



WORLD FIRST: VERTICAL AEROSPACE FLIES ELECTRIC AIR TAXI

News / Business aviation, Manufacturer



The future is already here! Seraph, an electric air taxi , capable of carrying loads of up to 250kg, completed its maiden flight already back in August!

Now, the first company in the world to do so, Vertical Aerospace has revealed flight footage of an eVTOL. The prototype, named Seraph, completed its maiden flight at Llanbedr Airfield in Wales on August 22. It follows the successful flight of Vertical Aerospace's first full-scale prototype in May 2018, the UK's first eVTOL aircraft to be granted flight permission by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). Vertical Aerospace is working closely with global aviation regulators, including EASA, to achieve certification for commercial flight.

Vertical Aerospace's mission is to make air travel personal, on-demand and carbon free. Founded in 2016 by entrepreneur Stephen Fitzpatrick, the team has grown to more than 70 world-class engineers and technical experts, recruited from Airbus, Boeing, Rolls-Royce, Jaguar Land Rover and Formula 1. By combining aerospace engineering excellence with new technologies from Formula 1, Vertical Aerospace hopes to help decarbonise the trillion dollar commercial aviation industry and provide a new mode of city-to-city passenger transport.

The Seraph was built to test new technologies and systems for integration into Vertical Aerospace's upcoming passenger model, due to be unveiled next year. The aircraft is capable of carrying loads of up to 250kg and can reach speeds of up to 80km per hour. It features a unique passive cooling system and a customisable design, meaning the aircraft can be made larger or

smaller, fitted with wheels or floats to facilitate water landings. With the Seraph, Vertical Aerospace's team have developed concepts from their first aircraft and built in capabilities which will be critical for eVTOL aircraft seeking certification from aviation authorities.

Stephen Fitzpatrick, Founder and CEO of Vertical Aerospace, said:

"Today is another major milestone on the path towards carbon free flight. One year ago, we flew a full scale electric VTOL aircraft, the UK's first. Today, we're revealing flight footage of our second full scale prototype, the Seraph, an air taxi prototype capable of carrying 250kg. Air travel is one of the worst contributors to climate change and among the slowest sectors to decarbonise. Our mission at Vertical Aerospace is to make personal, on demand and carbon free flight a reality."

The successful test flight comes as Vertical Aerospace announces the acquisition of MGI, an F1 engineering consultancy led by British motorsport veteran Mike Gascoyne. Gascoyne and his team of 20 specialists will form Vertical Advanced Engineering, bringing the total Vertical team to more than 70.

Gascoyne's team bring decades of experience building high performance vehicles for Formula 1 and Formula E, having worked with international racing teams including Williams, McLaren, Tyrell, Benetton, Renault and Lotus. They will apply the latest technologies and agile processes from F1 to the development of eVTOL aircraft, including for example, best practice in building fast, light-weight composite structures. The acquisition will allow Vertical Aerospace to accelerate the development of its eVTOL technology, bringing superior certified aircraft to market more quickly.

Mike Gascoyne, CTO of Vertical Advanced Engineering, said:

"We have long believed that the technologies and approaches from Formula 1 could be applied to a range of engineering challenges. Vertical Aerospace's vision provides a fantastic outlet for our experience and a unique opportunity to shape the future of flight."

"Joining the Vertical team will allow us to work on cutting edge engineering programs while continuing to provide world-class consultancy services to the wider engineering community."

Working closely with global aviation regulators, including EASA, Vertical Aerospace will begin with piloted air taxi services on city-to-city routes. Over time, as the technology and regulatory framework develops, it will expand the number of chartered routes served, introduce elements of autonomy, and ultimately, make completely on-demand air taxis a reality. The company has already begun the certification process for its next model, a passenger aircraft due to be unveiled next year.

19 OCTOBER 2019

ARTICLE LINK:

<https://50skyshades.com/index.php/news/business-aviation/world-first-vertical-aerospace-flies-electric-air-taxi>