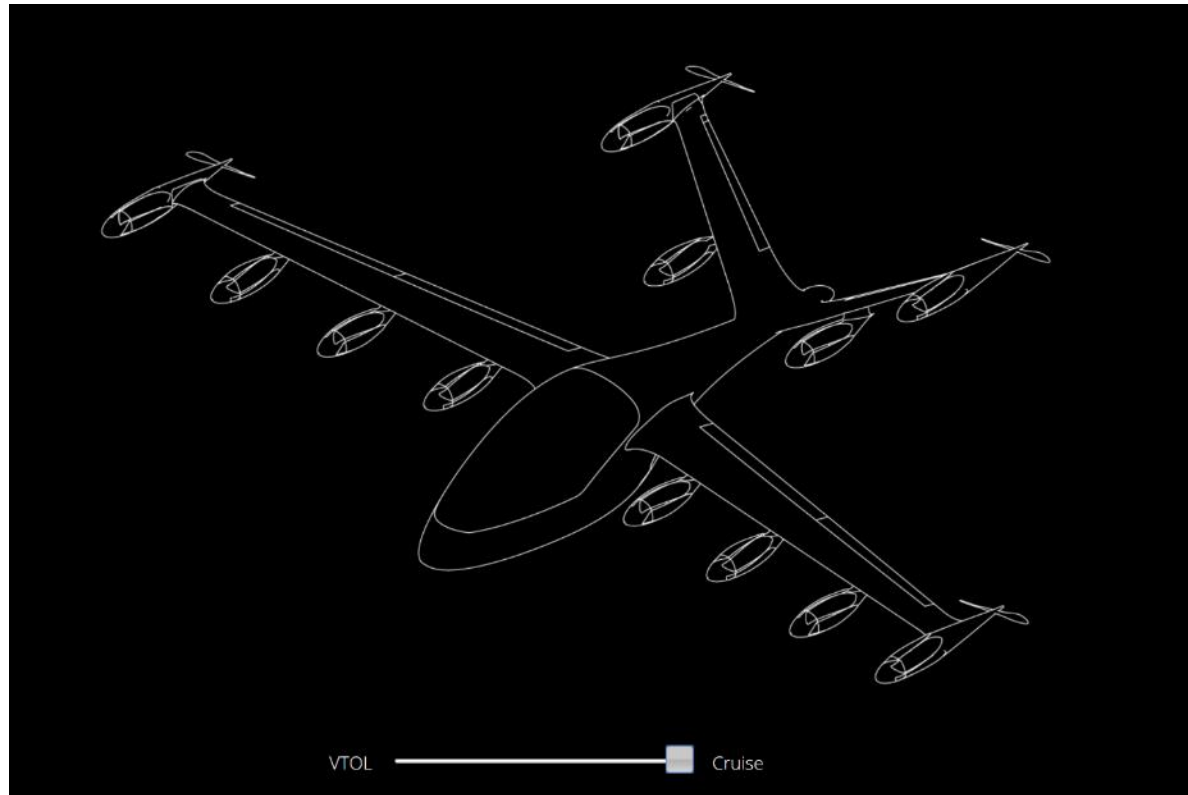


Current 4-seat Joby S4  
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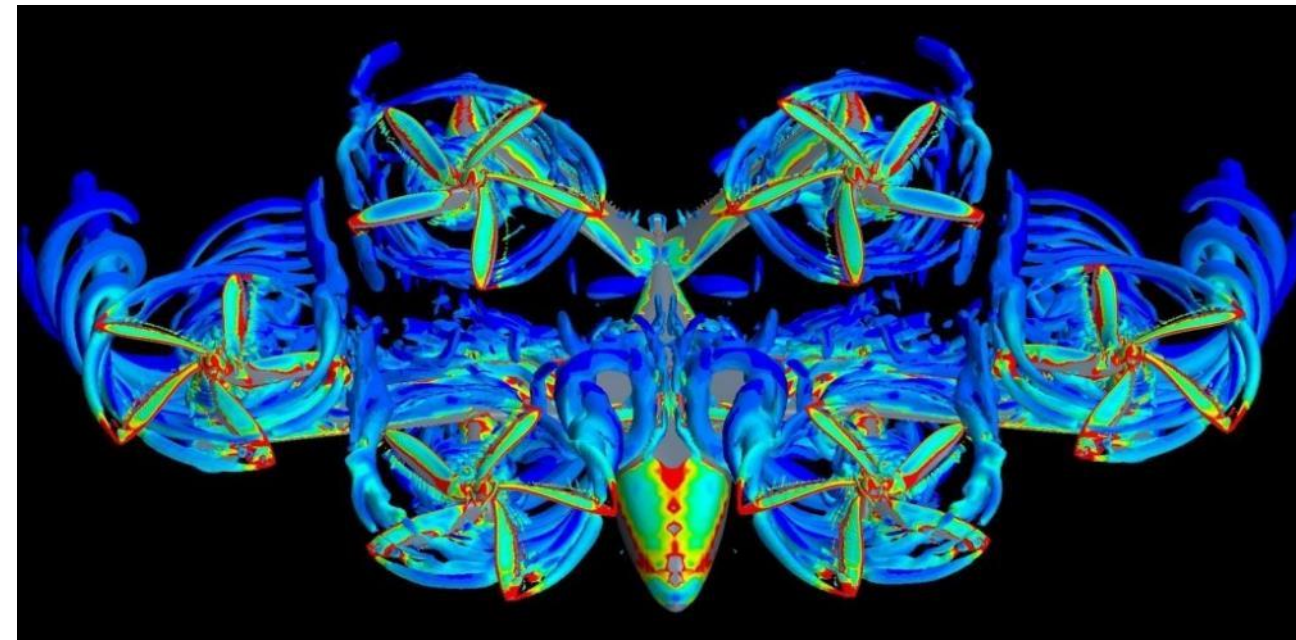
Graphics courtesy of Joby Aviation  
Santa Cruz, California, USA



# Joby Aviation



Original 2-seat Joby S2  
12 lift/cruise propellers + 4 cruise propellers  
All electric



Current 4-seat Joby S4  
6 lift/cruise propellers  
All electric

Graphics courtesy of Joby Aviation  
Santa Cruz, California, USA

# Lilium Jet

2-seat "Eagle" LiliumJet prototype  
640 kg, all electric



New 5-seat  
LiliumJet concept



- 36 electric fans
  - 24 on wings
  - 12 on canards
- 160 kt (300 km/h)
- "Eagle" first flight April 2017

2-seat "Eagle" LiliumJet prototype



# EHang 184 (and “216”)



1 Passenger  
8 Propellers  
4 Arms  
Unveiled at CES 2016



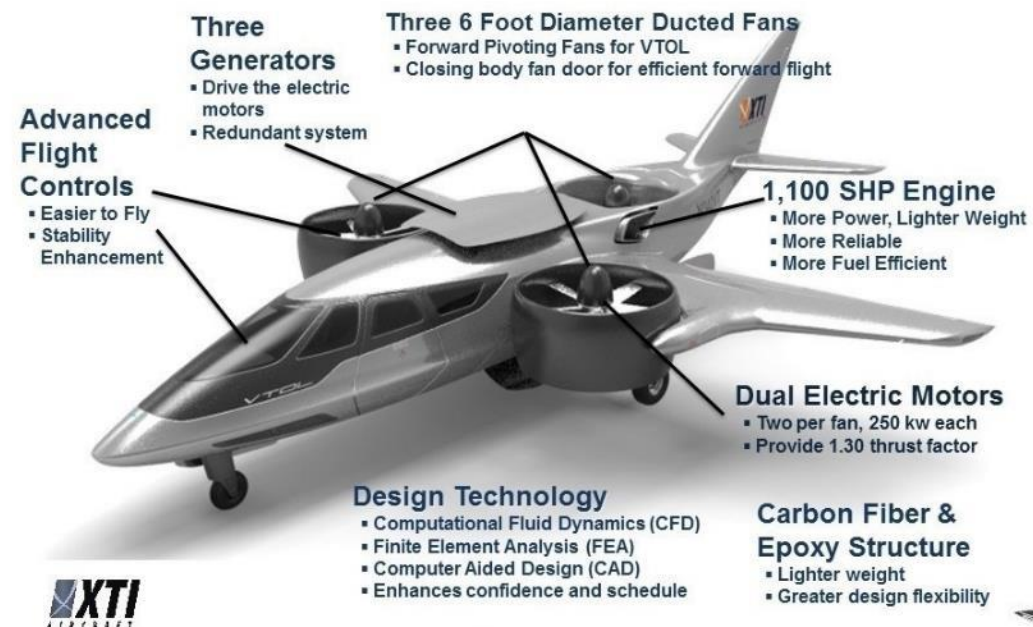
2 Passengers  
16 Propellers  
8 Arms  
Unveiled Feb. 2018

Graphics courtesy of EHang



# XTI Aircraft: TriFan 600

## Hybrid-electric concept



# Vertical Aerospace

- Full-Scale eVTOL concept: 750 kg / 1,650 lb
- Flown unmanned in June 2018
- Demonstrated 80 kph / 50 mph



Graphics courtesy of  
Vertical Aerospace, Bristol, UK



# PteroDynamics

- Flying 4 ft span model since Jan 2017
- First hover of 12 ft demonstrator Aug 2018
- Targeting delivery drone and air taxi applications
- Efficient distance flight permitting lift/drag ratios  $>20$
- Compact during VTOL and on the ground
- Payload capacities  $>40\%$  of maximum takeoff weight





Full Scale eVTOL concept  
800 kg, all electric



# Aurora eVTOL

1/4-scale demonstrator  
12.5 kg, all electric

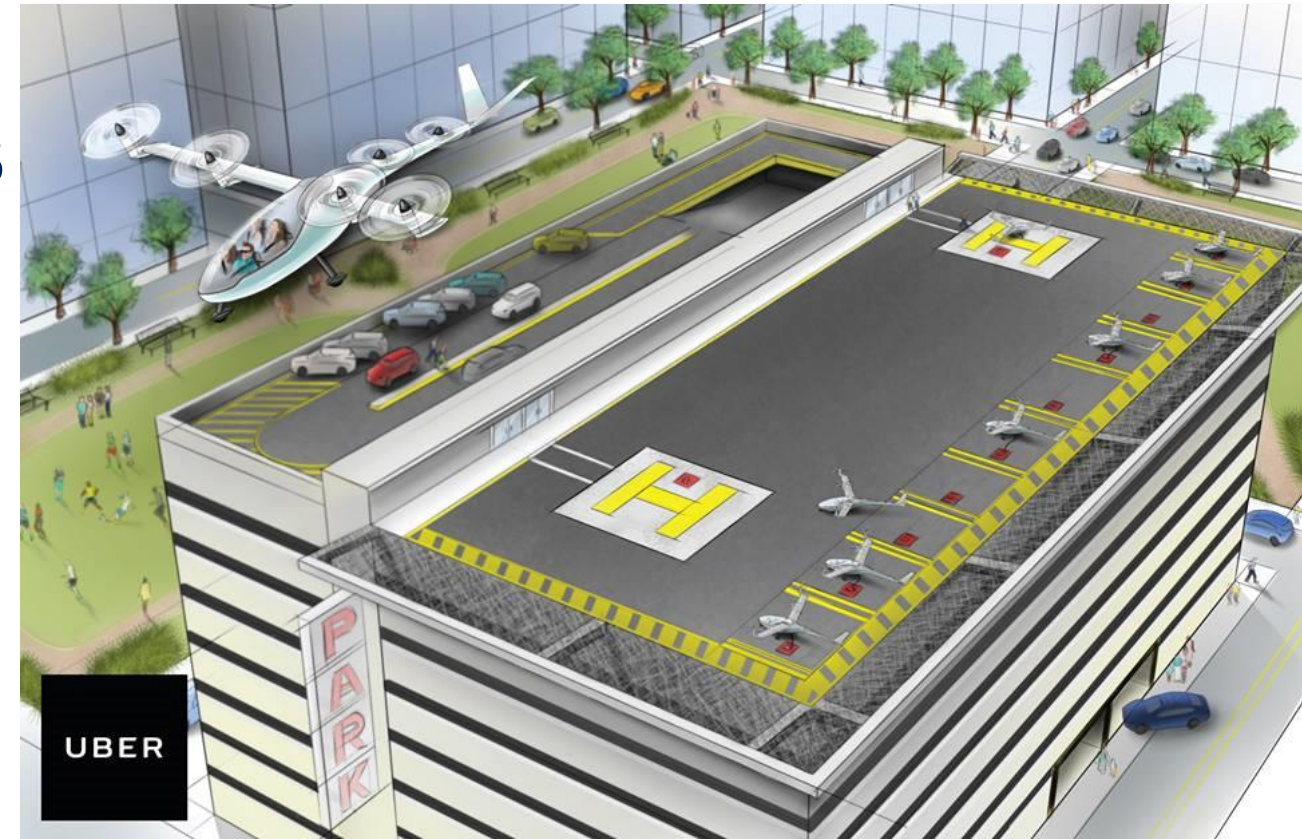


Graphics courtesy of Aurora  
Manassas, Virginia, USA



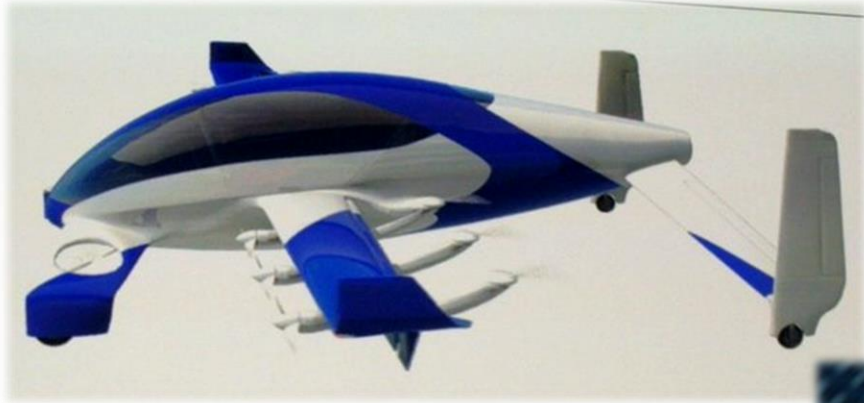
# Uber Elevate

- **Uber Elevate**
  - Unveiled at eVTOL Workshop in Sep 2016
  - White Paper in Oct 2016
  - Summit in April 2017
- **Developing an “Ecosystem”**
  - Partnerships with cities, real estate companies, aircraft manufacturers, EV charger manufacturers and cities
  - Connecting innovators, investors, regulators, technical experts, media
- **Small aircraft, but high barriers**
  - Technical, regulatory, environmental, economic, infrastructural and cultural
- **Started [www.eVTOL.news](http://www.eVTOL.news) website**
  - 120+ aircraft concepts detailed
  - Many missions beyond Uber’s Elevate





# Uber Elevate Aircraft Partners



Aurora Flight Sciences



Bell



Pipistrel



Karem Aircraft



Embraer



# GO FLY

SPONSORED BY



[www.goflyprize.com](http://www.goflyprize.com)

# GoFly Prize

The GoFly Prize is a two-year, \$2,000,000 USD  
competition to develop  
**safe, quiet, ultra-compact, near-VTOL**  
**personal flying devices**  
capable of flying twenty miles (32 km)  
while carrying a single person.

Max dimension: 8.5 ft (2.6 m)

2886 registered “innovators”

Max noise: 85 dBA @ 50 ft (15 m)

716 teams

Max speed: >30 kt (56 km/h)

164 Phase 1 proposals



# GoFly Prize Phase 1 Winners

## 10 winners announced 14 June @ \$20k each



TEAM  
AEROXO LV

DEVICE  
ERA AVIABIKE



TEAM  
MAMBA

DEVICE  
MAMBA



TEAM  
TETRA

DEVICE  
TETRA 3



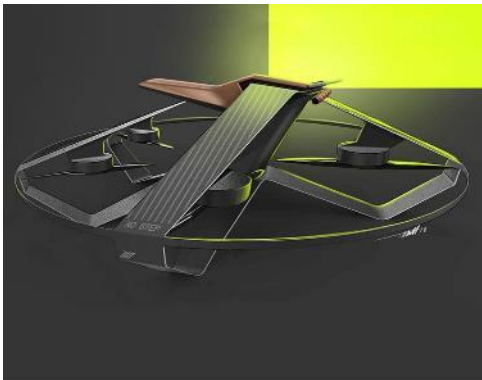
TEAM  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

DEVICE  
HARMONY



TEAM  
GEORGIA TECH

DEVICE  
HUMMINGBUZZ



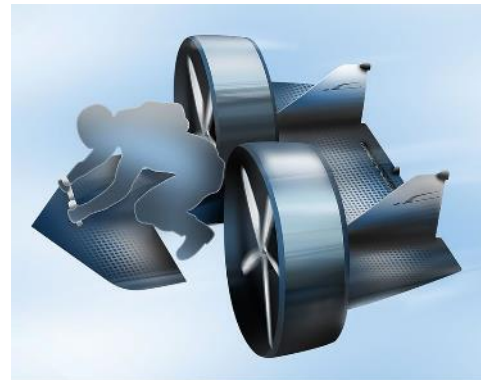
TEAM  
LEAP

DEVICE  
VANTAGE



TEAM  
SCOOP

DEVICE  
PEGASUS 1



TEAM  
SILVERWING

DEVICE  
S1



TEAM  
BLUE SPARROW

DEVICE  
BLUE SPARROW



TEAM  
TREK AEROSPACE

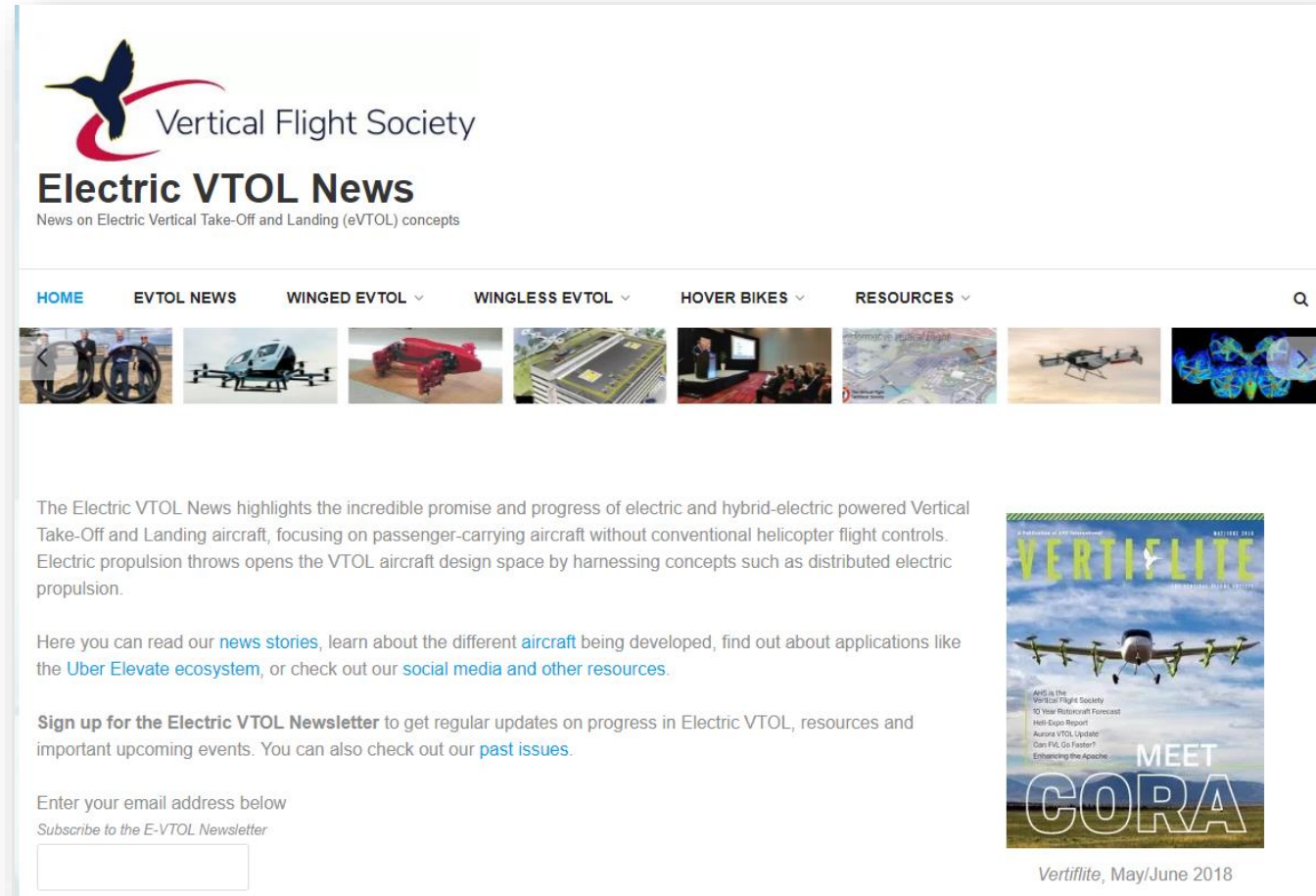
DEVICE  
FLYKART 2

[www.goflyprize.com](http://www.goflyprize.com)

# eVTOL Online Resources

- Electric VTOL News
  - [www.eVTOL.news](http://www.eVTOL.news)
  - [www.facebook.com/electricVTOL](https://www.facebook.com/electricVTOL)
  - [www.twitter.com/electricVTOL](https://www.twitter.com/electricVTOL)
  - [www.youtube.com/VTOLsociety](https://www.youtube.com/VTOLsociety)
  - [www.vimeo.com/VTOLsociety](https://www.vimeo.com/VTOLsociety)

- Also
  - Email newsletter
  - eVTOL News videos
  - eVTOL video proceedings



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Vertical Flight Society's Electric VTOL News website. At the top is the Vertical Flight Society logo and the title "Electric VTOL News" with the subtitle "News on Electric Vertical Take-Off and Landing (eVTOL) concepts". Below this is a navigation bar with links: HOME, EVTOL NEWS, WINGED EVTOL, WINGLESS EVTOL, HOVER BIKES, and RESOURCES. A row of seven small images follows, depicting various eVTOL concepts and related activities. The main content area features a paragraph about the promise of electric and hybrid-electric powered VTOL aircraft, followed by a link to "news stories". Below that is a section for signing up for the "Electric VTOL Newsletter" with a text input field and a "Subscribe" button. To the right, there is a featured article titled "MEET CORA" from the May/June 2018 issue of Vertiflite, showing a large aircraft in flight.



# Summary

- VFS is the global Vertical Flight Society
  - If you are interested in VTOL, become a member!
  - 75th Annual Forum is May 13-16, 2019 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA
  - 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Electric VTOL Symposium: Jan. 29-31 in Mesa, Arizona, USA
  - Find out more at **[www.vtol.org](http://www.vtol.org)**
  
- Significant funds being invested in electric VTOL (>>\$1B)
  - 120 companies investing heavily in electric and hybrid/electric VTOL aircraft
  - The explosive interest in drones is being repeated with manned eVTOL
  - The eVTOL community needs our help — many new to aviation
  - Find out more at **[www.eVTOL.news](http://www.eVTOL.news)**