PRESS RELEASE

SkyDrive Inc.

Finance Minister Satsuki Katayama Observes SkyDrive’s eVTOL Flight Test
Exchanging Views on Commercialization at Yamaguchi Flight Test Field

TOYOTA CITY, Japan — Nov 2, 2026 —SkyDrive Inc. (“SkyDrive”), a leading compact eVTOL aircraft (*1) developer based in Japan, announced that Japanese Finance Minister Satsuki Katayama visited its flight test field in Yamaguchi City, Yamaguchi Prefecture, on Oct 31.

Under the Japanese government's Growth Strategy approved by the Cabinet in July 2026, eVTOL aircraft are designated as a key technology within the 17 strategic fields (Aviation and Space) prioritized for national investment.

During this visit, SkyDrive briefed Katayama on the aircraft, testing facilities and concrete roadmap for deploying advanced air mobility.

Following the flight, Katayama inspected the test aircraft as SkyDrive representatives explained its structural design and system redundancy. Additionally, representatives from manufacturing partner Suzuki Motor Corporation—Naomi Ishii, Representative Director and Executive Vice President, and Hidetoshi Kumashiro, Senior Managing Officer and Executive General Manager of Battery Development—explained future manufacturing plans and overseas business expansion.

Following the tour, Finance Minister Katayama commented on the aircraft's quietness and maneuverability, stating, "It is very quiet" and "It changes direction quickly."

■ **Video of the Visit** https://youtu.be/JDGBPM8tHEw (YouTube)





Flight Results:

- Operation: Uncrewed operation via automatic control and remote piloting
- Flight distance: 2.2 km
- Flight time: Approx. 6 minutes
- Maximum flight speed: 78 km/h
- Maximum flight altitude: 30 m



Explaining the structure of the aircraft in the hangar



Experiencing the interior of the aircraft used for demonstration flights in Tokyo and at the Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai

Having the Minister observe the actual demonstration flight at the Yamaguchi Flight Test Field and directly explaining our safety and future business deployment was a great encouragement for our commercialization efforts.

SkyDrive will continue to collaborate closely with the government to advance the social implementation of safe and convenient eVTOL aircraft.

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.

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