

# New Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) Academy for local government wins UK Research and Innovation funding support through the Future Flight Challenge

## **AAM4Gov – the first AAM Academy for local governments announced with UK Research and Innovation funding support through the Future Flight Challenge**

The launch of AAM4Gov, an on-line Advanced Air Mobility Academy for local government, was announced today by UK aerospace and defence consultancy company PMI Media Limited.

AAM4Gov is supported by the UK Research and Innovation Future Flight Challenge, delivered by Innovate UK and the Economic and Social Research Council, having won funding from the “Future Flight: closing the skills gaps” competition. The academy learning platform is accepting registrations now, and will start to deliver online courses from October 2023. These courses will meet the burgeoning demand from local authorities seeking essential knowledge, skills and expertise to start integrating drone and eVTOL operations into all areas of their short and long term management and planning. Courses will be a mix of free and charged-for, with special pricing arrangements available for local authorities. In addition to the online courses, AAM4Gov will provide a directory of industry and regulatory contacts to provide more niche and in-depth information and host a series of ask-the-expert webinars.

Courses are being developed with the support of ARPAS-UK, the UK's drone trade association, and in partnership with *Urban Air Mobility News* ([www.urbanairmobilitynews.com](http://www.urbanairmobilitynews.com)). All courses are validated by appropriate industry experts and regulatory bodies. Following release of the initial launch programmes, AAM4Gov will work with a wide spectrum of industry experts to create further courses on a range of topics to meet the needs of beginner, intermediate and advanced learners within local authorities.

Amy Camp Innovation Lead Future Flight Challenge said “UK Research and Innovation Future Flight Challenge’s recent funding ‘closing the skills gaps’ is delivering crucial work for the future of Advanced Air Mobility (AAM). AAM4Gov will remove barriers for local governments, empowering them to engage with innovation and understand how these emerging technologies could shape their communities.”

“UKRI's Future Flight Challenge is a key enabler for UK becoming a pioneering centre of excellence in advanced air mobility and urban air mobility,” said AAM4Gov Programme Director Greg Suart. “Local authorities have a critical role to play in AAM and drone services in the UK. Around 100 cities around the world have already started planning for electric air taxi services and the aim of these courses is to support the UK’s ambition to be an industry-leader in this sector by ensuring the industry can progress in the UK with local authorities in cities, towns and villages understanding the full range of benefits and challenges that this new transport revolution will bring to them – and signposting the way to expert help when needed.”

According to the topic and its complexity, it will soon be possible to take courses independently or interactively with a tutor and a cohort of learners who share similar interests. The first of the courses

will be an introduction to AAM and other course titles will cover a range of topics from legal, regulatory and drone security through to the best ways of engaging with the public and policy development.

To be kept informed register at: [www.aam4gov.com](http://www.aam4gov.com)

For more information contact Greg Suart at [greg.suart@aam4gov.com](mailto:greg.suart@aam4gov.com)

#### **Notes for editors**

##### **About the Future Flight Challenge**

The [UK Research and Innovation Future Flight Challenge](#) is a £300 million programme, co-funded by government and industry, that is supporting the creation of the aviation ecosystem needed to accelerate the introduction of advanced air mobility (AAM), drones, and electric sub-regional aircraft in the UK.

Delivered by Innovate UK and the Economic and Social Research Council, the programme works with industry, academia, government, and regulators to transform how we connect people, transport goods, and deliver services in a sustainable way that provides socio-economic benefits using new types of air vehicles with novel technologies.