2025

From the Ground to the Skies

FLORIDA'S AERIAL HIGHWAY NETWORK

FDOT's Plan of Action for AAM: Leading the Highway in the Sky's Development

Cover Photos
EVE Air Mobility, (2025)
VertiPorts by Atlantic, (2025)
BETA Technologies, (2025)

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I am proud to introduce FDOT's Plan of Action for Advanced Air Mobility (AAM), a statewide vision for Florida's aerial highway network and a bold step in building an entirely new mode of transportation.

At the Florida Department of Transportation, we are not just planning for the future, we are delivering it. This strategy document identifies the clear path our state is taking to turn the vision of AAM into reality.

We are focused on speed to market and will be making strategic investments to accelerate the development and implementation of this new and innovative mode of transportation.

Our approach identifies an aerial network with digital infrastructure and advanced technology and also maps out emerging workforce needs. Additionally, we will develop a plan to deliver key infrastructure projects that maximize initial deployment.

These initiatives and collaborative partnerships will help ensure Florida is the first to have profitable AAM service statewide. Thank you to all who contributed to the development of this plan for your leadership, hard work, and vision. We encourage you to further explore this strategy and see how Florida is shaping the future of transportation.



Jared W. Perdue, P.E.
Secretary
Florida Department of Transportation

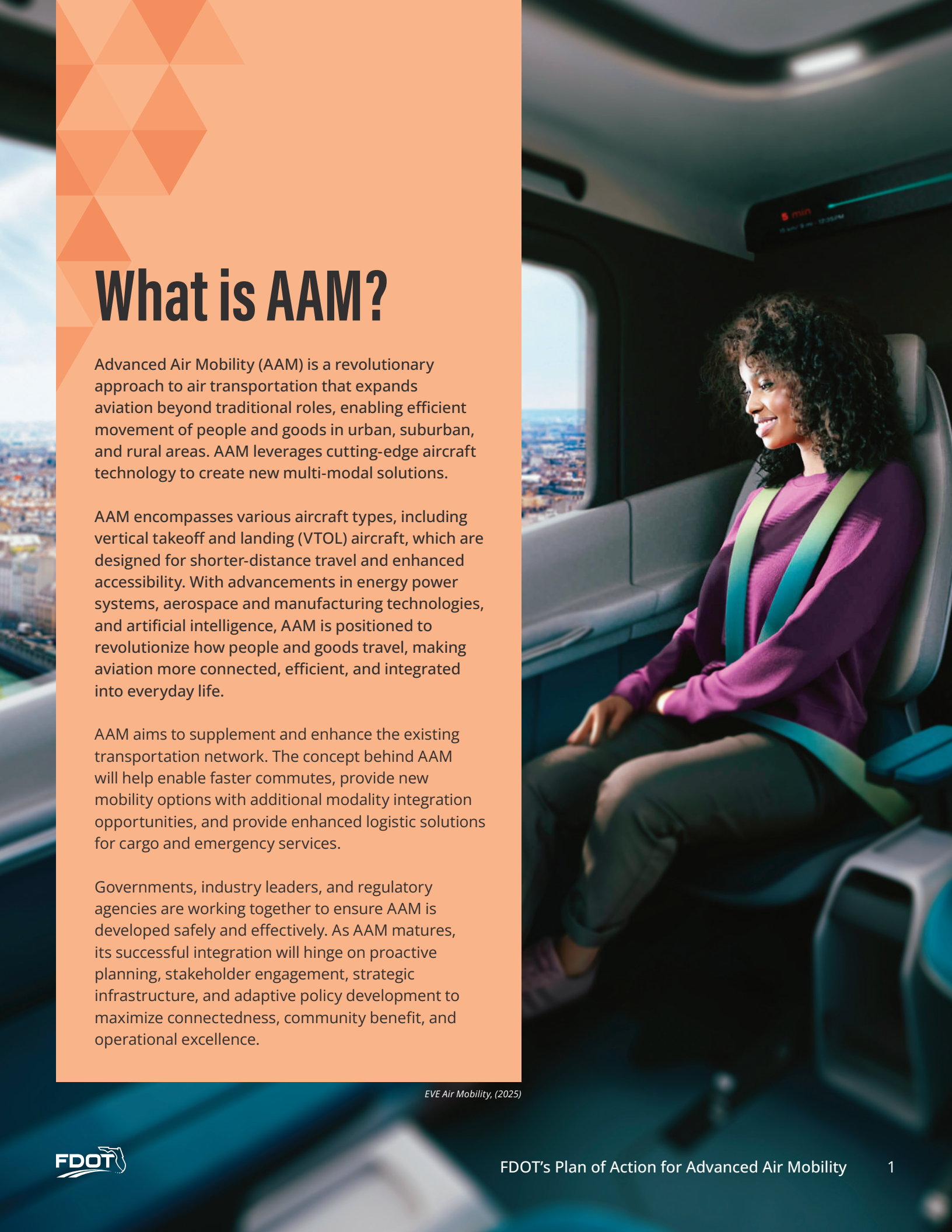
What is AAM?

Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) is a revolutionary approach to air transportation that expands aviation beyond traditional roles, enabling efficient movement of people and goods in urban, suburban, and rural areas. AAM leverages cutting-edge aircraft technology to create new multi-modal solutions.

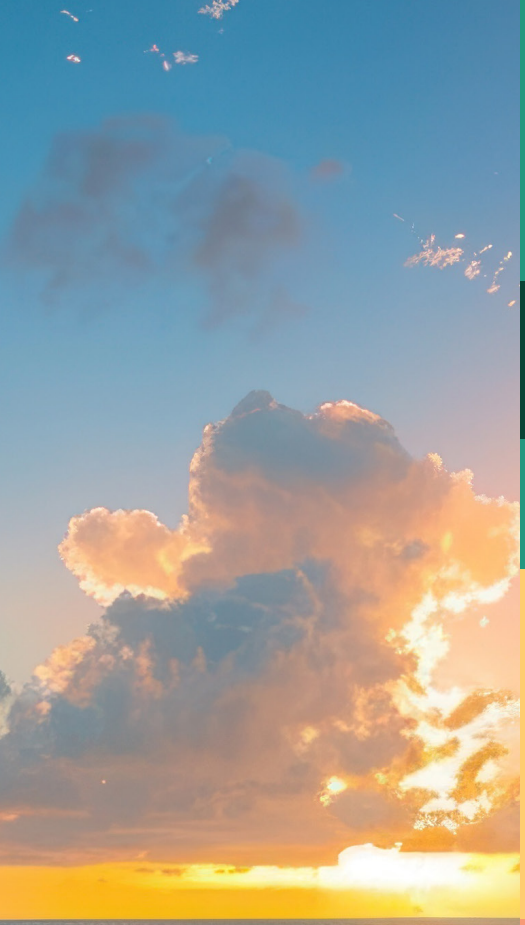
AAM encompasses various aircraft types, including vertical takeoff and landing (VTOL) aircraft, which are designed for shorter-distance travel and enhanced accessibility. With advancements in energy power systems, aerospace and manufacturing technologies, and artificial intelligence, AAM is positioned to revolutionize how people and goods travel, making aviation more connected, efficient, and integrated into everyday life.

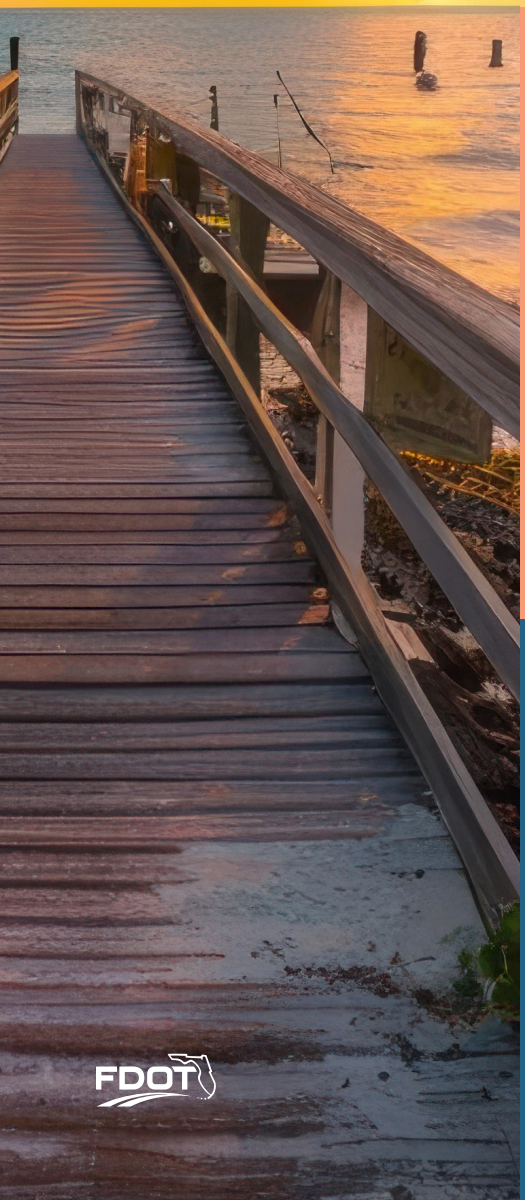
AAM aims to supplement and enhance the existing transportation network. The concept behind AAM will help enable faster commutes, provide new mobility options with additional modality integration opportunities, and provide enhanced logistic solutions for cargo and emergency services.

Governments, industry leaders, and regulatory agencies are working together to ensure AAM is developed safely and effectively. As AAM matures, its successful integration will hinge on proactive planning, stakeholder engagement, strategic infrastructure, and adaptive policy development to maximize connectedness, community benefit, and operational excellence.



EVE Air Mobility, (2025)





Florida Knows Aviation

the only state in the U.S.

WITH 4 LARGE HUB AIRPORTS

- Orlando International
- Miami International
- Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International
- Tampa International

BOARDING 208M PASSENGERS IN 2024



OF FLORIDA'S POPULATION

IS WITHIN A 30-MINUTE DRIVE OF A PUBLIC-USE AIRPORT.

The total economic impact of all aviation activities in Florida is $336 billion annually, supporting two million jobs with an annual payroll of $109 billion. (2022)[1]

Florida is the 1st state in the nation to establish an AAM Working Group - now AAM Advisory Committee - which has built the framework to further implement this emerging aviation technology.

Two-thirds of all perishables and about 90% of all flowers are imported to the U.S. via Florida airports.[2,3]

Virtually every major aviation and aerospace company in the world has significant operations in the Sunshine State.[4]

BOASTS AN AVIATION SYSTEM THAT INCLUDES

21 COMMERCIAL AIRPORTS[5]

128 PUBLIC-USE AIRPORTS[7]

21 MILITARY FACILITIES[6]

575 PRIVATE-USE AIRPORTS[7]



Historical Timeline

2021

DECEMBER
Florida begins initial strategic planning for AAM

2022

JUNE
FDOT publishes AAM Roadmap and Recommended Standards

SEPTEMBER
FDOT publishes Airport Compatibility Reports for 32 airports

NOVEMBER 2022 - AUGUST 2023
FDOT hosts AAM Working Group meetings

2023

AUGUST
FDOT publishes Working Group Report and Recommendations

SEPTEMBER
FDOT publishes Public Outreach Plan

OCTOBER
BETA Technologies' aircraft "ALIA" conducts capabilities demonstration at Eglin Air Force Base

NOVEMBER
- Volocopter conducts Florida's first crewed, electric VTOL (eVTOL) demonstration flight with their Volocopter 2X in Tampa
- FDOT establishes AAM Advisory Committee

2024

MARCH - JUNE
FDOT hosts AAM Tabletop Exercises

APRIL
LIFT Aircraft's "Hexa" conduct flights at Lakeland Airport during SUN 'n FUN

SEPTEMBER
- FDOT publishes AAM Land Use Compatibility and Site Approval Guidebook
- FDOT participates in commissioning of BETA Technologies' electric aircraft charging infrastructure
- BETA installs chargers at Tallahassee, Gainesville, and Bob Sikes airports

2025

FEBRUARY
FDOT publishes AAM Toolkit for Local Governments

MARCH - SEPTEMBER
FDOT hosts statewide local government training for AAM

APRIL
Joby conducts proof of concept demonstrations at MacDill Air Force Base

JUNE
- Florida Governor signs legislation incorporating AAM into the state's regulatory framework and advancing the industry across the state
- Florida Governor directs FDOT to facilitate additional state investments in AAM including through construction of vertiports

Florida's 2025 AAM Pre-flight Checklist

Florida is invested in exploring these strategic focus areas while implementing AAM.

INFRASTRUCTURE – Building Aviation for the Future of Florida

Identify and build priority infrastructure investments, including vertiports as passenger stations.

INTEGRATION – Reinforce Florida's Technological Ingenuity in the AAM Space

Test, Train, and Scale - Expand SunTrax as the nation's premier test bed for AAM research, training, and safety development.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & ECONOMIC IMPACT
Posturing Florida's Workforce for a Clear Sky Future

Leverage the State's pro-business environment.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – Sharing the Multifaceted AAM Opportunity

Orchestrate a strategy that fosters industry momentum.

POLICY – Ensure that Florida Remains the Global Leader in Advanced Air Mobility

Elevate Florida as the global leader in next-generation air mobility through dedicated, strategic investments, and industry collaboration.

FDOT's Commitment to AAM Partners

FDOT is aggressively driving Florida to the forefront of AAM. The Department is committed to building the backbone infrastructure in terms of stations, aerial network, and contributing to federal and state program development. FDOT will lead the collaboration with the industry to ensure AAM success in the Sunshine State with research and development and putting profitable business cases to operations. FDOT's approach is action-oriented and focused on the near future.

Building the First Aerial Highway Network

FDOT will start now by working with the industry to make AAM a reality in Florida by:

- Engaging with the industry to advance infrastructure buildout including formalizing an aerial highway network with business cases that are profitable.
- Investing now in key infrastructure: Identifying, developing, and building all aspects of the AAM infrastructure sites to create a robust AAM network.

Accelerating Operational Implementation

FDOT will pave the way for quick market entry.

- Within two months, work with the industry to establish the first AAM Aerial Highway Network, establish best use cases for profitability and locate and establish binding partnership to build stations.
- Within six months, establish the Florida AAM headquarters for FDOT by expanding the SunTrax campus to connect and foster aviation and aerospace industry clusters, create a robust ecosystem for growth and be an integral location in the Aerial Highway Network.
- Within eighteen months, operations are live for passenger travel, infrastructure is ready.

Cultivating a Skilled AAM Workforce

FDOT will support efforts to ensure a skilled and abundant AAM workforce by expanding FDOT's Research Institute and the Transportation Academy to include custom curriculums to support the AAM industry. Support this development and hands-on training with facilities, partnerships with FDOT's university consortium, and existing trade programs.

Preparing for Market Implementation

Taking action rather than just talking, FDOT is amplifying AAM reach to promote Florida as the most AAM business-friendly destination in the country. FDOT is ready to do research and development, implement comprehensive plans, and make AAM profitable on the first commercial flight in the Aerial Highway Network in Florida.

FDOT is taking action to ensure **Florida is the first** to have profitable AAM services statewide.



Advanced Air Mobility Research and Development at SunTrax

The SunTrax campus is a leading hub for modern transportation innovation, dedicated to the extensive testing of advanced transportation solutions. Strategically located just off the I-4 corridor and outside the airspace of both Tampa and Orlando International Airports, SunTrax is the ideal site for AAM air and ground research and development. This state-of-the-art center boasts the latest advancements in intelligent transportation systems (ITS), tolling, and connected vehicles, providing an optimal environment for testing and development.

Expansions will allow SunTrax to offer the following opportunities:

- Vehicle-to-Everything (V2X) Technology Testing
- Dedicated Airspace for Research and Development
- Research and Development Flight Area
- Low Altitude Weather Phenomena Testing

With SunTrax as a catalyst for innovation, Florida is positioned to lead the future development of safe, efficient, and reliable air mobility solutions for urban and rural environments.

FDOT's Expansions at SUNTRAX

Immediate deployment of a landing facility on SunTrax's campus which will expand capabilities into the skies. This will allow use of the airspace above the 475-acre campus. SunTrax was developed for proprietary research and development while testing the latest technological advancements in connected data streams and transportation vehicles. A natural expansion for SunTrax to support eVTOL development and aerial highway services for AAM.

Implement the design and construction of the campus expansion for the SunTrax facility to provide new opportunities for government, industry, and academia to collaborate on transportation innovations specific to AAM and FDOT project delivery. This expanded campus will provide specialized functions and dedicated space to solely support Florida's AAM workforce development and the operations of the aerial highway network.

Industry Roles and Expectations

As the primary regulatory authority, the FAA oversees AAM aircraft certification and their safe integration into the National Airspace System. The FAA, FDOT, and Industry each have a role to play in the successful implementation of AAM in Florida.

INDUSTRY ACTIONS

Industry's main role is to certify AAM aircraft and vertiport(s) under applicable FAA regulations.

Operational Implementation

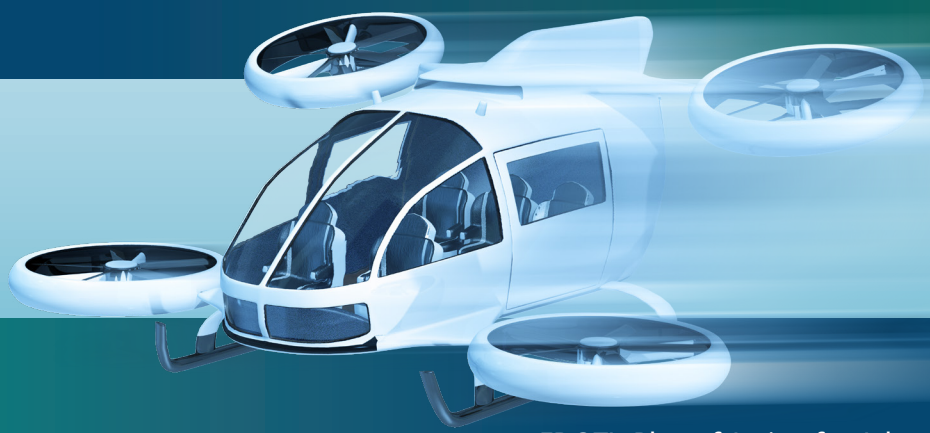
- Establish and finalize all aspects of in-house and outsourced supply chain management capabilities.
- Enter aircraft production.
- Test and advance the certified aircraft.
- Launch the marketplace for commercial operations.
- Hire and train workers for all aspects of AAM commercialization.

Financial Stability

- Continue to seek access to capital markets while managing risk to scale operations.
- Execute the company's preferred financial plan and revenue generation strategy following the evaluation, selection, and deployment of the appropriate primary infrastructure, ancillary facilities, and workforce investment model (public, private, Public-Private Partnership (P3)).

Market Implementation

- Execute a developed branding and marketing plan within a selected geographic and social target market through consumer education, demand creation, and market assessment.
- Launch service across defined initial route structure.



Endnotes

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For more information, please visit FDOT's AAM website at https://www.fdot.gov/aviation/advanced-air-mobility

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