

Executive Director's REPORT



Warm Wishes



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THE ELECTRIC AIRPLANE REVOLUTION MAY COME SOONER THAN YOU THINK

An all-electric mini-airliner that can go 621 miles on one charge and replace many of the turboprops and light jets in use now—flying almost as far and almost as fast but for a fraction of the running costs—could be in service within three years. But this isn't another claim by another overoptimistic purveyor of electric dreams. It's using current technology, and the first planes are being built right now. In fact, the process of gaining certification from aviation regulators for what would be the world's first electric commuter plane has already started.

The pressurised Alice from Israeli company Eviation is a graceful-looking composite aircraft with one propeller at the rear and another at the end of

each wing, placed to cut drag from wingtip vortices. Each is driven by a 260 kW electric motor, and they receive power from a 900 kWh lithium ion battery pack.

Alongside its 650 mile range, the pressurised \$3 million-plus Alice can carry nine passengers and two crew, and cruise at 276 mph – up there with the speed of the turboprops that are widely used in the commuter role, if not anywhere near that of jets.

But crucially, says Eviation chief executive Omer Bar-Yohay, “operating costs will be just 7 to 9 cents per seat per mile,” or about \$200 an hour for the whole aircraft, against about \$1,000 for turboprop rivals.

An illustrious list of blue-chip



companies has been assembled to support the project. The electric motors are from Siemens, the propellers from Hartzell, the avionics from BendixKing, and the fly-by-wire control system from Honeywell. The lithium-ion batteries are from Kokam, a South Korean company.

The company is currently building two aircraft and aims to have one flying early next year. A full-size plane will feature at the 2019 Paris air show (June

17 through 23)—a one-third demonstrator was at the French event last year. “Certification is expected in 2021,” says Bar-Yohay.

SEBRING AIRPORT NEWS



Master Plan Update

Update is approximately 60% complete. Forecasting has been completed and approved by FAA. Demand/Capacity draft is completed. Creation of Exhibit A from recently completed boundary survey elements is currently underway. Sustainability efforts such as solid waste and recycling plan are underway. Airport Layout Plan drawing set is nearing completion. Alternatives analysis

expected to reach completion soon. Capital Improvement Plan will begin within the next quarter. Update is scheduled for completion by March 2019.

Apron

Project was put out to bid at the end of May and bids were received on June 29th. FAA Construction Grant for \$7M has been executed by airport which will fund approximately half of apron reconstruction. FDOT Grant Agreement executed in November 2018. A request for supplemental funding for project has been submitted to FAA in order to reconstruct the remaining portion of the apron. A decision on supplemental funding should be determined by March of 2019. Notice to Proceed for construction is anticipated to be February 1, 2019.

Main terminal re-roofing

Substantial completion ongoing.

Hurricane Repairs

- Airside Center approximately 50% complete.
- Building 104 structural reinforcement and roofing approximately 50%.
- Building 103 and Building 33 plans and specifications almost complete.
- Building 60 plans and specifications nearing completion.

JEFF BRANDES: IMPORTANT TAKEAWAYS FROM AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE SUMMIT

Jeff Brandes, Florida state Senator and veteran lawmaker puts technology and innovation at the top of his priorities for solving various problems in Florida cities, including mobility.

Micro-mobility

Micro-mobility is anything from electric scooters and bicycles to golf carts. The mini-vehicles can . . . provide first-mile/last-mile solutions for transit.

Companies like Bird and Lime offer pay-per-use scooter rentals where commuters can pay by the minute to use the vehicles to get from one point to another. The app-driven service shows riders where to find a scooter and, in most cases, they can leave it wherever they want without having to locate a docking area.

“The law in Florida today, there’s a question about whether or not it’s allowed — can you have an electric scooter on the road without them being registered,” Brandes said. He plans to file a bill to clarify electric micro-mobility as an allowable use on roads sometime in January, and he’s confident it will land on the governor’s desk. Ensuring

safety, he said, will be up to local governments through local regulation.

“It’s really about making sure that we’re focused on the wide array of options that people now have for mobility,” Brandes said

Disruption

Electrification comes first, followed by automation, Brandes hypothesized. The onslaught of the two he said will disrupt traditional auto manufacturers in a big way. That disruption opens the door for an entirely new way of thinking among companies and lays a foundation for new companies. Such disruption is typically good news for consumers who, through the increased competition, stand to save on purchases. The changes could mean anything from a new type of product to new ways of using products, including mobility-as-a-service through things like car subscriptions and car sharing.

Automation and technology

“Florida needs to continue to lead in the conversation about automation and new technology,” Brandes said.

The state already has some of the most

tech-friendly laws on the books in the country. It’s right up there with California and Pennsylvania. But the state can do more, Brandes said, particularly by continuing to engage tech companies on legislative needs and responding appropriately. Those conversations are necessary to continue inviting new companies to Florida to test and deploy new technology.

Welcoming innovation in the transportation space isn’t just good for individual commuters, Brandes said. It’s also a way to shake up public transportation. “Public entities can no longer be focused on the giant bus,” Brandes said. “To me, that means that we have to allow for prototyping inside of transit agencies.” Brandes foresees a public transportation network that does a better job of catering to the individual passenger. It offers mobility choices that benefit not just those who are considered transportation disadvantaged — they don’t have a car — but also makes public transportation an option for the less traditional user who doesn’t necessarily need to use it.

SEBRING INTERNATIONAL RACEWAY NEWS

**Wayne Estes, President and General Manager
Sebring International Raceway**

The biggest news we have we can’t talk about in dollars, but our ticket sales for March look really, really strong. For us to be this far ahead before the real selling season is making us cautiously optimistic. We would be very optimistic, but we wonder if our early ticket sales could be attributed to more people understanding that discounts

are best when tickets first go on sale (this was a new concept two years ago, and people are catching on), or if all of the “WEC-interested fans” are making their purchases right out of the gate.

If we can continue to hold this momentum, our ticket sales for the 12 Hours will be extraordinary in terms of dollars over prior year.

The bridge project is well under way. Vertical walls have been poured on both sides of the track and the spans connecting the two sides are scheduled to be set between Christmas and New Year’s.





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With strategic access to major markets by land, sea and air—Sebring Regional Airport and Commerce Park offers a wide range of business advantages and incentives to support your company’s future. In the heart of Central Florida, the 2,000-acre park is conveniently situated within a 150-mile radius of 85 percent of the state’s population. Already home to Sebring International Raceway, a premier sports car racing facility, the park is uniquely positioned to accelerate your business.

SITE MAP

- Future Development
- Catalyst Site
- Future Commerce Park
- Existing Industrial Park
- Airport
- Sebring International Raceway



ACCELERATE YOUR BUSINESS'S POTENTIAL