



After cars, now planes are starting to go electric

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Israeli startup Eviation on Tuesday unveiled an electric plane able to take nine people over six hundred miles on a single charge. But big hurdles remain in the way of electric flight.

1. After electric cars, planes could be switching to battery power too.
2. Israeli startup Eviation this week unveiled its Alice business aircraft at the Paris Air Show.
3. It will be able to fly nine people over 600 miles on a single charge.
4. Critically, it's not just a wacky concept.
5. On Tuesday (June 18) Eviation said the plane would enter service in 2022 with U.S. firm Cape Air.
6. Eviation boss Omer Bar Yohay says it is an overdue revolution:
EVIATION CEO, OMER BAR YOHAY, SAYING:
"This is going to make flights cheaper, and it's going to make flights more comfortable, less noisy, actually less bumpy because of all sorts technological advances we've built into it."
7. Dozens of other electric flight projects are under way.
8. Little wonder, with aviation under pressure to reduce its hefty greenhouse gas emissions.
9. Many focus on short-hop urban mobility.
10. This is Uber's concept.
11. The ride hailing app says its service, dubbed Elevate, will begin operation in 2023.
12. Dallas, Los Angeles, and Melbourne its first locations.
13. But to really make flying green, big planes will need to go electric too.
14. Airbus is set to test an old airliner with one engine changed to electric.
15. It's a hybrid, mixing conventional and electric power.
16. One big problem for all such projects though: big batteries are heavy, and can't store as much energy as an equivalent weight of jet fuel.

17. Eviation aims to compensate with a very light structure.

18. But it may be a long time before air travel's bigger beasts go truly green.