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SINGLE-PERSON ELECTRIC PLANES TO START FLYING IN 2022

● COMPUTING & TECH

The planes are available to buy as DIY kits or the finished product

Spotted: Japanese startup teTra aviation corp recently introduced its commercial Mk5 electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft. The lightweight planes hold a single person and are powered by 32 vertical lift motors. Built with aluminium and reinforced carbon fibre, the plane has a strict weight limit for pilots. The prototype carries a pilot of 79 kilograms or less, and the commercial version is expected to increase to 91-kilogram capacity.

A private pilot's license is required to fly the plane which, due to its vertical lift and landing capability, does not require access to full-size runways. This allows a plane to take flight from and land on much smaller cleared locations. DIY experts can buy the plane as a kit to build at home, and for those less confident about their handiwork, fully constructed planes will also be available. Each plane contains a minimum of two backup power packs and comes with a ballistic parachute.

Prices are not yet published on the company's website. Potential buyers can contact the company for pre-order information.

Transport feels as if it is on the verge of a huge change, with a large number of innovations being tested and introduced publicly. Springwise recently spotted a remote-piloted ride-sharing system in Las Vegas, and an electric aeroplane seeking to transform [regional travel](#) by 2026.

Written by: Keely Khoury

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Takeaway:

Autonomous and electric air taxis are developing rapidly, with flight range and power steadily increasing. Regulation and licensing are proving complex, with commercial aviation laws imposing certain restrictions. However, a number of companies have succeeded in moving beyond prototypes and are approaching readiness for commercial production. What happens in the next year or two is likely to propel the fledgling industry substantially and raise public awareness of potential new modes of transport.