

Press Release

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Groupe ADP and Air France KLM Martinair Cargo experiment OROK's autonomous electric vehicles for freight transportation at Paris-Charles de Gaulle airport

Since August 2021, Groupe ADP and Air France KLM Martinair Cargo have been testing at Paris-Charles de Gaulle airport an airside cargo transport solution, with an autonomous electric vehicle from French startup OROK.

The goal of this experiment is to optimise, secure and decarbonise ground operations, on airside and service lanes around the aircraft, for the benefit of all players in the airport value chain.

Winner of the 2020 "Play your Airport" innovation challenge dedicated to the cargo activities - organized by Groupe ADP - OROK has developed an innovative solution with autonomous electric vehicles for transportation of goods and air freight.

Equipped with a state-of-the-art GPS system and numerous sensors enabling it to access loading and unloading areas close to the aircraft, these autonomous vehicles are supervised by a server with artificial intelligence. Able to convey between 30 and 40 suitcases, luggage container or pallets loaded with goods, these new vehicles are intended to replace tractors and trailers usually used between cargo warehouses or baggage sorting centres and aircraft parking stands.

This solution is being carried out in surrounding Air France Cargo's "G1XL" cargo warehouse. The test consist, initially, in transporting empty aircraft containers between two areas inside the warehouse using a first "demokart" prototype vehicle. The tests will, then gradually, evolve with using of a new generation of more efficient vehicles.

These autonomous electric vehicles offer several benefits: decrease of accidents on the runway, faster delivery for goods or luggage, reduction of surface requirements for maneuvering and more.

About this initiative, **Edward Arkwright, Deputy CEO of Groupe ADP**, comment: *"Thanks to this experiment with OROK's autonomous vehicle, we are testing innovative tools alongside Air France to improve the performance and safety of air freight activities, for which Paris-Charles de Gaulle is one of the leading airports. This autonomous technology is promising to help us transform our processes, while contributing to the environmental transition of our ground operations."*

Christophe Boucher, Executive Vice President of Air France Cargo, stated: *"Air France continues to work on innovative viable projects enabling the company to improve the efficiency and reliability of its operations, as well as reducing its carbon footprint. Since summer 2021, the Cargo teams have been pleased to welcome the start-up OROK at the G1XL freight station. This start-up is testing the transport of pallets and containers using autonomous vehicles. This joint collaboration with Groupe ADP illustrates our collective ambition to support promising projects for reducing the carbon footprint of our ground activities."*

And **Pierrick Boyer, President and co-founder of OROK**, concluded: *"We strongly believe in the complete automation of the tarmac because, thanks to this type of solution, we bring operational peace of mind and better working conditions, while reducing operational costs and expenses related to accidents and the reprocessing of cargo and baggage. Not to mention the optimisation of flows and the ecological aspect since our solution is 100% electric."*

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About **Air France KLM Martinair Cargo**

The Air France-KLM Group is a global airline group with a strong European base. Its main areas of business are passenger transport, cargo transport and aeronautical maintenance. Air France KLM Martinair Cargo is the Air France-KLM Group's dedicated air cargo business. Air France Cargo and KLM Cargo are members of SkyTeam Cargo (www.skyteamcargo.com) offering even larger network coverage.

Please click [here](#) to go to our press releases online or visit www.afklcargo.com for more information about Air France KLM Martinair Cargo

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About **Groupe ADP**

Groupe ADP develops and manages airports, including Paris-Charles de Gaulle, Paris-Orly and Paris-Le Bourget. In 2020, the group handled through its brand Paris Aéroport 33.1 million passengers and 1.8 million metric tons of freight and mail at Paris-Charles de Gaulle and Paris-Orly, and more than 96.3 million passengers in airports abroad. Boasting an exceptional geographic location and a major catchment area, the group is pursuing its strategy of adapting and modernizing its terminal facilities and upgrading quality of services; the group also intends to develop its retail and real estate businesses. In 2020, group revenue stood at €2,137 million and net result attributable to the Group at -€1,169 million.

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About OROK

Founded in 2018, OROK is a French startup accelerated by the Polytechnique School that offers solutions for automating operations on airport tarmacs through a complete system, consisting of a fleet of autonomous vehicles, stations for automatic transfer, and a supervision server. In particular, the company has designed and developed autonomous electric vehicles for transporting goods or luggage on runways.

The co-founders of OROK are both laureates of the Réseau Entreprendre and their project won the first prize in the "Play your Airport" Cargo Challenge within start-up category (in 2020), organized by Groupe ADP. OROK has also been supported by Leonard, foresight and innovation platform of the VINCI group and more recently by Gazelle Accelerator.

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