



ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES AND ARCHER SIGN AGREEMENT TO DEPLOY MIDNIGHT UNDER THE "LAUNCH EDITION" PROGRAM

News / Airlines, Manufacturer



Archer Aviation signed an agreement with Ethiopian Airlines, making it the second customer planning to deploy Archer's Midnight under the "Launch Edition" program. Ethiopian Airlines, Africa's largest carrier and a proud member of Star Alliance, operates an extensive global network, serving over 140 international destinations across five continents. The two will now work to bring an all-electric air taxi network to the region using Archer Midnight aircraft.

Mesfin Tasew, Group CEO of Ethiopian Airlines said: "We are committed to pioneering advanced air mobility solutions that enhance connectivity and drive sustainable aviation in Africa. Our partnership with Archer Aviation marks an important step in bringing cutting-edge eVTOL technology to Ethiopia. Together, we aim to redefine regional travel and create new opportunities for efficient, eco-friendly transportation."

Archer Founder and CEO Adam Goldstein said, "Last month we announced Abu Dhabi Aviation as our first Launch Edition customer—today we're following that up with our second, Ethiopian Airlines. Africa presents an untapped opportunity with regards to advanced air mobility, with a variety of compelling use cases that we'll be exploring together, and I'm proud to be taking a big

step forward here alongside Ethiopian Airlines.”

Alastair Curtis, General Manager, Africa, at Archer, stated: "This partnership with Ethiopian Airlines represents a transformative step in bringing sustainable and efficient air mobility solutions to Ethiopia and the broader African market. At Archer, we're committed to working with forward-thinking partners to unlock the potential of eVTOL technology. This is just the beginning of a new era of aviation for Africa."

Archer announced the Launch Edition program back in February 2025 in an effort to create a scalable commercialization framework for safely deploying aircraft in early adopter markets, enabling the company to demonstrate the capabilities of its Midnight aircraft, drive public acceptance, build operational experience and generate early revenue.

Archer plans to deploy an initial fleet of Midnight “Launch Edition” aircraft to Ethiopian Airlines with a team of Archer pilots, technicians, and engineers to support this initial deployment. Archer also plans to provide backend software infrastructure and front-end booking applications to help power urban air mobility operations during the Launch Edition program.

While Archer and Ethiopian Airlines will primarily focus on developing an air taxi network in the region using Midnight, the two are also exploring using Midnight for a broader range of use cases, including eco-tourism. Archer and Ethiopian Airlines formalized this partnership during a signing ceremony this week in Addis Ababa. The two will continue working with the Ethiopian Civil Aviation Authority to efficiently and safely operationalize Midnight.

“U.S. aviation companies have time and again highlighted the best of American quality and innovation, and we're excited at the opportunity for Archer to make an impact in the region while making America more prosperous through its new agreement with Ethiopian Airlines,” said Nathan Stickney, Commercial Attaché, U.S. Embassy, Addis Ababa.

Archer's goal is to transform urban travel, replacing 60–90-minute commutes by car with estimated 10–20-minute electric air taxi flights that are safe, sustainable, low-noise and cost-competitive with ground transportation. Archer's Midnight is a piloted, four-passenger aircraft designed to perform rapid back-to-back trips with minimal charge time between flights.

27 MARCH 2025

ARTICLE LINK:

<https://virginia.50skyshades.com/news/manufacturer/ethiopian-airlines-and-archer-sign-agreement-to-deploy-midnight-under-the-launch-edition-program>