

LOW-ALTITUDE ECONOMY FORESIGHT TRIP

May 17-22/23, 2026



AT A GLANCE

Experience eVTOL & various UAV-types first-hand.

Visit world leading UAV & eVTOL enterprises at their HQ in China.

Benefit from exclusive meetings & tours at the world drone expo.

Witness drone world record attempts during the world drone expo.

Gain from exclusive insights and data reports on China's LAE.

Reflect on how the LAE might affect your company and business.

EHANG | 亿航

 Meituan

SMD[®]
智航无人机


GENEINNO


AEROFUGIA
沃飞长空

dji

XAG

 AUTOFLIGHT

 walkera

MMC 科比特航空
MICROMULTICOPTER AVIATION

In Kooperation mit

UAM-InnoRegion-SH
Drohnenregion
Schleswig-Holstein

asiapilots

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Low-Altitude Economy in China, for global

Experience | Insights | Comprehension | Reflection

Background & Rationale

The term “**low-altitude economy**” (LAE) refers to economic activities in airspace up to 1,000 metres above ground level, although this airspace may be extended to up to 3,000 metres depending on regional and practical requirements. This includes various activities and industries involving civil manned and unmanned aircraft, e.g. passenger transport (including eVTOL, AAV), freight transport (including UAVs), manufacturing, software and communication systems, and integrated services. The **economic potential** of the low-altitude economy (LAE) is enormous: The global market for unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) alone is estimated to reach a volume of up to USD 140 billion by 2030, and according to Morgan Stanley, the market for urban air mobility (UAM) could reach a volume of one trillion US dollars by 2040.

In German-speaking countries, however, the LAE is mainly making negative headlines: Volocopter is insolvent, Lilium needs to be rescued, and Airbus is pausing the development of its CityAirbus. And this even though the LAE is not just a mobility innovation (e.g. from combustion engines to battery power), but de facto a **mobility revolution** (e.g. from horses to motor vehicles). This is because a completely new economic, social and technological ecosystem is emerging, rewriting the history of the transport of people, goods and information in many areas. In fact, looking at possible use cases there might hardly be any industry that will not be affected by the emergence of a LAE. It is about time to take a closer look at this economic sector.

Objective of the Trip

China is consistently driving the LAE mobility revolution and its commercialisation forward and is the international leader in the development, production and implementation of relevant technologies. Based on **what is already happening in China today**, we can anticipate the opportunities, challenges and social and economic changes that will accompany LAE and why we must not ‘miss the boat’ when it comes to this economic and technological sector.

Participants will benefit from this foresight trip especially in following ways:

- (1) Visit and exchange with world leading LAE enterprises and experience their technology and products first-hand.
- (2) Gain a comprehensive and exclusive overview about the LAE – its players, technologies, challenges, opportunities, disruption potentials
- (3) Witness and discover the latest trends of the international LAE and network with leading experts and brands in the LAE – targeted and prepared.

Registration Deadline	Participation Fee	Number of Participants
April 10, 2026	6.500 Euro	15
(You will be informed of the acceptance of your registration by April 13, 2026.)	(Price excl. VAT. International Flights and Hotels in China are to be borne by the participants.)	

Program (1/2)*

Date	Activities	Logistics
Sun, 17.05.2026 Evening 	Welcome and briefing of participants Impulse: China LAE – Status & Quo Vadis?	Individual Arrival  Overnight stay in Guangzhou
Mon, 18.05.2026 Morning EHANG 亿航	Ehang eVTOL Developer and Manufacturer of autonomous aerial vehicles (AAVs) and passenger AAVs with first license for commercialisation in China (incl. live demonstration and test flight opportunity)	 Location: Guangzhou  Daytime Bus Transport
Afternoon XAG	XAG Co., Ltd. World-leading agricultural drones and robotics company and the largest agriculture drone service provider. (incl. live demonstrations)	 Overnight stay in Guangzhou
Evening 	Dinner at Canton Tower's Sky Restaurant (106. floor) Impulse Insights Reflection Impulse: LAE – Uncertainty beyond the hype, what it is & how to deal with it Insights: China's LAE Ecosystem – use cases, trends & key players	
Tue, 19.05.2026 Morning 	Foresight Asia Discovery Workshop Challenge yourself and your business with the Foresight Asia LAE Discovery Toolbox . What business opportunities and disruption potential arise for your company and your industry from the emergence of LAE and the potential use cases of UAVs and eVTOL?	 Location: Shenzhen  Transfer to Shenzhen by High-Speed Train
Afternoon 	Shenzhen SMD UAV Co., Ltd. China's leading industrial UAV solution provider. The core product of the company is the vertical take-off and landing fixed-wing UAV, which is widely used in aviation logistics (especially in medical industry), emergency rescue, or environmental protection.	 Daytime Bus Transport  Overnight stay in Shenzhen
 Meituan	Experience drone operations & delivery of food & drinks in downtown Shenzhen	
Evening	Sightseeing & Dinner in Shenzhen	

Program (2/2)*

Date	Activities	Logistics
Wed, 20.05.2026 Morning  Afternoon   Evening  	Shenzhen Yingwu Intelligent Technology Co., Ltd. is committed to the development of multi-scene manned aircraft, the world's first multi-channel configuration. Its R & D headquarters and laboratory are located in Shenzhen. Shenzhen Keweitai Enterprise CO.,LTD Leading enterprise in the field of industrial-grade drones (incl. Production & Construction Onsite Supervision, Power Grid Inspection, Logistics) and wireless mobile video transmission systems. Dinner in Shenzhen + Surprise Foresight Activity! Impulse Insights Reflection Impulse: Autonomous Driving and LAE: similarities, differences, lessons learnt Insights: China's LAE Ecosystem – supply chain & technologies	 Location: Shenzhen  Daytime Bus Transport  Overnight stay in Shenzhen
Thu, 21.05.2026 Morning  Afternoon  Evening	Drone World Congress 2026 - Organized exhibition tours based on participants' interest - Targeted and pre-aligned matchmaking based on participants' requirements - China-Europe Networking Forum - Attending special topic forums - Attending special activities, for example: - Drone Speed Record - FPV Speed Record - Drone Football - DWC by Night (incl. drone light show) Exploring Cantonese Cousin (Dinner)	 Location: Shenzhen  Daytime Bus Transport  Overnight stay in Shenzhen
Fri, 22.05.2026 Morning  Midday	Drone World Congress 2026 - Organized tours over the exhibition based on foresight trip participants' requirements. - Targeted and pre-aligned matchmaking. - Individual time at DWC Joint Lunch & Concluding Workshop (Participants are welcome to also stay at DWC till Saturday!)	 Location: Shenzhen  Daytime Bus Transport Individual Departure

*Please note that the illustrated program is a planned version and might be subject to changes.

2026

World Drone Congress – SHENZHEN



深圳市无人机行业协会
Shenzhen UAV Industry Association

We are honored to be invited to the World Drone Congress 2026 by the leading industry association in the field of LAE, the Shenzhen UAV Industry Association (SZUAVIA), which also supports us to arrange targeted and high-level matchmaking and exchange during the fair.

World Drone Congress 2026 at a glance:

- 825+ Exhibitors from 127 countries
- 150,000+ Visitors (incl. ~20,000 foreign guests)
- 15,000+ Products exhibited
- Covers among others following topics:
 - LAE Control systems and **infrastructure**
 - Drones in **industrial production & smart manufacturing**
 - Smart **cities** & low-altitude economy;
 - Drone **logistics**;
 - Drones in **agriculture**;
 - Drones ICT & **semiconductor**
- Incl.: Drone Light Show + Drone Speed Record + FPV Speed Record + Drone Football
- Selection of drone categories exhibited: Survey drones; Fishing drones; Hydraulic engineering drones; Industrial drones; Power grid inspection drones; Consumer drones; Police drones; Disaster relief drones; Aerial photography drones; Agricultural drones; Meteorology drones; Show drones; Logistics drones; Forestry drones; Multicopter drones; eVTOL aircraft; Marine drones; Communication drones; Traffic drones; Helicopter drones; Racing drones; Firefighting drones; Search and rescue drones
- Selection from the exhibitor list:



Your LAE Foresight Trip Team



Travel Management



Xi YANG

Speaks German, English, Chinese and leads and organizes this delegation trip to South-China.



Tour Leader



Xiaolong HU

Partner at Salt & Pepper Consulting and Co-initiator of Foresight Asia.



Special Guest



Peter Helis

is a renowned expert with over 25 years of local experience in China, specialising in government affairs and cooperation between China and Europe. He is fluent in German, English, Mandarin and Cantonese and is an expert in navigating the complexities of intercultural business and political environments. Peter Helis is also the international representative of Invest Guangzhou and chief advisor to the Huangpu District in Guangzhou, one of China's most dynamic economic and innovation centres. He is one of the very few foreign experts who can explain China's social, economic and industrial policy development from an 'inside perspective'.

Experts



Prof. Dr. Benjamin Scher

is one of Germany's next generation mobility experts with a track record of various projects around autonomous driving, digital mobility solutions, and low-altitude economy applications. He is Founder & CEO of the movingfutures GmbH, a strategy consultancy focusing on the development and implementation of future mobility solutions, which he founded after his time as Lead Product Strategy at the Volkswagen subsidiary MOIA and as the head of the H&Z Center for Future Mobility. Benjamin is Professor for Strategic Management at the International School of Management (Hamburg) and holds a PhD from the University of St. Gallen, where his research focused on the role of uncertainty in Innovation Strategy, Entrepreneurship, and Organisational Development. Since 2021 he furthermore is chairman of the advisory board of UAM-InnoRegion-SH, a major Low-Altitude Economy R&D project funded by the German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space.



Dr. Daniel Frerichs

is an entrepreneur and manager with 15 years of experience in international cultural contexts (Asia-Europe), including ten years in management positions at Chinese and European high-tech companies in Shanghai. He holds a doctorate in communication science and is managing partner of the AI-powered consultancy ASIAPILOTS Ltd. as well as founder of the Shanghai-based B2B communications and marketing agency Salt&Pepper. In 2020, he founded the first European economic development office of the Huangpu District (Guangzhou) in Germany and developed it into a well-known representation of the international innovation hub Greater Bay Area. As guest lecturer at the KoWinChi project of the Universities of Würzburg and FAU Erlangen-Nuremberg he teaches China's innovation clusters and ecosystem. His recent publication and research focus is the (Chinese) Low-Altitude Economy.

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SALT & PEPPER

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Scan and register here by April 10, 2026.



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Foresight Trip
Manager

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