



Accelerating Innovation, Jobs, and Security through AAM Integration

Memorandum of Understanding

Between Caltrans Division of Aeronautics (*Lead Applicant*) and Partners of the American Air Advantage Consortium

Effective Date: December 31, 2025

Duration: Through Program Conclusion

1. Purpose

This non-binding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes a collaborative framework among Caltrans Division of Aeronautics, serving as the Lead Applicant under the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Electric Vertical Takeoff and Landing and Advanced Air Mobility Aircraft Integration Pilot Program (eIPP), and the undersigned industry, government, academic, and nonprofit partners (collectively, "the Consortium").

The purpose of this partnership is to coordinate and execute a regional eVTOL Integration Pilot Project that supports the FAA and U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) goal of accelerating safe and lawful Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) integration into the National Airspace System (NAS) and informing the development of future guidance, regulations, and operational frameworks.

2. Background

Pursuant to Executive Order 14307 – *Unleashing American Drone Dominance* and the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024, the FAA established the eIPP to enable State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial (SLTT) governments to partner with U.S.-based private-sector organizations experienced in eVTOL development, type certification, manufacturing, and operations.

Through the Other Transaction Agreement (OTA) mechanism, the FAA seeks SLTT-led consortia capable of demonstrating scalable models of eVTOL operations that advance public benefit objectives, including air taxi, regional passenger, cargo, logistics, and emergency management use cases, while generating data to inform national AAM regulatory integration.

3. Goals and Objectives

The **American Air Advantage Consortium** will collaborate to:

1. Accelerate safe and efficient integration of eVTOL and AAM operations within the NAS.



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2. Demonstrate regional use cases (e.g., piloted and unmanned AAM operations for passenger, cargo, and logistics missions).
3. Generate operational data and insights to inform FAA guidance, certification, and policy development.
4. Model effective public-private collaboration that leverages U.S.-based technology and workforce capacity.
5. Provide measurable public benefits, including safety, reduced noise, economic opportunity, and workforce advancement.
6. Strengthen supply chain resilience and U.S. leadership in advanced aviation systems.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

Caltrans Division of Aeronautics (Lead Applicant)

- Serve as the Primary Offeror and eIPP Lead Applicant under FAA SIR 697DCK-25-R-00445.
- Coordinate consortium governance, documentation, and communications with FAA.
- Manage submission requirements, including letters of attestation, partner documentation, and data-sharing protocols.
- Ensure compliance with FAA evaluation criteria and OTA administrative processes.

Industry Partners

- Provide type-certificated or in-process aircraft, technologies, and operational data as determined by OEM.
- Participate in corridor development, flight testing, and operational demonstrations.
- Support regulatory and safety data generation, which will be collected and provided to FAA partners to inform guidance, subject to any restrictions on the release of confidential or proprietary information as agreed upon by the parties.

Government Partners

- Facilitate planning, permitting, and infrastructure integration.
- Coordinate public safety and security agency involvement.
- Support local community engagement and intergovernmental alignment.

Academic and Workforce Partners

- Lead STEM, AAM operations, and maintenance training initiatives.
- Conduct applied research, safety analysis, and data evaluation.
- Contribute to policy and regulatory insight potential through academic expertise.



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Nonprofit and NGO Partners

- Facilitate community engagement, communications, and inclusion strategies.
- Ensure that program benefits reach rural and underserved communities.
- Provide regional coordination capacity for public-private collaboration.

5. Governance and Coordination

A Steering Committee shall oversee program governance.

- Chair: Caltrans Division of Aeronautics (Lead Applicant)
- Vice Chair: Rotating from Steering Committee members
- Members: Representatives per sector and geography

The Steering Committee will:

- Review project milestones, deliverables, and FAA communications.
- Approve submissions and operating concepts (CONOPS).
- Coordinate inter-partner agreements and working group activities.

Working Groups and Advisory Councils may be formed around Operations & Safety, Infrastructure Readiness, Workforce & Research, and Community Integration.

6. Compliance with FAA eIPP Requirements

This Consortium acknowledges the following FAA SIR requirements and agrees to cooperate in fulfilling them:

- Aircraft included must have a Type Certification project underway.
- The partnership must include at least one U.S.-based private-sector partner.
- The project will generate policy and regulatory insights to inform future FAA guidance.
- Operations will demonstrate clear public benefit, including safety, community, and economic value.
- Partners will support data collection and reporting as required by the OTA.

7. Data Sharing and Confidentiality

All partners agree to share operational and analytical data relevant to program goals in accordance with FAA requirements and mutually agreed data management protocols. Proprietary or export-controlled information will be handled consistent with applicable federal



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and partner confidentiality policies. All partners acknowledge that Government Partners are subject to public records laws in the handling of information under this MOU.

8. Term and Termination

This MOU shall remain in effect until:

- Completion of the eIPP project period; or
- Termination by mutual consent; or
- Withdrawal by a partner with 30 days' written notice.

9. Non-Binding Agreement

This MOU is non-binding and does not create legal or financial obligations among the parties. It affirms mutual intent to collaborate in good faith under the eIPP framework. Any subsequent commitments involving funding or data rights will be executed through separate contracts, MOAs, or OTAs as appropriate.

10. Points of Contact

Organization	Primary Contact	Title	Email	Phone
Caltrans Division of Aeronautics	Traek Tabshouri	Chief, Division of Aeronautics	tarek.tabshouri@dot.ca.gov	(916) 879-2965
County of Monterey	Richard Vaughn	Economic Development Manager	vaughnr@countyofmonterey.gov	(831) 784-5602



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11. Signatures

By signing below, the undersigned affirm their intent to participate in the American Air Advantage Consortium.

Tarek Tabshouri

Chief, Division of Aeronautics
CalTrans

Date

[Name]

[Title]

[Organization/Agency]

Date