

Beat: Local

AMAZON UNVEILS A NEW HYBRID DELIVERY DRONE

FOR 30-MINUTE PRIME AIR DELIVERIES

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USPA NEWS - Amazon has unveiled a new hybrid delivery drone that can fly both vertically, as a helicopter capable of landing in customers' backyards, and horizontally like a conventional plane. The drone can travel up to 15 miles at high speed....

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The hybrid is conceived as the prototype workhorse for Amazon Prime, the futuristic delivery service that aspires to carry purchases to customers within 30 minutes of an order. The retail giant hopes that safety features built into the vehicle, including "detect and avoid" sensors that Amazon says allow the drone to fly around obstacles, will overcome concerns from government regulators "some of whom have proven resistant to the idea of delivery drones" and customers. (Global Economic Analysis)

This is not a service that's going to launch in the immediate future; there are still many obstacles to overcome. The final design of the drone is yet to be decided, and Amazon is testing out models in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Israel. There is also the Federal Aviation Administration hurdle to jump. The FAA has said it is not keen for unmanned commercial drones to fly out of line of sight. (BetaNews)

The helicopter function would be used to take the vehicle up to elevation, and then down to a customer's doorstep or yard. Once the horizontal motor is engaged, the drone would fly at up to 60mph, allowing rapid delivery. The hybrid aeroplane has long been an aspiration of flight engineers and it already exists in various large-scale vehicles, including the military Osprey. Amazon's prototype is believed to be the first effective hybrid achieved in a small unmanned drone of under 55lb. (Global Economic Analysis)

Statement of AMAZON Prime Air :

'We're excited about Prime Air "a future delivery system from Amazon designed to safely get packages to customers in 30 minutes or less using small unmanned aerial vehicles, also called drones. Prime Air has great potential to enhance the services we already provide to millions of customers by providing rapid parcel delivery that will also increase the overall safety and efficiency of the transportation system. Putting Prime Air into service will take some time, but we will deploy when we have the regulatory support needed to realize our vision.'

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