

AUTOFLIGHT SUCCESSFULLY PERFORMS WORLD'S FIRST INTER-CITY DEMONSTRATION FLIGHT

News / Business aviation, Manufacturer



AutoFlight presented the world first inter-city electric air-taxi demonstration flight between the southern Chinese cities of Shenzhen and Zhuhai. AutoFlight five-seater Prosperity eVTOL aircraft completed a significant milestone by autonomously flying the 50km (31 miles) route from Shenzhen to Zhuhai. The flight from Shenzhen to Zhuhai across the Pearl River Delta took just 20 minutes, a journey that would require three hours by car. This achievement marks the world's first public flight of an eVTOL aircraft on a cross-sea and inter-city route, spanning across the bay where the Pearl River meets the sea, connecting the two southern Chinese cities of Shenzhen and Zhuhai.

Tian Yu, founder, CEO and Co-Chairman of AutoFlight commented: "We are thrilled to showcase AutoFlight's cutting-edge capabilities today in the world's first cross-sea and inter-city eVTOL demonstration flight. Working closely together with the local authorities and partners here, and in other jurisdictions around the world, we will continue to drive this revolution to bring safe, efficient, sustainable and affordable eVTOL flight options to cities around the world. We warmly welcome our

strong cooperation with Heli-Eastern and together we are rapidly moving towards fully operational air-taxi routes all across the region."

This flight marks a significant milestone in the development and road to certification of this exciting new form of mobility. The route between Shenzhen and Zhuhai is part of the future air traffic scenario planned by the regional government as it develops its "low-altitude economy" strategy that will see the opening of thousands of vertiports and hundreds of eVTOL air routes across the Greater Bay Area in southern China. Low-altitude application scenarios will include passenger transport, tourism, logistics and emergency services. In the short term, plans are in development to achieve 300,000 cargo UAV flights in this region per year.

AutoFlight's partner in the region Heli-Eastern, a major low-altitude general aviation carrier and helicopter service provider, recently entered an agreement with AutoFlight to purchase 100 Prosperity passenger eVTOL aircraft. The aircraft will be used on routes such as the one demonstrated by AutoFlight, from Shekou Ferry Port in Shenzhen to the Jiuzhou Ferry Port in Zhuhai, as well as from other transportation hubs in the region.

The demonstration flight took place in one of the world's most densely populated areas, home to circa 86 million people, and in an airspace that borders multiple international airports, including Hong Kong, Shenzhen and Macau. The flight showcased AutoFlight's cutting-edge aviation technology in a highly complex environment, and its dedication to safety and regulatory compliance in pushing the boundaries of urban air mobility.

The demonstration flight was uncrewed and fully autonomous, with certification for crewed passenger flights anticipated within approximately two years. Referred to as air-taxis, eVTOLs do not require traditional airports or runways. Similar to helicopters, they take off vertically and transition into fixed-wing flight mode in the air, cruising at high speeds like traditional large aircraft. The aircraft delivers an electric-powered, safe, comfortable, sustainable and affordable performance at significantly lower noise levels than traditional aircraft.

Prosperity was designed by Frank Stephenson, the renowned designer who revolutionized the Mini and the Fiat 500, and created iconic designs for Ferrari, McLaren and Maserati, among many others, before turning his design talents to the skies and the realm of flying taxis.

27 FEBRUARY 2024

ARTICLE LINK:

<https://50skyshades.com/index.php/news/manufacturer/autoflight-successfully-performs-worlds-first-inter-city-demonstration-flight>