

PRESS RELEASE

November 25th, 2021

Ile-de-France Region, Choose Paris Region, Groupe ADP and RATP Group launch the first trials dedicated to new urban air mobility at the Pontoise airfield

Paris Region through Choose Paris Region, Groupe ADP and RATP Group inaugurated the test centre dedicated to new sustainable urban air mobility at the Pontoise - Corneilles-en-Vexin airfield, in the presence of French Minister of Transport Jean-Baptiste Djebbari.

The inauguration signals the launch of the first trials in real conditions for eVTOLs (electric Vertical Take-Off and Landing aircraft) and all the elements that will eventually enable them to be use. Now a reality in carbon-free aviation, these flying machines offer a multitude of possibilities for the transportation of people and goods, as mobility needs keep increasing.

The main challenges for the development of this new technology regard acceptability, safety and qualification of uses. Thanks to the tests planned by numerous manufacturers over the coming months in Pontoise, the partners, along with the DGAC (French civil aviation authorities), will study **different scenarios for pre-commercial services for the 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games based on two lines: the first between the Paris-Issy-les-Moulineaux heliport and the Saint-Cyr airfield; the second between Paris-Charles de Gaulle and Le Bourget airports and Paris city, on a site to be determined.**

In September 2020, the structuring of a branch in the Île-de-France region around new urban air mobility (UAM) was initiated through the launch of a call for expressions of interest. **Approximately thirty manufacturers were selected to carry out tests** on the following components: modelling and noise measurements, flight phases and integration into airspace, maintenance and recharging operations, passenger routes.

To carry out these tests in the best possible conditions, Groupe ADP has achieved a series of development works at the Pontoise airfield: a landing and take-off area, taxiways, parking stands, warehouse planning...

The commissioning of the Pontoise test area was marked today by the trial flights of:

- ◆ **Skyports**, with a drone flight dedicated to logistics, notably for medical transport (blood bags, health kits, etc.);
- ◆ **Thales**, with the deployment in real conditions of its onboard anti-collision system inside **Hélicfirst** choppers;
- ◆ **Pipistrel** (manufacturer of a fully electric aircraft) with a recharging operation, followed by a flight, carried out using the **Green Motion** company's certified system, with the support of FFA (French Federation Aviation).

Other test campaigns will be organised around three main themes:

- ◆ **The noise and vibration impact**, with RATP Group carrying out a first measuring campaign in March 2022, in partnership with Bruitparif and the DGAC on the occasion of several Volocopter flights. The aim will be to quantify, predict and model the sound emissions of an eVTOL both close and far in order to meet acceptability criteria.
- ◆ **The proper integration of drones and eVTOLs into conventional air traffic**, complying with all the necessary safety conditions, will be tested at Pontoise, to ensure proper cohabitation with other aircrafts. These tests will be carried out with the **CORUS-XUAM** consortium, a project financed by SESAR JU, under the leadership of Eurocontrol;
- ◆ Finally, **all the various topics of the passenger route will be studied with the creation of a modular "Vertiport" reception infrastructure** designed by the British operator **Skyports** in partnership with Groupe ADP. This facility will enable the testing of boarding and disembarking operations, recharging batteries and vehicle maintenance, starting June 2022.

In addition to **Volocopter**, **Airbus**, **Vertical Aerospace** and **Ascendence**, the German aviation company **Lilium** and the American eVTOL manufacturer **Joby Aviation** have also announced joining the Île-de-France region ecosystem structured around the Pontoise test area. Other manufacturers could also follow suit in coming months.

On this occasion, **Jean-Baptiste Djebbari, the French Minister Delegate for Transport**, stated: "At the 2019 Paris Air Show, Groupe ADP, RATP Group and Airbus have announced the launch, with the support of the Ministry of Transport, of a study for the implementation of an Urban Air Mobility service for the 2024 Olympic Games. I'm delighted to see one of the concrete results of this partnership being implemented here in Pontoise, and the whole ecosystem that is coming together. The French State is fully committed to the financing, with nearly 25 million euros already provided by the Council for Civil Aeronautics Research (CORAC) for the development of flying taxis, but also for the support of projects with the DGAC and the Agency for Innovation in Transport. Everything is falling into place: partnerships, innovation, test areas, regulations, financing. All the ingredients for success are there, all that remains is to make it happen."

Augustin de Romanet, Aéroports de Paris SA - Groupe ADP Chairman and CEO, underlined: "Our Pontoise airfield brings together a unique ecosystem around new air mobility and the trial platform we are launching today is unprecedented in Europe. It will function as a concrete experiment to explore the field of possibilities of a decarbonised and innovative aviation, and to develop the low altitude aviation market (below 300 metres), which has been largely unexplored until now. In Pontoise, we will test all the components of Urban Air Mobility. Groupe ADP will fully play its role as an aggregator of activities to facilitate the surge of new uses that reconcile a smaller environmental footprint, innovation and common utility."

Catherine Guillaoud, RATP Group Chairwoman and Chief Executive Officer, said: "We are giving life to our ambitions by inaugurating this unique test area today. Urban air mobility stands at a crossroads between two priorities for RATP Group: the city of tomorrow and new forms of mobility. We will fully take advantage of our expertise and know-how to integrate eVTOLs in dense urban areas, and, starting next March, we will work on noise and vibration acceptability. The trials will help model an eVTOL flight at the scale of the vehicle, the neighbourhood and the region, in order to anticipate and confirm vertiport installation plans in the Île-de-France region. As a true influencer, our aim is to encourage the development of urban air mobility as a deeply complementary offer for our long-standing transport modes."

And **Alexandra Dublanche, Vice-President of the Ile-de-France Region** in charge of Recovery, Attractiveness, Economic Development and Innovation, **and President of the Choose Paris Region agency**, added: "Tomorrow's air mobility is being built at the Pontoise airfield thanks to the support of Paris Region and its entire ecosystem. In addition to our support for electric aircrafts and for the development of hydrogen-based solutions for aviation, this initiative will help strengthen our status as Europe's leading region in the field of Aeronautics and Space. With the upcoming 2024 Olympic Games, mastering these new technologies and uses in a densely populated area like Paris Region is not an option, it is a must."

Focus on the Pontoise - Corneilles-en-Vexin airfield:



- ◆ Located **35 km** northwest of Paris;
- ◆ Surface area of **235 ha** (45 football fields);
- ◆ 60 flights/day on average, traffic limited to 60,000 flights/year;
- ◆ **2 paved runways** and **1 control tower**;
- ◆ Maintenance hangars;
- ◆ An aeronautical **fire station**;
- ◆ Existing **helicopter routes**;
- ◆ **Accessibility** close to Pontoise city, and therefore by train (RER, line C) and bus routes.

Overall view of the Pontoise test area © Groupe ADP

About **Groupe ADP**

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Groupe ADP develops and manages airports, including Paris-Charles de Gaulle, Paris-Orly and Paris-Le Bourget. In 2020, through its Paris Aéroport brand, the group carried 33.1 million passengers and 1.8 million metric tons of freight and mail at Paris-Charles de Gaulle and Paris-Orly, and over 96.3 million passengers in airports abroad. Boasting an exceptional geographic location and a major catchment area, the group is pursuing its strategy of adapting and modernizing its terminal facilities and upgrading quality of services. The group equally intends on developing its retail and real estate businesses. In 2020, group revenue stood at €2,137 million and net result attributable to the Group at -€1,169 million.

Aéroports de Paris is a public limited company (Société Anonyme) with share capital of €296,881,806. Registered office: 1 rue de France - Tremblay en France 93290. Registered in the Bobigny Trade and Company Register under no. 552 016 628.

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About **RATP Group**

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With 16 million trips daily worldwide, RATP Group is one of the largest urban transport operators in the world. Through its subsidiary RATP DEV, the Group operates in 13 countries on 4 continents, where it provides everyday mobility services across 8 transport modes: metro, urban and intercity buses, trams, rail, sightseeing services, cable cars, maritime shuttles, and transport on demand. The Group also has a strong presence in new forms of mobility, in partnership with other modes (free-floating electric scooters, car-sharing, carpooling and autonomous shuttles, smart car parks). The Group leverages its recognised expertise in infrastructure management and engineering to provide, via its subsidiaries, a wide range of urban services from engineering and managing real estate and retail areas, to delivering fibre networks, tailor-made passenger information and innovative ticketing solutions.

For over 70 years, RATP has operated one of the world's densest multimodal networks in Île-de-France. RATP Group's 69,000 employees worldwide design, implement and bring to life mobility solutions and innovative services to make the city more sustainable and more human.

More information on: www.ratp.fr/groupe-ratp et on twitter: [@RATPGroup](https://twitter.com/RATPGroup)

About **Paris Region**

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Paris Region is a driving force for French employment and growth, both in terms of its economic weight and its influence. As the leading economic region in Europe and the third-largest urban economy in the world, behind Tokyo and New York, Paris Region is a hotbed for innovation due to its concentration of 40% of France's R&D activities. By and large, Paris Region benefits from a great international appeal. Paris Region is active in most of the areas that affect the daily lives of its 12 million residents: transport, education, economic development, environment, etc. In an area that covers only 2% of France but is home to 18% of the country's population and nearly 30% of the national GDP, Paris Region is implementing a development policy which places the environment at the heart of its priorities. It is investing 10 billion euros towards it. The launch of an innovative aeronautics industry in Paris region is therefore fully in line with its policy in terms of attractiveness and economic development.

More information on: www.iledefrance.fr and on twitter: [@iledefrance](https://twitter.com/iledefrance)

About **Choose Paris Region**

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Choose Paris Region is the agency in charge of promotion and international appeal for the Île-de-France region. It works in partnership with all players in the Île-de-France region to provide a tailor-made support to international companies. Choose Paris Region is a catalyst for business and innovation which supports international companies willing to expand in the Paris Region. Choose Paris Region brings its deep market and industry expertise together with an extensive network to support international companies in building tech partnerships, designing their go-to market strategy, and providing guidance to gain a local foothold.

Every year, with a team of 80 dedicated professionals across Europe, the US and China, Choose Paris Region supports over 1,000 international companies looking to grow their business in the Paris Region, one of the leading tech and business hubs in the world.

More information on: www.chooseparisregion.org and on twitter: [@ChooseIDF](https://twitter.com/ChooseIDF)