FAA ISSUES HEART AEROSPACE SPECIAL AIRWORTHINESS CERTIFICATE FOR X1 DEMONSTRATOR AIRCRAFT

News / Manufacturer

Federal Aviation Administration has issued a Special Airworthiness Certificate in the Experimental Category for Heart Aerospace X1 demonstrator aircraft. The certificate authorizes Heart to commence flight testing of the X1 immediately.FAA issued the certificate following an inspection of the aircraft at Heart's X1 flight-test base at Plattsburgh International Airport in upstate New York, where the demonstrator is undergoing final preparations for its first flight. As part of its review, the agency evaluated the aircraft, supporting technical documentation, and Heart's proposed flight-test operations.

The certificate marks the culmination of more than a year of collaboration between Heart Aerospace and the FAA. Receipt of the SAC-EC follows Heart's extensive X1 ground testing program, which included structural, propulsion, systems, and low- and high-speed taxi tests. Together, these activities demonstrated the aircraft's readiness to proceed to piloted flight testing.

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Anders Forslund, Founder and CEO of Heart Aerospace commented: “Earning FAA flight authorization brings the X1 program to the threshold of first flight. This achievement reflects the rigor of the work completed by Heart’s engineering and flight-test teams, as well as the close working relationship we have built with the FAA. With our certificate now in hand, our full focus is on flight. We are ready to get X1 in the air.”

Cole Randle, Head of Corporate Affairs stated: “Heart is grateful to the FAA for its partnership. The agency’s forward-looking approach to next-generation aircraft is accelerating commercial aviation’s entry into the electric era of flight while supporting Heart’s mission to lower the cost of air travel. We look forward to continuing our work together as we pursue certification of the ES-30.”

With a wingspan of 106 feet, a fuselage length of 76 feet, and a takeoff weight of more than 25,000 pounds, X1 is expected to be the largest electric aircraft ever flown. Developed as a full-scale demonstrator for Heart’s ES-30 production aircraft, a 30-seat hybrid-electric regional airliner, X1 will validate flight characteristics, demonstrate key technologies, and generate operational data and insights to support the ES-30’s continued development.

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