

Recent years have seen significant numbers of proposals for new types of aircraft. The UK has been playing a leading role in the sector, with making the UK an attractive proposition for aviation innovation a government priority.

Much of this development is happening at a fast pace and is using brand-new technology. As a result, we do not have the decades of data and experience that we do from traditional commercial aircraft. Industry is looking for support and facilitation for their infrastructure requirements from a multitude of sectors, many of whom may also be new to aviation. And the regulation surrounding all operational area needs to be adapted or developed to safely facilitate its success.

To do this we have to work collaboratively, so that regulations and guidance are available to support innovations, instead of holding them back. As part of that work, we regularly publish guidance and information to both help the industry prepare for regulatory approval and deal with developing issues.

The UK government has allocated £20 million to accelerate the development of flying taxis, with £16.5 million directed to the Civil Aviation Authority to establish regulatory frameworks for eVTOL and BVLOS operations. This funding will support the creation of standards for safe integration into UK airspace, including vertiport infrastructure and certification processes. The investment aligns with the government aim to see piloted flying taxi commercial operations by 2028. We are also building on this work with other national aviation authorities to foster international collaboration and promote technical innovation through our joint Roadmap for Advanced Air Mobility Aircraft Type Certification.

For example, we have been closely involved in the certification process for Vertical Aerospace's VX4 eVTOL, expanding the company's Design Organisation Approval to cover more technical areas, including flight control and avionics. This has helped facilitate key test flights, with our regulatory support crucial for Vertical's goal of achieving full certification and entry into service by 2028.

None of this fast-paced change means we take our focus off safety. Over many decades of aviation, we have learned together and developed technology and systems to ensure safe air travel in the UK. It is our mission to keep it that way. So, although we absolutely want to help innovation, our first priority will always be making sure air travel is safe.

