

# Agility Prime Awards Phase III Contract to eSTOL Company Electra





The U.S. Air Force granted a Phase III Shoppingmall Business Innovation Research (SBIR) agreement to Electra.aero in assistance of the continued advancement of Electra's hybrid-electric eSTOL airplane. (Photo: Electra)

Next generation aerospace business Electra.aero was granted a Phase III Shoppingmall Business Innovation Research (SBIR) agreement from the U.S. Air Force (USAF). The agreement will assistance the continued advancement of Electra's eSTOL airplane as part of the Air Force's Agility Prime program. A direct-to-phase-II SBIR agreement was granted to Electra back in June 2021, when the Air Force invested \$1.5 million in the business's eSTOL advancement.

Ben Marchionna, Electra's Director of Technology and Innovation, shared his pointofviews on the Phase III SBIR agreement in a Q&A with *Avionics International*. Electra's hybrid-electric ultra-short launch and landing (eSTOL) tech demonstrator airplane is on track to accomplish its veryfirst flight in late 2022, he composed. "Our group is presently ground screening the hybrid-electric propulsion system at our center in Bleienbach, Switzerland. Meanwhile, the airplane fabrication will quickly start in Manassas, Virginia."



The special functions and abilities of the eSTOL airplane developed by Electra are important for medical evacuation and a number of other operations. (Photo: Electra)

Electra is establishing its airplane to be capable of flying objectives such as on-demand guest flights, freight transport, search and rescue operations, and medical objectives, according to the business's statement. Ben Marchionna included that their eSTOL airplane "offers a distinctively engaging ability [to] provide bigger payloads at higher varies like a fixed-wing airplane however still gain accessto constrained landing zones like a rotorcraft. This enables our airplane to gotten rid of the difficult 'tyranny of range' in the extensive Indo-Pacom theater, supporting dispersed force structures and

freight resupply objectives.”

The sound levels of Electra’s eSTOLs are 2 orders of magnitude quieter than those of helicopters. In addition to assisting in private operations, the distinct functions and abilities of the airplane are important for medical evacuation, humanitarian help, and catastrophe action in addition to expeditionary innovative base operations, according to Marchionna.



Hybrid-electric airplane like Electra’s deal some secret benefits for defense objective difficulties that eVTOLs are less matched for. (Photo: Electra)

The USAF Agility Prime program will be able to take benefit of the broad and separated defense objective applicability of Electra's airplane. Agility Prime supports and speeds up the maturation of innovation associated to sophisticated air movement (AAM) services such as electrical airplane. eVTOL airplane are not fit for particular defense objective obstacles, stated Marchionna, however hybrid eSTOL airplane such as Electra's are able to run within existing facilities restraints and for operations that need higher payload and longer variety.

Electra shared news of a collaboration with Asia's fastest-growing personal air movement platform, Yugo, in which the 2 business will work to expand air movement services through leveraging up to 12 of Electra's eSTOL airplane. The hope is that AAM services can reach both metropolitan and underserved areas in Asia-Pacific. Yugo is based in Singapore and offers members of its digital platform gain access to hundreds of airplane, "from light jets such as the Cessna Citation to longer variety jets like the Gulfstream G650ER," according to Electra's statement.







An Electra hybrid eSTOL airplane in Yugo livery techniques a landing near Manila Bay. (Photo: Electra)

Yet another huge statement came from Electra last month relating to an financial investment from Lockheed Martin Ventures. A tactical cooperation arrangement was likewise signed by Lockheed Martin, in which they strategy to work with Electra on capacity U.S. federal government services. “Combined with the SBIR Phase III agreement, Lockheed Martin’s financial investment will assistance us to rapidly establish and field this crucial innovation,” Marchionna composed.

Source: [Agility Prime Awards Phase III Contract to eSTOL Company Electra.](#)