ELECTRA EL-2 GOLDFINCH ESTOL IS FIRST PILOTED ELECTRIC AIRCRAFT TO FLY AT NASA LANGLEY RESEARCH CENTER

News / Manufacturer

Electra.aero successfully demonstrated flight capabilities of its EL-2 Goldfinch hybrid-electric eSTOL technology demonstrator aircraft at NASA historic Langley Research Center. The achievement marks the first flight of an electric aircraft with a pilot onboard at NASA Langley. Electra and NASA are working together on Advanced Air Mobility research, demonstrations and information sharing under a NASA Space Act Agreement. In a separate effort, Electra is working under a NASA Small Business Innovation Research project on solar-electric, high-altitude, long-endurance aircraft research called a "high-altitude platform station" or HAPS.

JP Stewart, Electra's Vice President and General Manager commented: "NASA is an incredible institution that has developed many of the foundational technologies underpinning today's aviation

industry. They are now pioneering the future with advanced air mobility innovations. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with them on new technologies that will extend seamless and convenient air travel to all communities."

The flight demo for NASA Langley's research community showcased the eSTOL aircraft's use of distributed electric propulsion (DEP) with blown lift technology, which is capable of taking off and landing in under 150 feet. The demonstration highlighted the aircraft's hybrid-electric capabilities for longer range potential and battery-electric flight for quiet, community-friendly operations. Earlier that day, the aircraft completed the 120-mile cross-country flight from Electra's Manassas, VA facility to NASA in Hampton, VA using the hybrid propulsion system.

Electra is developing a 9-passenger eSTOL production aircraft designed to replace short- and medium-distance vehicle trips up to 500 miles with decarbonized, quiet and affordable air travel. This aircraft would be able to connect Northen Virginia to the Hampton Roadsarea in a quick 35-minute flight, rather than the 2.5 hours it takes to drive today.

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