Electric Flying Taxis Coming to Los Angeles in 2024

Los Angeles is fast becoming the epicenter for electric air taxis, aka the flying cars of the future. Two companies Joby Aviation and Archer are developing VTOL aircraft that can be deployed for commercial air taxi services in the Los Angeles region as soon as 2024.

Joby Aviation

Joby Aviation is a California headquartered transportation company. Founded in 2009, Joby employs more than 700 people, with offices in Santa Cruz, San Carlos, and Marina, California, as well as Washington D.C. and Munich, Germany.

The zero emissions aircraft, which is quiet at takeoff and near silent when flying overhead, can transport four passengers and a pilot up to 150 miles on a single charge and can cruise at 200 mph. Joby hopes its aircraft will help reduce urban congestion and accelerate the shift to sustainable modes of transit.

Joby Aviation plans to launch commercial operations in the United States in 2024, before scaling its service globally. Air taxi networks can be scaled rapidly and efficiently using existing heliport or airport infrastructure, with the number of routes in a network growing exponentially as new vertiports are introduced.

In 2020, Toyota Motor Corporation led Joby's $620 million Series C round, forming a strategic partnership that sees Toyota engineers working shoulder-to-shoulder with Joby on projects such as factory layout and manufacturing process development.

Joby Aviation also recently finalized the terms of an enhanced relationship with Uber Technologies, Inc. that sets Joby apart in terms of commercial readiness. Under the agreement, the companies will integrate their respective services into each other's apps, enabling future customers to enjoy seamless multi-modal travel. Joby also acquired Uber Elevate, a division of Uber focused on the aerial ridesharing market.

In December 2020, the US Air Force granted Joby Aviation its first ever airworthiness approval for an eVTOL aircraft as part of its Agility Prime program, designed to accelerate the commercial adoption of electric aviation.

Earlier this month, Joby announced that it had agreed to a "G-1" certification basis for its aircraft with the Federal Aviation Administration. Formalized in 2020, the agreement specifies the requirements that need to be met by Joby's aircraft for it to be certified for commercial operations.

Joby is the first eVTOL aircraft to have achieved this milestone, marking a watershed moment for the industry and providing a clearly defined path for the certification of its aircraft.

Construction is expected to begin on a 450,000 square foot manufacturing facility, designed in conjunction with Toyota, later this year.

Archer Aviation

Based in Palo Alto and led by co-founders and co-CEOs Brett

Adcock and Adam Goldstein, Archer is developing a commercially viable all-electric UAM platform that will move people throughout the world's cities in a fast, safe, sustainable, and cost-effective manner. The fully electric vertical takeoff and landing aircraft is expected to be capable of traveling distances of up to 60 miles at 150 mph using technology available today.

United Airlines has announced that it has entered into an agreement to invest in Archer as part of the airline's broader effort to partner with leading technology companies that will decarbonize air travel. Under the terms of the agreement, United has placed an order, subject to United's business and operating requirements, for $1 billion of Archer's aircraft, with an option for an additional $500 million of aircraft. United, in partnership with Mesa Airlines, could give customers a quick, economic and low-emission way to get to airports within its major hubs by 2024.

United estimates that using one of Archer's eVTOL aircraft could reduce CO2 emissions by up to 50% per passenger on a trip between Hollywood and Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), which is one of the initial cities Archer plans to launch their fleet and one of United's largest hubs.

In January 2021, Archer announced it had entered into a strategic collaboration agreement with Stellantis, with a focus on accessing its low-cost supply chain, advanced composite material capabilities, and engineering and design experience. FF