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Urban mobility players tap investors to develop products of next decade

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Urban air mobility players are expected to attract greater investor interest over the next decade as they develop their air taxis and personal flying machines services.

They face an uphill challenge with consumers, however, because of their perceptions, a study by Deloitte found. Deloitte Global polled 10,000 people and 48 percent of consumers were unconvinced about the safety of air taxis in 2019, compared to 46 percent in 2018.

Here's what three players, big and small, are already doing amid claims this market will be worth billions in the future. They're up against giants Boeing and Airbus, which are each developing their own products in the sector.

ZEVA AERO

\$500,000**Round:** Convertible debt**CEO:** [Stephen Tibbitts](#)**HQ:** Tacoma

Details: Zeva, which makes a carbon fiber-body zero emission air vehicle, is raising to help finance construction of additional human-scale prototype aircraft for flight tests. Tibbitts exhibited a prototype at this fall's Aerospace Futures Alliance conference and attended the Dubai Airshow in one of the earliest markets for electric vertical takeoff and landing vehicles. Tibbitts said the startup has achieved a tethered hover flight with a full-scale vehicle and has flown a scale model for a year.

SKYPORTS

\$7 million**Round:** Series A**CEO:** [Duncan Walker](#)

Investors: Deutsche Bahn Digital Ventures, Groupe ADP, and Levitate Capital after its January 2018 seed investment. Groupe ADP develops and manages airports, including Paris-Charles de Gaulle, Paris-Orly and Paris-Le Bourget.

HQ: London (projects across U.S, Europe, Asia and Africa)

Details: Urban mobility requires infrastructure. Skyports aims to fill the void. The company is acquiring sites for passenger and cargo "vertiports" in Los Angeles and "other cities around the world." After Skyport's first passenger vertiport was unveiled in October — the VoloPort — in partnership with air taxi manufacturer Volocopter, Skyports said it has received substantial interest from landlords all over the world. Levitate is a San Francisco-based VC firm focussed on next-generation urban mobility.



EHANG

China-based unmanned aerial vehicle maker EHang Holdings recently raised \$100 million on the Nasdaq for its autonomous urban air taxis that can seat two passengers.

EHANG HOLDINGS**\$100 million****Round:** [IPO](#) on NASDAQ in December.**Chairman and CEO:** [Huazhi Hu](#)**HQ:** Guangzhou, China

Details: EHang earned global headlines with its first flight tests in 2016. Now, it has turned to major U.S. stock brokerages, led by [Morgan Stanley](#) and Credit Suisse, to raise that massive sum to further develop its two-seater passenger air taxi drone. It has signed an agreement with Azerbaijan Airlines to establish a command-and-control center to manage unmanned aerial vehicles at Heydar Aliyev International Airport in Baku. It reports having another deal with a Chinese developer to build a demonstration project.

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