



# Akin

## Autonomous Akin



February 2024

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Our newsletter reflects the focus of Akin’s cross-practice autonomous systems and advanced mobility team on developments in the regulatory, policy, trade, intellectual property, and cybersecurity and privacy spaces. Autonomous Akin brings you the latest news and developments so that you can keep a pulse on what is happening in government and industry that is impactful for your business. For our new readers, you can subscribe to future issues of this newsletter [here](#). Thank you!

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## Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)

### Senate Committee Advances FAA Reauthorization Bill - *Law360*

“The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation voted to send S. 1939, the Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act of 2023, to the full Senate for consideration. The bill authorizes more than \$107 billion for fiscal years 2024 through 2028 for the FAA’s aircraft certification, oversight and safety programs, airport infrastructure and technology upgrades, and for hiring thousands more air traffic controllers and inspectors. The bill also authorizes \$720 million for the National Transportation Safety Board, which investigates civil aviation and other transportation incidents and accidents, for fiscal years 2024 through 2028.”

[Read the Article](#)

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## **Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, Skyports Explore Middle-Mile Drone Logistics - *Port Technology International***

“The multiyear collaboration between Skyports and [the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey] aims to contribute to the authority’s ambition of deploying and growing uncrewed aerial systems throughout its diverse portfolio of marine, aviation, and transportation assets.”

[Read the Article](#)

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## **UAS Detection and Mitigation Systems Aviation Rulemaking Committee Final Report - *Federal Aviation Administration***

The report suggests recommendations for airspace safety and security by expanding the use of drone detection and mitigation technologies and developing standards for the same.

[Read the Report](#)

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## **Wingcopter Drone Trial Adds Medicine, Tool Deliveries - *Air Cargo Next***

“Germany-based drone company Wingcopter’s drone delivery pilot project now includes non-prescription medications and tools. The pilot project, dubbed LieferMichel, is running from October 2023 to March 2024 in the Michelstadt districts in southwestern Germany with the long-term objectives of implementing safe drone operation in unrestricted airspace . . .”

[Read the Article](#)

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## **Australia to See 60 Million Drone Flights a Year by 2043 - *Australian Aviation***

“Drone flights in Australia could hit 60 million per year by 2043, according to a new report released by Airservices. The report by Scyne Advisory, Sizing the future drone and advanced air mobility market in Australia, predicts that drone flights will increase by an average of 20 per cent per year for the next 20 years. Australia saw around 1.5 million drone flights in 2023. Transport and logistics are anticipated to make up 77 per cent of the increase in drone traffic by 2043, with 1.5 million annual drone deliveries of food to Australian households per year.”

[Read the Article](#)

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## **Sen. Warner leads legislation to develop cybersecurity guidelines for federal drone use - *Augusta Free Press***

“The Drone Evaluation to Eliminate Cyber Threats Act of 2024 (DETECT Act) would direct the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to develop cybersecurity guidelines for the federal government’s use of drones. Introduced today by U.S. Sens. Mark R. Warner of Virginia and John Thune of South Dakota, the legislation would address cybersecurity

concerns and, after an implementation period, the guidelines would be binding on the federal government's use of civilian drones.”

[Read the Article](#)

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### **Plano Updates Zoning Rules to Allow Drone Delivery Hubs - *Dallas Business Journal***

“Plano businesses and residents are one small step closer to receiving shipments via drone after City Council members adopted updates permitting commercial drone delivery hubs. But noise, privacy and logistics are still concerns. The drone hub debate exemplifies how cities throughout North Texas are grappling with regulation around fast-evolving technology.”

[Read the Article](#)

## **Advanced Air Mobility**



### **eVTOL Jet Firm Lilium To Base Vertiport Hub At Orlando International - *Simple Flying***

“German aerospace company Lilium has chosen Orlando International Airport to develop its vertiport as its key network hub, as the organization looks to utilize the Floridian airport as an advanced mobility site. Lilium, the developer of the first eVTOL (electrical vertical take off and landing) jet and pioneering regional air mobility, is further supporting Florida House Bill 981, which is to designate the greater Orlando area as the best test site in the state.”

[Read the Article](#)

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### **Joby Aviation Says it will Launch an Air-Taxi Service in Dubai by 2026 - *Fast Company***

“The California-based air-taxi company announced Sunday that it has signed an agreement with the Dubai government to begin operating air taxis in the United Arab Emirates in 2026, with some operations beginning as early as next year. If it can hit this goal, Joby and the UAE will be able to boast the first regularly operating air-taxi service in the world.”

[Read the Article](#)

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### **FAA Grants Joby Aviation Part 145 Maintenance Certificate - *Airways Magazine***

“The FAA has granted Joby Aviation a Part 145 Repair Station Certificate, enabling the company to carry out specific maintenance tasks on its electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft and representing a significant advancement towards the company's goal of commercializing its electric air taxi service. The company can now say that it is the first eVTOL aircraft developer to obtain an FAA Part 145 Certificate . . .”

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### **Archer Plans Final Assembly On Conforming Airframes In ‘Coming Weeks’ - AVWeb**

“Urban air mobility hopeful Archer Aviation announced today (Feb. 7) that final assembly on three conforming examples of its Midnight eVTOL aircraft is set to begin in the coming weeks. Piloted flight testing is expected to begin later this year. “For credit” FAA flight testing toward commercialization of the Midnight will use the three airframes.”

[Read the Article](#)

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### **Archer Aviation’s Midnight Aircraft Successfully Completes Phase 1 Flight Tests in Accelerated Three-Month Timeline - Drone Life**

“Archer Aviation Inc., a prominent player in the electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft sector, has reached a significant milestone with the successful completion of Phase 1 in the flight test program for its Midnight aircraft.”

[Read the Article](#)

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### **eHang’s eVTOL Air Taxi Will Cost Buyers Less Than \$350,000 (in China) - New Atlas**

“While some other urban air mobility startups are still just producing renderings, eHang’s EH 216 eVTOL has already been tested and cleared for commercial air taxi work in its home country of China. The company has now gone a step further, by announcing the retail price.”

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### **Joby Completes “Third Stage of FAA Certification Process” - eVTOL Insights**

“Joby Aviation announced this week it has become “the first developer of eVTOL aircraft to complete the third of five stages of the FAA type certification process,” reports a press release.

During the third stage process, the company submitted certification plans that cover all of the aircraft’s structural, mechanical, and electrical systems, as well as the company’s intended certification approach to cybersecurity, human factors and noise.”

[Read the Article](#)



## **Biden's EV Dreams are a Nightmare for Tesla and the US Car Industry - *Bloomberg***

“China, the world’s biggest miner or processor of more than two dozen critical metals and minerals, has over the last decade tightened its grip over a sprawling supply network of key battery ingredients ranging from lithium to manganese and cobalt. The US, in contrast, lags far behind. That is where the [Inflation Reduction Act] – with its baked-in hostility towards China – is supposed to fit in: as a catalyst for the creation of an alternative supply network around the US and its free-trade partners stretching from Australia to Chile, Morocco and South Korea.”

[Read the Article](#)

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## **Biden is Looking Beyond Tariffs to Keep Chinese ‘Smart Cars’ Out of the US - *Bloomberg***

“The Biden administration is considering restrictions on imports of Chinese ‘smart cars’ and related components that would go beyond tariffs to address growing US concerns data security, according to people familiar with the matter.”

[Read the Article](#)

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## **Raimondo Warns Chinese EVs Pose National, Data Security Risks - *The Business Times***

“Secretary Gina Raimondo warned that Chinese-made electric vehicles (EVs) pose significant national security risks, as the Biden administration weighs additional tariffs on autos from the Asian country as well as a separate measure to protect Americans’ personal information . . . Her remarks come as the White House is preparing an executive order to prevent foreign adversaries from accessing “highly sensitive” individual data, as Bloomberg News reported last week. US officials have long warned that China poses a particular threat in that area, and the new measures could affect a wide array of industries.”

[Read the Article](#)

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## **Ready for an 800-Volt Jolt? Carmakers are Unveiling New Fast-Charging EVs - *Bloomberg***

“Automakers are rolling out new 800-volt electric vehicle platforms, which promise to cut charging time in half, though BloombergNEF analysis finds a few of the biggest manufacturers are still hesitating to invest in the new technology, leaving them at risk of getting left behind.”

[Read the Article](#)

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## **93% Have Concerns About Self-Driving Cars According to New Forbes Legal Survey - *Forbes***

“Vehicles equipped with auto-drive are on the roads today in increasing numbers. While some believe autonomous vehicles will reduce the risk of an auto accident, many others

have concerns.”

[Read the Article](#)

## Technology, Environment and Legislation

### **California Bill Would Tax Private Planes’ Environmental Impacts - *Politico Pro***

“A new California bill would require private plane owners to register and pay a fee with the state Department of Motor Vehicles, much as Californians do with cars.” The bill specifically excludes zero-emission aircraft and aircraft owned or operated by Part 121 and Part 135 air carriers.

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### **Alaska Harnesses Drone Technology for Revolutionary Avalanche Control - *BNN Breaking***

“In a groundbreaking development, Alaska is using drones to mitigate avalanche risks, potentially revolutionizing avalanche control. The recent test by Alaskan state agencies demonstrated the effectiveness of deploying and detonating explosives via drones to trigger avalanches, marking a significant leap in the use of Remote Avalanche Control Systems and Unmanned Aerial Systems for avalanche risk reduction.”

[Read the Article](#)

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### **A Small Drone Flies into a Damaged Fukushima Nuclear Reactor for the First Time to Study Melted Fuel - *The Seattle Times***

“A drone small enough to fit in one’s hand flew inside one of the damaged reactors at Japan’s Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant Wednesday in hopes it can examine some of the molten fuel debris in areas where earlier robots failed to reach . . . To help on data, a fleet of four drones were set to fly one at a time into the hardest-hit No. 1 reactor’s primary containment vessel.”

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## Akin Thought Leadership

[Commerce Focuses National Security Scrutiny on ‘Connected Vehicle’ Supply Chain](#) (March 1, 2024)

[FAA Reauthorization Watch: Provisions of Note for UAS and AAM Companies in the Senate Bill](#) (February 13, 2024)

[Hot Issues in 2024 for TMT Companies](#) (February 6, 2024)

[Three New UK Laws Impacting Autonomous Vehicles, Digital Markets and Personal Data](#)  
(November 30, 2023)

[CPPA Takes Aim at Connected Cars in First-Ever Review](#) (August 23, 2023)

[Congress Takes a Step Forward on Outbound Investment](#) (July 27, 2023)

[Akin's Mid-Year TMT Report Provides Important Updates on Regulatory and Policy Developments for TMT Leaders](#) (May 25, 2023)

[Autonomous Systems & Advanced Mobility: 2023 Trends & Predictions](#) (May 5, 2023)

[Kayo Sustainable Infrastructure Webinar Recording](#) - Passcode: Fm%!X07T (April 19, 2023)

## Events

### **IAM Live: Auto IP USA**

May 1-2, 2024

Detroit, MI

Akin partner [Rubén Muñoz](#) will moderate a panel titled "Reassessing your IP strategy".

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### **AUVSI XPONENTIAL 2024**

April 22-25, 2024

San Diego, CA

XPONENTIAL is a yearly gathering of global leaders and end users in the uncrewed systems and robotics industry. Founded on the belief that cross-pollination drives innovation, it features opportunities to connect and problem-solve with experts across markets and domains.

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### **Law-Tech Connect AUVSI Workshop**

April 22, 2024

San Diego, CA

### **The Sky is Not the Limit: Space Is!**

Akin partner [Jennifer Richter](#) will be a distinguished speaker on this panel. Join this group of space and spectrum experts as they explain the parallel universe of laws, regulations, governing bodies, frameworks, authorities and policies that govern what happens in space that affects aviation operations in the sky and on the ground.

### **Surf & Turf: Serving Up Autonomous Regulations**

Akin partner [Hyongsoon Kim](#) will serve as the moderator for this panel. This panel of attorneys and key industry partners will provide an overview of the legal regimes applicable to autonomous land and sea and contrast them with those for aircraft.

## Protection from Mayhem

Akin partner [Michelle Reed](#) will serve as the moderator for this panel. Join this group of experts as they address a range of topics that can keep your business, organization or endeavor legally compliant and protect you from mayhem.

### Questions?

If you have any questions please contact your regular Akin lawyer or advisors or:



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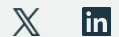


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