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## **RACCA September 2023 Newsletter**

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**The September RACCA Newsletter is brought to you by  
[Sabrewing](#)**



## **Emerging Technologies Take Center Stage at RACCA**

With the advancement of emerging technologies in the cargo arena, the RACCA conference will focus on this type of future flight from its keynote speaker to a special panel. Earl Lawrence of Xwing Aviation will kick off the conference with Future Technologies and the Regional Air Cargo Industry following up with panel discussion on how new technologies will impact future cargo operations. Ameriflight has already contracted with both Sabrewing and Natilus to bring the new technology to the industry and industry observers expect cargo applications to pave the way for passenger operations.

### [Natilus's Q&A With Ameriflight](#)

Another important topic will tackle safety management systems and how SMS Culture can't overcome a bad design, a discussion led by Dr. Ben Goodheart, founder & principal consultant Magpie Human Systems, a collection of upstarts focusing on safety as something each person in every organization should be able to count on.

The pilot shortage will be covered by two sessions including a discussion by Capt. Monica Frain, United Airlines Aviate Academy on where future pilots will be sourced. Professor and Director of Aviation Industry Relations at University of North Dakota Kent Lovelace will cover the university's annual pilot survey which, in past years, has shown pilots are attracted to flying cargo once they know about the opportunity.

[Slots for playing in the golf tournament is filling up fast. Make your registration soon before it is sold out.](#)

[Check out the RACCA Conference schedule here.](#)

[Plan your RACCA conference strategy – see who is attending.](#)

[See who is exhibiting.](#)

[See the few sponsorships remaining available.](#)

**Make Your Reservations!**

# RACCA Fall Meeting

## October 31-November 2

### Conference Registration



**Book Now:** Doubtletree

**[Hotel Booking Link](#)**

**Exhibitor Space Sold Out! Contact [frank@raccaonline.org](mailto:frank@raccaonline.org) to be placed on waitlist.**

**Look forward to seeing all of you October 31!**



### **Few Sponsorships Remain Available**

Only two sponsorships remain available for the upcoming Regional Air Cargo Carriers Association Conference October 31-November 2 in Scottsdale, AZ.

Among the available sponsorships are:

1 @ \$300 each for Golf Prizes

1 @ \$500 each for the Post Conference Thank You Dinner

**Join the other RACCA Sponsors in supporting the annual RACCA Conference.**

### **RACCA Scholarship Applications Due October 15 – Spread the Word**

Applications are now open for the Regional Air Cargo Carriers Association (RACCA) scholarship applications designed to help aspiring pilots, aircraft maintenance technicians (AMT) and airline managers pursue their careers.



To qualify for the scholarships, applicants must be:

- A college student currently enrolled in an accredited aviation program.
- A resident of the United States.
- Currently carry a Grade Point Average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

Scholarship # 1 will carry the additional requirement of obtaining a letter of introduction from an existing RACCA member or RACCA associate member since the goal is for candidates to learn about the air cargo industry. If there is a RACCA member or associate member in a candidate's immediate area, candidates should arrange to visit their operation and become familiar with all the opportunities in the growing air cargo industry. If there is no member close, candidates should call a member and tell them who they are and ask questions about the air cargo industry.

The deadline for applications is October 15, 2023 and the selection will be made by November 30 and distributed on December 15 to an accredited school.

The RACCA Aviation Scholarship application is available on the [RACCA website](#).



## **FAA Worried About Growth of Part 380, Reporters Push Back on ALPA Deception**

In releasing its Notice of Intent to regulate the growing use of Part 380 for scheduled charters such as those fielded by JSX and SkyWest Charter, FAA cleared the way for approval of Commuter Air Carrier Authorization designed to restore service to essential air service communities. But the NOI prompted widespread controversy and coverage as business aviation groups join the fight against ALPA's attempt to move these operations into Part 121, exponentially increasing costs and threatening operations just as the move led to the end of many regional operators.

In his [View from the Wing Columnist Gary Leff lambasted FAA](#) for conceding “to lobbying by unions and an incumbent airline – groups that don’t want to compete with more pilots and innovative business models” calling the 1500-hour rule a joke and adding “no one actually believes the 1500-hour rule has anything to do with safety.”

“Forcing pilots to build up hours means clear air touch and go landings in a Cessna, flying through the same airspace and in and out of the same airports,” he said in this great article. “It’s lazy flying, not real-world flying experience relevant to life in the cockpit of a commercial airline. Pilots aren’t dealing with stalls, storms, de-icing, or numerous other problems that you want a pilot to be experienced in during this training. In fact, airlines have to re-train the bad habits out of pilots that were acquired during this phase of their experience.”

In a [previous column](#), Leff said ALPA opposes Part 380 because they can hire senior captains, recently retired from American and Southwest mostly, who are 65 or older and first officers with hours similar to those required in Europe, and that were required for major carrier pilots in the U.S. fifteen years ago.

Meanwhile, the business aviation and passenger service communities – NBAA, GAMA, APEX/IFSA, NACA, NATA and HAI – and small communities and airports are lining up to oppose the ALPA initiative to block SkyWest Charter’s approval.

“For more than 45 years, Part 380 public charter regulations have allowed for a broad diversity of safe and secure air service options for US consumers,” NBAA President and CEO Ed Bolen noted, adding the increase in Part 380 operations has not led to an increase in accidents or incidents with such operations.

ALPA doesn’t seem to mind when large airlines use Part 380 but does mind when regionals do it, according to the accompanying article in AIN which called out ALPA's deception on Public Charter accidents in its comment.

“I have not seen data to say that flying in the U.S. is significantly safer than Europe or UK,” one of the anonymous commenters wrote FAA, adding “ALPA's position is strictly political, not based upon any regulatory concerns. ALPA has had no concern with other 135 carriers like Boutique Air or CommutAir. I believe this is ALPA's way of trying to control new pilots to steer them only towards their union and, ultimately, union dues for ALPA.”

FAA’s notice seeks comments and data regarding potential effects a regulatory change could have on small communities; as well as any projected impacts to competition, innovation, and

technologies; suggestions on alternative regulatory structures; and the amount of time realistically needed to transition operations should a new rule be adopted. [Read more.](#)

[Airlines, ALPA Critique Proposed Public Charter Rule](#)

[Aviation Orgs Question FAA over Proposed Public Charter Overhaul](#)

**Welcome New Members – Grant Aviation,  
Propair, Triumph Product Support, M&M  
Logistics, Appleton Regional Airport**



Please welcome Daniel Knesek of [Grant Aviation](#), an Alaskan-owned and operated airline and cargo carrier, established in 1971 as Delta Air Services in Emmonak, Alaska. Our name changed to Grant Aviation in 1993. It has bases in Anchorage, Bethel, Cold Bay, Dillingham, Dutch Harbor/Unalaska, Emmonak, Kenai and King Salmon, and serve communities throughout the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, the Aleutians, and Bristol Bay. In addition to scheduled flights, it also offers charter flights and cargo services. Grant maintains an operating fleet that includes GA8 Airvans, Cessna 207s, Piper PA-31-350 Navajos, Cessna Grand Caravans and Beech King Air 200s.



Please welcome Alain East from [Propair](#). Founded in 1954, Propair offers cargo charter service, private aircraft rental, aeromedical evacuation, corporate shuttle and aircraft maintenance services from its facilities located at the Rouyn-Noranda airports in Quebec. With a fleet of 10 private turboprop aircraft with pressurized flight decks, Propair is the oldest company in its category and is now one of the main providers of private flights in Quebec. Since 1989, Propair has offered, from the Rouyn-Noranda regional airport, transshipment services for supplies and passengers that converge on the northern regions. Whether for specialized shipments, such as dangerous goods, mining equipment or personal luggage, it has the expertise to ensure smooth and safe operations.

Also please welcome **M&M Logistics Group**. M&M provides door-to-door, expedited service from Mexico to the United States in tractor trucks. It has provided express pick up at manufacturing plants in Mexico and taken the cargo to airports or automaker manufacturing facilities.

Please welcome Alaina Yockey of [CD Training Academy](#).

CD Training Academy, is proud to set ourselves apart from the training competition with a turn-key management system that is affordable, customizable, loaded with 160+ courses out the gate, tracks On-the-Job Training, builds Learning Paths, sets automated onboarding experiences that saves time. Having several years as Training Director for a Part 145 Repair Station, Alaina understands how important it is to have a good training management system put in place to be successful in navigating through the everchanging rules and regulations and being audited by regulatory authorities. CD Training alleviates the cumbersome task of overseeing the management of required initial and recurrent training offering time savings in a one-stop shop that retains all training records, including, On-the-Job Training, Online Training, and Third Party Training Courses. Companies have the capability of adding their own in-house training courses, and we also include over 160+ courses to the portal.





Please welcome Marc Ausman from Electra Aviation. [Electra](#) was founded with a mission to decarbonize aviation and bring air transportation to every part of the world. Electra's founder and CEO, Dr. John Langford, a serial aerospace entrepreneur with two prior successful exits, developed the most ambitious aircraft designs for three decades. Joined by long-time collaborators from Aurora Flight Sciences, MIT, Boeing, Airbus, Pilatus, and Hondajet, Electra's team combines deep expertise in electric flight, sustainable aircraft design, STOL/blown lift technology and aircraft certification and production [recently rolled out](#) after a year of testing its flying testbed.

Finally, please welcome, William Bogert of [TRIUMPH Product Support](#). Based in Grand Prairie, TX, TRIUMPH is a global leader in the aerospace industry offering design, production and service for aircraft systems and components including actuation, fuel systems, hydraulics, geared solutions, MRO services for OEMs and carriers. It is a top tier accessories repair and overhaul service provider in the global market. It's Hot Springs, AR, facility is an FAA/EASA/CAAC approved repair station specializes in aircraft structure repair and overhaul, providing high quality, reliable maintenance solutions tailored to customer needs. Its Wellington, KS, facility is an FAA Repair Station specializing in accessory repair & overhaul CSDs & IDGs, air cycle machines, heat transfer components, turbine drive units, pneumatics, compressors, starters, generators & fuel system components.



Please welcome Jesse Funk, Air Service & Business Development Manager, at [Appleton International Airport](#) (ATW). Served by four passenger carriers including Delta, American, United and Allegiant, ATW is the third busiest of eight commercial airports in Wisconsin in terms of passengers served. Additionally, ATW hosts a FedEx operation, a Gulfstream facility, owns and manages their own FBO and is home to regional carrier Air Wisconsin.

## MEMBER NEWS

### **FedEx Donates CF6 engine to Marshall's Aviation Maintenance Technology**

FedEx donated a jet engine to the Aviation Maintenance Technology program at Marshall University, affording students hands-on, real-world experience. The engine, a General Electric CF6 motor from a retired McDonnell Douglas DC-10 aircraft, will be used in daily classroom instruction as students work toward their powerplant certification. [Read more.](#)



### **Electra eSTOL Secures New Investment, Signs Air Force Contract**

With a goal of developing an aircraft that can take off in 150 feet, Electra attracted increased investment recently from Statkraft, a venture capital fund focused on sustainable energy transition. Electra also signed and fully executed its partnership with US Air Force's AFWERX innovation division paving the way for Strategic Funding increase of up to \$85 million to support development and testing of the company's full-scale, pre-production prototype. [Read more.](#)

### **Elroy Air Forms Defense Board**

Elroy Air, the company developing an end-to-end autonomous vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) cargo system, formed a Defense Advisory Board to support the company's forward

trajectory and customer success with the US government and allies. The board's members include high-ranking former US military officials who will play a pivotal role in guiding the company's strategic direction and enhancing its product offerings for government customers. [Read more.](#)

## **Reliable Robotics Demonstrates Integration of Automated Aircraft into NAS**

Reliable Robotics, a leader in safety-enhancing aircraft automation systems, completed a series of simulations and flight tests demonstrating successful integration of remotely piloted aircraft systems into congested airspace as part of the FAA's Urban Air Mobility Airspace Management Demonstration (UAMD). Funded by the FAA through Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, the demonstration included a week-long series of flights in Northern California.

“The flight tests highlighted the ability for new aircraft systems to interact with third-party service providers and seamlessly integrate into future airspace environments, and provided critical data for future operations,” said Diana Liang, Enterprise Portfolio Manager at the FAA. [Read more.](#)

## **UPS Flight Forward Receives Matternet Approval**



UPS, which is partnering with Collins Aerospace, received FAA approval to operate the Matternet M2 drone beyond the visual line of sight (BVLOS) for operations in North Carolina, Florida, Ohio and “potentially other states.” With this approval, UPSFF will now be able to fly the Matternet M2 drone without requiring expensive Visual Observers to monitor the airspace in

favor of installing ground-based radar to scan the skies for potential air traffic conflicts and alert a remote pilot in command.

The news comes as the agency also approved BVLOS for Airobotics' Optimus-1EX automated drone platform – the first non-air carrier drone designed for autonomous security and data capture. The agency also approved Avionix for BVLOS over people the same as the UPS Flight Forward approval. In addition, the [FAA granted its first such authorization to Phoenix Air Unmanned](#), the drone unit of air charter company Phoenix Air which plans to use SwissDrones for powerline and pipeline inspections and similar work. [Read more.](#)

## **Beta Technology Featured in Vertical Magazine**

Beta Technology's Founder Kyle Clark discusses the company's path to commercializing electric vertical takeoff and landing aircraft, which, he said is now shifting from engineering to manufacturing. Beta's first aircraft are the Alia-250 eVTOL and the CX300, an electric conventional takeoff and landing version. [Read more.](#)

## **ZeroAvia Enters New Middle East Partnership, Reports Successful Compressor Tests**

ZeroAvia is partnering with Masdar (Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company), a clean energy company, to explore hydrogen production and supply at key locations. The partnership with the UAE's renewable energy company will focus initially on projects in North America and Europe, while also looking at the opportunity to establish clean flight operations in the UAE. [Read more.](#)

In other news, Zero Avia said initial testing of a purpose-designed compressor for the fuel cell at the heart of the ZA600—its first hydrogen-electric powertrain—shows stable performance over a wide power range. Describing the radial compressor as a world-first for fuel-cell based aviation propulsion, ZeroAvia says the initial unit will support up to 900-kW power systems, making the design “many times” more powerful than any existing fuel cell compressors. [Read more.](#)

## Textron Names New CEO of eAviation

Long-time company executive Kriya Shortt was named to lead Textron's eAviation division as president and CEO, succeeding Rob Scholl who moves to lead Textron Specialized Vehicles as president and CEO. Currently senior v-p of global parts and distribution at Textron Aviation, Shortt has 27 years with the Wichita airframer, also holding the roles of president at Able Aerospace and McCauley Propeller and as senior v-p of customer service, as well as international sales. [Read more.](#)



## Embraer Improves Results

Even as it posted a loss, Embraer reported improved results for 2Q23 and first half posting a net loss of \$18.8 million in the second quarter compared to a \$146.4 million 2Q net loss in the year-ago period. Revenues grew to \$1.292 billion, up from the year-ago quarter with a positive operating profit of \$73.2 million compared to \$227.1 million loss. [Read more.](#)

## DHL, Girl Scouts Partner on New Logistics Career Path

As part of its effort to inspire the female supply chain leaders of tomorrow, DHL Supply Chain North America donated \$1 million to the Girl Scouts of America to fund curriculum developments. Recent data reveals women only account for 41% of the workforce in the supply chain industry, with women holding only 15% of executive roles in the sector, according to Women in the Supply Chain report by Gartner. Collaboration will help close the STEM gap and ensure women are represented in the future supply chain workforce. The DHL/Girl Scout partnership will establish a program and branded patch to empower Girl Scouts to learn about the importance of the supply chain industry and discover a myriad of exciting careers in the field. [Read more.](#)

## C&L Aviation Group Purchases, Disassembles ATR 42

C&L Aerospace, a C&L Aviation Group company, continues to increase support for ATR with the recent purchase and part out of an ATR 42-500 aircraft, including engines, landing gear, prop blades, leading edges, and flight controls. This is the 9<sup>th</sup> ATR the company has disassembled for parts in the last three years. [Read more.](#)

## Eve Air Mobility, DHL Partner to Develop Eve's Chain Services

Eve Air Mobility is partnering with warehousing and distribution giant DHL Supply Chain. Eve will leverage DHL's expertise to revamp its own supply chain as part of an agreement to design a concept for "eVTOL support" services. The two signed a memorandum of understanding to study the demands and supply chain characteristics of Eve's operations, including the delivery of batteries, spare parts, and supplies, and the disposal of used materials. [Read more.](#)

## Textron Achieves Brazilian Certification for SkyCourier

The National Civil Aviation Authority of Brazil (ANAC) granted certification for the Cessna SkyCourier, paving the way for operations in the country. [Read more.](#)

## Show Your Support for RACCA

Place the RACCA Logo on your website., a great idea for companies wanting to show their partnership with us and show support





for RACCA efforts. Reach out to [kcreedy@raccaonline.org](mailto:kcreedy@raccaonline.org) to receive a copy of our logo and thank you for your support!



### **Beta, Joby lead AAM Reality Index**

Beta Technologies reached the second-highest slot in the AAM Reality Index, boosted by its production readiness, strong balance sheet and clear path to market for its CX300 electric conventional-takeoff-and-landing (eCTOL) aircraft.

[Read more.](#)

### **UPS Revises Outlook Amid Delivery Slowdown, Contract Costs**

UPS cut its financial outlook for the year as a slowdown in global delivery volumes and the fallout from a new labor contract weigh on the business. UPS expects revenue to be about \$93 billion in 2023, down from earlier guidance of \$97 million. Revenue in the second quarter slipped nearly 11% from a year earlier to \$22.1 billion, while profit fell 27% to \$2.08 billion. The results reflect the company's ongoing cost-cutting moves. [Read more.](#)

### **Textron On Track to Open New Facility by Year's End**

Textron's new 180,000 sq ft parts distribution center in Wichita is scheduled to open by the end of 2023 and will include storage for 120,000 parts for Cessna, Beechcraft and Hawker aircraft. [Read more.](#)

### **PWI Cabin LED Lighting Kits Earn PMA Approval**

Cessna Citation II 550 and the 525 CJ1 business jets now have an OEM cabin lighting LED solution for replacing all original fluorescents. PWI earned FAA PMA approval for all cabin configurations of the Citation II and the CJ1 models. PWI LED kits replace all fluorescents in the galley, lav and passenger cabin. [Read more.](#)

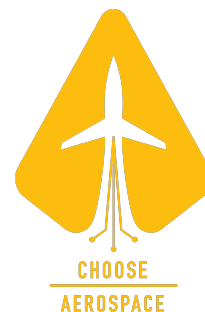
### **Pratt Plans Hybrid-Electric Propulsion**

Pratt & Whitney is planning the development of a hybrid-electric propulsion system for the de Havilland Dash 8-100. Raytheon Technologies, along with its business units Pratt & Whitney and Collins Aerospace, successfully completed a rated power test of the electric motor installed on the demonstrator. The company will use the 1 MW electric motor, developed by Collins, and combine it with a highly efficient thermal engine by P&W for demonstration. [Read more.](#)

## **Industry News**

### **Choose Aerospace Anticipates 300% Increase in High School Student Enrollment**

In 2020, the ATEC community embarked on an initiative to raise awareness of aviation maintenance careers and grow the number of students entering part 147 aviation maintenance technician schools (AMTS), said the organization in a recent newsletter. Today, nearly four years later, the Choose Aerospace aviation maintenance curriculum nears its 1000th student enrollment, proving the program is an effective resource for growing the supply of aviation mechanics and technicians.



It noted the Choose Aerospace curriculum was designed in partnership with part 147 program administrators and instructors. It covers the general subject areas of the FAA mechanic airman certification standard, allowing students to complete the approximately 500 hours of coursework for transfer into an AMTS.

Nearly 200 students used the program in secondary and post-secondary settings used Choose Aerospace in its inaugural 2022-23 academic year, not only demonstrating the feasibility of an adaptive hybrid approach to education in a post-pandemic educational system but also showcased the program's ability to reach underserved communities. Most promising was the increased number of female student participants, a demographic highly sought after given 98% of FAA-certificated mechanics are male.

After a two-year development period, a one-year pilot test, and a successful inaugural year, 30 programs are expected to enroll 800 students in the general maintenance curriculum this 2023-24 academic year. For more information about building new pathways with the Choose Aerospace curriculum, visit [chooseaerospace.org/curriculum](https://chooseaerospace.org/curriculum).

### **IATA: Global Air Cargo Reaching 2022 Levels**

The global air cargo market sees strengthening demand during July 2023, according to data released by IATA, after a disappointing start to the year. It said air cargo demand almost reached 2022 levels, sitting just 0.8% behind the level of demand in July 2022. It cautioned the industry to watch evolving trends, saying there are many air cargo demand drivers, including trade volumes and export orders, which remain weak or deteriorating and growing concerns over the Chinese economy. [Read more.](#)

### **Join ARSA in Promoting Digital Skills Training**

The Aeronautical Repair Station Association is asking for support to include aviation and the maintenance industry in new efforts by Business Leaders United, an initiative of the National Skills Coalition to increase digital skills training. ARSA sees it as part of its broader effort to bolster competency-based AMT training and improve open access to resources (“with limited regulatory hand wringing over emerging technologies”). It is encouraging industry to sign on to the initiative. [Read more.](#)

### **ARSA Leading Digitization Study**

ARSA has partnered with several industry allies in conducting an aviation digitalization survey. Member companies are encouraged to participate. The [survey](#) seeks feedback from maintainers, manufacturers, operators, lessors, and others regarding current practices and regulatory issues associated with the digitalization of information. It is being conducted by ARSA and the other associations that participate in the [Maintenance Management Team](#) (MMT), a coordinating body of four leading aviation authorities (FAA, EASA, ANAC Brazil, and TCCA).

### **Collins Replacing Pneumatic with Electric Systems**

To reduce emissions, Collins is replacing more pneumatic systems with state-of-the-art electrical systems in aircraft that have traditionally been based on hydraulic and pneumatic power. Collins and Pratt & Whitney, another RTX business, is combining fuel-burning engines with electrical motors and batteries to form a hybrid-electric propulsion system for future aircraft. [Read more.](#)

### **ATEC Joins Letter to White House Supporting STEM**

ATEC recently provided feedback to the White House on the STEM Education Coalitions five-year strategic plan proposing a wide range of policies to improve STEM education and bolster the competitiveness of the workforce. An alliance of education, business and professional organizations

working to inform federal, state and local decision makers about STEM education urged improvement in the way students learn STEM. [Read more.](#)

## **The Importance of Tapping Military Veterans to Fill Labor Gap**

NATA CEO Curt Castagna discusses why seeking veterans is so important to filling the labor gap. The current labor force participation rate is 62.6%, which means there are 1.95 million workers fewer workers in the labor force compared to pre-pandemic.

While thousands of people are entering the workforce, there are still over 10 million open jobs. Currently, there are 75 workers for every 100 open jobs in the U.S. This means every state is facing an unprecedented challenge to recruit, hire and retain qualified workers. The latest federal data indicates that of the approximately nine million veterans employed across the U.S. economy in 2022, 7.6% (about 650,000) were in occupations directly involving transportation. While some companies consider aviation experience a prerequisite, it is equally important to consider how military experience enables veterans to develop the skills, leadership, discipline and teamwork needed to join the airport's diverse workforce, on the ground or in the air. [Read more.](#)

## **Emerging Tech**

### **Reality Catching Up to Emerging Tech**

AvWeek reports “deep skepticism” about the ability of the Advanced Air Mobility industry to launch operations in 2024-25, finally catching up to the reality many seasoned observers expressed in recent years. Less than a third thought regulatory frameworks will hinder launch of passenger operations but were more optimistic about applications covering cargo, inspection, surveillance and mapping. [Read more.](#)



### **Industry Groups Comment on Powered Lift Proposals**

AOPA, Helicopter Aviation International, the National Air Transportation Association, Vertical Flight Society, General Aviation Manufacturers Association and the National Business Aviation Association submitted comments concerning certification and training for powered-lift aircraft as well as maintenance and alteration requirements. The groups urged FAA to align the FAA SFAR for Integration of Powered Lift: Pilot Certification and Operations more directly with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards and guidance and expressed its primary concerns on simulator approval qualification failures and incomplete cost data for a regulatory impact analysis. [Read more.](#)

[Air taxi developers see significant hurdles in FAA's proposed rules](#)

### **First Automated Formation Flight**

AutoFlight, provider of autonomous electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) technology, successfully executed a world first formation flight of three autonomous eVTOL aircraft in Shanghai, China, Halldale reported. The company achieved another world record last February 2023 when it achieved 250 km range on a single battery charge on one of its prototypes. [Read more.](#)

### **Gartner Predicts Mobile Robots Will Outpace Drones**

Driven by labor shortages, challenges retaining talent, and technology advances, Gartner forecast companies will adopt far greater numbers of smart mobile robots over the next three years than flying drones. Many organizations already deploying mobile robots will likely expand their fleets in the next three years, with each company putting hundreds, if not thousands, of mobile robots in use,

while they deploy drones in more targeted ways, such as for inspection at a location or delivery of critical goods like medicines to remote areas. [Read more.](#)



### **Joby Complete First Liquid Hydrogen Flight**

H2FLY, a wholly owned subsidiary of Joby Aviation, successfully completed the world's first piloted flight of a liquid hydrogen-powered electric aircraft. H2FLY, acquired by Joby in 2021, continues to lead the industry on the development and testing of hydrogen aviation propulsion systems. The company completed a series of piloted flights with its HY4 demonstrator aircraft, including one that lasted

more than three hours, fitted with a hydrogen-electric fuel cell propulsion system and liquid hydrogen that powered it for the entire flight. [Read more.](#)

### **Air Force Flies Pilotless AI Flight**

Stars & Stripes reported Air Force researchers are touting the achievement of the first uncrewed flight using artificial intelligence algorithms after a successful three-hour sortie by an XQ-58A Valkyrie. The July 25 flight at Eglin Air Force Base was done in partnership with Kratos using AI algorithms created by the lab and honed through millions of hours of simulations. [Read more.](#)

### **Evation Says Electric Aircraft are a Game Changer**

Aviation will never be the same after the introduction of electric aircraft, according to Eviation President and CEO Gregory Davis, who spoke of his company's Alice program, named after Alice in Wonderland's White Rabbit. He noted half the world travels are less than 500 miles making Alice's 300-mile range ideal. Named to Time's 100 Most Influential Companies earlier this year, the company has already booked \$4.5 billion in orders including DHL and Cape Air. [Read more.](#)



### **Fed Watch**

#### **White House Finally Nominates Whitaker for FAA Administrator**

Michael Whitaker, a former senior aviation official from the Obama administration, was nominated to head the FAA that has been without a permanent head since April 2022. The nomination comes after increased pressure from industry associations. [Read more.](#)

### **No New Markup Date Set for Reauthorization in Senate**

Amid threats of a government shutdown at the end of this month, the Senate returned to work and Politico reports FAA reauthorization remains stuck in the Commerce Committee. Opposition remain on the Thune/Sinema amendment to include more sim time.

**Duckworth:** [Congress Can't Erode Airplane Safety Rules That Save Lives](#)

### **Boulter Named FAA Safety Chief**

David Boulter, a long-time FAA official, was tapped to become the agency's associate administrator for aviation safety. [Read more.](#)

### **TSA announces expansion of Certified Cargo Screening Program for Manufacturers, Shippers**

TSA changes to [Certified Cargo Screening Program](#) enables more shippers to enter the secure supply chain. On June 30, 2021, TSA mandated all air cargo originating in the United States and destined for non-U.S. locations be screened or secured before being loaded onto an aircraft to meet international standards and to address potential threats to aviation.

TSA is actively encouraging indirect air carriers, manufacturing facilities, assembly facilities, shippers, warehouses and distribution centers to apply for and become a Certified Cargo Screening Facility for certification by TSA to assemble, pack, secure and tender cargo for air transport in a secured manner, where no additional screening will be required. [Read more.](#)

## FAA Notice Addresses Changes in Maintenance Certification Tests

AIN reports a newly issued FAA [Notice 8900.66](#) outlines the requirements of agency personnel responsible for monitoring, conducting, and overseeing revised certification testing procedures for aviation maintenance technicians as part of its final rulemaking overhauling aviation maintenance technician school and testing regulations under FAR Parts 65 and 147. As a component of this overhaul, the agency is replacing the practical test standards (PTS) with airman certification standards (ACS), as the basis for obtaining maintenance certification. [Read more.](#)

## U.S. Cargo and Passenger Airlines Added 1,992 Jobs in June 2023

U.S. airline industry (passenger and cargo airlines combined) employment increased to 801,801 workers in June 2023, 1,992 (0.25%) more workers than in May 2023 (799,809) and 58,431 (7.86%) more than in pre-pandemic June 2019 (743,370). U.S. cargo airlines employed 271,624 workers in June 2023, 34% of the industry total. Cargo carriers lost 1,489 employees in June. FedEx, the leading air cargo employer, decreased employment by 1,504 jobs. [Read more.](#)

## Professional Development

### RAA Leaders Conference

At the RAA Leaders Conference, will be held **September 19-20** where attendees will find opportunities to connect with partners and customers, learn more about critical initiatives and hear from industry influencers and decision-makers. It will be held at RAA Headquarters, 1201 15th Street NW, Washington, DC. [Register.](#)



**Don't forget to Donate to RACCA's Scholarship Program**

**[Click on the Donate Button](#)**



## In Case You Missed It

[FAPA Hiring Bulletin.](#) Check out whose hiring and what they are offering.

[Regionals Are So Desperate for Captains, Mesa Will Pay Anyone \\$20,000 to Find One](#)

[United Airlines Will Spend \\$1.25 Million Funding School STEM Projects](#)

[The shutdown threat would be off the table, under newly proposed legislation](#)

[ATR aims to have fleet of 25+ ATR 72-600 in Korea](#)

[UPS inaugurated its first global technology center in India.](#)

[Gallery: An eVTOL Progress Report](#)

[Iconic UPS Brown Delivery Vehicles Receive Personal Update for Company's 116th Founders' Day](#)

[10 Questions for UPS Foundation CEO Nikki Clifton](#)

[Eviation receives order from Solyu for up to 50 Alice all-electric aircraft](#)

[Honeywell, Heart Aerospace To Collaborate On Flight Controls For ES-30 Electric Airplane](#)

[Artemis Aerospace discusses skills shortages in the aviation industry](#)

[Surcar Airlines Selects ZeroAvia Engines for Clean Seaplane Flights in the Canary Islands](#)

[JetBlue enables military-trained helicopter pilots to become JetBlue pilots](#)

[Air New Zealand adds two ATR72-600 and two Airbus A321neo to short-haul fleet](#)



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