drone talks AERIAL CITIES

AERIAL CITIES 2022

A EUROPEAN INVITATION-ONLY EVENT FOR DECISION-MAKERS

BERN, SWITZERLAND

17-18 NOVEMBER 2022

POST-EVENT REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Know about Us 3

Sponsors & Partners 4

Speakers 5

Schedule 6

Panels 8

Testimonials 22

Aerial Cities 2023 23

KNOW ABOUT US

Eszter Kovacs

CEO & Co-founder of DroneTalks Group

DroneTalks is an online platform created to spread ideas and educate professionals in the drone industry ecosystem.

We provide growing organisations with a number of different products and services, which range from in-person and online trainings for industry professionals to marketing and PR services for growing organisations. Our most popular trainings are the regulatory and SORA trainings, where we have supported various Civil Aviation Authorities in Europe and prominent commercial drone organisations to understand and utilise current regulatory frameworks.

It's on this platform that we also have the opportunity to host experienced professionals in our interview series who take this chance to share their knowledge on emerging technologies, regulatory changes and insider updates, among other topics.

In addition to this, we host an invite-only event for drone industry professionals called Aerial Cities, where we bring together the most influential regulators for urban environments along with C-level executives of drone organisations. Our goal is to bridge the entire gap that exists between urban environments and the implementation of drone operations.

Finally, our DroneTalks Jobs platform connects experienced professionals with growing organisations in the first drone industry job platform. Organisations are able to search for their future team members while world-class professionals are able to see industry-relevant jobs to take the next step in their careers

Join us as we foster and develop a community for the drone industry.

OFFICIAL SPONSORS & PARTNERS

drone talks AERIAL CITIES

MANNA

VOLATUS AEROSPACE

BCN DRONE CENTER™

SWITZERLAND GLOBAL ENTERPRISE
enabling new business

COMMERCIAL UAV NEWS

Bern Economic Development Agency

KISTLER
measure. analyze. innovate.

UNISPHERE

MURZILLI CONSULTING

DRONE ALLIANCE EUROPE

AMSTERDAM DRONE WEEK 21-23 MARCH HYBRID

MOBILITY REIMAGINED

UIC2
WALK.RIDE.DRIVE.FLY

AirborneRF

SPEAKERS

drone talks AERIAL CITIES

Dr. Milan Kumar
ZF Group

Marcel Kägi
Federal Office of Civil Aviation Switzerland

Kenneth Chircop
Dronamics

Olivier Le Lann
Electric Visionary Aircrafts

Ansgar Kadura
Wingcopter

Dhenya Schwarz
Urban Air Mobility in Aachen

Diana Cooper
Supernal

Jasmine Kent
Dufour Aerospace

Juan José Sola Banasco
Spanish Aviation Safety Agency (AESA)

Fokion Zaimis
Greek Government

Dr. Sebastian Friess
Berne Economic Development Agency

Giovanni Di Antonio
Italian Civil Aviation Authority (ENAC)

Joshua Serrao
City of Amsterdam

Enda Walsh
Irish Aviation Authority

Lauren Duke
Elron Ventures

Francesco Bortoluzzi
The ZHAW

Nicolas Brieger
Touring Club Schweiz TCS

Jenn Player
Skydio

Kaili Ojamets
City Of Tartu

Michael Opieczonek
NTN Innovation Booster Robotics

Thorsten Indr
HHLA Sky

Rui Roosie
NLR

Sandra Bodmer
Federal Office Of Civil Aviation Switzerland

Franziska Biermann
Hamburg Ministry Of Economy And Innovation

John Stewart
UECNA (European Union Against Aircraft Nuisances)

Andreas Hardeman
World Economic Forum

Michael Merritt
Skyports

Richard Boden
Murzilli Consulting

Vassilis Agouridas
UAM Initiative, Cities Community, EU CIVITAS

Julie Garland
Avtrain

Victor Sunnliden
Region Örebro

Mikhail Kokorich
Destinus

Bobby Healy
Manna Drone Delivery

Juliana Kiraly
Eve Air Mobility

Lorenzo Murzilli
Murzilli Consulting

Eszter Kovacs
DroneTalks

Mareike Noack
Henkel

David Hyde
World Economic Forum

Mariya Tarabanovska
Flight Crowd

Steve Emerson
Volatus Aerospace

Jordi Salvador
BCN Drone Center

Dr. Christoph Selig
Unisphere

Thomas Neubauer
TEOCO

Mathias Lieblein Rørbæk Vinter
Holo Air

Michele Travierso
Atmosoar.io

SCHEDULE

17th of November, 2022

15:00 - 16:30
Registration and networking Reception

16:30 - 17:00
Welcome and first-day opening keynote

17:00 - 18:00
Roles and responsibilities of national, regional and local governments in the management of the aerial cities

18:00 - 19:00
The impact of drones into the urban landscape: a data-driven perspective from inception to scale

19:00 - 21:15
Dinner and Award Ceremony

21:15 - 23:00
Networking and after-party

SCHEDULE

18th of November, 2022

8:30 - 9:00
Arrival of Guests

9:00 - 9:30
Welcome & Second Day Opening Keynote

9:30 - 10:20
The basics of European Cities Mobility: cities perspective

10:20 - 11:00
The challenge of ground infrastructure integration

11:00 - 11:20
Coffee break

11:20 - 12:30
The value proposition of the third dimension of mobility

12:30 - 13:15
Europe is open for business. How smart regulation enables the air mobility revolution

13:15 - 14:15
Lunch

14:15 - 14:45
Ask Me Anything about AAM

14:45 - 15:15
Ask Me Anything about Regulation

15:15 - 15:45
Ask Me Anything about Drones

15:45 - 16:15
Coffee break

16:15 - 16:30
How to connect cities with innovation - Innovation Booster in Robotics

16:30 - 17:15
Social Acceptance at Scale. What is the community view of the aerial cities of tomorrow?

17:15 - 18:00
The case for Sustainability in the drone and AAM industry

18:00 - 18:30
Closing Keynote and Goodbyes

18:30 - 19:30
Drinks and networking

17th of November, 2022
15:00 - 16:30
Registration and networking Reception

Guests began to arrive at our event location right outside of Bern in the beautiful Stufenbau building. The rooms were large enough to accommodate over 130 people from across the world and had a garden outside where people were mingling before the conference began. Others took the chance to grab refreshments after their long journeys.

It was invaluable to meet together, in-person to speak about the development of the drone industry, which has been catapulted into growth mode before the pandemic, which limited opportunities for networking just when industry leaders and decision makers needed it most.

17th of November, 2022
16:30 - 17:00
Welcome and first-day opening keynote

Dr Milan Kumar began the opening keynote after being introduced by our CEO and co-founder Eszter Kovács. You could see the more than 100 guests waiting in rows of chairs in front of the stage. There was a feeling of excitement in the air as Milan began the 2022 VIP-only Aerial Cities conference.

He began speaking about the history of his organisation ZF Friedrichshain AG and the history of aviation in Germany. ZF Friedrichshain AG now boasts of over 100,000 employees worldwide and has some pretty ambitious goals for the future. This includes going carbon neutral across all emissions categories by 2040.

His ambition and the accomplishments of ZF Friedrichshain kicked off the conference running as we were left feeling inspired by what was about to happen at Aerial Cities.

About Dr Milan Kumar:

Dr Milan Kumar is a globally renowned Chief Information & Digital Officer (CIO/CDO). He is a Global Technology & Digital Leader, TEDx Speaker, International Author, Educator and Startups Mentor as well as a member of the Forbes Technology Council. He is the winner of several prestigious awards "Global Digital CIO", "Digital Edge50", "SWISS TOP CIO", and Economics Times "CIO Excellence Award" among others. He's the author of CIO Series- "Smart Factory" and "Immersive and Augmented Analytics" Dr Kumar is the current Chief Information Officer of ZF Commercial Vehicles (CVS) at ZF Group in Switzerland. He has held several Senior Global IT leadership positions within the VOLKSWAGEN Group, including serving as Director and Board Member of VOLKSWAGEN IT Services IPL.

Dr. Kumar has extensive experience with FORTUNE 500 companies like BMW Group, General Motors, British Airways, etc. He is a PhD holder in Artificial Intelligence and has completed the Harvard Business School's Driving Growth Through Innovation executive program.

17th of November, 2022

17:00 - 18:00

Roles and responsibilities of national, regional and local governments in the management of the aerial cities

Marcel Kägi, director of aviation policy and strategy at FOCA, started off the next part of the programme by introducing UAS policy and strategy in Switzerland. For those who weren't familiar with Switzerland's UAV policies, he provided context around FOCA, or the Federal Office of Civil Aviation, and how they're continually making an effort to find and sponsor innovative new technologies, like UAVs, which need to be integrated into current traditional aviation systems.

Sebastian Friess, the Director General from the Office of Economy and President Bern Economic Development Agency, continued to explain how the agency is a one-stop point of contact for access and networking with professionals from business, politics and research who are keen to exchange expertise and work together.

The office is active in investment promotions and any national and international contacts. They offer a wide range of support instruments for innovative future-oriented projects and ideas, both from established and new business opportunities.

Andreas Hardeman leads the World Economic Forum's Aerospace and Drones work as part of the Forum's Mobility Platform, focusing on aerospace sustainability and resilience (including hydrogen and electric propulsion), advanced and urban air mobility, and unmanned aerial systems. He continued to expand this Switzerland-focused view and explain how the World Economic Forum isn't just supporting European efforts, but how their goal is to improve the overall state of the world. Continuing, he explained how drones can be used to support emergency response teams, agricultural productivity and lift heavy objects (which provides a number of use cases from natural disaster rescue to search and find rescue).

Franziska Biermann, Head of the Division on Cluster Policy at the Hamburg Ministry of Economy and Innovation, finished this panel by delving into the use cases for the city of Hamburg. She did this by thoroughly laying out the context that the city of Hamburg finds itself in: the population is around 2 million, the second largest city in Germany, the city contains Germany's largest port, etc. Through this, she was able to identify four main use case clusters for UAVs in the urban environment of Hamburg: (1) aviation, (2) maritime industry, (3) life sciences, (4) renewable energies.

Lorenzo Murzilli, the founder and CEO of Murzilli Consulting, ended the panel through a discussion on his own experience as a leader at Joint Authorities for Rulemaking of Unmanned Systems (JARUS) for WG-6, where he helped to establish the Specific Operations Risk Assessment (SORA). These regulations help establish safe airspaces in urban areas that empower organisations to move along a regulatory framework to implement their airborne operations without endangering communities.

17th of November, 2022

18:00 - 19:00

The impact of drones into the urban landscape: a data-driven perspective from inception to scale

After hearing from city and government officials about their perspectives on UAVs in urban environments, it was time to look at commercial drone companies and hear their perspectives on the impact of drones in urban landscapes, which was a panel discussion moderated by Lorenzo Murzilli.

Ansgar Kadura, co-founder and Chief Services Officer at Wingcopter, started by introducing us to Wingcopter — a major European drone manufacturer before he continued to explain their business model and concept. The company is building their operations as “both a manufacturer of aviation-grade drone technology and as a service provider for a wide range of drone deployments.” They were founded by CEO Tom Plümmer and his colleagues from his university.

Bobby Healy, CEO and Founder of Manna Drone Delivery, introduced us to his company and how they’re bringing drone delivery at scale to Europe and outlining their operations in Ireland. Manna’s name actually means “food from heaven”, which is suited towards their goal of becoming Europe’s largest food delivery powered by drones. On top of their already impressive airborne operations, they were only founded back in 2019 and have received more than $30 million in investment. If you’re based in Europe, it’s likely that you’ll be seeing them in your neighbourhood in the not-so-distant future.

Kenneth Chircop, the General Manager of Dronamics in Malta, also had the chance to introduce us to his organisation. They were founded in 2014 — a bit earlier than Manna Drone Delivery and Wingcopter. Their goal is to enable “same day delivery for everyone, everywhere for almost a decade”. During his speech, he talked about each phase of operational implementation they were in for the European Union.

The last speaker was Michael Merritt, Lead of the Commercial and Growth department at Skyports Drone Services. He told us how Skyports, founded in 2018, is developing and operating “landing infrastructure for the electric air taxi revolution, as well as using drones for a variety of business requirements.” He gave us a perspective beyond just getting into an air taxi to go to the airport and described the infrastructure-specific challenges that need to be addressed before Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) at scale can be achieved.

About Bobby Healy:
Bobby kicked off his career building video games for Nintendo. He then founded Eland Technologies (an airline tech company) which he sold 12 years later to SITA.AERO. He then built CarTrawler (the world’s largest mobility marketplace for airlines) over 15 years, and led two successful LBOs for the business. For the last 3 years, he’s been building ‘Manna’ – a “Drone Delivery as a Service” business whose mission is to improve the world by making lightning-fast suburban deliveries affordable, green and safe.

17th of November, 2022
19:00 - 21:15
Dinner and Award Ceremony

The award ceremony was held by Eszter Kovács during dinner as she announced the first award for the CEO of the year for Small and Medium Enterprises. The awards were judged based on a number of factors, including how the organisation drives revenue, profitability, media exposure, investments and the number of employees.

The award for the CEO of the year for small enterprises came between the three finalists: FlightOps, AirborneRF and Dufour.

The first winner for small enterprise was Shay Levy from FlightOps, who came to the stage and said:

"Thank you so much! This is amazing and exciting for me to receive this award. As we all know — or as we all preached, we're saying that humanity is going 3D; humanity is climbing to the air. And, the autonomous air mobility market is skyrocketing and will have a dramatic effect on all of our lives.

At FlightOps, we see our technology as a major enabler for the market to bridge this ecosystem's growth and providing smart open and flexible ecosystem infrastructure that allows regulators, drone manufacturers, drone operators and system developers to integrate together and collaborate on our platform.

People talked about clunkiness around here, so we're helping to reduce a bit the clunkiness of system integration and flight and drone operations. On a personal note, as a CEO of 5 fast-growing start-ups on emerging markets, it's very exciting for me to see our vision come to life and to see all of this industry climbing and the way FlightOps helps this industry to grow.

I want to thank Aerial Cities for this opportunity and to present ourselves here. I want to thank our partners and my team back home for doing this amazing work and thank you everybody"

The award for the CEO of the year for medium enterprises also was between three finalists: EVE Air Mobility, Manna Drone Delivery and ANRA Technologies.

The winner was Bobby Healy from Manna Drone Delivery, who came to the stage and said:

“We’re all in the same boat. We’re in an industry that’s just starting, and it’s going to be an absolutely stratospherically large industry that, in many of our use cases, completely changes the way that people live, the way they work, the way they enjoy life in suburbs, in rural areas and urban cities. But one thing in common that we share amongst us all is the big blue sky.

And, this is the fifth business that I’ve started up, and I just don’t learn from mistakes in the past. And, I can tell you that without a doubt, this is the most difficult business that I have ever tried to start up, and it’s also the only business that has ever kept me awake at night. Because, actually, and we’ve discussed this together since I’ve met most of you today.

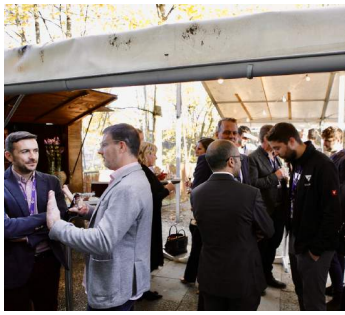
The hard part, what I said earlier on the stage is about safety. And, for me, safety is not something you can park in the corner — it’s a technical problem that’s extremely difficult to solve. And, why do I raise this here? Because I’m looking at you all, and we actually do it together, right? So, the regulators are there and [sic] the Swiss regulator, he said eye-to-eye. Regulator to industry. Eye-to-eye. And, that resonated very well for me because that’s what it is, right? So, as operators, commercial manufacturers, UTMs, you name it.

We’re all in the ecosystem, and I happen to have the award today, but the only way the industry moves forward — even with competitors in the same space — is that we jump on the rocket together. Is to work together to cooperate and help each other out to make it easy for the regulators to make our lives easier in the long term. So, I would like to [sic] say a toast to the whole industry.

Together, we’re going to make it absolutely awesome. Thank you very much”

After hearing from industry professionals about the state of drones in urban landscapes, many were ready to start tackling the problems and challenges that are facing the industry through the chance to grab drinks and network. It was the first chance that decision-makers from governments got the chance to sit down and speak with drone industry leaders, including manufacturers and operators. As the night went on, people began connecting and understanding the knowledge gaps that are currently in the industry.

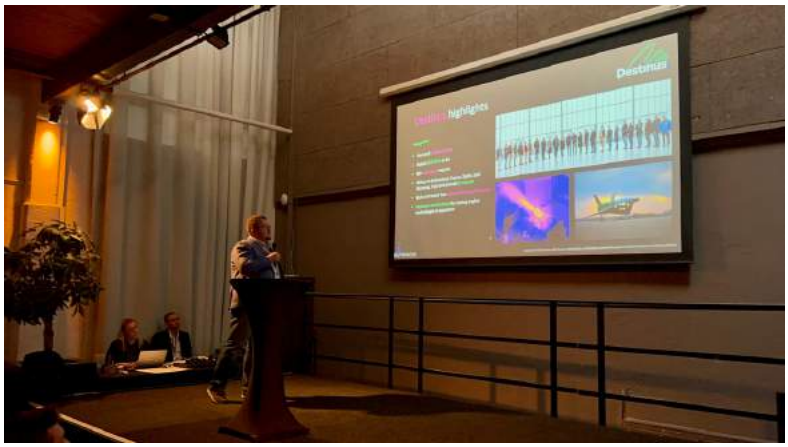
18th of November, 2022
8:30 - 9:00
Arrival of Guests



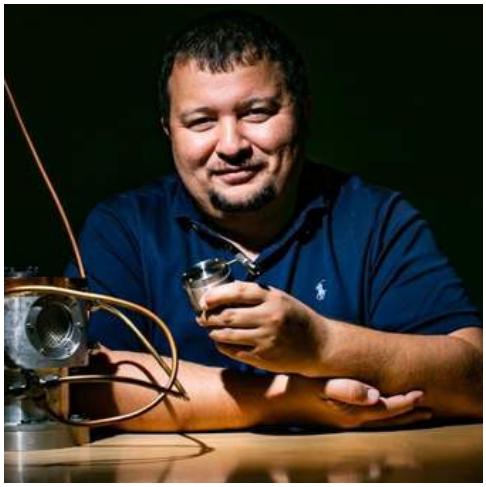
Guests began to arrive to join us for the second day of Aerial Cities where they had the chance to reconnect over breakfast. Our location was still at the Stufenbau building in Bern, so many took the opportunity to reacquaint themselves with their new connections before preparing for the first opening keynote of the day.

18th of November, 2022

9:00 - 9:30
Welcome and second-day opening keynote



The opening keynote was held by Mikhail Kokorich, who is the CEO and founder of Destinus. He explained how his company is using hydrogen-based fuel to create ultra-long-range aeroplanes for the future. He ended the keynote by highlighting some of his personal accomplishments founding and building various companies that reached up to one billion in revenue, including Momentus, Astro Digital and Dauria Aerospace.



About Mikhail Kokorich:

Physicist and entrepreneur. CEO and founder of Destinus, developing hypersonic (hydrogen-powered, CO2 emissions-free) aircraft, a hybrid between an aeroplane and a rocket that will provide the fastest delivery globally. Previously, founded and developed several companies across industries and countries, including Momentus, which was listed on the NASDAQ in the summer of 2021.

18th of November, 2022
9:30 - 10:20
The basics of European Cities Mobility:
cities perspective

The first discussion panel of the second day was about city mobility from the perspective of city officials. The conversation started with Dr Vassilis Agouridas, Head of EU Public Co-Creation and Ecosystem Outreach (Airbus), who introduced the Urban Air Mobility initiative and how cities and regions are driving the sustainable and responsible transition of urban mobility to the third dimension.

He continued to list the 15 initiatives in urban environments in Europe and the two in the United States and Japan that the project is currently working on while also explaining how urban air mobility is defined by experts. Dhenya Schwarz, Head of Urban Air Mobility Projects in the "Department of Economy, Science, Digitalization and Europe" of the City of Aachen, was able to detail more about the project happening in her city.

Kaili Ojamets, the Head of Business Development for the city of Tartu, continued the momentum by explaining how the urban mobility projects for the city will lead to climate neutrality by 2030 with an expected implementation date of a U-space sandbox and City AM starting as early as 2023.

Fokion Zaimis, Vice Governor for Entrepreneurship Research and Innovation for the Region of Western Greece, followed this discussion by highlighting urban mobility in Western Greece, the regions, population and examples of how urban mobility can develop in the future.

The panel ended with Victor Sunnliden, the Head of Investment for the region of Örebro, detailing the plans for creating Sweden's leading region for drones with established commercial services through a proactive approach that touches on areas of the commercial market, research and development projects, sustainability and regulatory policies.

18th of November, 2022
10:20 - 11:00
The challenge of ground infrastructure integration

Julie Garland, the CEO and founder of Avtrain, began the next panel on the challenge of integrating with ground infrastructure for drones by speaking about the different certification needs, current organisations that have already achieved good integration with ground infrastructure.

Olivier Le Lann, the founder of EVA, was able to continue this discussion by explaining how current ground infrastructure is almost always broken and not usable by drone organisations looking to move into the urban mobility market. His organisation is working to establish and build ground infrastructure through numerous solutions that use various stations to support airborne operations.

Thomas Neubauer, the Vice President of Business Development, detailed how these stations and vertipads could be implemented in urban areas and showed an example of how a vertipad, V Station and Smart station could be set up in densely populated areas.

Thorsten Indra, Project Developer at HHLA Sky, ended the panel discussion to speak about telecommunications and the potential for drones. This included explaining how underutilised telecommunication infrastructure is now for the drone industry and how this might change in the future with organisations like AirborneRF supporting major stakeholders to enable this connectivity.

About Thomas Neubauer:
Thomas Neubauer is VP of Business Development and Innovations at TEOCO. He has about 20 years of experience in the management of wireless networks. Among other innovations, Thomas is a co-creator and inventor of AirborneRF, a software solution specialized for connecting cellular network operators with aviation (ATM/UTM/FIMS) systems.

On behalf of GSMA and GUTMA, Thomas is leading the “Interface for data exchange between Mobile Network Operators (MNOs) and UTM ecosystem” Work Group of ACJA (Aerial Connectivity Joint Activity), since it was formed in 2019. As such he is focusing on global standardization of interfaces between cellular and unmanned aviation systems including 4G, 5G and satcom technologies. He holds a Ph.D. in telecommunications engineering from the Vienna University of Technology.

18th of November, 2022
11:20 - 12:30
The value proposition of the third dimension of mobility

Rui Roosien, Project Manager at Netherlands Aerospace Centre, started off this panel by explaining how drones and advanced air mobility (AAM) can provide added value to cities. He explained how the Dutch have been doing aerospace engineering since 1919 and went through a brief history until today.

Steve Emerson, VP Sales for EMEA at Volatus Aerospace, continued on this note by adding points on the value proposition that third dimension mobility can offer urban environments. In the panel, he speaks about how drones are set to change the world and how Volatus Aerospace aims to become the global leader in the commercialisation of drone technologies.

Jasmine Kent, the co-founder and CTO at Dufour Aerospace, also offered great insight into the technology used at her organisation. Dufour Aerospace produces Aero2, which is an uncrewed VTOL aircraft for critical cargo transportation that can hold up to 40kg with a range of 400km.

Jordi Salvator, the CTO and Business Development Lead at BCN Drone Center, was able to detail his own organisation and their 20 years of experience in UAS research and development and UAS aerial services. One unique aspect of their facility is that they have a testing area that's used during events or trainings.

Introducing Holo Air, Mathias Vinter, the Head of the organisation, explained how they were founded in 2016 by Semler Group, which is Denmark's largest automotive distribution company. The Semler Group is a 105-year-old family-owned company that imports, sells and services VAG vehicles, but decided to found Holo Air as a response to the emergence of autonomous vehicles.

18th of November, 2022
12:30 - 13:15
Europe is open for business. How smart regulation enables the air mobility revolution

Juan José Sola Bañasco, the Head of Unmanned Aircraft Systems Division at the Spanish Civil Authority, started the discussion by explaining how smart regulations that are implemented by European rule makers are enabling the adoption of advanced aviation technologies like drones. He also took us through the recent history that the Spanish Civil Aviation Authority has gone through to enable airborne operations from SORA in 2018 to Reg. (UE) 2019/945 & 2021/047 in 2021 and hinted at some future developments.

Enda Walsh, UAS Manager at the Irish Civil Aviation Authority, jumped in to give Ireland's perspective on drone regulations and implementation. He explained how there are already several commercial drone organisations on the market, including Bobby Healy, the founder and CEO Manna Drone Delivery who had joined us for the event. Enda also outlined Ireland's national UAS policy framework to give a perspective for other commercial operators who want to move to Ireland.

Diana Cooper, Global Head of Policy and Regulations at Supernal, which is a part of Hyundai Motor Group, continued the panel by speaking about her experience in the drone industry. That includes having founded and led the first law firm practice dedicated to Drones and Robotics in Canada as well as how she testified in US Congress to advance legislation that enabled new opportunities for commercial drone applications including disaster response and insurance claims processing.

She finished by explaining Supernal's policy priorities for the advanced air mobility (AAM) Industry and how the Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) ecosystem will redefine how we move, connect, and live, "However, to reach its full potential, we must scale the industry with a human-centred approach, designing our vehicles and infrastructure in a way that provides maximum benefit to society and the environment."

18th of November, 2022
14:15 - 14:45
Ask Me Anything about AAM

Juliana Kiraly, Head of Business Development at EVE Air Mobility in Europe, began the ask me anything discussion panel by introducing her organisation. She spoke a bit about urban air mobility, eVTOL Development, UATM and UAM Services.

Lauren Duke, the VP of Business Development at Elron Ventures, also had the chance to speak about her organisation and their role in the advanced air mobility industry. They are a VC firm specializing in early-stage Israeli investments. They focus on building value and driving effective exits. They have 2D and 3D computer vision for autonomous drones, to keep them safe during all phases of flight, which includes takeoff, en route flight, and landing.

The audience had the chance to get to know these two perspectives better through the open panel discussion.

18th of November, 2022
14:45 - 15:15
Ask Me Anything about Regulation

Richard Boden, Manager of Services and Operations at Murzilli Consulting, started off the second ask me anything open panel discussion about regulations by introducing his organisation. Murzilli Consulting is an outsourced regulatory department for organisations in the advanced aviation and drone industries that need support with flight operational authorizations, safety assessment, development assurance, design verification and type certification, among other services.

Giovanni Di Antonio, the Innovation Technology Director at ENAC, continued the introductions. ENAC is internationally recognized as the leading aeronautics and aviation university in Europe, providing a broad range of training, studies and research activities.

Sandra Bodmer, Head of Section for UAS authorisations and oversight at the Federal Office of Civil Aviation (FOCA) in Switzerland, ended the introductions with FOCA. FOCA is part of the Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications (DETEC) and is charged with ensuring that the high safety standards in civil aviation in Switzerland are maintained, and with pursuing a policy of sustainable development.

During the panel, the audience was able to have an open discussion with regulators about drones in urban environments and learn about their expert perspectives on the future of regulations in Europe.

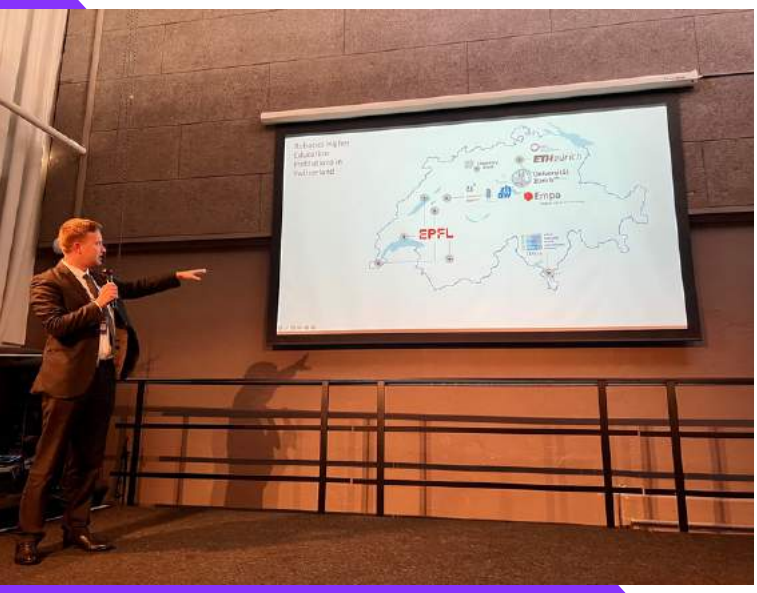
18th of November, 2022
15:15 - 15:45
Ask Me Anything about Drones

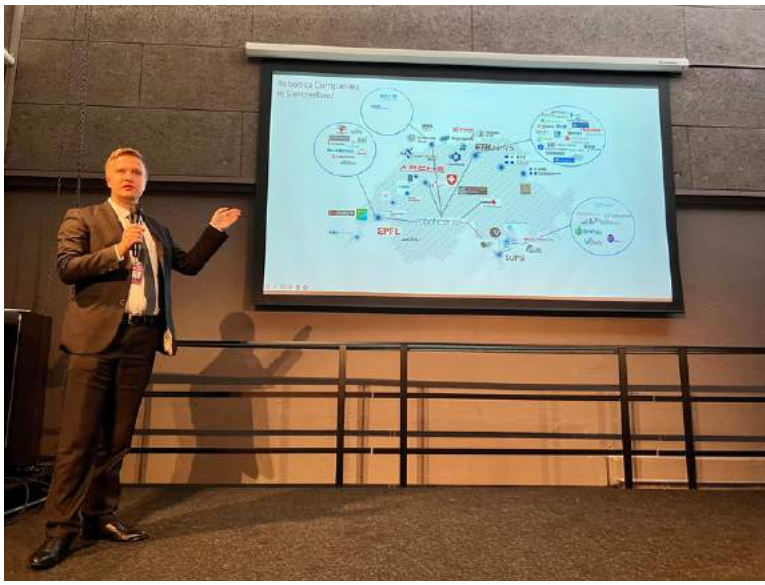
Jenn Player, Sr Director of Regulatory Affairs at Skydio, introduced herself and her organisation. Skydio is a drone manufacturer that's based in the United States. They develop autonomous flight technology and were the first drone company to be valued at over $1 billion USD. She showed the drones that Skydio produces and explained a bit about how the AI-driven autonomy works in practice. To conclude with the introductions, as Richard Boden had introduced himself in the previous panel discussion, she added the stages of drone development and implementation that would eventually lead to Drones as a Service (DaaS).

The audience then had the opportunity to ask both Richard and Jenn questions about drones.

18th of November, 2022
16:15 - 16:30
How to connect cities with innovation - Innovation Booster in Robotics

Michael Opieczonek, Project Manager at NTN Innovation Booster Robotics, began by introducing his organisation. Innovation Booster Robotics is a program powered by the Swiss Innovation Agency, Innosuisse (Innovation Booster powered by Innosuisse). They promote knowledge transfer and encourage cooperation with partners along the entire value chain of robotics and have a fund with 25,000 CHF to promote their cause.





18th of November, 2022
16:30 - 17:15
Social Acceptance at Scale. What are the community view of the aerial cities of tomorrow?

After three ask me anything panels, John Stewart, Vice Chair UECNA and member of the EU Noise Expert Group, started the panel on social acceptance of drones at scale, led by Eszter Kovács as moderator. He explained how the UECNA is an organisation that is fighting against aviation-caused illnesses like excessive noise pollution, and while they do promote the use of drones to accomplish this goal, they are worried about the impact on noise pollution drones might have.

Nicolas Brieger, Head of FIA or the TCS Drone and Vertical Mobility Academy, built on UECNA's strong stance by going into detail about how drones and air taxis are already being adopted at rapid rates with 90 million FIA members worldwide in 244 clubs globally, who are all pushing for advance air mobility implementation at scale.

Michele Travierso, CEO and founder of Atmosoar, added his own perspective on social acceptance by highlighting the software side of drones. Atmosoar is developing a solution to keep increased levels of safety, compliance, and efficiency of drone operations — which has become an increasingly important use case for drone software providers in the industry as regulations grow to keep communities safe.

18th of November, 2022
17:15 - 18:00
The case for Sustainability in the drone and AAM industry

Dr Vassilis Agouridas joined us for his second panel of the event to delve into more details on the current advanced air mobility (AAM) initiatives in Europe. He then connected the lessons learned about sustainable drone and AAM operations in the current projects that have attempted to integrate drones in urban environments.

Unisphere's Chief Commercial Officer and co-founder, Dr Christoph Selig, continued the panel discussion by addressing the simplification of flight operations for uncrewed and electrified aircraft. He explained how Unisphere, which was founded in 2017, began to push for sustainable practices for their flight management for HAPS and ConOps for both climbing and descending, planning tools for flight tests and U-Space weather and tactical de-confliction, among other topics.

Mareike Noack, Global Market Segment Manager for Urban Air Mobility at Henkel Technologies, jumped into the discussion to present the strategy her organisation is pursuing. They employ over 52,000 people globally, have sales of more than $20 billion and can boast of an over 146-year-long history. Their unique experience plays a role in the sustainability practices of UAV batteries and how these are produced, which she explained in detail.

The final panel discussion was from Francesco Bortoluzzi, Head of Sustainability Programs at ZHAW - Zurich University of Applied Sciences. ZHAW is the largest University of Applied Sciences in Switzerland and concentrates on societal challenges, with a particular focus on energy and social integration. He is a proponent of drones being used as innovative technologies throughout society and gave his unique perspective from his field.

18th of November, 2022
18:00 - 18:30
Closing Keynote and Goodbyes

Lorenzo Murzilli and Eszter Kovács gave the closing keynote by thanking everyone for coming to Bern for two days to help move the industry forward through the exchange of knowledge and ideas. They celebrated the accomplishments of the drone industry in urban environments and cities enabling innovation to happen in them.

They also took a moment to reflect on the future of the industry before thanking their own teams for helping to host the event.

18th of November, 2022
18:30 - 19:30
Drinks and networking

Aerial Cities was finished, and there was only an brief amount of left for guests to exchange contact information. Some grabbed farewell drinks with their new connections while others joined Lorenzo for a final interview to help build the momentum for after the event.

TESTIMONIALS & RATINGS

Really enjoyed the event, variety of topics, multiple networking opportunities, top level professionals. Good work!

Great event, a fantastic combination of quality networking, good food, and drinks!

It was an honor and a privilege to be able to take part!! The atmosphere, the people, the opportunities to speak directly with "the right" people were really great, and made for making new, interesting contacts.

Variety of topics

 9.1

Networking opportunities

9.5

Overall opinion

9.5

Aerial Cities 2023

Aerial Cities will be back for 2023 and will take place again in Bern, Switzerland on the 8th and 9th of November. Please note that this is an invite-only event for decision-makers in the industry, so if you'd like to join, and we have not contacted you yet, please see our website at aerialcities.dronetalks.online or contact us at info@dronetalks.ch for more information.

If you're interested in sponsoring the event, we offer the following sponsorship packages:

TOP REASONS TO ATTEND

1. Invite-only C-level audience
2. Opportunity to network with top-level decision-makers
3. Thought leadership opportunities
4. Sponsors gain valuable exposure and strategic contacts leading into, during and post-event
5. Meet peers in a curated environment to advance business connections and partnership
6. Hear what is needed to help drive your innovations
7. Be part of the discussion about the future

drone talks AERIAL CITIES

© 2023 Manageld Switzerland GmbH, Spitalgasse 28, Bern, 3011 Swizterland