PRESS RELEASE

SkyDrive Inc.

SkyDrive Signs MoU with the City of Gold Coast, Australia, on the Introduction of eVTOL Aircraft and Ecosystem Development

Accelerating real-world deployment toward commercial operations in 2028 and beyond

TOYOTA CITY, Japan — Nov. 17, 2026 — SkyDrive Inc. ("SkyDrive"), a leading compact eVTOL aircraft (*1) developer based in Japan, announced that it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the City of Gold Coast, Australia, to explore the feasibility and introduction of eVTOL aircraft.

In August 2026, SkyDrive signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) for the purchase of aircraft with Gold Coast Helitours, the region's leading helicopter operator (*2), and is taking concrete steps toward launching commercial services in 2028. Through this MoU with the City of Gold Coast, SkyDrive has now established partnerships with both a private-sector aviation operator and the local government, accelerating efforts to develop a regional eVTOL ecosystem and integrate eVTOL aircraft into everyday life.



MoU ceremony held in the City of Gold Coast
From left: Tom Tate, Mayor of the City of Gold Coast / Dr. Takayoshi Kuromiya, Minister and Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Japan in Australia / Taiji Ono, Executive Vice President, Head of Global Business of SkyDrive

Background and Objectives

The City of Gold Coast is Australia's second-largest local government area and one of the country's fastest-growing regions, welcoming millions of visitors year-round as an international resort destination. Through its "Legacy 2030" sustainable urban transport vision, and with an eye to the major international sporting event to be held in the region in 2032, the city is seeking to improve access and enhance the visitor experience by introducing advanced transport solutions.

Guided by its mission "to take the lead in the once-in-a-century mobility revolution," SkyDrive is developing and manufacturing compact eVTOL aircraft to make urban air travel an everyday reality. Following demonstration flights at Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan, the company reached an agreement with the Japan Civil Aviation Bureau (JCAB) on its project plan and type certification policy, marking steady progress toward commercial certification. SkyDrive is also preparing for mass production at a Suzuki Group plant and pursuing commercial deployment projects with local partners and governments across 10 countries. To date, the company has secured commitments for 451 aircraft (371 pre-orders and 80 under LOIs).

In Australia, under its August 2026 LOI, SkyDrive and Gold Coast Helitours aim to launch Australia's first commercial eVTOL operations through the introduction of five SKYDRIVE (SD-05 model) aircraft. Plans are now underway for vertiports (takeoff and landing sites) and maintenance bases at candidate locations along proposed tourism and transport routes connecting Gold Coast Airport, Marina Mirage and other key tourist destinations. By dramatically shortening travel times between major hubs that experience heavy road congestion, SkyDrive aims to offer a new, sustainable and comfortable travel experience.

As these concrete private-sector initiatives toward commercialization align with the city's future mobility vision, SkyDrive signed an MoU with the City of Gold Coast, bringing the public and private sectors together to advance the adoption, flight demonstrations and supportive infrastructure for eVTOL aircraft across the local community.

Key Areas of Collaboration

SkyDrive and the City of Gold Coast will consult and cooperate on the following key areas, assessing the commercial, economic and community value of eVTOL aircraft in the region and laying the necessary groundwork:

- Social Acceptance: Conducting outreach and awareness activities for local residents and visitors
- Policy and Regulatory Frameworks: Reviewing and developing local rules to ensure safe and seamless commercial operations
- Infrastructure and Land-Use Feasibility: Assessing candidate vertiport sites, including Southport Aerodrome, and integrating findings with urban planning data
- Flight Routes and Safety Validation: Validating optimal, safe flight routes connecting tourist destinations and major transport hubs across the Gold Coast

Outlook
Building on its operational partnership with Gold Coast Helitours and working closely with the City of Gold Coast, SkyDrive aims to begin commercial operations in 2028 and build a network anchored at Southport Aerodrome and additional vertiport sites across the region. In 2032, when the region is set to welcome visitors from around the world for a major international sporting event, SkyDrive aims to offer them an entirely new, quiet and sustainable way to travel, contributing to the broader economic vitality of the Gold Coast and advancing sustainable urban mobility.

Comments
Tom Tate, mayor of the City of Gold Coast
“The Gold Coast is actively supporting forward-looking innovation in sustainable urban transport and tourism. eVTOL aircraft are no longer science fiction — they are a real mode of transport right in front of us. We are delighted to be working with SkyDrive, a global pioneer, and Gold Coast Helitours, which has supported our region’s aviation infrastructure for many years, to explore bringing a new style of air travel to our city. Looking ahead to 2032, we will work together to advance outstanding experiences for residents and visitors alike.”

Tomohiro Fukuzawa, founder and CEO, SkyDrive Inc.
“Following our agreement in August 2026 with Gold Coast Helitours to introduce our aircraft, we are honored to sign this MoU with the City of Gold Coast. Partnering with the city, which is deeply committed to sustainable tourism development and transport innovation, is an essential step toward commercializing eVTOL services in Australia. With our private-sector operating partner and local government moving in step, we will drive forward public acceptance and infrastructure development toward the start of operations in 2028 and the major international sporting events in 2032.”

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 SKYDRIVE, the company's first commercial 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 U.S. 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.

(*2) Related press release: SkyDrive Signs Australia's First eVTOL Agreement with Gold Coast Helitours
https://skydrive.co.jp/en/news/72874/

Contact:
Kaori Saito
Public Relations
SkyDrive Inc.
Email: info@skydrive.co.jp
https://skydrive.co.jp/en/contact