# ELECTRA, CITY OF HELSINKI, AND HAAGA-HELIA UNIVERSITY SIGN MOU TO EXPLORE DIRECT AVIATION ACROSS THE GULF OF FINLAND

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**Electra announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Helsinki and Haaga?Helia University of Applied Sciences, establishing a collaborative framework to evaluate how Direct Aviation technologies can accelerate the deployment of faster, quieter, and more efficient regional air mobility across the Gulf of Finland. The partnership will focus on operational feasibility, community impact, and the potential for next?generation sustainable air transport to strengthen connectivity between key destinations in the region.**

The collaboration will examine a new model for Helsinki–Tallinn connectivity built around Electra's Ultra?Short Takeoff and Landing aircraft, capable of operating from just 50 metres and using compact access points positioned closer to where passengers start and finish their journeys. In parallel, the partners will assess additional regional routes that could benefit residents, businesses, and visitors in the Helsinki area, expanding the potential impact of next?generation regional air mobility across the region.

Helsinki and Tallinn are twin cities, with just 80 kilometers separating them across the Gulf of

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Finland. Approximately 7.5 million travelers move between the cities each year, reflecting their strong commercial, tourism, and cultural ties. Despite the short distance, the journey can take hours. Ferries take two hours, plus the time required to reach the terminal and board, while flying today requires traveling through international airports and the traditional airport and security process.

Direct Aviation means flying from where people are to where they want to go. By combining Ultra Short aircraft with compact access points closer to travelers, it can reduce the friction of ferry crossings, airport transfers, long drives, and hub connections and create faster, simpler, easier regional connections.

Marc Allen, CEO of Electra said: "The third era of aviation is about what electrification makes possible. For Electra, that means aircraft that can operate from smaller places, connect more communities, and make regional travel dramatically easier. The Gulf of Finland is exactly the kind of real-world market where that promise can be studied, understood, and made real."

Diana Siegel, Vice President of Commercial Programs at Electra commented: "Helsinki and Tallinn are a natural Direct Aviation market: strong travel demand, short distance, and too much friction in the journey today. By studying demand, infrastructure, operations, and economics together, we can understand what it would take to make this connection faster, quieter, and more direct."

Susanna Niinistö-Sivuranta, President of Haaga-Helia University of Applied Sciences stated: "Electric aviation has the potential to reshape how we think about distance and connectivity. New aircraft capabilities create new possibilities for connecting cities and regions. This collaboration allows us to study those possibilities rigorously, from passenger demand and economics to infrastructure and their broader impact on regional mobility."

"Helsinki aims to grow sustainably while strengthening its accessibility, vitality and international connections," said Ville Lehmuskoski, Executive Director, Urban Environment Division, City of Helsinki. "If emerging low-emission and electric aviation can complement the existing transport system with faster and more direct connections across the Gulf of Finland, it could create tangible benefits for residents and businesses on both sides, while supporting the development of a more sustainable and integrated regional transport system."

Under the MOU, Electra, the City of Helsinki, and Haaga-Helia will conduct a structured feasibility effort covering access-point design, passenger demand, operating economics, regulatory considerations, and potential public-private partnership models. The parties will also explore opportunities for a future flight demonstration using Electra's existing EL2 technology demonstrator, subject to future agreements and approvals. The study is expected to be completed by the end of 2026.

Electra will assess high-level sizing, design requirements, and rough-order-of-magnitude costs for an Ultra Short access point for candidate sites designated by the City of Helsinki. Haaga-Helia and the City of Helsinki will evaluate passenger demand, including existing travel flows by air and ferry, opportunities for demand stimulation through faster air service, and how demand could vary by time of day, day of week, season, and ticket price.

The parties will use the findings to inform a roadmap for establishing Ultra Short access infrastructure in Helsinki and identifying viable commercial models for initial service.

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