VOLUME 52 ISSUE 02 /APRIL 2024

# WORLD AIR NEWS

CONNECTING SKIES · BRIDGING CONTINENTS

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## THE SYNERGY BETWEEN AI & DRONES

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# CONTACTS

**PUBLISHER TCE PUBLICATIONS**
PO Box 35082, Northway
4065 South Africa
Email: info@airnews.co.za
Tel.: +27 31 563 7115

**EDITOR**
Joan Chalmers
Email: joan@airnews.co.za

**OPERATIONS & ENQUIRIES**
Judi Rodokanakis
Email: judi@worldairnews.co.za

**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**
Hes von Wielligh
Email: hes@airnews.co.za
Tel.: +27 (0) 83 472 8834

Carla Hamman
Email: carla@airnews.co.za
Tel.: +27 (0) 84 894 6172

**BRITAIN / EUROPE / EUROPE BSP**
Sally Passey
Email: sally@bspmedia.com
Tel.: +44 (0) 1491 628000

**RUSSIA - MOSCOW**
Yury Laskin
Email: ylaskimail@gamil.com
Tel.: +749 5 91 21346

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**CONTENT CONTRIBUTORS**

**ETHIOPIA - ADDIS ABABA**
Kaleyesus Bekele
**KENYA - NAIROBI**
Githae Mwaniki
**MALAWI- BLANTYRE**
Frank Jomo
**NIGERIA - LAGOS**
Albinus Chiedu
**TANZANIA - DAR ES SALAAM**
Al Mohamed
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**This month we explore the latest innovations and developments shaping the aviation and aerospace industries.**

In this issue, we highlight the pioneering contributions of Bell Helicopters in Africa, showcasing their range of commercial helicopters tailored for diverse missions across the continent.

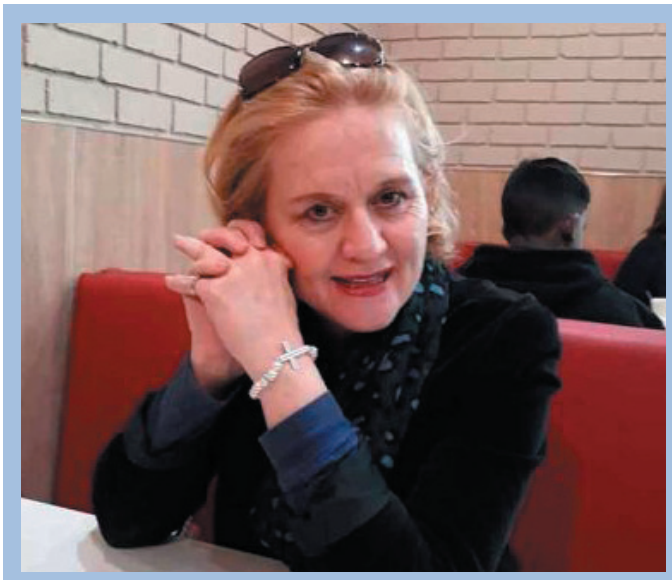
From the digital advancements of the Bell 505 to the reliability and agility of the Bell 407, and the twin-engine power of the Bell 429, Bell's commitment to innovation, safety, and efficiency underscores its position as a trusted leader in vertical lift solutions for the African market.

Continuing our exploration, we uncover Airbus' groundbreaking introduction of the CityAirbus NextGen, a cutting-edge electric air taxi poised to reshape urban air mobility. With its versatile design and commitment to sustainability, the NextGen promises to revolutionise transportation in bustling cities worldwide, highlighting Airbus' dedication to safety and regulatory compliance.

Furthermore, we delve into Leonardo Helicopters' significant impact across Africa, where their range of helicopters serves critical roles from executive transport to search and rescue missions, elevating industry, security, and humanitarian efforts across diverse landscapes.

Read about the extraordinary role of artificial intelligence (AI) in space exploration, from revolutionizing data analysis to enhancing operational precision and uncovering the mysteries of the cosmos. Through AI's seamless integration into space missions, we witness the fusion of human curiosity and analytical prowess propelling humanity towards unprecedented discoveries and exploration beyond the confines of Earth.

We hope you enjoy exploring the latest in aviation and aerospace in the April edition of World Airnews magazine.



# A REMARKABLE CHAPTER COMES TO A CLOSE

It is with a heavy heart that we say goodbye to Heidi Gibson, the editor of World Airnews magazine. Her departure marks the end of an era and a remarkable chapter in the history of our publication.

Heidi has been an integral part of TCE Publications, dedicating five years of her professional life to World Airnews.

As Heidi embarks on a new chapter in her career, we extend our deepest gratitude for her invaluable contributions to TCE Publications and World Airnews magazine. Her presence will be sorely missed.

Joan Chalmers will fill Heidi's position until further notice.

# BELL 505, 407 & 429
## TOP-TIER VERTICAL LIFT SOLUTIONS

**With an illustrious 89-year legacy marked by many pioneering achievements, Bell, a wholly owned subsidiary of Textron Inc. commands significant authority in aviation, serving as both designer and architect of top-tier solutions for vertical lift applications across commercial and military domains.**

Bell platforms have earned the reputation of being reliable, long-standing 'workhorses', capable of performing myriad missions across the variable and often challenging terrains of the continent. Working with operators in various locations who can sell, maintain and train pilots to the required Bell standard, means that purchasing, owning, flying and maintaining a platform has never been easier – whether privately or as a government entity.

*The imposing Bell 429 from the front.*

*The Bell 505, perfect for private ownership.*

## Bell 505

The Bell 505 story began in 1967, with the Bell 206, which has been seen in Africa for decades – its 'B' counterpart, with its slightly more powerful engine, was the platform in which Australian entrepreneur, Dick Smith, set the Guinness World Record for the World's First Global Solo Circumnavigation in 1982/3. Many of these 206s are still flying in Africa today. During its career, the 206 was produced in no less than 30 different variants.

Fast forward to 2017, the Bell 505 was launched, representing the next generation Bell 206. Transforming analogue to digital, but maintaining the low maintenance, workhorse, multi- mission capability, the twin-bladed 505 has now proven itself as one of the world's most advanced short light single engine helicopter in its class. Its almost 360-degree visibility, all-glass, intuitive avionics lend it to first time helicopter owners and it is the training platform of choice for commercial and military pilots on six continents. In February 2023, the Bell 505 became the world's first single engine helicopter to fly using 100% sustainable aviation fuel and later last year achieved its 505th delivery, boasting over 185,000 global fleet hours.

The 505's adaptable cabin design render it exceptionally cost-competitive and capable for any challenge. With a 306nm range, maximum cruising speed of 125 knots and a useful payload of 1,500 pounds (680 kilograms), the five-seat aircraft is designed for performance, efficiency, and reliability. The first 505 was delivered to South Africa in 2018 and there are now various 505s operating across the continent, providing VIP/ corporate transportation and sightseeing, performing anti-poaching operations, pipeline inspections, aerial surveillance and fire fighting, as well as emergency medical services – very important in some of Africa's most remote locations.

Boasting advanced avionics technology, proven dynamic components, an advanced aerodynamic design, and a dual-channel FADEC Safran Arrius 2R engine, as well as some of the lowest aircraft operating costs in its segment, it's clear the Bell 505 has maintained and built on the illustrious legacy of its predecessor.

The Bell 505 can now be found in countries such as South Africa, Uganda, Angola, and Kenya.

## Bell 407

Based on Bell's 206L-4 LongRanger, the Bell 407 is a four-blade single-engine helicopter that first flew in 1995, and in 1996, the first platform was delivered to South Africa. Since that time, it has become renowned for its reliability, speed,

*A Bell 407 flying over South Africa.*

and manoeuvrability, having played an essential role in critical missions in many African countries, such as South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya, and Botswana, for nearly 30 years.

Featuring an easily reconfigurable cabin, which can seat up to six passengers on club-style seating for premium comfort, or stripped down to its flat floor, to anchor for emergency medical equipment or perform utility operations, the Bell 407 carries out a range of missions in Africa, including:

- Geological Survey, mining inspections, power line inspections
- Game counting and capture, anti-poaching
- Helicopter slinging – for missions such as fire fighting and even game relocation
- Para public – law enforcement (including vehicle tracking) – the platform can be armed
- Aerial filming
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and disaster relief, such as flooding
- Oil and gas work
- Safaris

In South Africa, Bell has an existing partnership with Rhino911, a nonprofit organisation combatting illegal rhino poaching. Equipped with advanced sensors including night vision and thermal imaging, the specially outfitted 407 helicopter aids in locating and intercepting poachers across extended ranges, identifying potential hideouts, and determining poachers' routes. Its M250 Rolls-Royce engine ensures top-tier power and fuel efficiency, ideal for the African climate. The use of the 407 enables timely and effective action to be taken by law enforcement, with the Bell 407's capabilities extending to discerning and tracking personnel.

The aircraft sets a high standard for single-engine aircraft with its unmatched reliability and performance in hot, high, or maritime environments. The Bell 407GXi – the latest iteration of the Bell 407 family – offers the lowest direct operating costs of any IFR-capable helicopter produced today.

Equipped with a Rolls-Royce 250-C47B/8 turbine engine, the platform can cruise at 133 knots/246 kilometres per hour and known as the smoothest ride in its class, ensures passenger comfort even in adverse weather conditions.

## Bell 429

The Bell 429 is a light twin-engine multirole helicopter that is establishing itself in the African and Middle Eastern markets across several segments, including law enforcement and public safety, HEMS, energy and corporate/VIP transportation.

Dual Pratt & Whitney Canada electrically controlled PW-207D1/D2 engines allow for a maximum cruising speed of 287 kmph and a range of 411 nautical miles (or 761 kilometers), not to mention a very smooth ride. With its incredible horsepower, the 429 can power through hot and high conditions with poise.

BasixPro software makes all flight calculations, and smart displays ensure all relevant information is available immediately. For landing, satellite-based guidance systems give a precise look at the landing path – especially useful in tricky situations, whether that's a 9-degree approach or a low, 250-foot ceiling. And for those times when landing space is short, optional retractable wheeled landing gear allows for comfortable and quick taxiing, wherever that may be.

The 429's spacious, customisable cabin can be easily tailored to meet specific mission requirements. Boasting more

*Bell 429 VVIP Mecaer Interior.*

cabin space than any other light twin helicopter, the platform has flat flooring and comfortable seating for up to seven passengers in a suite format, great for conducting meetings in the air.

A 429 in the elite Bell Designer Series was recently showcased at the Singapore Airshow and has been demonstrated in several locations in Africa. Created for VIP transportation, this is a solution that elevates the cabin experience through interior leathers, enhanced flooring, and metal finishes, along with a range of additional options, that further increase the comfort and style of the already luxurious standard cabin seating. As a corporate transporter, the benefits that a helicopter provides in terms of time saved – especially in a continent such as Africa, with its huge open spaces – are immense. A journey that might typically take one and a half to two hours by car, can be achieved in as little as 12 minutes by helicopter. In business, time is money, but in terms of other missions, time can also mean the difference between life and death – as in the case of patient transportation in HEMS missions.

The 429's 62-inch (159cm) side doors and optional rear clam-shell doors allow for ease of entry and egress – especially useful when transporting large cargo or patients on stretchers; the flat floor even sits at the same height as a standard stretcher.

Another platform firmly renowned for its safety, reliability, and performance, there are now two 429s operating in South Africa and last year, Bell delivered the inaugural Bell 429 for offshore operations in Cameroon, marking the aircraft's premiere in the West African oil and gas market.

The Bell 429 is seeing continuing growing demand across the African continent as several deals are in the final stages and will be announced soon. Globally, the platform has firmly established itself as a superb choice for HEMS and public safety the world over.

Commonalities across all Bell platforms include intuitive smart avionics, easily adaptable cabins with flat flooring, low operating costs and so on – these are just some of the reasons why Bell, with its wealth of experience spanning nearly 90 years – is so highly regarded in its industry.

# LEONARDO HELICOPTERS' IMPACT ACROSS AFRICA

## North Africa: A Hub of Versatility

In Algeria, the AW139 proves its mettle in executive transport, VIP operations, and search and rescue missions. Meanwhile, in Egypt, this remarkable helicopter takes on roles ranging from oil and gas support to VIP transport and law enforcement.

Venturing into Libya, the AW139 plays a crucial role in oil and gas support, government transport, and border patrol. Across the border in Tunisia, it takes on responsibilities in VIP transport, tourism, and medical evacuation.

## West Africa: Skies Above Rich Resources

Angola relies on the AW139s and AW189s for vital functions such as oil and gas support, VIP transport, and search and rescue. Côte d'Ivoire leverages the capabilities of the AW109s and AW139s for government transport, law enforcement, and medical evacuation.

Ghana experiences the versatility of the AW139 in the oil and gas industry, VIP transport, and offshore operations. Nigeria, a key player in the region, employs the AW139s and AW189s for crucial tasks like oil and gas support, VIP transport, and search and rescue operations.

## East Africa: Navigating Diverse Landscapes

In Ethiopia, the AW139s serve multiple purposes, including government transport, VIP operations, and humanitarian missions. Kenya relies on the AW109s and AW139s for tourism, VIP transport, and wildlife conservation efforts.

Tanzania witnesses the AW139s in action across tourism, wildlife conservation, and medical evacuation missions. Uganda, on the other hand, capitalizes on the AW139s for VIP transport, oil and gas support, and search and rescue operations.

## Southern Africa: Elevating Industry and Security

Namibia embraces the AW139s in the tourism sector, VIP transport, and mineral exploration endeavours. Meanwhile, South Africa entrusts the AW109s, AW139s, and AW189s with roles in VIP transport, emergency medical services, and law enforcement, showcasing the widespread influence of Leonardo Helicopters across the vast African continent.

*The Leonardo AW169M*

# UNLOCKING THE SECRETS OF HELICOPTER MAINTENANCE FOR NEW OWNERS

**For aspiring helicopter owners, the journey begins with unravelling the intricacies of aircraft maintenance – a crucial aspect often cited as a major deterrent to helicopter ownership. Yet, understanding the nuances of maintenance and the associated regulations can demystify the process and pave the way for informed decisions.**

Delving into the realm of helicopter maintenance, it becomes apparent that the real cost varies even among aircraft of the same make and model. Armed with a bit of research and strategic planning, owners can gain insights into their aircraft's maintenance needs and estimate costs accordingly. "It starts with understanding the kinds of maintenance and regulations that require it," emphasises industry experts.

Maintenance professionals commonly distinguish between two types: scheduled and unscheduled. While both play pivotal roles in keeping helicopters airworthy, the goal is to minimize unscheduled maintenance through vigilance and training.

Scheduled maintenance encompasses a range of activities, from routine inspections to component replacements dictated by prescribed time intervals. These include 100-hour inspections, annual inspections every 12 calendar months, and life-limited component replacements.

The latter, such as main and tail rotor blades, imposes a set lifespan, requiring replacement after a specific number of hours.

Time Between Overhaul (TBO) components, such as engines and transmissions, operate on a similar principle but allow for overhauls and reinstallation. The meticulous adherence to manufacturer guidelines, including those outlined in maintenance manuals and additional directives, is paramount in keeping helicopters in peak condition.

Unscheduled maintenance, on the other hand, arises from unexpected events triggering inspections or repairs. While inherently unpredictable, vigilant training of mechanics and pilots can significantly mitigate risks. "Careful, mindful pilots and mechanics who properly repair and inspect the aircraft can limit the risk of expensive unscheduled maintenance," notes industry insiders.

To manage maintenance effectively, new buyers are advised to invest in a pre-buy inspection. This comprehensive evaluation not only reveals existing issues but aids in predicting upcoming maintenance requirements, facilitating budget planning. Reputable maintainers often establish tailored maintenance programs, tracking and communicating upcoming maintenance needs to owners, thereby streamlining the process and ensuring a well-documented maintenance history in logbooks.

In the complex world of helicopter ownership, understanding maintenance dynamics emerges as a key factor in optimising costs and ensuring a seamless flying experience. By navigating the scheduled and unscheduled realms with knowledge and foresight, new helicopter owners can take to the skies with confidence and peace of mind.

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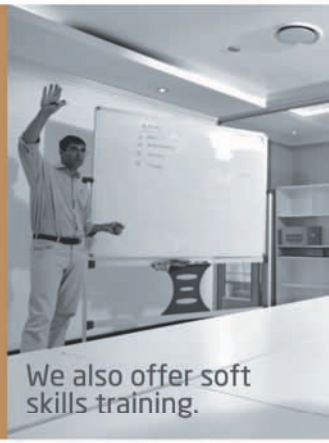

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Photo Credit: Airbus

# CITYAIRBUS NEXTGEN

**In the dynamic landscape of urban air mobility, Airbus continues to soar ahead with groundbreaking innovations.**

Amidst its impressive streak of aircraft orders in 2023, Airbus remains committed to expanding its horizon. On a thrilling Thursday unveiling, Airbus proudly presented the full prototype of its visionary creation: the CityAirbus NextGen.

This four-seat marvel, poised for its inaugural flight later this year, heralds a new era in electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) technology.

The CityAirbus NextGen epitomizes Airbus' dedication to sustainable aviation, boasting a zero-emission design tailored for diverse missions in bustling cities and urban environments.

From passenger transport to medical services and ecotourism ventures, this revolutionary aircraft promises versatility and efficiency. Collaborating with operators and airlines worldwide, Airbus aims to revolutionize urban transportation with this futuristic model.

Pioneering both piloted and potentially autonomous flight modes, the CityAirbus NextGen embodies the cutting-edge of advanced air mobility (AAM). Balkiz Sarihan, Head of Urban Air Mobility (UAM) at Airbus, underscores the significance of this milestone, stating, "Rolling out CityAirbus NextGen for the very first time is an important and very real step towards advanced air mobility [AAM] and our future product and market."

The NextGen concept, a direct descendant of Airbus' CityAirbus demonstrator, was first unveiled in 2021. With a pilot capacity of up to three passengers, a range of approximately 50 statute miles, and a cruise speed of 75 mph, this aircraft is engineered for optimal performance. Its sleek design, including a V-shaped tail, fixed wings, and a distributed electric propulsion system, ensures exceptional manoeuvrability and reduced noise levels during flight.

Crafted with a meticulous blend of in-house ingenuity and externally sourced components, the CityAirbus NextGen embodies excellence in engineering. Notable contributions from partners such as Spirit AeroSystems, Thales, Diehl Aerospace, and MagicAll have enabled Airbus to push the boundaries of aerial innovation.

Setting new standards in pilot interface, the NextGen features a groundbreaking human-machine interface, streamlining control with a single piloting stick. Airbus proudly claims this innovation as a first in the helicopter industry, promising enhanced manoeuvrability and ease of operation.

Certified under the European Union Aviation Safety Agency's (EASA) Special Condition for VTOL (SC-VTOL) regulations, the CityAirbus NextGen adheres to the most stringent certification standards. With FAA certification on the horizon, Airbus remains steadfast in its commitment to safety and regulatory compliance.

As Airbus unveils its NextGen prototype, it inaugurates the CityAirbus test center in Donauwörth, Germany, a testament to its dedication to eVTOL aircraft development. Collaborating with global partners and establishing vital infrastructure, Airbus paves the way for the widespread adoption of electric air taxis.

From Italy to Japan, Airbus aims to soar across continents, revolutionising urban transportation and forging strategic alliances. Partnerships with industry leaders like LCI, ITA Airways, UrbanV, and Enel underscore Airbus' commitment to sustainability, innovation, and global connectivity.

As the world eagerly awaits the maiden flight of the CityAirbus NextGen, Airbus stands at the forefront of a transformative era in urban air mobility, reshaping the skies and redefining the future of transportation.

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# IS BIGGER REALLY BETTER?
## A HISTORY OF THE A380

**Since the dawn of man-powered flight, the size of aircraft has been increasing to capacities never dreamed of by early designers and engineers. The Airbus A380-800 is currently the world's largest passenger aircraft - Artemis Aerospace explores this behemoth of the skies and why production ended.**

The Airbus A380, designed and produced by Airbus, the European multinational aerospace corporation, is not only the current largest passenger aeroplane in the world, but also the only jet airliner with full length double decks. It has an impressive maximum capacity of 853 passengers, if configured entirely for economy seats, and originally hit the drawing board as a rival to the immensely popular Boeing 747, the original 'jumbo jet', which can 'only' carry a maximum of 660 in the same configuration.

It first took to the skies in 2007 under the aegis of Singapore Airlines and was widely seen to be the future of the aviation industry. However, after a total of 254 aircraft were built, in 2019 Airbus announced that production of the Airbus 380 would cease in 2021, a surprisingly short timespan considering the Boeing 747 first flew in 1969 and ceased production in 2022. What happened in these fourteen years? And does it demonstrate that bigger really is better?

The Airbus 380 project was launched in 2000 when hub-to-hub flights were becoming popular and there was a significant congestion issue at major hub airports. In addition, extra slots at popular airport hubs such as London Heathrow were not only astronomically expensive, but also rarely became available. As a result, airlines were unable to boost the number of flights into an airport to increase market share. The only way to augment the number of passengers would be to concentrate on the capacity of the aircraft, and there was nothing larger at the time than the Boeing 747 and 777.

The Airbus 380 has an overall length of 72.7 metres, a height of 24.1 metres and a wingspan of 79.8 metres. Although, as mentioned above, it can carry a maximum of 853 passengers (in which configuration it has the lowest fuel burn per seat of any aircraft), it largely carries 545 passengers who are spread between first, business, premium economy and economy class.

In 2000, the projected development cost was €9.5 billion, but complications during development, such as issues with the 330 miles of electric cabling, continually pushed the total up and by 2014 it was estimated to have cost €18.9 billion. In addition, parts for the Airbus came from all over Europe; the nose and centre sections were built in Northwest France, the wings in Wales, the horizontal tailplane in Cadiz in Spain and the rear fuselage and vertical tail fin in Hamburg. The size of these finished parts requires complicated and expensive logistics to transport them to the Airbus factory in Toulouse, and there were also considerable delays in the schedule. The first Airbus was eventually delivered to Singapore Airlines


*Photo Credit: Airbus: The Airbus A380 Plus*

(with the registration of F-WWOW!) with Emirates, Air France, Qantas, Korean Air and Malaysia Airlines also introducing the Airbus to their service.

However, although passengers loved the comfort and space of the A380, a number of issues gradually became apparent. With fuel prices rising, the Airbus could only achieve its fuel efficiency with all seats filled - expecting that number of passengers wanting to use the routes on a daily basis was unrealistic. As a result, airlines were not recouping their costs.

A total of 251 Airbuses were ordered during its production lifetime, and of these, 123 went to Emirates. From a marketing point of view, there was a perception that the Airbus was the 'Emirates' aeroplane which inevitably meant that selling it to other airlines was more challenging.

In addition, by the time the Airbus took to the skies, the aviation industry was moving away from the hub-to-hub flying model. Long-haul flights were rising in popularity, but people were increasingly preferring to fly directly rather than waste time changing over at a hub. Newer aircraft were being designed with this in mind that incorporated fewer seats and more efficiency.

Due to the size of the A380, there were also issues with routes. It was only worth scheduling an Airbus if there was a significant demand for the route and an airline could be expected to fill the aircraft.

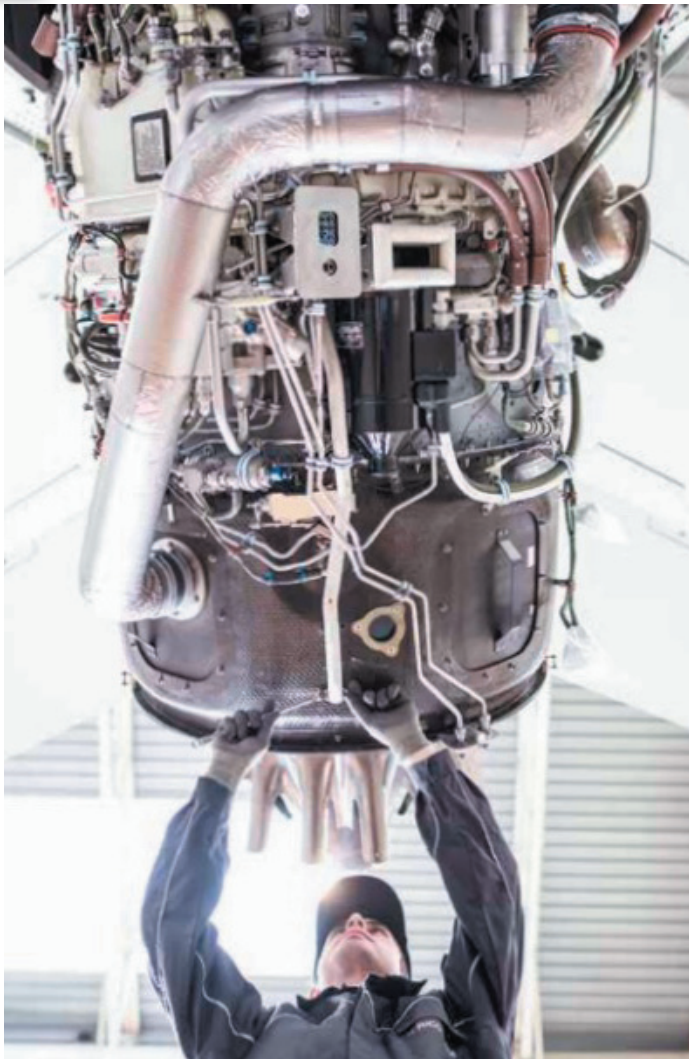
Another major difficulty was the number of airports which would have the capacity to accommodate the Airbus. It's around 30% larger than the Boeing 747, heavier than other aircraft and has a wingspan approaching the length of a football pitch. The Emirates hub at Dubai was able to receive the Airbus, but many other airports, particularly smaller or older ones, needed extensive and costly remedial works to land and manoeuvre the Airbus safely.

This included strengthening taxiways and runways and widening them to fit the wingspan, as well as possibly moving signage and lighting. More allocated space at gateways would be required, and the purchase of double-decker air bridges. The larger number of passengers would require extra ground support such as more customs provision and security and check-in areas and larger baggage carousels.

A further complication is the jet blast contour - the effect created by the thrust force from the back of the engine. Due to its size, the contour of the Airbus is larger than other aircraft so more space behind is needed for a safe take-off.

Finally, since the inception of the Airbus, fuel prices have risen considerably, and the more fuel-efficient and sustainable twin-engine aircraft are increasing in popularity over the traditional four-engine versions. Due to their increase in reliability, they can now travel for longer distances, and the reduction in fuel use per flight is an added bonus for airlines keen to show their green credentials. Maintenance costs are also lower, as a significant proportion of both routine and unexpected maintenance is centred on the engines.

We will continue to see the impressive bulk of the Airbus 380 crossing the skies for many years to come despite production ending. Although its size is undoubtedly its unique selling point, the difficulties the A380 has encountered in its lifetime demonstrate that bigger is not necessarily better.



# GENERAL AVIATION **ACHIEVES RECORD YEAR IN 2023**

**In a resounding testament to the resilience and growth of the general aviation sector, 2023 emerged as a "banner year," according to the General Aviation Manufacturers Association (GAMA). The revelations unfolded during the association's annual State of the Industry event on February 21, 2024, with the release of the much-anticipated 2023 General Aviation Aircraft Shipments and Billings Report.**

GAMA President Pete Bunce heralded the positive news, stating that "every segment of general aviation improved in 2023." With enthusiasm, he declared, "This is strong, steady, and sustained growth." The milestone that stood out was the delivery of over 4,000 aircraft—a feat not witnessed in over a decade.

The financial front also painted a rosy picture, with billings exceeding $27.8 billion, marking a commendable 3.6% increase from the previous year. Notably, all segments of aircraft displayed "robust and growing order backlogs," highlighting the industry's resilience and the crucial role played by general and business aviation in communities. Bunce attributed the surge in numbers to the industry's robust rebound from the challenges posed by the pandemic, emphasizing the significance of general and business aviation in driving economic vitality.

Breaking down the statistics further, aeroplane shipments in 2023 saw impressive gains compared to 2022. Piston aeroplane deliveries surged by 11.8% to 1,682, turboprop aeroplane deliveries increased by 9.6% to 638, and business jet deliveries rose by 2.5% to 730. The cumulative value of aeroplane deliveries reached $23.4 billion, marking a solid 2.2% increase.

Helicopters also experienced an uptick, with piston helicopter deliveries rising by 7.7% to 209, and preliminary civil-commercial turbine helicopter deliveries increasing by 10.4% to 753. The preliminary value of helicopter deliveries for 2023 reached an impressive $4.4 billion, reflecting an 11.2% increase.

However, despite the celebratory mood, Bunce acknowledged challenges on the horizon. Ongoing supply chain issues, workforce shortages, global regulatory uncertainties, and efforts aimed at restricting business and general aviation, particularly in Europe, pose as headwinds.

He emphasized the need for effective regulatory processes, a supportive business environment, and legislative measures such as a long-term FAA reauthorization bill, a fiscal year 2024 appropriations bill for the FAA, and a pending tax measure promoting research and development.

As the aviation industry's innovation incubator, Bunce stressed that overcoming these challenges would pave the way for extraordinary accomplishments in 2024 and beyond.

The complete 2023 year-end report is available on GAMA's website at GAMA.aero.

## YEAR-END AIRCRAFT SHIPMENTS AND BILLINGS

| Aircraft Type | 2022 | 2023 | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| Piston Aeroplanes | 1,505 1 | 682 | +11.8% |
| Turboprops | 582 | 638 | +9.6% |
| Business Jets | 712 | 730 | +2.5% |
| Total Aeroplanes | 2,799 | 3,050 | +9.0% |
| Total Aeroplane Billing | $22.9B | 23.4B | +2.2% |
| Piston Helicopters | 194 | 209 | +7.7% |
| Turbine Helicopters (*) | 682 | 753 | +10.4% |
| Total Helicopters | 876 | 962 | +9.8% |
| Total Helicopter Billing | $4.0B | $4.4B | +11.2% |

*GAMA excluded 2022 fourth quarter data for Leonardo in the comparison table.*

# PROS AND CONS **OF AI IN AVIATION**

## Benefits of AI in Aviation

Foremost among the advantages of AI in aviation is the remarkable enhancement of safety protocols. AI's capacity to analyse extensive data sets enables the early identification of potential safety issues, acting as a preventive measure and minimizing maintenance costs. Real-time monitoring of aircraft systems allows for the swift detection of anomalies, averting accidents proactively.

Operational efficiency receives a significant boost through AI implementation. Airlines can optimise flight routes and schedules, leading to reduced fuel consumption and substantial cost savings. Additionally, AI aids in fleet management by predicting maintenance requirements and optimising aircraft deployment.

The passenger experience undergoes a positive transformation with AI-powered chatbots and virtual assistants offering personalised support at every stage of the journey. Predictive analytics powered by AI enables airlines to anticipate passenger demands, facilitating tailored offerings and ultimately enhancing customer satisfaction.

## Risks of AI in Aviation

Despite the myriad benefits, acknowledging the potential risks of AI in aviation is imperative. A primary concern revolves around the prospect of AI malfunctioning or falling victim to cyberattacks. A malfunctioning AI system could result in serious accidents, while a hacked system may pose threats by gaining unauthorised access to critical aviation systems.

Another risk involves potential job displacement as automation becomes more prevalent. Responsible implementation of automation is essential to ensure the preservation of employment opportunities and prevent adverse impacts on human workers.

## Adopting AI Responsibly: A Holistic Approach

To harness the benefits of AI while mitigating inherent risks, adopting a holistic approach to AI integration is paramount. The following principles should guide this journey:

- **Transparency**: AI systems must be transparent, offering clear insights into their functionality and the data they utilise.
- **Accountability**: Those involved in the development and deployment of AI systems must be held accountable for their actions.
- **Privacy**: Respecting individual privacy is crucial, ensuring AI systems refrain from unauthorised surveillance.
- **Human Involvement**: Human judgment should remain irreplaceable, with active human participation at every stage of AI processes.


# JEREH GROUP UNVEILS INNOVATIVE GREENWELL HAZARDOUS WASTE TREATMENT EQUIPMENT AT BEIJING CIPPE 2024

**In a significant development at the 24th China International Petroleum & Petrochemical Technology and Equipment Exhibition (cippe 2024) in Beijing, Jereh Group introduced its ground breaking GreenWell hazardous waste treatment equipment. The unveiling took place amidst a vast 1500 square metre exhibition space, showcasing the company's latest advancements under the theme "Low Carbon Tech Smart Exploitation Solutions."**

GreenWell marks a departure from traditional methods of hazardous waste disposal. Offering on-site treatment without the need for intermediary steps, the equipment promises to tackle challenges associated with centralised waste management in the oil and gas industry. By enhancing processing efficiency and facilitating wastewater recycling within the system, GreenWell aims to significantly reduce both waste volume and environmental impact.

One of the key features of GreenWell is its modular design, which allows for easy transfer between different sites, catering to the diverse needs of various drilling platforms.

This versatility, coupled with its cost-effectiveness and environmental benefits, positions GreenWell as a compelling option for companies striving to create eco-friendly well sites.

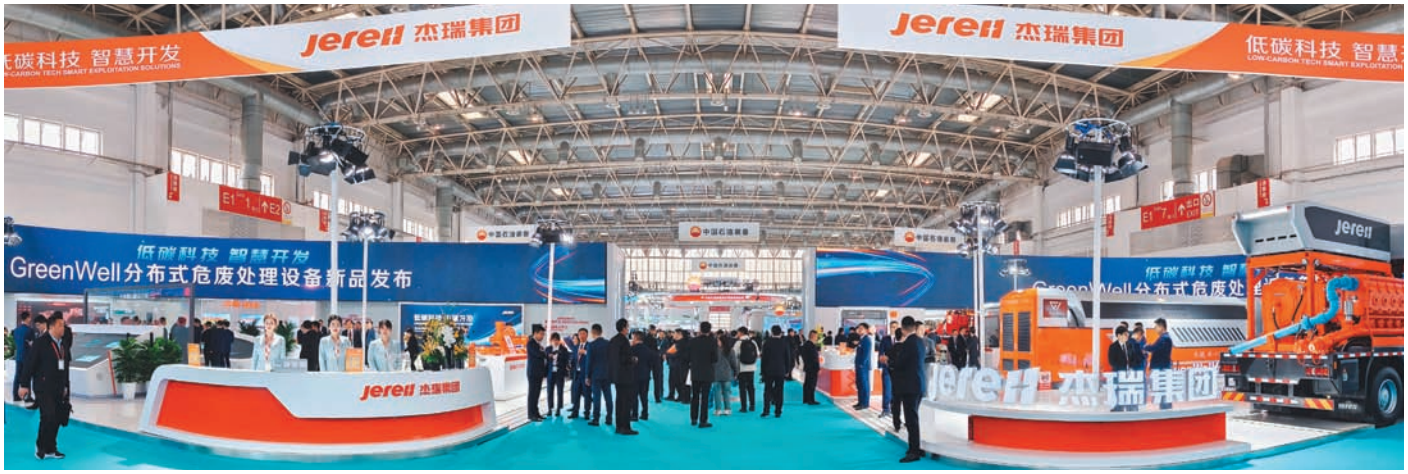
The impact of GreenWell is already evident, with oily waste at the well site reduced by over 20% and an impressive 95% recovery rate for basic oil achieved. Furthermore, the equipment's capability for zero discharge recycling of wastewater within the system represents a significant step towards sustainable waste management practices in the oil and gas sector.

Alongside GreenWell, Jereh Group also showcased its latest generation Jereh Apollo Turbine Fracturing Equipment, featuring an integrated design for efficient transportation and operation. Equipped with a powerful 5000 HP plunger pump, this equipment sets a new standard for operational efficiency and reliability in oil and gas development.


The Jereh booth attracted considerable attention from visitors at cippe 2024, with many expressing keen interest in the company's innovative technologies and products. Of particular note were Jereh's low-carbon fracturing solutions, intelligent oil field command centres, gas boosting solutions, and CCUS integrated solutions, indicating a growing industry focus on sustainable energy practices.

Jereh Group's unveiling of GreenWell underscores its commitment to driving high-quality energy development while prioritising environmental responsibility. With innovations like GreenWell leading the way, Jereh is poised to play a pivotal role in shaping a greener, more efficient future for the oil and gas industry.

*SOURCE: Jereh Group*



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# TOP 10 MILITARY TECHNOLOGY COMPANIES SPEARHEADING AI INTEGRATION

**In the ever-evolving landscape of military technology, artificial intelligence (AI) has emerged as a pivotal force, shaping everything from data processing to combat simulations. Let's delve into the forefront of this technological revolution by spotlighting the top 10 companies driving innovation in the integration of AI into military applications.**

## 1. BAE Systems: The Apex Innovator

BAE Systems stands as a multinational giant in defence, security, and aerospace. Their prowess extends to cutting-edge technologies in AI, cybersecurity, and electronic warfare. Operating globally, BAE Systems Applied Intelligence delivers advanced cybersecurity and data analysis solutions, safeguarding nations and industries in an interconnected world. With a skilled workforce spanning 90,500 employees across 40 countries, BAE Systems continues to collaborate closely with partners worldwide, contributing to economic development through the transfer of knowledge, skills, and technology.

## 2. Lockheed Martin: Aeronautical Architect of the Future

Lockheed Martin, a prominent American aerospace, arms, and defence corporation, boasts a rich legacy in shaping 21st-century security solutions. Formed through the merger of Lockheed Corporation and Martin Marietta, Lockheed Martin has become a strategic AI player. The company introduced its AI Factory, an internal ecosystem fostering the development and scaling of AI solutions. With a commitment to accelerating transformational security solutions, Lockheed Martin positions AI as a critical enabler across programs and business functions.

## 3. Northrop Grumman: Pioneer in Aerospace and Defence Tech

Northrop Grumman Corporation, an American aerospace and defence technology behemoth, stands at the forefront with a workforce of 90,000 and annual revenues exceeding US$30 billion. Renowned for crafting advanced products—from cutting-edge aircraft to cybersecurity systems—Northrop Grumman integrates leading-edge AI and machine learning solutions into complex, end-to-end mission systems crucial for national security.

## 4. Raytheon Technologies: Crafting the Future of Defence

Raytheon Technologies, a multinational aerospace and defence company, shines in providing advanced technology solutions, including AI, cybersecurity, and electronic warfare. Under the umbrella of Raytheon Intelligence & Space, the company develops AI technologies for application in space, cybersecurity, weather monitoring, national security, and intelligence. Their AI systems, emphasizing explainability and reliability, conduct critical groundwork and data analysis, offering recommended courses of action to operators.

## 5. IBM: A Global Technological Powerhouse

IBM, a multinational technology corporation headquartered in New York, plays a pivotal role in steering government

departments and corporations toward advanced hybrid cloud-based environments. With a global presence in over 175 countries, IBM leverages its technological prowess, including AI, SAP S/4HANA, and cutting-edge innovations like "cloud to the edge." Collaborative ventures, such as the partnership with Lockheed Martin subsidiary Red Hat, exemplify IBM's commitment to addressing AI and data-sharing challenges faced by the U.S. Department of Defense.

## 6. Thales Group: Orchestrating Defence Innovation

Thales Group, a multinational defence and aerospace company, spearheads technological solutions in AI, cybersecurity, and autonomous systems. In a groundbreaking move, Thales partnered with LuxCarta to offer AI-enhanced solutions for intelligence and military cartography, showcasing the company's commitment to innovation in the defence sector.

## 7. Palantir: Transforming U.S. Army Operations

Palantir, a frontrunner in software development, has been a pivotal partner to the U.S. Army since 2008. Their software harnesses AI insights, enabling rapid decision-making across multiple domains. Deployed across various Army mission areas, Palantir's solutions ensure accessible data for agile decision-making, empowering war fighters to out-think and outpace adversaries.

## 8. L3Harris: Navigating Military Challenges

L3Harris, renowned for leadership in military avionics, stands as a trusted source for technologies driving mission success. Their focus on tailoring avionics hardware and software to address unique requirements positions L3Harris as a preferred provider to the United States and allied militaries. The organization is actively developing AI solutions that provide war fighters with a cognitive advantage, enabling data-driven actions across domains.

## 9: Rafael Advanced Defence Systems: Israeli Vanguard of Defence Tech

Rafael Advanced Defence Systems, an Israeli defence technology company, originated as Israel's National R&D Defence Laboratory. Evolving into a limited company in 2002, Rafael has consistently contributed to the development of weapons and military technology. Their innovative pursuits in AI showcase a commitment to staying at the forefront of global defence technology.

## 10: Anduril: Rising Star in Military Technology

Established in 2017, Anduril swiftly ascended in the military technology realm, focusing on AI-driven solutions for military agencies and border surveillance. Specialising in defence hardware, including long-flying drones and surveillance towers, Anduril's Lattice OS serves as a core platform for autonomous sense making, command, and control. The company's growth underscores its dedication to pushing the boundaries of technological innovation in military applications.

These top 10 companies exemplify the convergence of AI and military technology, paving the way for unprecedented advancements and ensuring a robust defence infrastructure in an increasingly complex world.

*PHOTO CREDIT: Freepik No 6741*

# AVIATION'S ECO-FRIENDLY HORIZON:- TOWARDS A GREENER FUTURE

**In the vast expanse of global airspace, an industry accountable for 3% of worldwide $CO_2$ emissions is tackling a monumental challenge: mitigating its carbon footprint while navigating the skies with an annual fuel consumption of 95 billion gallons (2019). This pressing concern has spurred major airlines worldwide to confront the issue proactively.**

Ascending Towards Environmental Advancement with Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF): A glimmer of optimism in this endeavour is found in Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), capable of slashing emissions by up to 80% throughout its lifecycle.

This hydrocarbon-based fuel for combustion engines holds significant promise, meeting jet fuel standards and earning safety certification for flight by ASTM.

Revolutionary Developments in Synthetic Fuel: Paving the Way for a Sustainable Future Breaking new ground, the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) initiated testing of synthetic fuel innovations between 2006-09, addressing concerns over fuel security. This exploration unveiled an intriguing possibility—manufacturing fuel from existing waste and hydrocarbons within our systems.

Visionaries, producers, scientists, and innovators are steering the industry away from fossil-based oil towards above-ground, readily available materials. E-Fuels, harnessing carbon from the air and green hydrogen, emerge as potential game-changers. However, economic challenges and the need for rapid scale-up present formidable obstacles.

In the pursuit of a greener tomorrow, the UK takes a monumental step by allocating £165 million to five projects aiming to transform household waste into sustainable aviation fuel. These initiatives, projected to produce over 300,000 tonnes of SAF annually, pledge to reduce $CO_2$ emissions equivalent to removing 100,000 cars from the road each year.

Challenges and Achievements With aviation contributing 2.5% of global carbon emissions, efforts to decarbonize focus on blending conventional fuel with SAF derived from waste materials or by-products. The journey to net-zero gets a boost as Virgin Atlantic secures £1 million for the first net-zero transatlantic flight.

Legal Turmoil: Airlines Under Scrutiny for greenwashing In a turbulent turn of events, European airlines face legal action over allegations of greenwashing. The European Consumer Organisation (BEUC) challenges claims of sustainable air travel, urging an investigation into misleading practices.

Amidst the turbulence, airlines like Air France-KLM and Lufthansa defend their environmental commitments.

Despite the International Civil Aviation Organization pledging for net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, the industry grapples with scepticism. A survey of 325 aviation decision-makers reveals doubts about achieving this ambitious goal. Yet, the allure of sustainable fuels propelling airlines toward a guilt-free future keeps the industry dreaming.

Despite its current scarcity, the industry eyes an interim target of 30 billion litres annually by 2030. As projects multiply, technology advances, and government support trickles in, the aviation industry strives to redefine its impact on the environment.

As the aviation industry navigates the skies towards a sustainable future, it grapples with challenges, embraces innovation, and faces accusations of greenwashing. With technological solutions on the horizon, the question remains: Can the aviation sector truly achieve net-zero emissions and usher in a new era of guilt-free flying?

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# **AI SPACE EXPLORATION:** DECODING DATA IN THE COSMOS

**In the vast expanse of space, artificial intelligence (AI) has emerged as a transformative force, reshaping the landscape of space exploration. From deciphering data patterns to enhancing operational precision, AI's influence extends across various facets of space missions, uncovering the secrets of the universe.**

## AI Revolutionizing Data Analysis in Space Exploration

In the realm of space exploration, AI serves as a catalyst for more accurate and efficient data analysis. Machine learning algorithms prove invaluable in identifying patterns within vast datasets from satellites, probes, and other tools. By detecting anomalies, AI aids in unveiling potential discoveries or potential risks during space missions.

## Astrogeology and Planetary Features

AI contributes to the realm of planetary geology (astrogeology) by enabling the detection and classification of geological features on planets and moons. The technology identifies landmarks like craters and volcanoes, facilitating the creation of detailed 3D models. These models enhance scientists' understanding of planetary environments and histories.

## Precision in Rocket Operations

SpaceX harnesses AI to enhance rocket operations, ensuring meticulous monitoring and analysis of data from rocket sensors and telemetry systems. This utilization enables improved decision-making and precise control over the rocket's trajectory and speed. Automation of critical aspects, such as engine control and landing gear, underscores AI's role in optimising rocket landing procedures.

## Mapping Stars and Galaxies

AI-based algorithms empower astronomers to map the universe with unparalleled precision. These algorithms detect, classify, and recognize patterns in star and galaxy data, facilitating the identification of celestial bodies and comprehension of their physical properties. Predicting the behaviour of stars and galaxies over time enhances astronomers' insights for future mapping and exploration endeavours.

## Predictive Maintenance for Spacecraft

AI extends its influence to predictive maintenance in space exploration. By analysing extensive data sets related to satellite operations and rocket landings, machine learning models predict potential areas requiring preventive maintenance. This proactive approach minimizes maintenance costs and mitigates risks, ensuring the longevity and reliability of spacecraft.

## AI's Evolution in Space Exploration: A Historical Perspective

Over the years, AI has seamlessly integrated into space exploration, unravelling phenomena beyond human detection. Initially employed to analyse satellite data and images from instruments like the Hubble Space Telescope, AI has evolved to become a cornerstone in various applications, from autonomous navigation systems to astronaut training simulations.

## AI's Historical Journey: Past Achievements

- **Deep Space 1 (DS1):** Launched in 1998, DS1 pioneered autonomous navigation, showcasing AI's ability to detect, diagnose, and fix issues during the mission. This ground breaking achievement exceeded expectations and marked a pivotal moment in space exploration.
- **Earth Observing-1 (EO-1):** Launched in 2000, EO-1 utilized Autonomous Science Agent software for autonomous detection and response to events on Earth. This innovative software package demonstrated the feasibility of AI in real-time decision-making for spacecraft.

## AI in the Current Epoch: Present Applications

- **James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) and Morpheus**:
- Launched in 2021, JWST employs AI, facilitated by Morpheus, to analyse extensive data for detecting and classifying galaxies in deep space. This collaboration showcases AI's role in advancing our understanding of the universe.
- **Crew Interactive Mobile Companion (CIMON):** CIMON, an AI-based robotic assistant on the International Space Station, exemplifies collaborative efforts by Airbus, IBM, and the German space agency. This free-floating spherical device aids astronauts with various tasks through voice recognition, facial recognition, and natural language processing.
- **Pragyan Rover (Chandrayaan-2):** India's lunar exploration mission, Chandrayaan-2, features the AI-powered Pragyan rover. With autonomous navigation capabilities, Pragyan explores the lunar surface, conducting scientific experiments and responding to its environment in real-time.
- **Kepler Data Analysis:** Kepler, a space telescope, relies on machine learning techniques for the analysis of data collected during its mission. The ongoing exploration aims to discover more exoplanets based on existing data, showcasing AI's contribution to expanding our knowledge of celestial bodies.
- **Anticipating the Future:** AI's Prowess in Space Exploration. As we gaze into the future of space exploration, AI is poised to play an increasingly pivotal role. The Parker Solar Probe mission, scheduled to reach the Sun's outer atmosphere in December 2024, exemplifies AI's potential to enhance our understanding of solar interactions with other planets. Furthermore, AI is expected to fortify monitoring capabilities for Earth-orbiting satellites and spacecraft on extended voyages.

## NASA's Affirmation of AI Use

NASA actively incorporates AI across various operations, encompassing space mission and spacecraft data analysis, health monitoring of spacecraft, and the control of robotic arms and rovers on distant planets.

## Challenges of AI in Space Exploration

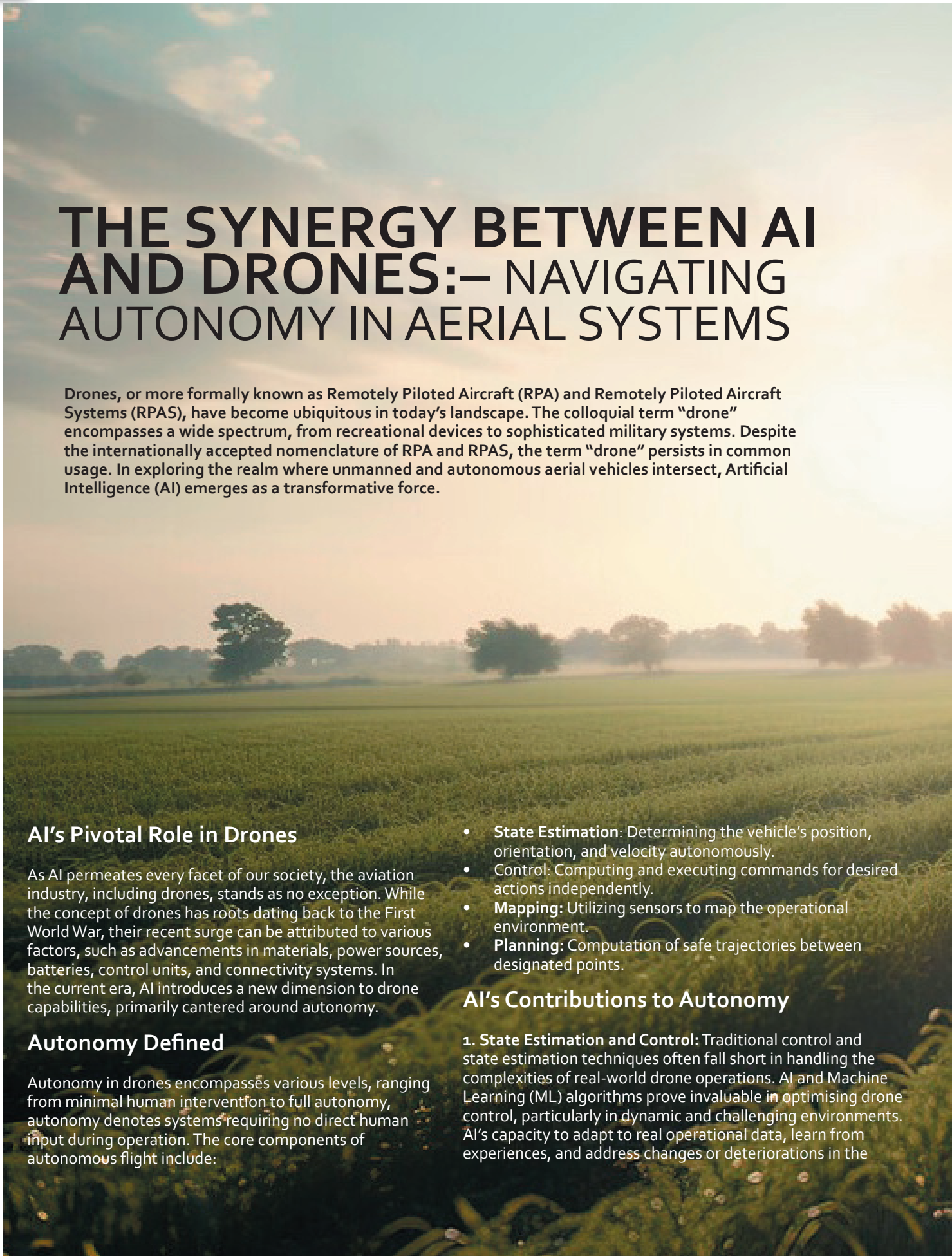
While AI significantly aids space exploration, its implementation comes with challenges, primarily in terms of cost and limitations in replicating human insights.

## Machine Learning's Role in Space Exploration

Machine learning algorithms are instrumental in space exploration, analysing data from instruments like telescopes and satellites. These algorithms optimise operational efficiency, identify patterns, and detect anomalies, contributing to the overarching success of space missions.

As we navigate the cosmos, AI emerges as an indispensable partner, unlocking the mysteries of the universe and propelling humanity towards uncharted territories. The fusion of human curiosity and AI's analytical prowess heralds a future where space exploration transcends boundaries, driven by the relentless pursuit of knowledge.

*PHOTO CREDIT: Pexels*



# THE SYNERGY BETWEEN AI AND DRONES:– NAVIGATING AUTONOMY IN AERIAL SYSTEMS

**Drones, or more formally known as Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) and Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS), have become ubiquitous in today's landscape. The colloquial term "drone" encompasses a wide spectrum, from recreational devices to sophisticated military systems. Despite the internationally accepted nomenclature of RPA and RPAS, the term "drone" persists in common usage. In exploring the realm where unmanned and autonomous aerial vehicles intersect, Artificial Intelligence (AI) emerges as a transformative force.**

## AI's Pivotal Role in Drones

As AI permeates every facet of our society, the aviation industry, including drones, stands as no exception. While the concept of drones has roots dating back to the First World War, their recent surge can be attributed to various factors, such as advancements in materials, power sources, batteries, control units, and connectivity systems. In the current era, AI introduces a new dimension to drone capabilities, primarily cantered around autonomy.

## Autonomy Defined

Autonomy in drones encompasses various levels, ranging from minimal human intervention to full autonomy, autonomy denotes systems requiring no direct human input during operation. The core components of autonomous flight include:

- **State Estimation**: Determining the vehicle's position, orientation, and velocity autonomously.
- Control: Computing and executing commands for desired actions independently.
- **Mapping:** Utilizing sensors to map the operational environment.
- **Planning:** Computation of safe trajectories between designated points.

## AI's Contributions to Autonomy

**1. State Estimation and Control:** Traditional control and state estimation techniques often fall short in handling the complexities of real-world drone operations. AI and Machine Learning (ML) algorithms prove invaluable in optimising drone control, particularly in dynamic and challenging environments. AI's capacity to adapt to real operational data, learn from experiences, and address changes or deteriorations in the

system enhances the drone's state estimation and control capabilities. Notably, AI assists in finding optimal values for Proportional-Integral-Derivative (PID) controllers, ensuring superior performance in extreme conditions. Complex neural networks, including Convolutional Neural Networks (CNN) and Recurrent Neural Networks (RNN), further enhance adaptability to system changes, uncertainties, and perturbations, elevating motion control for drones.

**2. Mapping:** Mapping the operational surroundings is essential for a drone's autonomy. While modern mapping sensors like electro-optical, stereo-optical, or LIDAR offer high-fidelity mapping, their weight and cost can be limiting factors. AI, through Computer Vision (CV) algorithms, proves transformative in this realm. Lightweight, high-resolution cameras paired with cutting-edge CV algorithms enhance mapping capabilities and situational awareness at minimal costs. The fusion of aerial mapping, drones, and CV algorithms has given rise to burgeoning businesses across diverse industries. The main challenge lies in accumulating sufficient data for the training of CV algorithms.

**3. Planning:** Real-time path planning and navigation pose significant challenges for autonomous systems. Once a drone comprehends its location and destination (Mapping), it needs to determine the safest and most efficient trajectory. Deep neural networks, such as reinforcement learning, have played pivotal roles in developing effective real-time planning and simultaneous multi-drone cooperative planning. AI's impact extends to collision avoidance, where cost-effective solutions, leveraging AI algorithms, replace traditional, expensive methods relying on LIDARs or RGB-D Cameras. Recent research demonstrates the successful navigation of drones through challenging environments, like forests, using inexpensive cameras, CV algorithms, and state-of-the-art imitation learning techniques.

## Challenges and Limitations

The widespread use of drones, while transformative, poses challenges and limitations. The foremost challenge lies in the realm of government regulation, which has struggled to keep pace with rapidly evolving drone technology. Safety concerns arise, as drones encounter difficulties in recognizing, communicating, and avoiding other aircraft with the same level of safety as manned counterparts. Security vulnerabilities, including hacking and GPS-jamming, pose significant threats to drone operations. Moreover, privacy concerns emerge, as drones introduce new perspectives that can encroach upon personal privacy.

## Navigating the Future

As AI and drones become integral to diverse industries such as agriculture, construction, logistics, and emergency services, their synergy presents enormous potential benefits. AI harnesses the wealth of data generated by drones, enabling more effective, robust, and precise decision-making. However, these benefits must be weighed against potential risks, necessitating the establishment of trustworthy AI and the development of comprehensive regulatory frameworks. As we navigate this evolving landscape, addressing these challenges will be crucial to ensuring the responsible and widespread integration of drones and autonomous systems.

# SOUTH AFRICA'S NAS COLLOSSAL TEAMS UP WITH AVIAPARTNER


**In a bold and historic move, South African ground-handling powerhouse NAS Colossal Africa Aviation Services (Colossal) has joined hands with Belgium-based Aviapartner, a leading international ground-handling and ground services group, to introduce Colossal Aviapartner. This partnership marks a significant turning point in the aviation industry, promising innovation and service excellence.**

With Colossal's stronghold in six major South African airports, including key hubs like OR Tambo International Airport (Johannesburg), King Shaka International Airport (Durban), and Cape Town International Airport, coupled with Aviapartner's extensive network spanning across Europe, the strategic collaboration is set to revolutionize ground-handling services.

The strategic partnership aims to redefine ground-handling services in Africa, setting a new global standard for excellence.

## Challenges and Opportunities

Meanwhile, in a separate development, the South African government has terminated the sales agreement for the state-owned South African Airways (SAA). The deal, brokered almost three years ago, aimed to sell 51% of SAA to an investment consortium named Takatso. However, the agreement fell through due to disagreements over the revised transaction price.

Despite efforts to turnaround SAA, challenges persist in the South African civil aviation sector. While some carriers have ceased operations, others like FlySafair, Airlink, and Lift continue to operate, demonstrating resilience amidst adversity. Additionally, international carriers like Delta and United Airlines offer regular non-stop flights to Johannesburg and Cape Town, highlighting the ongoing demand for air travel in the region.

## South Africa's Aviation Sector Surges Amidst Tourism Boom

As global tourism experiences a remarkable resurgence, South Africa's aviation sector emerges as a major beneficiary, driven by a surge in private charters catering to the thriving safari and game lodge industry. With a shuttle and charter flight business poised for its best year yet, the country's aviation landscape reflects a buoyant spirit despite recent challenges.

The phenomenon of "revenge travel," coined to describe the pent-up demand for travel following Covid-19 lock downs, continues to drive tourism worldwide. This year, the desire to explore remains palpable, with popular destinations such as Italy and France aiming to surpass pre-pandemic records for overnight stays and visitor spending, respectively.

Global flight bookings have soared, marking a remarkable 25% increase year-on-year in the year leading up to March, surpassing pre-pandemic levels by an impressive 31%, according to data from the Mastercard Economics Institute.

This surge in travel demand persists despite challenges such as rising fuel costs, inflation, and higher interest rates, which have impacted household budgets. However, travellers appear undeterred, willing to absorb these costs to satisfy their wanderlust.

South Africa, with its weaker rand, emerges as an attractive destination amidst rising travel expenses in developed markets. The country's allure is further bolstered by its favourable climate, stunning landscapes, and abundant wildlife, attracting visitors from around the globe.

Official statistics validate the resurgence of tourism in South Africa. Figures from Stats SA reveal a notable 63.4% increase in total tourist numbers year-to-date up to August, compared to the same period last year. Overseas visits have surged by 59.4%, with significant contributions from Europe, the UK, and notably, Germany. Moreover, tourism from other African countries has seen a substantial 64.8% increase, predominantly from SADC nations. Of particular note is the exponential growth in travel from China, soaring by 246.6% compared to last year, fuelled by the lifting of Covid-19 travel restrictions.

The growth trajectory in tourism flying since mid-2022 has been staggering, surpassing pre-Covid levels. Both shuttle and charter services have experienced a phenomenal recovery since the lifting of pandemic-related travel bans, with charter flights remaining a popular choice for customers seeking an exclusive service offering.

South Africa's aviation sector stands as a testament to resilience and adaptability in the face of adversity. As the country embraces the resurgence of tourism, its aviation industry serves as a vital conduit for travellers seeking unforgettable experiences amidst breathtaking landscapes and wildlife encounters.