

**SkyDrive, Tokio Marine & Nichido, and Nippon Koei
Sign Partnership Agreement on Preparations for Future eVTOL Services
-Integrating deep expertise in aircraft development, risk mitigation,
and infrastructure planning-**

Toyota City , Japan, July 17, 2026- SkyDrive Inc. ("SkyDrive"), a leading compact eVTOL (*1) aircraft developer based in Japan, Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance Co., Ltd. ("Tokio Marine & Nichido"), and Nippon Koei Co., Ltd. ("Nippon Koei") today announced the signing of a partnership agreement designed to promote the preparatory research required for the launch of eVTOL services in Japan.

Through this partnership, the three companies will integrate their unique capabilities, laying a robust foundation for the introduction of eVTOL into society as a safe and reliable form of transport operated via sustainable, profitable business models.

■ **Background**

SkyDrive and Tokio Marine & Nichido began collaborating in August 2020, when Tokio Marine & Nichido provided insurance for SkyDrive's first flight of a crewed prototype, a landmark event that saw SkyDrive become the first Japanese company to ever fly a crewed eVTOL (*2). Since then, both companies, together with the additional cooperation of Nippon Koei, have been studying various issues related to the future rollout of eVTOL services including safety assurance, public acceptance of eVTOL technology, and the establishment of the operational infrastructure needed to support regular eVTOL flights. This work included a joint study on route feasibility in the Osaka Bay area in July 2022 (*3).

The March 2026 revision of the "Roadmap towards Air Mobility Revolution", developed by the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MLIT), saw the Japanese government outline a strategy that aims to support the launch of commercial eVTOL flights sometime during 2027 or 2028. This policy evolution has accelerated the transition of eVTOL aircraft from the proof of concept phase to a new phase that will culminate in the deep-rooted integration of eVTOL travel into wider society. (*4).

While the Japanese government has now set out this key roadmap, the successful integration of eVTOL into society will require stakeholders to overcome various obstacles. Key challenges include demonstrating that the aircraft comply with rigorous safety standards, defining flight paths, developing policies for running vertiports (eVTOL takeoff and landing sites), and securing viable locations for vertiport construction.

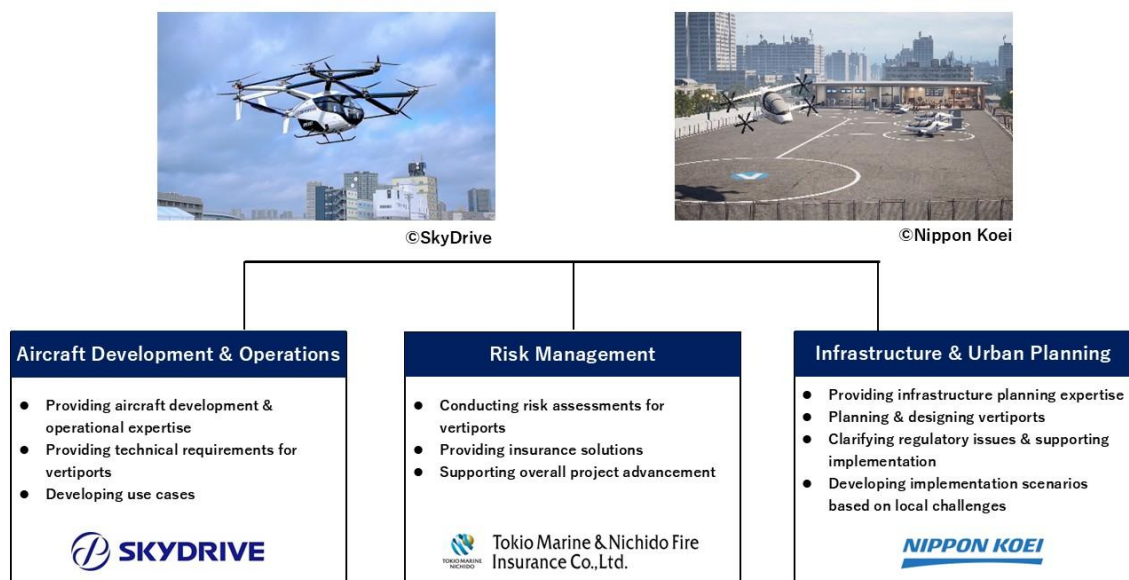
To address these challenges, the three organizations, bringing together their respective expertise, entered into this partnership agreement to move forward with detailed feasibility studies and accelerate the drive toward commercial operations.

■ Overview of the Collaboration

The three companies will jointly conduct research and assessments on the following key areas:

1. **Target areas and use case selection:** Selecting flight routes and use cases where eVTOLs can effectively address local transportation challenges and meet tourism demands.
2. **Vertiport feasibility study:** Planning vertiport placement, studying maintenance and operation methods, and identifying legal matters related to building codes, fire regulations, and licensing procedures.
3. **Business model development:** Studying potential eVTOL usage, building sustainable revenue models, and promoting discussions with local governments and relevant authorities.
4. **Risk management and insurance for safe operations:** Conducting risk assessments of demonstration trials and future commercial operations to examine appropriate insurance and compensation frameworks, as well as safety management systems.

■ The Respective Roles of the Project Partners



About SkyDrive Inc.

SkyDrive is a Japanese compact eVTOL company aiming “to take the lead in the once-in-a-century mobility revolution”. The company began testing eVTOL prototypes in 2014 prior to official incorporation in 2018. Under its future vision for urban transportation, flying in eVTOLs will become a regular part of city life. In 2019, SkyDrive

became the first company to fly a crewed eVTOL in Japan. In 2025, the company successfully showcased the eVTOL "SKYDRIVE", the company's first eVTOL product, with demonstration flights at the Osaka Expo witnessed by thousands of visitors over a one-month period. SkyDrive began production of "SKYDRIVE" in March 2024 at a plant owned by Suzuki Motor Corporation, SkyDrive's official production partner. SkyDrive has been working with civil aviation authorities in Japan and the US to obtain certification for "SKYDRIVE", with the aim of launching the aircraft into service in 2028. SkyDrive is headquartered in Toyota, Aichi Prefecture, and led by CEO Tomohiro Fukuzawa, an engineer and entrepreneur.

For more information, please visit: <https://skydrive.co.jp/en/>

About Tokio Marine & Nichido Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.

Established in August 1879 and headquartered in Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Tokio Marine & Nichido is a leading non-life insurance company in Japan. Led by President Hiroaki Shirota, the company engages in non-life insurance business, agency and clerical services, management of defined contribution pensions, and automobile liability security business.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.tokiomarine-nichido.co.jp/>

About Nippon Koei Co., Ltd.

Established in June 1946 and headquartered in Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Nippon Koei is a leading international engineering consultancy. Led by Representative Director and President Tomohisa Fukuoka, the company provides consulting services, including research, planning, evaluation, design, construction supervision, and management, for domestic and international projects across various sectors such as rivers, water resources, transportation (roads, railways, ports, airports), and urban development.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.n-koei.co.jp/consulting/>

Editor's Notes:

(*1) "eVTOL" is an abbreviation for electric Vertical Takeoff and Landing. As the name suggests, eVTOL aircraft can take off and land without a runway. eVTOLs are powered by electricity and incorporate advanced, automatic, flight control technology.

(*2) SkyDrive Launches Japan's First Test Flight of Manned "Flying Car"
<https://skydrive.co.jp/en/archives/373>

(*3) Launch of Feasibility Study for 'Flying Car' Routes in Osaka Bay Area toward Osaka Super City and Expo 2025 (Japanese only)
<https://skydrive.co.jp/archives/38387>

(*4) Advanced Air Mobility Roadmap Revised by Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI)
https://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2026/0327_002.html

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