## ENGINEERING for our FUTURE!

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## Future Transportation Systems: are air-taxis coming soon?

Considering the prevailing congestion problems with ground-based transportation and the anticipated growth of traffic in the coming decades, a major challenge is to find solutions that combine the best of ground-based and air-based transportation. In the European project (www.myCopter.eu, 2011-2014) we proposed an integrated approach to enable, the first viable PATS based on Personal Aerial Vehicles (PAVs) envisioned for travelling between homes and working places, and for flying at low altitude in urban environments. The myCopter project has not been the only development aiming at making personal aviation a reality. The last five years has seen a surge in research and development activities in this direction around the globe. The development activities have resulted in, amongst many other achievements, the first manned flight of a certified electric multicopter (Volocopter GmbH) and a prototype autonomous air taxi (Ehang). Tech-giants, such as Google, Uber and aircraft manufacturers, such as Airbus, have launched their own initiatives. We see now prototypes with vertical take-off and landing capabilities but many questions (eg., autonomy, safety, handling qualities and training) raised in the myCopter project have not yet been addressed in detail.

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