

The electric-powered Pop.up Next is a collaboration between Airbus, Audi, and design house Italdesign. The exciting news is that the Pop.up Next has been greenlit for tests, taking it a step closer to becoming part of a flying taxi service for city dwellers. The German government this week signed a letter of intent with Airbus and Audi to test the flying machine in and around Audi's home city of Ingolstadt. A specific date hasn't yet been set for the trial to begin, but with a slew of other companies already testing working prototypes, those behind the project will be keen to get Pop-Up Next off the ground at the earliest opportunity.



Commenting on plans for the unique design, German transport minister Andreas Scheuer said in a statement, "Flying taxis aren't a vision any longer, they can take us off into a new dimension of mobility." He added, "They're a huge opportunity for companies and young startups that already develop this technology very concretely and successfully."

If the upcoming prototype is anything like the current design, they'll find a machine that's made up of two main parts — the ground module, essentially a futuristic-looking two-seat car; and the drone module, which connects to the top of the car before flying it off to its destination. Both modules operate using autonomous technology so the occupants can simply program where they want to go and let the machine do the rest.