EH216-S COMPLETES CENTRAL ASIA’S FIRST PILOTLESS HUMAN-CARRYING EVTOL FLIGHT IN THE HEART OF KAZAKHSTAN’S CAPITAL

News / Business aviation, Manufacturer

EHang flagship EH216-S successfully completed Central Asia’s first pilotless human-carrying flight of an eVTOL aircraft in Astana, Kazakhstan. During the Games of the Future 2026, the EH216-S conducted multiple route flights over the event venue in Astana, carrying Nurlan Sauranbayev, Minister of Transport of Kazakhstan, and other distinguished guests.

As the capital of Kazakhstan, Astana serves as an important hub connecting Europe and Asia. Its distinctive temperate continental climate and open airspace environment provide favorable conditions for AAM applications and flight operations. The President Assistant of the Republic of Kazakhstan Yesekeyev Kuanyshbek, Vice-Minister of Transport Kazakhstan Lastayev Talgat Tleubekovich, and CEO of the Aviation Administration of Kazakhstan Michael E. Daniel attended the event and witnessed the flights.

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In June 2026, Kazakhstan proactively established a national initial regulatory framework for eVTOL aircraft, vertiports, and unmanned aircraft traffic management systems. Two months later, the EH216-S completed its first pilotless human-carrying flight under this regulatory framework, demonstrating EHang's technical capabilities in rapidly supporting safe and compliant human-carrying flights across diverse regulatory environments worldwide.

In 2025, EHang signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Allur Group, one of Kazakhstan's largest automotive manufacturers, to jointly develop emerging markets for AAM solutions in Central Asia.

According to the Ministry of Transport of Kazakhstan, the first phase of the project will focus on demonstration and tourist flights lasting between five and 30 minutes, showcasing the country's natural, cultural, and historical landmarks. In the future, the autonomous aircraft could become part of the urban transportation network, complementing existing modes of transportation.

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To date, EHang’s EH216-S has expanded its flight footprint to 23 countries across five continents, marking Kazakhstan as the latest addition and demonstrating its adaptability to diverse climates, geographic environments, and airspace conditions.

EHang is transforming pilotless human-carrying flight from a technological vision into an increasingly accessible reality around the world, helping bring China’s low-altitude economy standards to global markets and reshaping the future of urban and intercity mobility.

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