DB SCHENKER

Product Show 2022

Cooperation Volocopter and DB Schenker

- Since mid-2019, Volocopter and DB Schenker have been working together on the further development of the heavy-duty drone "VoloDrone" for specific application areas of drone services in logistics.
- At the beginning of 2020, DB Schenker joined the Urban Air Mobility company as a strategic investor. The aim is to use drone operations to expand the existing logistics infrastructure for land or sea transport and to create completely new supply chains and transport routes.
- As part of the collaboration with DB Schenker, the drone completed its first public flight in October 2021: for this, the electric cargo drone was equipped with a loading box between the landing frame to transport cargo on a Euro pallet to a DB Schenker Cargo Bike. After safe landing of the VoloDrone and successful handover, a cargo bike brought its delivery to its final destination. The test flight reached a maximum altitude of 22 meters.
- As early as July 2021, DB Schenker and Volocopter had developed an operational plan for the operation of electric cargo drones in logistics. This was based on a study conducted jointly with the Fraunhofer Institute for Material Flow and Logistics. The simulation conducted by the Volocopter, DB Schenker and Fraunhofer research teams included the study of ground processes for coding goods, evaluation of safe cargo loading of goods, automated drone delivery services by autonomous vehicles and logistics-specific necessary pre-flight checks. In addition, safe, standardized procedures were identified for on-site personnel to cover transportation and loading processes, as well as VoloDrone flight preparations
- The VoloDrone is an unmanned, all-electric cargo drone designed to transport ISO pallets of all sizes weighing up to 200 kilograms over a range of 40 kilometers. This electric vertical takeoff and landing aircraft is designed for versatile operations in various industries. The aircraft has 18 rotors and motors for propulsion. The drone is 9.15 meters in diameter, 2.15 meters high and has a maximum takeoff weight of 600 kilograms. In the future, the VoloDrone will be fully electric and capable of flying autonomously out of sight of the pilot.