

First Public Workshop: Novel Tools for Novel Aircraft



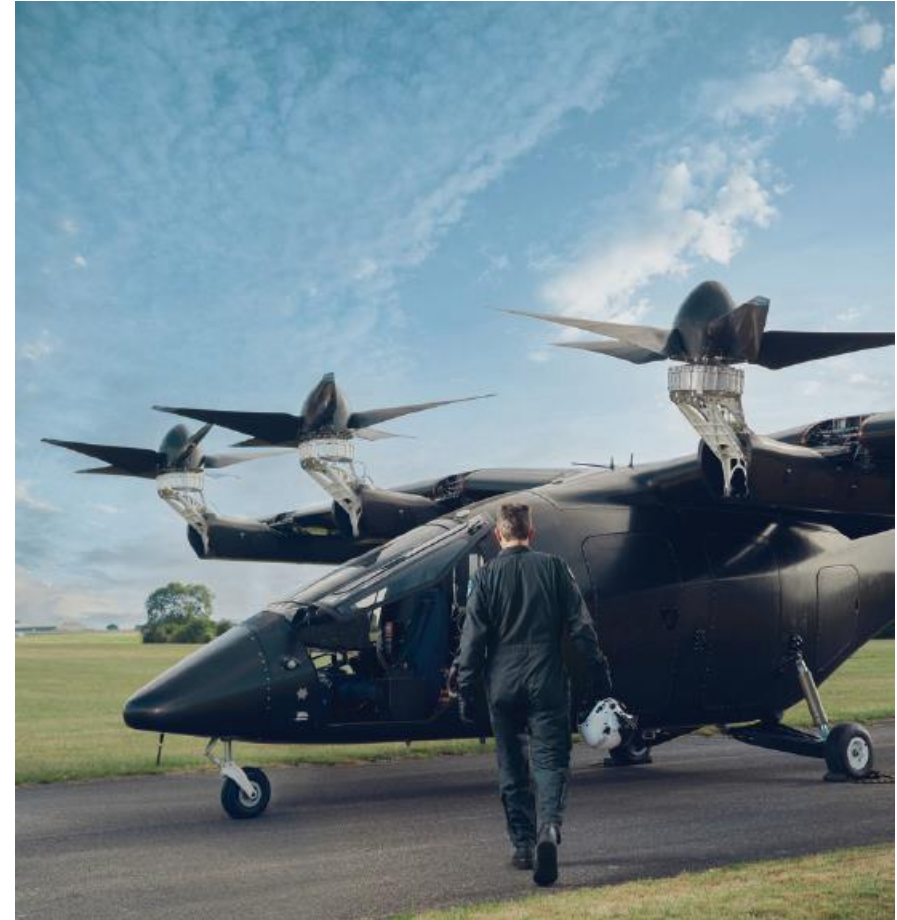
Project overview

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von Karman Institute for Fluid Dynamics

6 February 2025

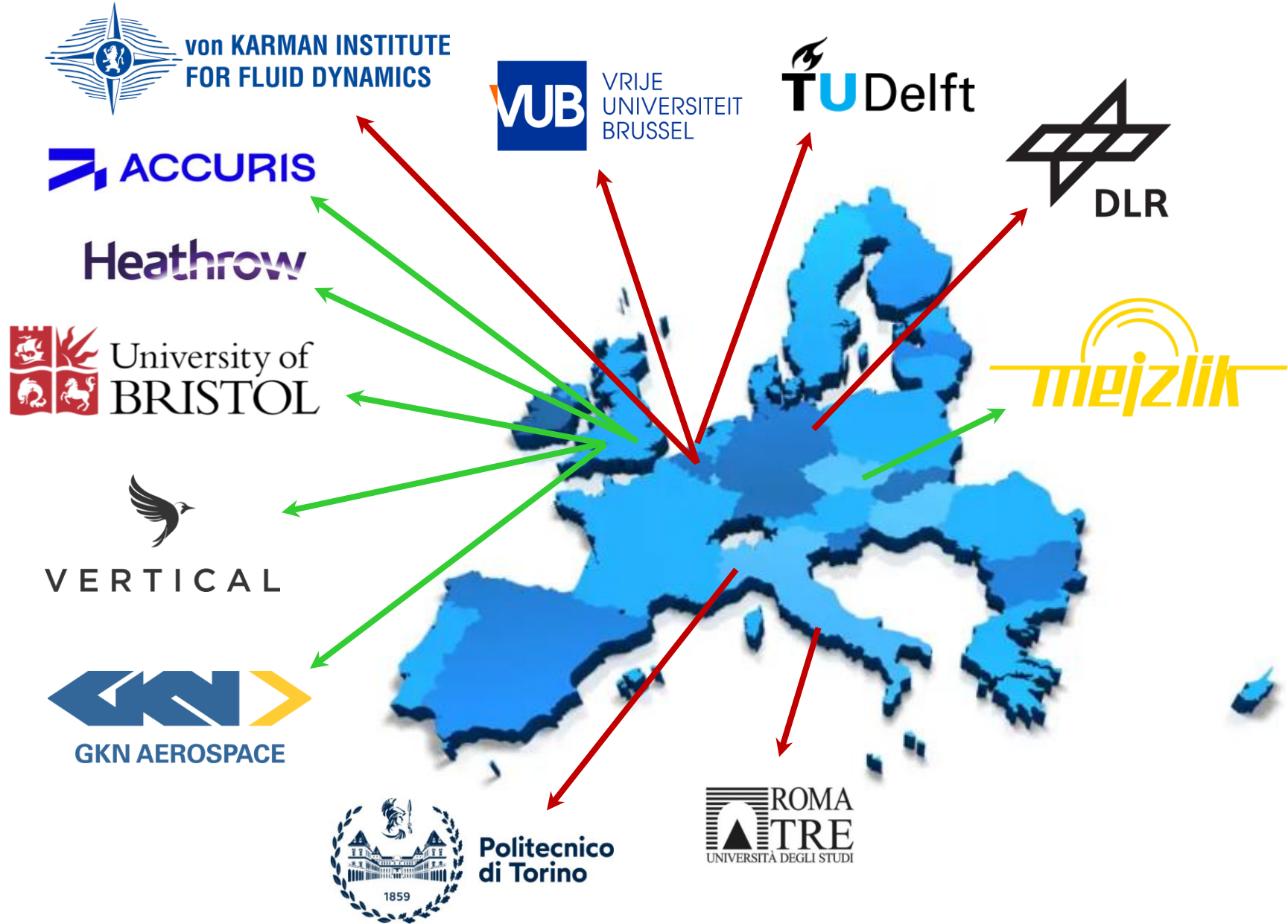
Novel aircraft require novel design tools

- Flightpath 2050 objectives
 - reduced pollutant emissions
 - lower noise footprint
 - disruptive technologies and aircraft architectures
- Electrification
 - drastic opening of design space
 - Boundary Layer Ingestion
 - Distributed Electric Propulsion
 - New transportation paradigm:
Urban Air Mobility



Who are we?

6 Partners
+
6 Associated Partners



Hybrid multi-fidelity eVTOL design platform

- HORIZON-CL5-2023-D5-01-09 Topic description:

“innovative hybrid numerical/experimental procedures, tools and methodologies that will advance further the industrial aircraft design capabilities”

- Hybrid

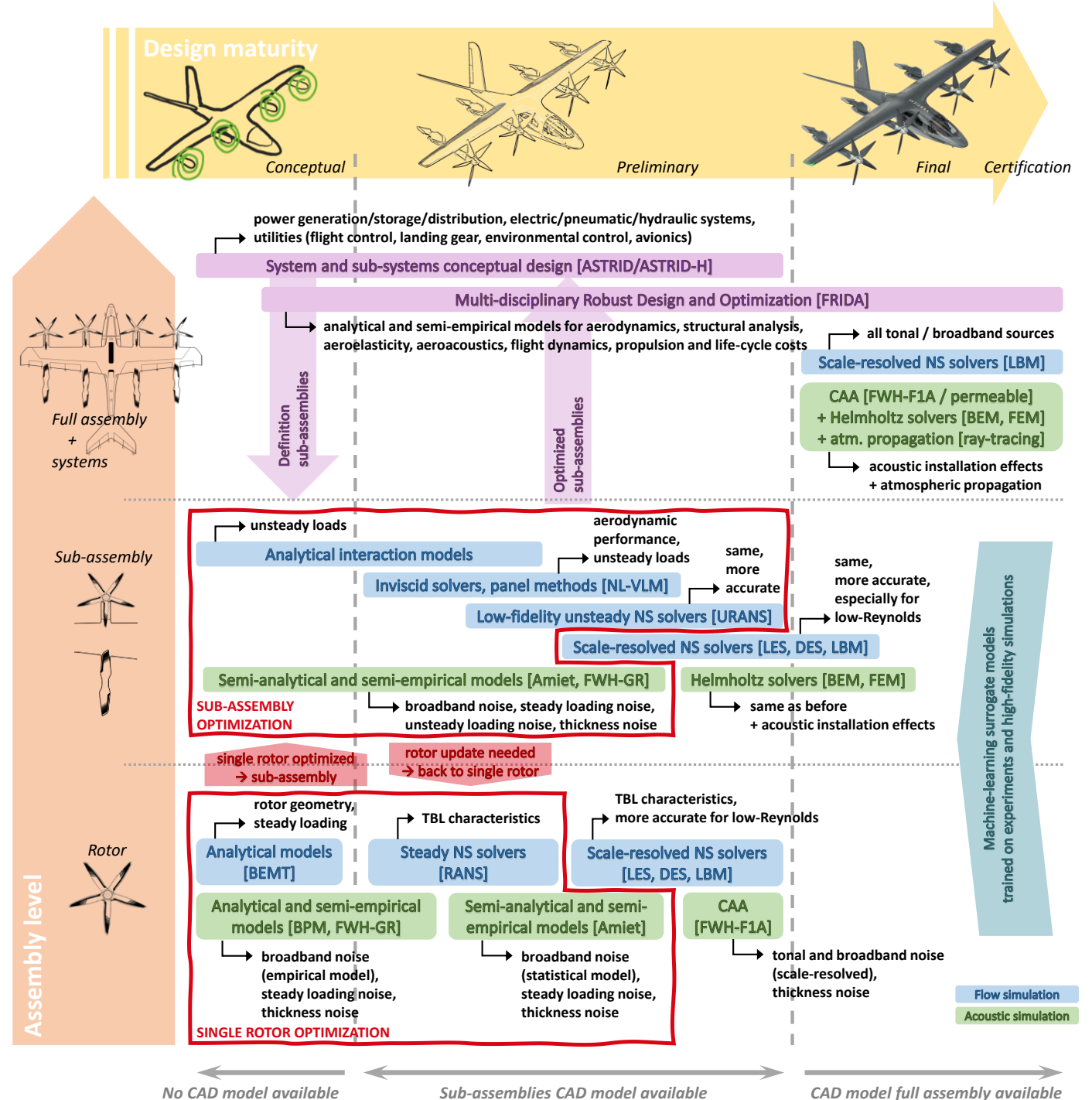
- Physics-based and data-driven models
- Simulations and experiments for cross-validation and training surrogate models for fast and robust design / optimization

- Multi-fidelity

- Model complexity / accuracy tailored to each step of the design process
- Early stages: need for quick evaluation of many options, little info available
- Later stages: need for accuracy on performance and eventually virtual certification

Design concept

- From isolated components to full assembly & systems
- From conceptual design (no CAD available) to final design (full CAD available)
- Concurrent evaluation of aerodynamic performance and acoustic emissions
- Cross-talk between assembly and simulation levels

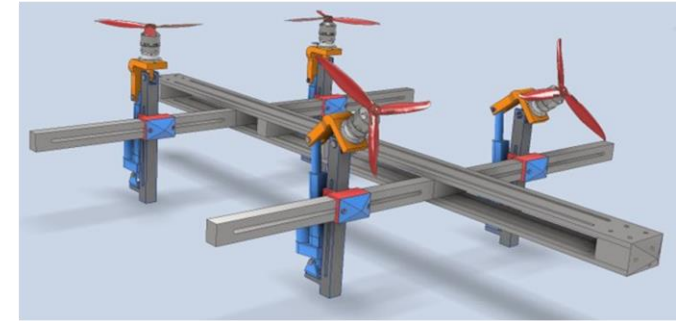
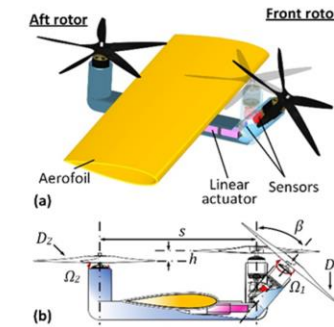
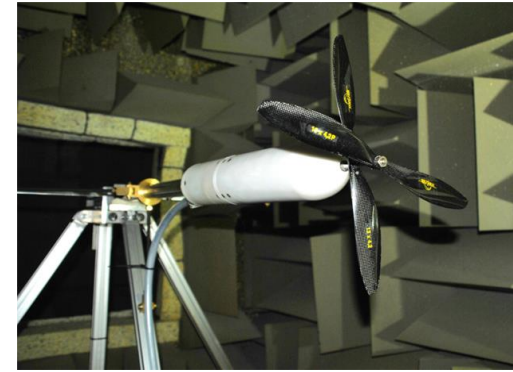


Objectives

- **Accelerate the optimization** cycle and improve its robustness thanks to **machine learning surrogate models**.
- Improve the **accuracy and robustness** of the design and optimization using advanced **experimental/numerical cross-validation and training** methodologies.
- Assess the **relative importance** of rotor self-noise, rotor-rotor interaction noise, and rotor-rotor-airframe interaction noise in eVTOLs.
- Mitigate the noise emissions of optimized rotors and rotor-airframe assemblies using **flow and noise control technologies**.
- Reduce the **noise footprint** of eVTOL aircraft during departure and approach thanks to **optimized and safe trajectories**.
- Support the elaboration of **noise certification procedures** for eVTOL.
- Increase the **social endorsement** of new aircraft architectures and on-demand urban air mobility.
- Support **future research** aimed at improving the aerodynamic performance and noise emissions of novel aircraft architectures.

Experimental configurations

- Configurations A (VKI, UBRI): isolated rotors, no flight effect
 - A1: single rotors
 - A2: tandem side-by-side, co- and contra-rotating
 - A3: tandem coaxial, co- and contra-rotating
 - A4: single rotor + strut / airfoil
- Configurations B (UBRI, GKN): isolated / installed (tilt) rotors with flight effects
 - B1: single rotor + (mis-)aligned incoming laminar/turbulent flow
 - B2: tandem rotors (1 tilt) + airframe
 - B3: multi (4-6) rotors with tilt and yawed inflow
- Configuration C (TUD): full assembly
 - Half-aircraft, 4 rotors, finite span, realistic airframe



WP1 (TUD)
Management, exploitation, dissemination and communication

WP2 (UR3) Integration of design/optimization tools, experimental testing and flow/noise control

Task 2.1 (DLR)
Multi-disciplinary and multi-fidelity design and analysis

Task 2.2 (UBRI)
Design & upgrade experimental mockups for rapid design cycles

Task 2.3 (UR3)
Machine-learning and surrogate models

Task 2.4 (UBRI)
Gradient-based and evolutionary optimization

Task 2.5 (UR3)
Airworthy flow and noise control technologies

WP3 (POLITO)
Mission profile, aircraft requirements and constraints

Task 3.1 (VAERO)
Mission profile

Task 3.2 (VAERO)
Reference vehicle

Task 3.3 (POLITO)
Energy mgt & cooling

Task 3.4 (TUD)
Noise regulations

Task 3.5 (GKN)
Safety

Task 3.6 (GKN)
Certification

WP4 (DLR)
Multi-fidelity hybrid optimization of low-noise and efficient aircraft

Task 4.1 (DLR)
Isolated rotor with clean inflow conditions

Task 4.2 (VKI)
Rotor-rotor potential and viscous interferences

Task 4.3 (UBRI)
Rotor-airframe potential and viscous interferences

Task 4.4 (TUD)
Propeller-atmosphere interferences

Task 4.5 (UR3)
Active and passive flow / noise control

WP5 (TUD)
Aircraft performance and noise impact analysis

Task 5.1 (POLITO)
Mission fulfilment & compliance with the design constraints

Task 5.2 (UR3)
Safe and quiet trajectories and maneuvers

Task 5.3 (TUD)
Near-field noise prediction

Task 5.4 (TUD)
Urban noise footprint and certification

Task 5.5 (DLR)
Sound quality and psycho-acoustic annoyance

WP6 (UBRI)
Experimental testing, training databases and cross-validation

Task 6.1 (VKI)
Single rotor, rotor-rotor and rotor-airframe interferences without flight effects

Task 6.2 (UBRI)
Single rotor and tandem rotors - airframe interferences with flight effects

Task 6.3 (TUD)
Full aircraft interferences with flight effects

WP7 (VKI)
Data management, digital twin, guidelines and roadmap

Task 7.1 (VKI)
Databases management

Task 7.2 (UR3)
Digital twin

Task 7.3 (TUD)
Final conclusions and guidelines

Task 7.4 (VAERO)
TRL assessment and RTD roadmap

WP1 (TUD)
Management,
exploitation,
dissemination and
communication

WP3 (POLITO)
Mission profile,
aircraft requirements
and constraints

Task 3.1 (VAERO)
Mission profile

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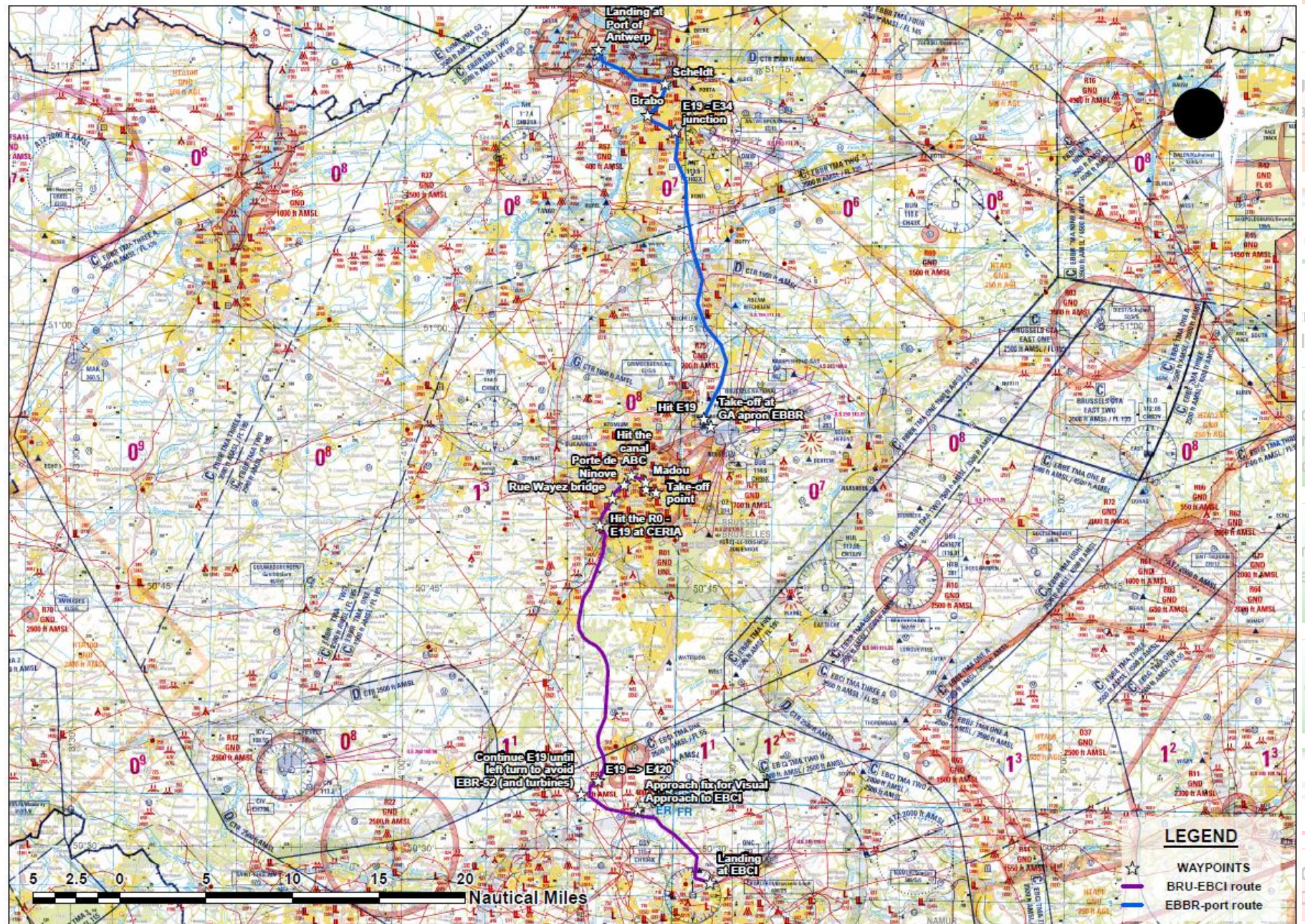
Task 3.3 (POLITO)
Energy mgt & cooling

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Certification

WP7 (VKI)
Data management, digital twin,
guidelines and roadmap



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WP1 (TUD)
Management, exploitation, dissemination and communication

Task 2.1 (DL)
Multi-disciplinary multi-fidelity analysis

Task 2.3 (UR3)
Machine-learning surrogate model

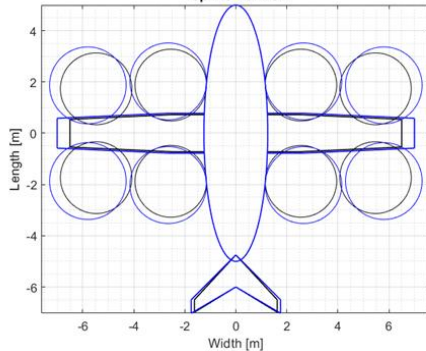
Task 2.5 (UR3)
Airworthy flow and noise control technologies



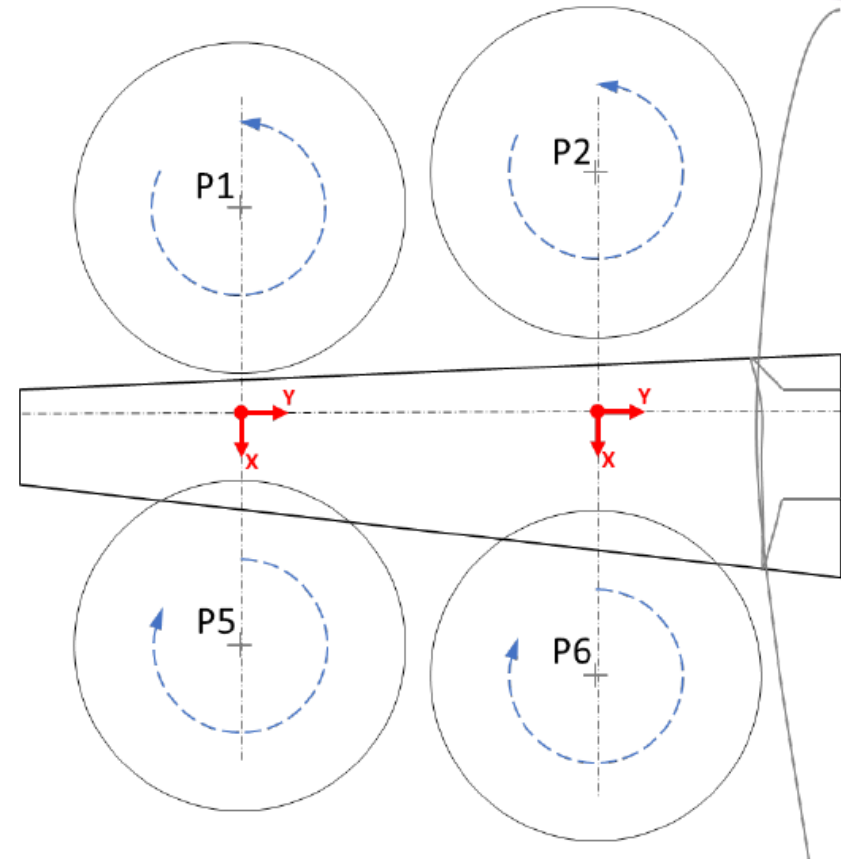
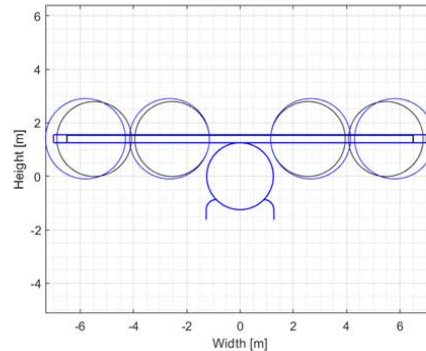
WP4 (DLR)
Multi-fidelity optimization and efficient analysis

Task 2.4 (DLR)
Rotor-airframe viscous coupling

Top-View eVTOL



Front-View eVTOL



training validation

operator and preferences effects

from rotors forces with

forces with

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Task 7.1 (VKI)
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Task 7.2 (UR3)
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TRL assessment and RFD roadmap

WP2 (UR3) Integration of design/optimization tools, experimental testing and flow/noise control

WP1 (TUD)
Management, exploitation, dissemination and communication

WP3 (POLITO)
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Task 3.1 (VAERO)
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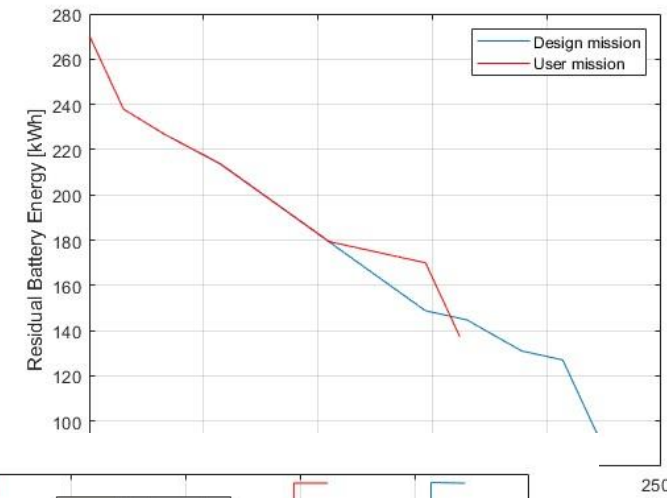
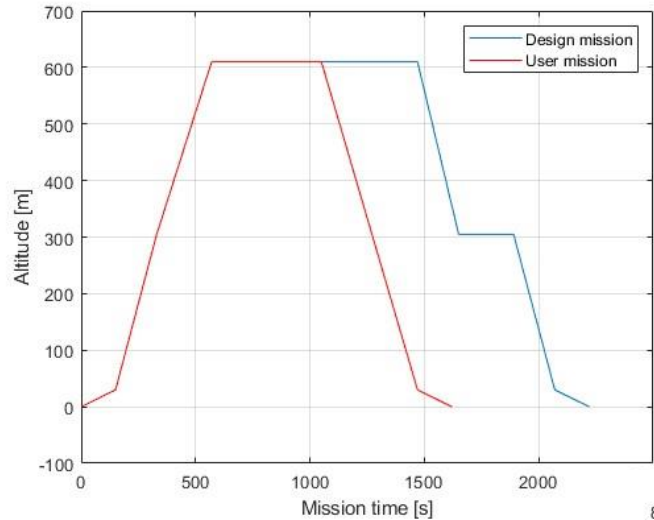
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Mult...

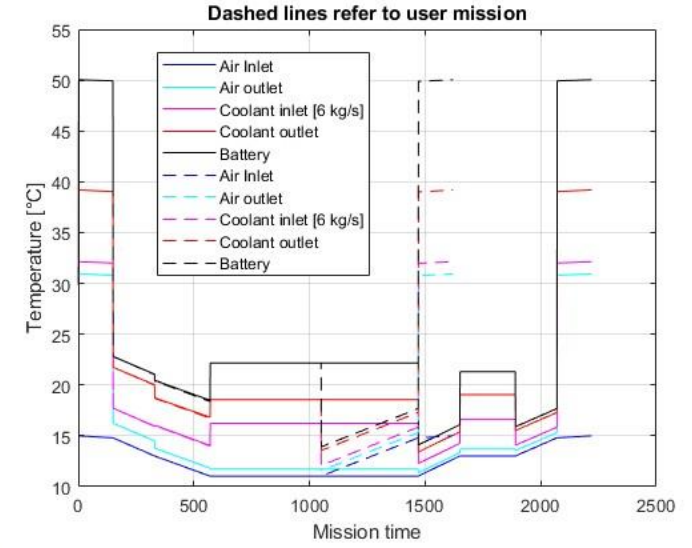
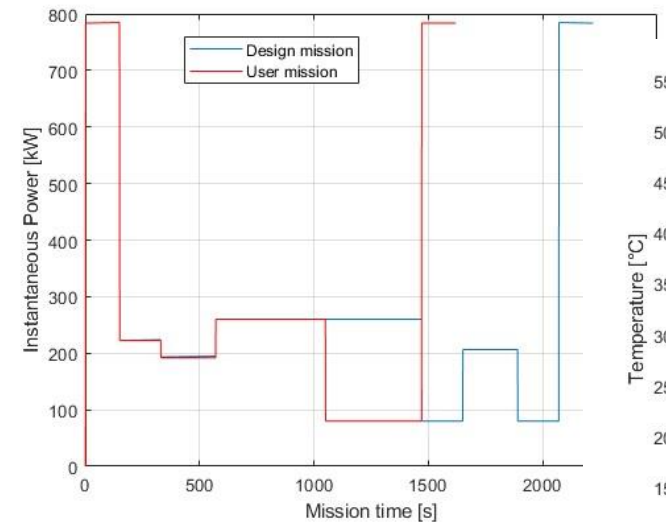
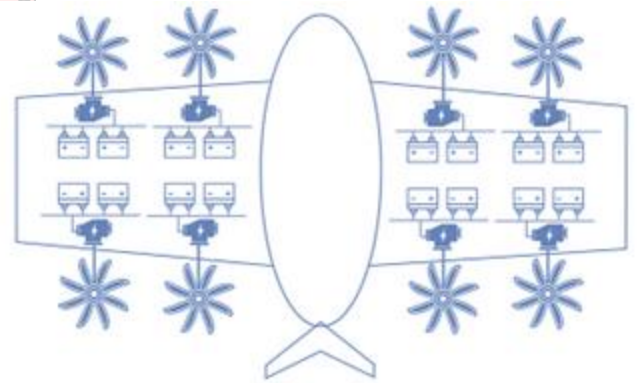
WP4
Multi-optimization and...



Task 2.5 (UR3)
Airworthy flow and noise control technologies

WP6 (UBRI)
Experimental testing, training databases and cross-validation

Task 6.1 (VKI)
Single rotor, rotor-rotor and rotor-airframe interferences



WP7 (VKI)
Data management, digital twin, guidelines and roadmap

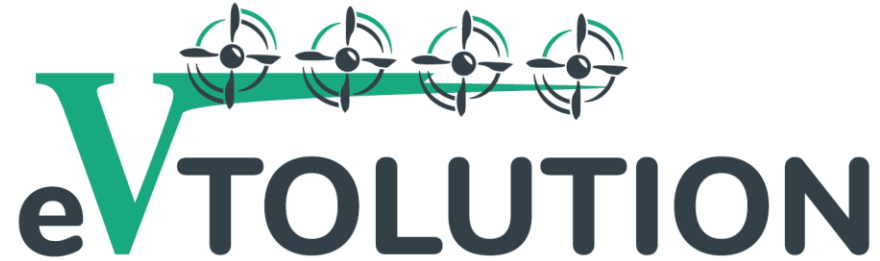
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Questions?

Enjoy your Workshop!