

International Conference on Electric Airships

Wednesday September 24 to Saturday September 27, 2025

Fürther Str. 250, Nuremberg, Germany

(Status September 18th, 2025)

Register online at: <https://www.encn.de/conference-airships>



Wednesday, September 24 – Arrival of the Participants

DAY 1

7:00 p.m. Casual Welcoming Meeting,

Adina Hotel, Dr.-Kurt-Schumacher-Straße 1, Nürnberg

Thursday, September 25 – Airship Economics and Applications

8:00 a.m. Registration

8:30 a.m. Opening Remarks – Welcome

8:40 a.m. Markets for Commercialization

Economic Aspects of Airships

Carlo Riboldi, Politecnico di Milano, Italy

Airships for Mining Critical Minerals

Barry Prentice, University Manitoba, Canada

9:40 a.m. Coffee Break

10:00 a.m. Manned Airships

AS700D - the Development of Electric Version of the AS700 Airship

Lei Zhou (周雷), AVIC, China

(virtual)

Atlas Electric Airships

Gennadiy Verba – ATLAS

Energy efficiency of airships and airplanes

Nathanael West, England

By Analyzing Historical Data and Conducting Regression Analysis

Alexander Richter, TUB, Germany

11:40 a.m. Gerd Hirzinger: Introduction to Virtual Reality of Rigid Airship Hindenburg

12:00 a.m. Lunch

Virtual Reality Show of Rigid Airship Hindenburg, vr-dynamix

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12:50 p.m. Airship Drones

Solar Airships: What price, scale??

Spencer Horne, South Africa

Environmental Robustness of Unmanned Airships

Daniel Wibbing, Roboloon, Germany

HyLight Drone Video Show

Josef Rokůsek, HyLight, France

2:10 p.m. Coffee Break

2:30 p.m. Airship Propulsion

Propellor Pitch Actuation

Piers Olsen, Olsen Actuators & Drives, England

Cryogenic Power Electronics and Superconducting Aircraft Powertrains,

Bentheimer Christian, Fraunhofer IISB, Germany

IPROP: Pioneering Ionic Propulsion for Next-Generation Stratospheric Airships

Raffaello Terenzi, Politecnico di Milano, Italy

4 p.m. - 6 p.m. Poster session and evening snack (Moderator: Prof. Barry Prentice)

Innovative sustainable air travel between Aruba, Curacao, and Bonaire with airships.

Michel Frank, University of Aruba

Simulation Algorithms for Route Optimization of Airships

Niklas Heidenreich, FAU, Germany

Design Concept of a Solar-Powered Airship for Long-Distance Travel

Manuel Müller, FH Joanneum Graz, Austria

History and plans of the association 'Initiative Leichter als Luft e.V.'

Andreas Werner, Initiative Leichter als Luft e.V., Germany

Helium Assisted UAV for Precision Agriculture

Pruthvi Kapoor, University of Hull, United Kingdom

VLMs onboard airships for scene understanding in a wildfire context

Simon Gehringer, Fraunhofer, EVOLONIC, FAU, Germany

7 p.m. Reception at the DB Museum, Lessingstr. 6, Nürnberg

Moderator: Ulrike Trapp

With: *Joachim Herrmann, Bavarian Ministry of the Interior*

Alice Jacobi represents Alexandra Mehnert (MEP)

Dekan Kai Willner (Technische Fakultät, FAU)

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Friday, September 26 – Airship Technology Advances

DAY 2

8:00 a.m. Networking

8:30 a.m. Large Airships

Influence of Clouds to Solar Powered Large Airships

Christoph Pflaum, FAU, Germany

Conceptual Sizing and Environmental Assessment of Rigid Cargo Airships

Rajkumar S. Pant - Aerospace Engineering Department, India

Contribution of solar energy to the global Information-Energy system of a cargo airship

Sylvain Allano, Flying Whales, France

10:00 a.m. Coffee Break

10:20 a.m. Safety, regulation and incentives for Airship Technology in Europe

Moderator: Robin Deransy, Head of Unit, Eurocontrol Innovation Hub Paris

New Airship Technology – Challenges and Opportunities in the evolving regulatory context for Airships in Europe- Frank Neumann IMIEU Brussels.

Venture Debt as Growth Capital in the Life-cycle of a Company- Piotr Michalowski CFA. Senior Banker, Equity and Venture Debt, Head Office, EIB, Luxembourg.

Future Development of the European Drone Regulation and LTA Technology –

Natale Di Rubbo Project Manager Drones, EASA Cologne

(virtual)

Airship Drones, H2 vs Helium as a Lifting Gas, Patrick Hendrick, Universite Libre de Bruxelles.

Safety Aspects for Unmanned Airships Udo Berthold, MITEB GmbH, Germany

Regulatory and risk considerations regarding the integration of Low Altitude LTA Platforms in the Specific Operations Risk Assessment (SORA). Josef Rokusek (co-founder) and Lois Boulenger, Head Certification Hylight Aero

AEF-BVLOS-Flight-Test-Field “AERO - Lausitz” ... to realize new “Advanced Air Mobility Strategies” in Germany and in Europe until 2032, Axel Schober & Florian Helm, Project Leader AEF Aero Innovation Airport, Kamenz

Brief Panel discussion on the Challenges and Opportunities for Scaling Airship Technology

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12:15 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. Solar Cells for Airships

Lightweight solar modules implementing advanced polymer materials and solar cells

Bénédicte Bonnet-Eymard, CSEM Neuchâtel

Bespoke solar arrays in mobile applications past achievements, current developments, future goals

Oliver Gochermann , Gochermann Solar Technology, Germany

Powering the Skies: Roll-to-Roll Perovskite Solar for the Next Generation of Airships

Naveen Bastian Waduge, Helmholtz-Institute Erlangen-Nuremberg for Renewable Energies, Germany

2:20 p.m. Coffee Break

2:45 p.m. New Airship Applications

Drone Airships for Wildfire Detection and Prevention

Ross Prentice, BASI, Canada

Research Platform Airship

Hannah Reindle, TU Munich

4:00 p.m. Closing Session - Future Projects

7:00 p.m. Conference Dinner, Mautkeller, Hallplatz 2, Nürnberg

Saturday, September 27 – Sightseeing of Nuremberg

DAY 3

10:30 a.m. Prof. Thomas Weber, University of Aberdeen, England.

*"Nuremberg during World Wars of Disinformation and Demagoguery:
A Walking Tour of the Zeppelin Field"*

Meeting place: Handwerkerhof (Waffenhof 5, Nürnberg, opposite the main train station)

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