

**SkyDrive Partners with India's Kineco to Manufacture Composite
Aerostructures for "SKYDRIVE" eVTOL
-Strategic Agreement Announced at Farnborough International Airshow 2026
Secures Key Manufacturing Supply Chain Ahead of 2028 Commercial Launch-**

Farnborough, United Kingdom / Toyota City, Japan, 21 July, 2026 - SkyDrive Inc. ("SkyDrive"), a leading compact eVTOL (*1) aircraft manufacturer based in Japan, today announced at the Farnborough International Airshow 2026 a strategic partnership with Kineco Limited ("Kineco"), one of India's leading aerospace composite manufacturers. Under the agreement, Kineco will develop and manufacture high-performance composite aerostructures for SkyDrive's production aircraft, the SKYDRIVE (Model SD-05).

This landmark collaboration marks a critical step forward in SkyDrive's transition from prototype demonstration to scalable mass production. Following its successful flights at Expo 2025 Osaka etc., SkyDrive is leveraging Kineco's advanced manufacturing capabilities to secure its global supply chain, targeting full-scale commercial operations by 2028.



■ **Key Highlights of the Partnership Include :**

- **Full-scope production support:** Kineco's role spans tool design, prototype development, certification support, and serial production readiness.
- **Industrial-Scale Infrastructure:** Production will leverage Kineco's newly installed 3-meter x 12-meter Scholz Autoclave in Goa, one of India's largest aerospace composite processing systems, ensuring capacity for future production scale-up.

■ **Securing a Scalable Manufacturing Ecosystem**

With more than three decades of expertise in advanced composites, Kineco is one of India's leading composite engineering and manufacturing companies, serving the Railway, Aerospace, Defence, Marine, and Renewable Energy sectors. Kineco has an established track record of supporting leading OEMs and Tier-1 Customers, delivering complex, flight-critical composite structures that meet the highest standards of aerospace quality and certification.

SkyDrive's mission is to "lead the once-in-a-century mobility revolution" by developing eVTOL aircraft that seamlessly integrate air mobility into everyday transportation.

As eVTOL aircraft incorporate high-voltage electric propulsion systems and increasingly complex airframe architectures, advanced composite structures become essential to meeting demanding requirements for lightweight performance, structural integrity, safety, manufacturability, and regulatory certification. Kineco's advanced composite manufacturing capabilities will play a pivotal role in delivering these next-generation airframe solutions, supporting SkyDrive's vision of bringing safe, efficient, and commercially scalable air mobility into everyday life.

By combining SkyDrive's innovative aircraft development with Kineco's proven expertise in advanced composite aerostructures, SkyDrive aims to further strengthen the maturity, reliability, manufacturability, and industrial readiness of the SkyDrive eVTOL aircraft while establishing a robust manufacturing ecosystem capable of supporting future production scale-up as SkyDrive progresses toward commercialization.

This collaboration also marks Kineco Aerospace's first dedicated production eVTOL programme, representing a significant milestone in the company's expansion into the rapidly growing Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) sector and reinforcing its position as a trusted global partner for next-generation aerospace platforms.

The agreement underscores the growing momentum behind Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) and highlights the increasing collaboration between Japanese aircraft innovators and India's advanced aerospace manufacturing ecosystem in the growth of next-generation aviation programmes that are shaping the future of sustainable air mobility.

■ Comments

Vivek Srivastava, CEO, Kineco Group, said:

"We are pleased to formalise our partnership with SkyDrive on this pioneering eVTOL programme through the signing of this strategic development agreement. This collaboration reflects the shared commitment of India and Japan to advance sustainable aviation technologies, while reinforcing Kineco's capabilities in delivering complex, flight-critical composite aerostructures that meet the highest standards of quality, reliability, and manufacturing excellence. We look forward to supporting SkyDrive as it progresses toward commercialisation of the SKYDRIVE aircraft, and to further establishing India as a globally competitive destination for high-value aerospace manufacturing."

Arnaud Coville, CTO, SkyDrive, said:

"We are thrilled to partner with Kineco, one of India's leading aerospace composite manufacturers, for the development and production of the SKYDRIVE (SD-05) aerostructures. Kineco has developed a breadth of experience serving various OEMs across the globe and is investing significantly to increase capacity and capability. With a large engineering organisation and strong network, we are able to industrialize at an accelerated pace. This

collaboration not only strengthens our manufacturing ecosystem but also deepens the technological and industrial bonds between Japan and India in the cutting-edge Advanced Air Mobility sector."

About Kineco Group

Kineco Group, founded in 1995 by first-generation entrepreneur Shekhar Sardesai, is a leading Indian company with diversified business interests across aerospace, defence, railways, renewable energy and industrial sectors at 9 manufacturing facilities across 3 countries. Kineco's NADCAP certified Aerospace & Defence division specialises in manufacturing and assembly of advanced composite parts for Indian and global aerospace & defence OEMs across platforms from fixed wing and rotary wing aircrafts to spacecrafts. Kineco's railway division is a market leader in India for providing modular turnkey solutions for rail coach interior furnishing and critical exterior products. Kineco Global Rail division established a footprint in the Europe through the acquisition of Semvac A/S, Denmark, a prominent supplier of rail sanitation systems comprising of cabins, vacuum toilet systems and fresh water / wastewater tanks and TRB Lightweight Structures, UK, a trusted supplier of lightweight and sustainable solutions to leading rolling stock manufacturers and rail operators worldwide. Kineco's JV with Finland's Exel Composites Oyj provides advanced pultruded composites solutions for wind energy, transportation, infrastructure, and telecommunication industries.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.kinecogroup.com/>

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/>

Editor's Note:

(*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.

Contact:

Kaori Saito

Public Relations

SkyDrive Inc.

Email: info@skydrive.co.jp

<https://skydrive.co.jp/en/contact>