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Autonomous Akin



October 6, 2023

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Our newsletter reflects the focus of Akin’s cross-practice autonomous systems and advanced mobility team on developments in the regulatory, policy, trade, intellectual property, and cybersecurity and privacy spaces. Autonomous Akin brings you the latest news and developments so that you can keep a pulse on what is happening in government and industry that is impactful for your business. For our new readers, you can subscribe to future issues of this newsletter [here](#). Thank you!

In This Issue

- [Unmanned Aircraft Systems \(UAS\)](#)
- [Advanced Air Mobility](#)
- [Technology, Environment and Legislation](#)
- [Autonomy & Electric Vehicles](#)
- [Akin Thought Leadership](#)
- [Events](#)

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)

Biden Says He Will Nominate Former F.A.A. Deputy to Lead Agency - *New York Times*

“President Biden announced on Thursday that he planned to nominate Michael G. Whitaker, who served as the No. 2 official at the Federal Aviation Administration during the Obama administration, to become the agency’s next permanent leader. Mr. Whitaker currently serves as the chief operating officer for Supernal, a Hyundai Motor company that is developing air taxis.”

[Read the Article](#)

FAA Pushes Remote ID Mandate to March 2024 - *Commercial UAV News*

“Citing ‘unanticipated issues that some operators are experiencing finding some remote identification broadcast modules,’ the FAA announced that its Remote ID Rule will go into effect on March 16, 2024 instead of the original date of September 16, 2023. The extension follows the FAA’s recent announcement that it has changed how it will perform safety risk management (SRM) assessments and made revisions to its national policy order concerning the management of applicants’ requests to operate uncrewed systems.”

[Read the Article](#)

Zipline Gets FAA Approval for BVLOS Drone Deliveries - *Avionics International*

“The Federal Aviation Administration has granted authorization to Zipline International, Inc., to initiate commercial package deliveries using drones that operate beyond the operator’s visual line of sight (BVLOS) around Salt Lake City and Bentonville, Arkansas. This decision represents a significant stride in the FAA’s mission of integrating drones into the National Airspace System.”

[Read the Article](#)

Advanced Air Mobility



Bristow and Volocopter Partnership Set to Advance UAM Services in UK and US - *Airport Technology*

“Leaders in vertical flight solutions, Bristow Group and Volocopter have signed an agreement to develop passenger and cargo services for electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft in the US and the UK. As part of the agreement, Bristow has placed an order for two VoloCity aircraft, which will be delivered upon certification, with the option to acquire an additional 78 aircraft in the future.”

[Read the Article](#)

Joby Aviation to Build Air Taxi Production Plant in Ohio - *Reuters*

“Electric aircraft maker Joby Aviation will invest up to \$500 million to build a new facility in Dayton, Ohio, where it will mass produce air taxis, it said on Monday. The 140-acre site at Dayton International Airport is set to be the first serial production location for the company, as opposed to the prototypes built at its pilot production line in California.”

[Read the Article](#)

FAA Approved Nation’s First Public-Use Vertiport in Blackstone, Virginia - *KTLA5*

“In a significant milestone for the Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) industry, the FAA has issued the first conditional approval for a Vertiport at Allen C. Perkinson Blackstone Army Airfield

(KBKT), in Blackstone, Virginia. This action creates a path for the airport to establish the first licensed public-use Vertiport in the state and the nation. NAVOS Air, a Virginia-based air navigation services company, was the proponent of the Vertiport, as part of a project funded by the Virginia Innovation Partnership Corporation (VIPIC) through the Virginia Commonwealth Center of Innovation for Autonomous Systems (C2IAS) grant program.”

[Read the Press Release](#)

Technology, Environment and Legislation

Sunak Dilutes Green Agenda, Delays UK Ban on New Petrol Cars - *Bloomberg*

“Prime Minister Rishi Sunak softened key parts of the UK government’s green agenda, including a ban on petrol car sales, as he set out what he called a ‘new approach’ to tackling climate change. Sunak said in a speech on Wednesday in London that he would push back by five years to 2035 a plan to bar the sale of new petrol and diesel cars, casting the decision as an effort to protect families struggling with bills.”

[Read the Article](#)

Looking to Space in the Race to Decarbonize - *New York Times*

“Ali Hajimiri thinks there’s a better way to power the planet – one that’s not getting the attention it deserves. The Caltech professor of electrical engineering envisages thousands of solar panels floating in space, unobstructed by clouds and unhindered by day-night cycles, wirelessly transmitting massive amounts of energy to receivers on Earth.”

[Read the Article](#)

Most of the World’s Wind is Over Deep Water. Floating Machines Can Harvest It. - *Washington Post*

“The Norwegian prime minister and the country’s crown prince were sweating like everyone else, zipped into their North Sea survival suits as they boarded the helicopters to take us out to see the future. The pair, accompanied by press, were here for the official opening of the world’s largest floating offshore wind power project. The word doing the hard work in that sentence is ‘floating.’ Unlike 99 percent of the world’s offshore wind turbines, which are fixed directly to the sea floor in relatively shallow depths, these next-generation machines can be deployed in very deep water, in the outer reaches of ocean space, where they can harvest more powerful, consistent wind.”

[Read the Article](#)

Autonomy and Electric Vehicles

Making Car Chargers Faster (and Making Them Fit in Manhattan) - *New York Times*

“The word ‘fast’ seems to suit Moshe Cohen. It’s how he talks, and it’s how he says electric-vehicle chargers should work. When Cohen, a professor turned entrepreneur, decided a year ago that existing chargers did not work fast enough, he started a company to design and manufacture quicker ones and put them in Manhattan parking garages.”

[Read the Article](#)

Electric Cars are Winning Out Because of Buyers, Not Politicians - *Bloomberg*

“As electric-vehicle adoption rates steadily rise around the world, a growing chorus of car executives are criticizing governments on the grounds that they’ve picked the winning horse. Stellantis CEO Carlos Tavares has been among the most vocal, saying last year: ‘What is clear is that electrification is a technology chosen by politicians, not by industry.’”

[Read the Article](#)

We Put Our Blind Faith in Mercedes-Benz’s First-of-its-Kind Autonomous Drive Pilot Feature - *The Verge*

“Typically at a first drive event for a new car, the brand has journalists experience a twisty mountain road or scenic coastal route that best shows off the car’s capabilities. But on this Thursday morning in Los Angeles, I’m getting onto the 10 freeway in Santa Monica and driving to downtown LA with the express goal of hitting as much traffic as possible. I’ve been invited by Mercedes-Benz to experience Drive Pilot, the first (and so far only) SAE Level 3 system for conditionally automated driving that has been approved for sale in Europe and the US.”

[Read the Article](#)

Mobileye and Valeo Team Up to Offer Imaging Radars for Autonomous Cars - *Verdict*

“Automotive technology companies Mobileye and Valeo have formed a partnership to offer software-defined imaging radars for automated driving features. The partnership was announced at the IAA Mobility 2023 in Munich, Germany. Announcing the partnership, France-based Valeo said that it will allow the parties to provide automakers with new technology quickly, enabling more intelligent automobiles.”

[Read the Article](#)

Akin Thought Leadership



[Autonomous Akin Update - September 2023](#) (September 12, 2023)

[CPPA Takes Aim at Connected Cars in First-Ever Review](#) (August 23, 2023)

[Autonomous Akin Update - August 2023](#) (August 11, 2023)

[Congress Takes a Step Forward on Outbound Investment](#) (July 27, 2023)

[Autonomous Akin Update - July 2023](#) (July 6, 2023)

[Akin's Mid-Year TMT Report Provides Important Updates on Regulatory and Policy Developments for TMT Leaders](#) (May 25, 2023)

[Autonomous Akin Update - May 2023](#) (May 11, 2023)

[Autonomous Systems & Advanced Mobility: 2023 Trends & Predictions](#) (May 5, 2023)

[Kayo Sustainable Infrastructure Webinar Recording](#) - Passcode: Fm%X07T (April 19, 2023)

Events

[Women and Drones: 7th Annual Global Awards](#)

October 25, 2023

Washington, D.C.

The UAS/AAM community will come together to celebrate the preeminent women in business, government and education.

Questions?

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