

PRESS RELEASE

## **UMILES Next and TECNALIA take to the skies again completing successfully its second test flight on the eVTOL prototype Concept Integrity**



- *In test flights at the ATLAS Test Flight Centre, tests were run on the automatic flight control and autonomous take-off and landing systems, as well as on the Detect and Avoid technology and flight manoeuvres.*
- *The flight was part of the European USPACE4UAM project, which features companies including project leader HONEYWELL, Vertical Aerospace, CATEC and ENAIRE, and seeks to safely integrate operations using manned and unmanned vehicles into urban environments.*
- *As well as the air taxi, a range of other unmanned vehicles also flew at different layers at the event to demonstrate the feasibility of this new traffic type operating in urban environments in the near future.*

**Jaén, 26 October 2022.** The electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft designed by UMILES Next, Concept Integrity, equipped with FlyFree technology developed by research partner TECNALIA, took to the skies successfully over Jaén today. **Following its recent flight in Toulouse, this was the first free flight completed by the aircraft in Spain, as part of USPACE4UAM, a European demonstration project intended to safely integrate mixed operations, including manned and unmanned vehicles, into urban settings.**

The test flights took place this morning at the ATLAS Test Flight Centre in Villacarrillo, Jaén, which undertakes testing of unmanned aviation technologies and systems and light and tactical remotely piloted systems. These flights allow UMILES Next and TECNALIA to run further tests on their eVTOL prototype, paving the way for the future integration of the air taxi into urban airspace.

This is a significant milestone towards the integration of these aircraft into urban airspace, as defined by the European USPACE4UAM project, which seeks to test and demonstrate effective management of urban air traffic featuring unmanned aircraft. The Concept Integrity was flanked at the testing event by other unmanned aircraft at different layers with a view to proving that this new traffic type can be safely and seamlessly integrated into urban areas in the near future. The companies participating in the USPACE4UAM project include HONEYWELL, the project leader, Vertical Aerospace, CATEC and ENAIRE.

The mobility of the future will be smarter and more sustainable than ever before. New systems and developments will deliver alternative transport solutions in increasingly busy cities. UMILES Next and TECNALIA are working tirelessly to deliver urban air and ground mobility solutions which are set to become real transport options by 2028.

This was the first time the Concept Integrity prototype has flown in open air space in Spain and the aircraft's second free flight, after it took successfully to the skies of Toulouse back in September as part of an initiative by the TindAIR consortium, which rolls out large-scale urban air mobility test flights to test and demonstrate effective management of air traffic using unmanned aircraft in urban settings. The air taxi's next stop for further testing is Lugo.

### **About USPACE4UAM**

Uospace4UAM (Urban Space for Urban Air Mobility) builds on the CORUS project results and on operational and business experience already gathered in operational drone service implementations throughout Europe. It studies safety cases and their impact on system requirements and looks at how regulation and standardisation can be set up to help build a sustainable business case while operating safely in a multi-modal transport network. This project is expected to produce results that are vital to the future of its fledgling business in Europe, allowing it to make a significant impact in

the market in the coming years. In order to prove that this is being achieved, and that indeed the project has laid a bridge between development and deployment, the USPACE4UAM project is set to deliver a number of commercial contracts for the provision of fully automated drone services, and present solutions to identified gaps towards fully autonomous Urban Air Taxi services.



### **About UMILES Next**

UMILES Next, part of UMILES Group, develops advanced air and ground mobility solutions. A pioneer in delivering innovative capabilities to address passenger and freight transport safely and sustainably by harnessing the synergies of its proprietary technology. UMILES Next, in partnership with its main tech provider Tecnalía, is committed to spearheading air and ground mobility and competing on the global stage backed by exclusively Spanish capital and technology.

## **About TECNALIA**

TECNALIA is the leading applied research and technological development centre in Spain, a benchmark in Europe and a member of the Basque Research and Technology Alliance. The group works with companies and institutions to enhance their competitiveness, improve people's quality of life and ensure sustainable growth, thanks to a team of professionals who are passionate about technology and committed to building a better society. TECNALIA's core areas of activity are: digital transformation, smart manufacturing, energy transition, sustainable mobility, urban ecosystems and personalised healthcare.

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