Abstract

Vertiport Integration into the European Airspace: A first glimpse into the EUREKA Whitepaper

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The successful deployment of Innovative Air Mobility (IAM) in Europe depends on the seamless integration of vertical take-off and landing capable aircraft (VCA) and vertiports into existing airspace structures. A Whitepaper, developed by the EUREKA consortium, critically examines the regulatory, operational, and infrastructural challenges associated with vertiport integration within the 500–2000 ft altitude band, an airspace layer that is currently underserved by both traditional Air Traffic Management (ATM) and U-space frameworks. Through a thorough examination of current European and international regulations, the Whitepaper highlights key inconsistencies and governance gaps that impede the entry of and hinder the scalability of IAM operations. Focusing on operational vertiport research, the EUREKA project evaluates the emerging roles of IAM operators, vertiport managers, the local vertiport network, ATM and U-space Service Providers (USSP) in coordinating IAM traffic in low-level airspace. The findings emphasize the need for a harmonized regulatory baseline, clear understanding of roles and responsibilities, and local operational governance to ensure safety, efficiency, and interoperability. This presentation will summarize the Whitepaper's core insights so far, with the aim of accelerating IAM readiness across Europe.

Biography

Karolin Schweiger

Karolin Schweiger is an aerospace engineer at the EUROCONTROL Innovation Hub and contributes to EUREKA as a U-space and Vertiport Specialist. Previously, she worked for almost 4 years as an Urban Air Mobility researcher focusing on vertiport airside operations, the evaluation of vertiport designs using fast-time simulation and the definition of operational requirements. Karolin is currently finalizing her Ph.D. at the Technical University of Berlin.