

EXPLORE FLIGHT

WE'RE WITH YOU WHEN YOU FLY



Advanced Air Mobility

Parimal Kopardekar, Director, NASA Aeronautics Research Institute

August 17, 2021

AAM Mission Critical Commitment



Vehicle Development and Operations Develop concepts and technologies to define requirements and standards addressing key challenges such as safety, affordability, passenger acceptability, noise, automation, etc.



Airspace Design and Operations Develop UTM-inspired concepts and technologies to define requirements and standards addressing key challenges such as safety, access, scalability, efficiency, predictability, etc.



Community Integration Create robust implementation strategies that provide significant public benefits and catalyze public acceptance, local regulation, infrastructure development, insurance and legal frameworks, etc.

Critical Commitment:

Based on validated operational concepts, simulations, analyses, and results from National Campaign demonstrations, the AAM Mission will deliver aircraft, airspace, and infrastructure system and architecture requirements to enable sustainable and scalable medium density advanced air mobility operations

Achieving “systems and architecture requirements” will require enabling activities such as 1) the AAM National Campaign Series 2) a robust Ecosystem Partnership model and 3) NASA ARMD Portfolio Execution.

Aircraft

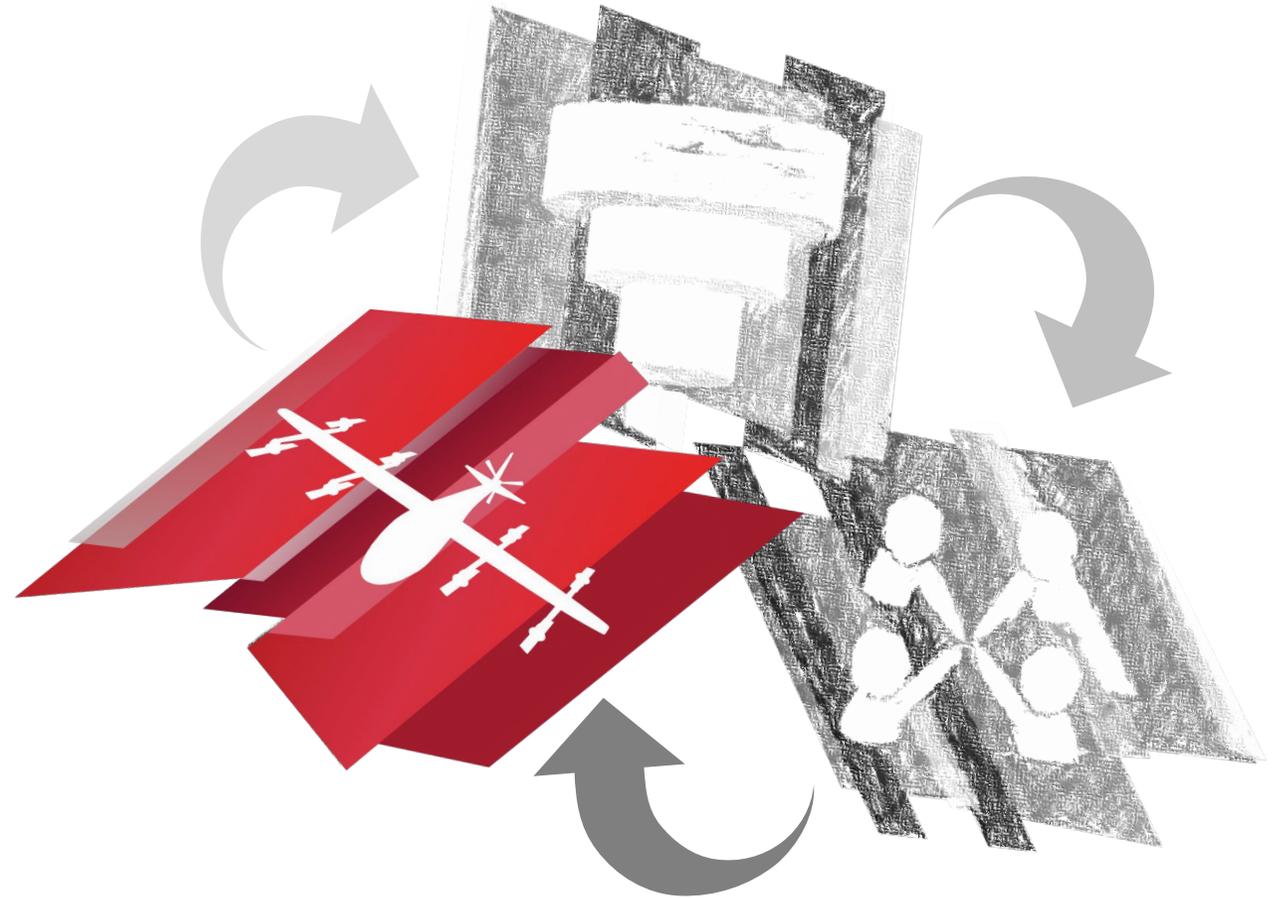


Vehicle Development & Production

- Design, manufacture, and system readiness of AAM vehicles

Individual Vehicle Management & Operations

- Operations and maintenance of a single AAM vehicle, independent of sharing of airspace or other system resources



Aircraft

- At least 18 companies are developing electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft
- Generally, have a range of 100+ miles on one battery charge
- Will fly below 5,000 ft at up to 200 mph top speed
- Carry ~4 passengers and one pilot
- Most have wings that are used in forward flight



Joby Aviation





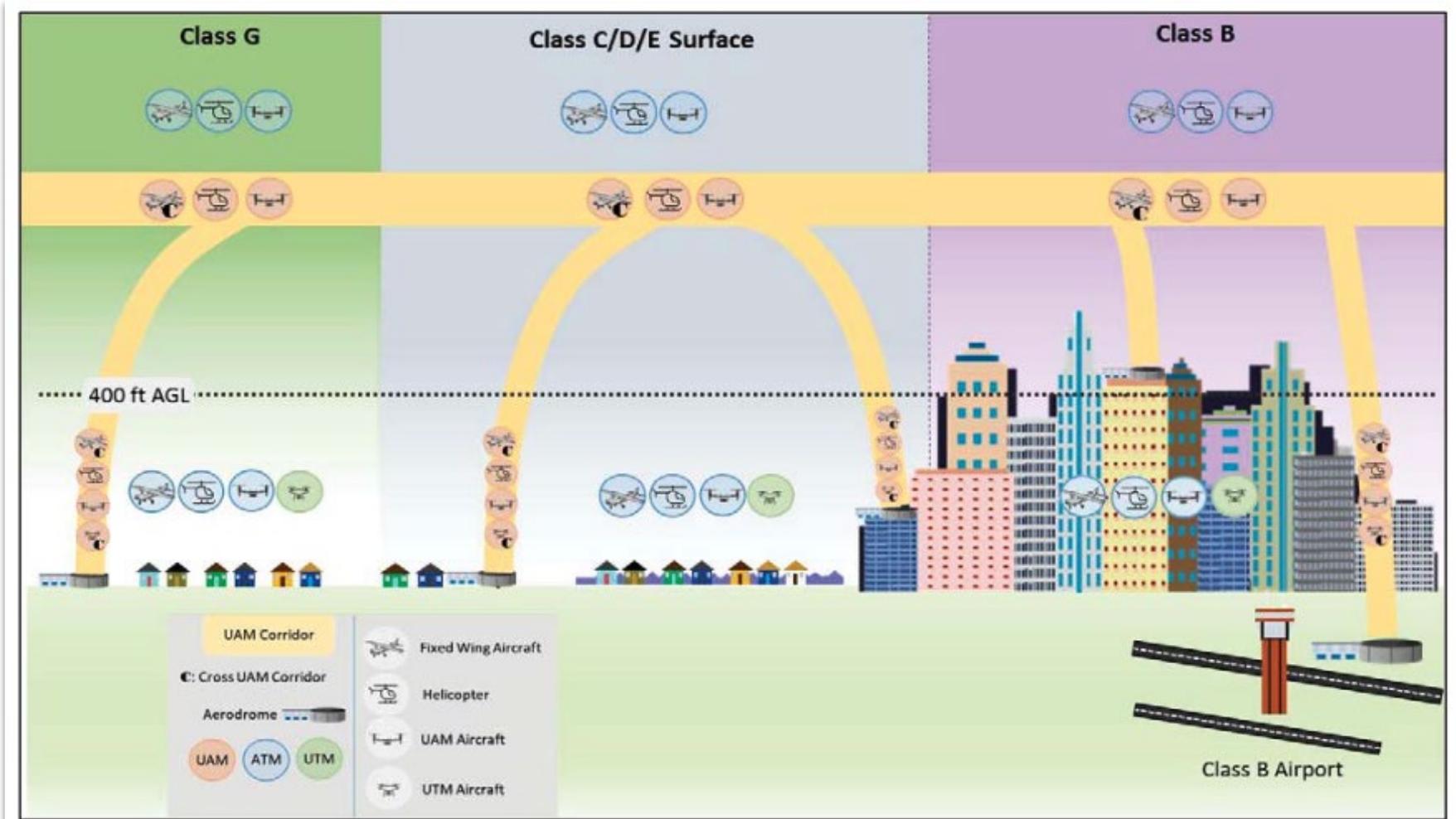
Airspace System Design & Implementation

- Design, development, and implementation of infrastructure to enable safe and efficient multi-vehicle AAM Operations

Airspace & Fleet Operations Management

- Operations and management of multiple vehicles within an AAM system that enable safe and efficient sharing of airspace and other system resources

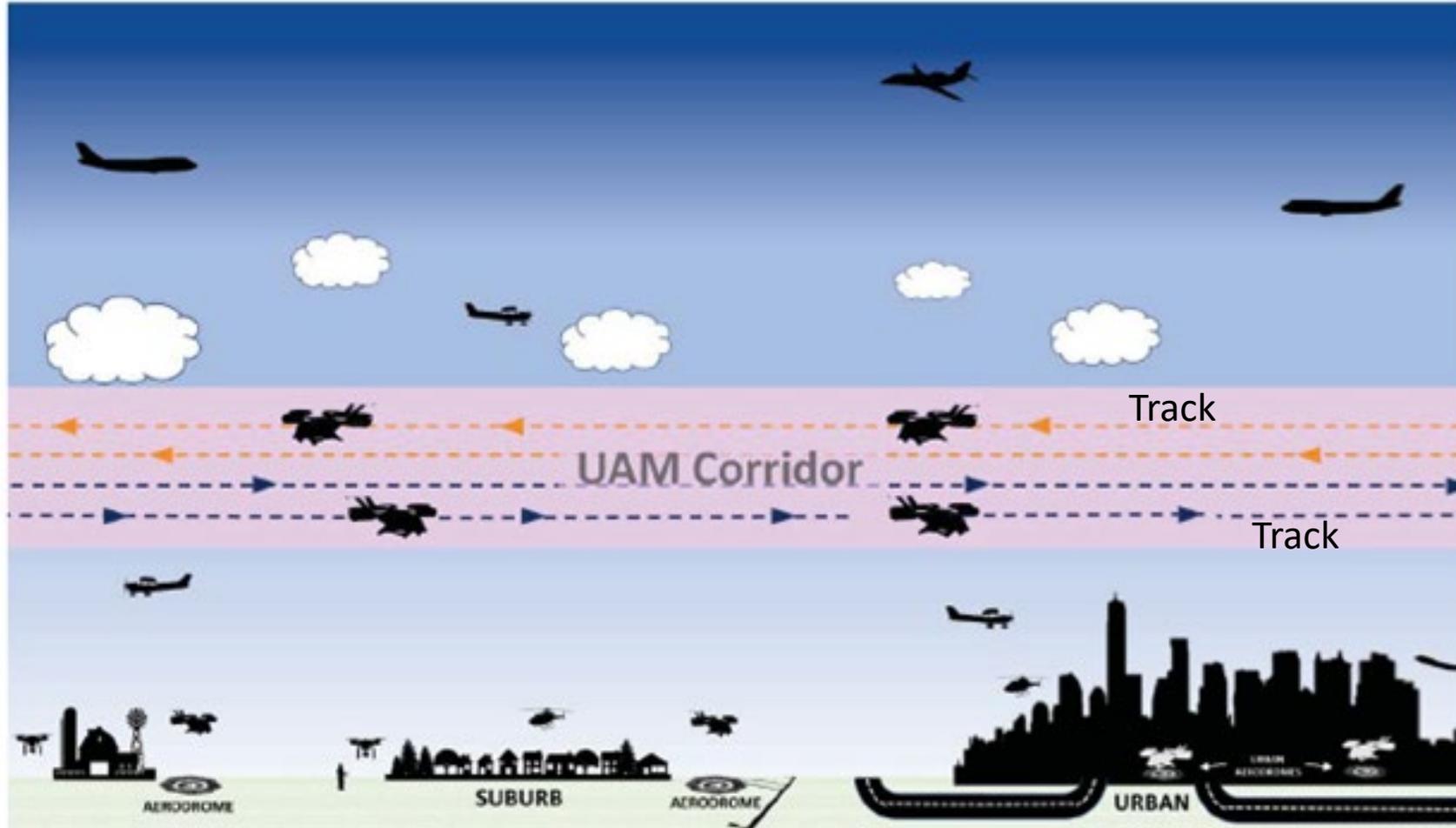
Airspace Structure and Procedures



Corridors

UAM corridors are performance-based airspaces of defined dimensions in which aircraft abide by UAM-specific rules, procedures, and performance requirements

Airspace Structure and Procedures



Tracks

Additional structure within the UAM Corridor to help organize UAM traffic at higher operational tempo (Derived from FAA NextGen UAM ConOps v1.0)

Routes

Concatenation of tracks, corridors, and terminal procedures that defines the operation from origin to destination

What is Unmanned Aircraft System Traffic Management?

UTM is an “air traffic management” ecosystem for small UAS in low altitude airspace

UTM utilizes industry’s ability to supply services under FAA’s regulatory authority where these services do not exist.

UTM development will ultimately identify services, roles/responsibilities, information architecture, data exchange protocols, software functions, infrastructure, and performance requirements to enable the management of low-altitude UAS operations.

Transparency

Security

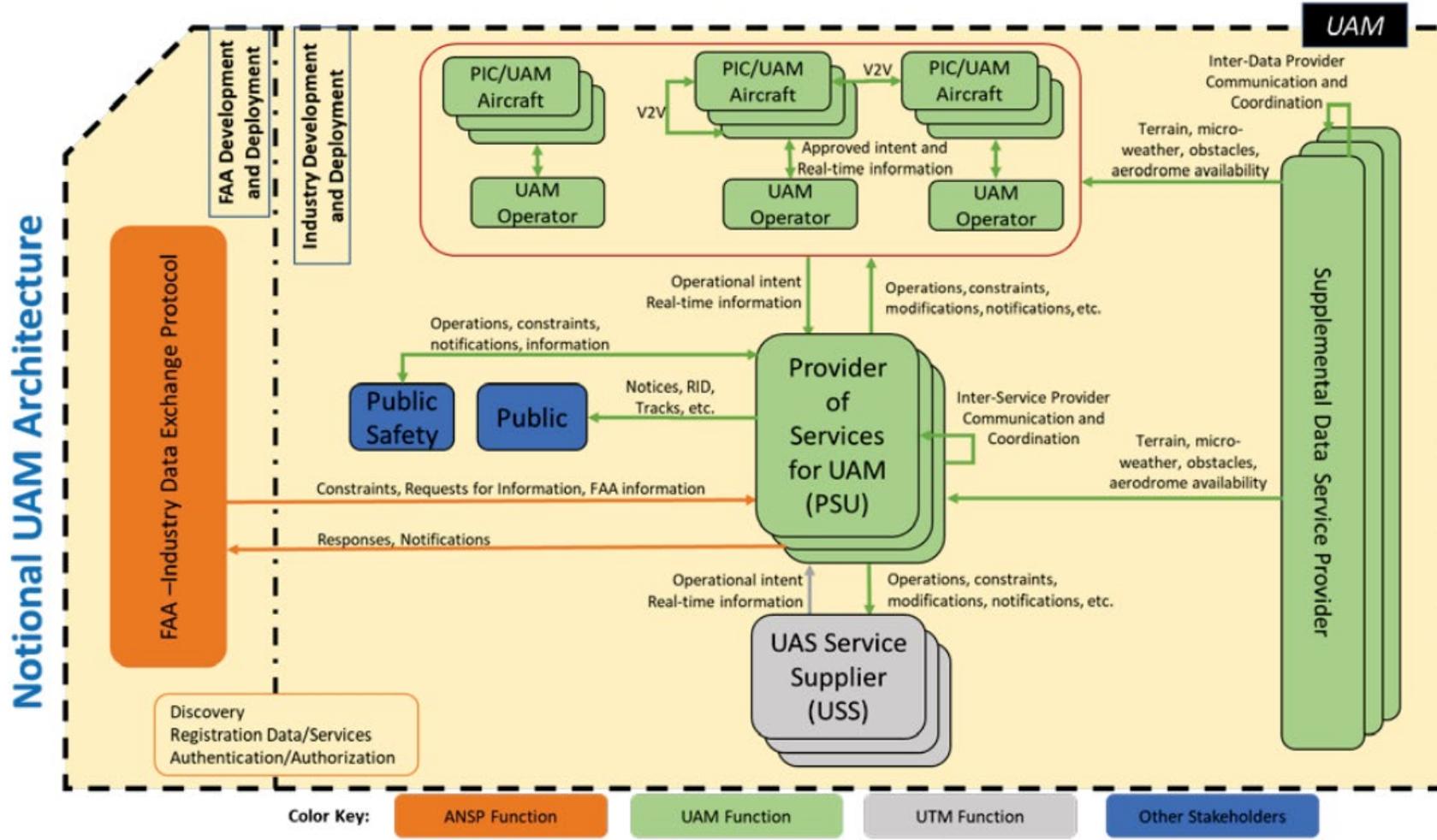
Safety

Commerce

Scalability



Notional UAM Architecture



Community Integration



Community Integration

- Societal integration and acceptance of AAM Operations

AAM-related Social Concerns

- Affordability
- Noise
- Privacy
- Legality

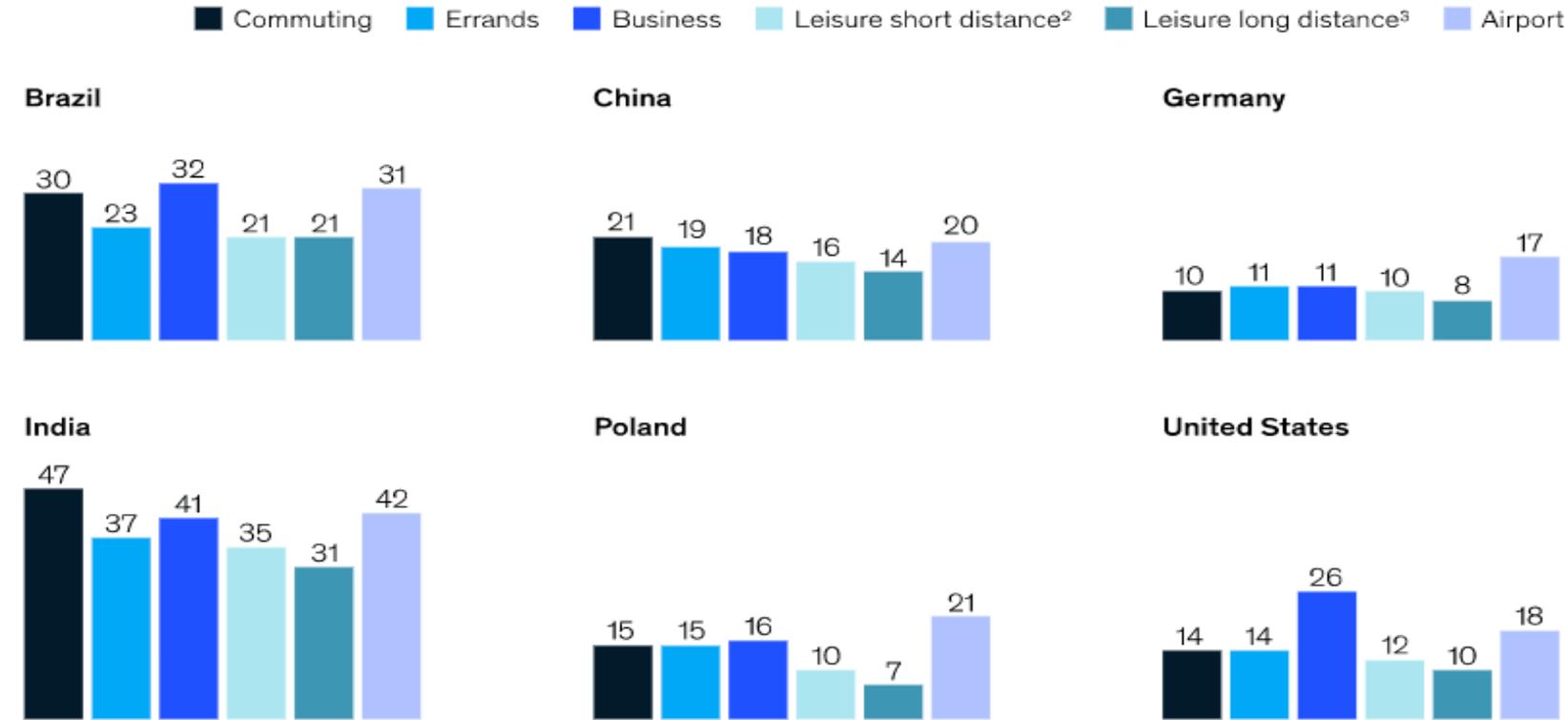


Urban Environment

- Off-airport takeoffs and landings will likely occur in confined, intra-city helipad/vertiport locations and on top of high-rise buildings
- Performing emergency procedures in these environments is a high-risk operation
- Pilots will need to make judgement calls on the safest alternative course or landing site, considering the busy air space, the battery life, and aircraft limitations
- Must allow for local urban and microclimate weather conditions and communication-blackout zones

Willingness to adopt advanced air mobility (AAM) services varies

Adoption, by use case, % of respondents saying they would definitely switch to an AAM vehicle¹



¹Respondents were asked to "imagine that instead of using your current transport mode you outlined, you could opt to get around in the small aircraft described earlier"; n = 4,600, with 400–500 per country.

²Within city.

³Longer distance to outside of city.

Source: McKinsey Advanced Air Mobility Consumer Survey, March 2021

Crosscutting



Key elements that pertain to the entire AAM ecosystem - Aircraft, Airspace, and Community Integration

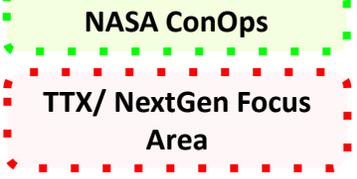
- Safety
- Security
- Autonomy

NASA's efforts that feed into the AAM Mission's Critical Commitment

- National Campaign
- Urban Air Mobility (UAM) Vision
Concept of Operations (ConOps) Urban
Maturity Level (UML) 4
- System & Architecture Requirements
(Model-based Systems Engineering
(MBSE))



Mature State UAM



MATURE STATE

UML-6

Ubiquitous UAM Operations with System-Wide Automated Optimization

UML-5

High Density and Complexity Operations with Highly-Integrated Automated Networks

INTERMEDIATE STATE

UML-4

Medium Density and Complexity Operations with Collaborative and Responsible Automated Systems

UML-3

Low Density, Medium Complexity Operations with Comprehensive Safety Assurance Automation

INITIAL STATE

UML-2

Low Density and Complexity Commercial Operations with Assistive Automation

UML-1

Late-Stage Certification Testing and Operational Demonstrations in Limited Environments

FAA Regulatory Framework



**Innovating in aviation while
respecting its safety tradition.**

Contact: parimal.h.kopardekar@nasa.gov