



# Sky is Calling

## AERO 2018 in Friedrichshafen

*Formation flight of two Magnus eFusion planes at the AERO 2018. This electric powered ultralight aircraft model is made in Hungary, as a joint venture project with the German engineering company Siemens AG, a global player in electric propulsion.*

**Dr. Frank Anton (GER)**, Executive Vice President eAircraft Siemens AG, flew one of the two electrically powered Magnus eFusion planes at the press presentation in Friedrichshafen. "The world will be electric, on land, on water and in the air," said Dr. Anton and predicts: "Hybrid-electric engines will be used by 10-seater aircrafts in 2022 and by 2035 passenger aircrafts will be in operation in regional traffic for 100 people!" ... [www.siemens.com/press/electric-aircraft](http://www.siemens.com/press/electric-aircraft)



report: Helmut Stern, Lilla Nagy  
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The AERO in Friedrichshafen/Germany has meanwhile become one of the most important international business meeting points of General Aviation. Exhibitors from all over the world are showing here a wide variety of aviation: new and tried-and-trusted ones among gliders, ultralights, single-engine and multi-engine aircraft with piston engines, turboprops, helicopters, gyrocopters and drones. In addition to new aircraft engines, innovative avionics, aviation services and accessories, information about pilot trainings and career opportunities in general aviation are also presented at the

“Global Show for General Aviation”. And the “e-flight-expo”, which was established in 2011, is taking on a more and more increasing importance. In the last two years, electric flying has received a boost, not only from a few realized projects, but in particular from several new large-scale projects, which are being driven by millions of economic and political investments.

ACM visited the AERO 2018, rambled through the halls, met interesting aviation personalities from all over the world, and asked some of them for their opinion on electric flying.



**Craig J. Spence (USA)**, Secretary General of International Council of Aircraft Owner and Pilot Associations, with AOPA Senior Vice President and Chief Marketing Officer **Jiri Marousek (USA)**. The AOPA, a non-profit organization, is the world's largest aviation community, representing more than 320,000 active members. ... [www.iaopa.org](http://www.iaopa.org) / [www.aopa.org](http://www.aopa.org) ...  
 Craig Spence about E-flight: "I'm excited about the new technology that is coming. I don't want to say electric, but alternative power sources."

**AERO history:**  
 AERO took place for the first time in 1977 during the RMF (Racing/Motor/Leisure) event. It was held every two years at first. AERO became an independent event in 1993 and has been now held yearly since 2009. In 2018 it was the 26th AERO exhibition to date.



**Phil Straub (USA)**, Executive Vice President & Managing Director Aviation of Garmin, is introducing the newest Garmin navigation program via touchscreen on a portable device. ... [www.garmin.com](http://www.garmin.com) ...  
 E-flight: "We are very optimistic about electric flying, it will simplify the vehicle operation. Flying will become more efficient and safer."



**Guido Medici (ITA)**, Founder and CEO of Avioportolano in speech with ACM editor **Lilla Nagy (HUN)**. Avioportolano is a pilot guide that contains detailed information on more than 550 airfields in Italy and was first published in 1987. The comprehensive manual is aimed primarily at pilots of light aircraft and since 2015 there has also been an English version. ... [www.avioportolano.it](http://www.avioportolano.it) ... E-flight: "I think that is the future. I see here a lot of new projects and this fantastic, this is incredible."



**Niki Nikolov (BUL)**, Founder And CEO of Niki Aviation, with his daughter **Miglena Nikolova (BUL)**, Marketing Manager of Niki Aviation. The sympathetic Bulgarian family business presented its first gyro prototype in 2010 and scores in the scene with its interesting and aesthetic design concepts. ... [www.nikiaviation.com](http://www.nikiaviation.com) ... Niki Nikolov about E-flight: "I would assume that the hybrid system would be something that could probably be suitable for the gyro and could bring an additional value to the whole market."



**Bernd Junkers (GER)**, grandson of the famous German aircraft manufacturer Hugo Junkers, congratulates **Dieter Morszek (GER)**, CEO of Junkers Flugzeugwerke AG, on the progress of the replica project of the legendary Junkers F13, the first all-metal transport aircraft. The six-seater passenger plane made its maiden flight on 25-Jun-1919, the replica on 15-Sep-2016. The type certificate was granted in January 2018 and two other F13 will be built as next step. You can have the classic airplane for about 3 Mio. Dollars. ... [www.junkers-f13.com](http://www.junkers-f13.com)



**Thomas Borchert (GER)**, Editor-in-Chief of Jahr Top Special Verlag. The "Flieger Magazin" is one of the most important journals in German-speaking countries for active pilots of single- and multi-engine airplanes. In 2018, the magazine is celebrating its 40th anniversary. ... [www.fliegermagazin.de](http://www.fliegermagazin.de) ...  
E-flight: "For cruise it's not mature enough yet, but for flight trainings it can be interesting faster, because electric aircrafts are not that loud and it makes the operation hours cheaper."



**Tom Gunnarson (USA)**, Lead Regulatory Affairs of Kitty Hawk project "Cora", with ACM editor **Lilla Nagy (HUN)**. In 2016, Google co-founder Larry Page invested in two flying car start-ups. One of those was Kitty Hawk, which is developing Cora, a pilotless flying taxi. Cora is completely autonomous, it takes off and lands vertically, can travel at 93 mph (150 km/h), and is all-electric with a range of 65 miles (100 km). ... <https://cora.aero> ...  
E-flight: "It will create opportunities for travel that we never had before."

**AERO in numbers:**  
630 exhibitors from 38 countries,  
31,100 visitors, 527 media representatives from 31 nations  
and more than 100 lectures, conferences and workshops during these 4 days in April 21-25. 2018.



**Gunar Barthel (GER)**, the enfant terrible of German paramotor flying, is always loose-spoken and infamous for his outspoken style. The umpteen times FAI World & European champion in the UL classes paramotor, 1 and 2 seater paratrike is also building these aircrafts and has its own flight school. ... [www.fsbteam.de](http://www.fsbteam.de) ...  
E-flight: "It has its right to exist. But it's dumb for us UL pilots. Too expensive, and what should I do with 30 minutes of flight time? Maybe in 5 years..."



**Simon Caldecott (USA)**, President & CEO of Piper Aircraft, brought his flagship to the AERO: the Piper Meridian M600, a six-seat single engine turboprop (since July 2017 EASA certified). This aircraft and the PA-28 trainers brought Piper in 2017, for the 80th anniversary of the company, a very successful year. ... [www.piper.com](http://www.piper.com) ...  
E-flight: "We're very interested in what's happening, I have my engineering group obviously very involved in looking at this new technology."



**Vittorio Magni (ITA)**, the grand seigneur of the gyroplane scene and his son **Luca Magni (ITA)**, Managing Director, welcome their service partner and flight instructor **Michal Parkitny (POL)**. Magni Senior, who celebrated his 80th birthday in April, sold his first gyroplane in the mid-sixties. Meanwhile, more than 1130 pieces of this first-class flight sport equipment have been delivered worldwide until now. ... [www.magnigyro.it](http://www.magnigyro.it)



**Miroslaw Brokowski (POL)** and **Marek Puchala (POL)**, founders & CEOs of Gyro-Tech, are on the road to success with their composite rotor blades. Founded in 2012, the start-up company now supplies gyrocopter and helicopter manufacturers all over the world. Marek has been flying himself gyroplane since 2012, from that came then the idea of producing rotor blades. ... [www.gyrotech.eu](http://www.gyrotech.eu)



**Emilio Jose Lopez Sanchez (ESP)**, CEO of ELA Aviación, in the carbon-chrome limited edition of the successful model ELA 10-Eclipse. ELA, founded in 1996, is along with Magni and AutoGyro among the most renowned manufacturers in the world with more than 700 produced gyrocopters. ... [www.elaaviacion.com](http://www.elaaviacion.com) ...  
E-Flight: "It can not compete with piston engines."



**Marc Becker (AUT)**, BRP Manager Aircraft Business, has every reason to laugh. The market launch of the new powerhouse, the ROTAX 915 iS with 135 hp, is running better than expected. And not only UL aircrafts are interested in this power package, which will soon be able to climb up in the air with 600 kg (1320 lbs.) 600 MTOW in Europe. ... [www.brp.com](http://www.brp.com) ... E-Flight: "The growing would be probably a lot earlier than we think. In my opinion, in one or two decades."



**Mathias Köhler (GER)**, BOSE Business Development Manager for Aviation, is showing an innovative feature on the new Bose ProFlight aviation headset (available from May 2018): with double tapping at the earbud you activate or deactivate a talk-through function for communication in the cockpit outside of intercom. The 4.9 ounces (136 gram) lightweight is designed especially for airline and professional pilots. ... [www.bose.com](http://www.bose.com)



**Willi Tacke (GER)**, CEO of Flying Pages and initiator of the e-flight-expo, has been publishing the "eFlight Journal" since summer 2017 - in the languages English and German, soon available in Chinese. ... [www.flying-pages.com](http://www.flying-pages.com) ... E-Flight: "There are at least 5-6 exciting projects in progress worldwide, which will amaze us all in the near future."



**Jan Fridrich (CZE)**, Vice President of Light Aircraft Association of Czech, represents one of the strongest and most innovative UL Associations in Europe in matters of Foreign Affairs, Industry and Internal Audit and is a tireless fighter for the freedoms and advances in light aviation, including all regulatory levels of the EU. ... [www.laacr.cz](http://www.laacr.cz) ... E-Flight: "I think this is one of the alternatives for the future. I like new technologies and it's good that we can support it."



**Stefan and Michael Strasser (AUT)** provide entertainment in the pilot circles with their "Chicken Wings" comic books (German & English). While Stefan draws in his homeland, Mike flies fire-fighting missions in Chinook helicopters throughout America (8000 heli hours up to date) and delivers ideas and texts for the Chicken Wing comics. ... [www.chickenwingscomics.com](http://www.chickenwingscomics.com) ... Michael Strasser about E-Flight: "That's something new for me. But I saw that the Helicopter Search & Rescue Service at the Grand Canyon also uses drones for searching of missing persons."



**Zeki Ziya (CYP)**, President of the Northern Cyprus Air Sport Federation (KKTC Hava Sporları Federasyonu) and his Flight Training Manager **Serkan Özcezarli (CYP)** at the AERO looking for aircrafts to expand their UL fleet at the Gecitkale flight sport center in Northern Cyprus. ... [www.facebook.com/pg/CyprusTurkishAirSportsFederation](https://www.facebook.com/pg/CyprusTurkishAirSportsFederation) ... Zeki Ziya about E-Flight: "I came in touch with electric propulsion here at the AERO for the first time. I'm astonished what already there is. It seems very-very interesting. We are going to search it in the future."



**Waldemar Sawenko (GER)**, ACC Aviation Coaching Consulting, advises airlines and others in terms of approvals, legal requirements and audits. And as an active member of the UAV DACH, Europe's largest association for unmanned aircrafts, shared that nowadays more and more companies want to use drones for commercial purposes. ... [www.aviation-cc.com](http://www.aviation-cc.com) ... E-Flight & Drones: "The industry is still in the identification phase, because the whole drone business, especially the commercial use is operating mostly in a grey area. The market will continue to grow, along with the creation of regulations. There will happen a lot!"



**Horst Trauntschnig (AUT)**, wind energy project developer and CEO of Boreas Aviation (Alpi agent for Poland) with two pilots of the well-known Pioneer Team: "Left-Wing" **Silvia Rappo (ITA)** and Team Leader **Corrado Rusalen (ITA)**. The Pioneer Team was founded in 2005 and has been invited to show their spectacular formation flight program with Alpi Pioneer UL aircrafts at various events around the world. In Friedrichshafen presented Corrado, the soul of Alpi Aviation, the new flagship: Alpi P 300 Griffon - "one of the most beautiful airplanes of AERO 2018" (FliegerMagazin) ... [www.alpiaviation.com](http://www.alpiaviation.com) ; [www.pioneerteam.it](http://www.pioneerteam.it) ; [www.boreas-aviation.com](http://www.boreas-aviation.com) ... Horst Trauntschnig about E-flight: "For gliders it's awesome, but I think it's questionable, whether pure electric propulsion system get their way in general aviation as well. But where money flows in, there are many possibilities, what can be seen in the car industry too."