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## **VPORTS TO ESTABLISH A FIRST VERTIPORT AT RAS AL-KHAIMAH AIRPORT**

***State-of-the-art vertiport will be part of  
VPorts' planned UAE advanced air mobility network.***

**Dubai, UAE, March 15, 2023** – VPorts, the world leader in the design, construction and operation of Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) infrastructure, has announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Ras Al Khaimah (RAK) Airport to build and operate a first vertiport in RAK designed to establish the UAE as a world-class global AAM hub.

“With the support of the Department of Civil Aviation of Ras Al-Khaimah, we are excited to build and operate the first vertiport at Ras Al Khaimah Airport. This project will enable all AAM partners to accelerate the adoption and deployment of advanced air mobility in RAK and throughout the UAE,” said Dr. Fethi Chebil, President and Founder of VPorts.

“This project is aligned with RAK’s Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Strategy 2040 and with the vision of His Highness Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Ruler of the Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah, to achieve at least a 30% savings in electricity consumption and a 20% contribution from renewable energy by 2040,” said His Highness Eng. Salem bin Sultan Al Qasimi, Chairman, Department of Civil Aviation, Ras Al-Khaimah. “We are committed to supporting the VPorts project and to enable AAM-related innovation and technology and know-how capacity building in the UAE and in RAK.”

VPorts’ initial growth strategy is based on the regional transportation of goods, tourism and the efficient movement of patients, organs for transplants and medical equipment. The RAK vertiport, which will be established on a 10,000-square-metre site, will be designed for all types of electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft. VPorts’s vertiports will be opened for all eVTOLs manufacturers.

Ralf Schustereder, CEO, Ras Al-Khaimah Airport stated that “Ras Al Khaimah Airport is pleased to sign this agreement with VPorts to set up a vertiport in our airport. RAK Airport is aiming to be a leading enabler of RAK’s economic and tourism growth. This project will position RAK Airport as part of a development plan and key player in advanced air mobility in RAK. We will provide VPorts with our full support to ensure its success and prosperity.”

### **The first vertiport in RAK is aligned with VPorts' strategy in the UAE and in the world**

By 2030, VPorts plans to extend its vertiport network to all major industrial areas across the UAE, providing a sustainable transportation solution via eVTOL aircraft. The network will focus on locations that optimize multimodal transportation connectivity, including Ras Al-Khaimah, Dubai South, Jebel Ali, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah.

“We look forward to collaborating with each and every emirate to define the location of dedicated vertiports as well as safety and security regulations, flight corridors, urban integration and business community engagement for this important undertaking,” said Dr. Chebil.

In December 2022, VPorts announced the signing a 25-year exclusive lease agreement with the Mohammed bin Rashid Aerospace Hub (MBRAH), renewable for a further 25 years, to establish a state-of-the-art integrator centre on a 37,000-square-metre site within Dubai South. Development and construction of the centre will start in 2023; it is expected to begin operations and conduct its first flight test in 2024.

With the support of the UAE General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA), the world's first AAM integrator world centre in Dubai will feature a dedicated flight-testing airspace and innovative new technologies. “With our partners, we aim fostering the global growth of the international AAM industry and the certification of eVTOL aircraft,” said Dr. Chebil.

VPorts will deploy its Vertiport Operation Control Centre (VOCC) as part of the AAM integrator world centre in Dubai with the support of the MBRAH and the GCAA. The VOCC will have the capacity to manage air traffic integration and set up communication protocols between eVTOLs, vertiports and Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSP).

As part of this major undertaking, VPorts will work with an extended partner network to engage with key strategic poles of expertise, including eVTOL manufacturing, flight simulation and training, regulators, air navigation service providers, technology service providers, operators, electric charging manufacturers and urban planners.

**About VPorts**

VPorts leads the way in shaping how people will interact and connect in the future. Our vision is to enable travellers to reach their destinations quickly and safely through sustainable advanced air mobility infrastructure.

VPorts aims to build and operate 1,500 vertiports around the world by 2045, which will be integrated into local and global air mobility ecosystems through a proactive, responsible approach. By centralizing our operations and leveraging the most advanced technology, we aim to deliver a seamless travel experience.

**About Ras Al Khaimah International Airport**

Established in March 1976 under the Government of Ras Al Khaimah, Ras Al Khaimah International Airport (RKT) is the gateway between Ras Al Khaimah (RAK) and the world. Operating passenger and cargo services from an array of carriers, RKT connects the United Arab Emirates through regular flights to destinations that include Cairo, Islamabad, Lahore, Peshawar, Calicut, Mumbai, Prague, Istanbul, and Moscow. With its progressive addition of ever more destinations to its current schedule, RKT is a major asset in Ras Al Khaimah's stated goal of opening up the emirate to a greater number of international visitors.

**For information:**

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