UKâ€™s first electric flight demonstrations launch today, as Loganair and BETA Technologies fly Royal Mail postal routes

20-03-2026

Royal Mail, Loganair, the UK's largest regional airline, and BETA Technologies (NYSE: BETA) (â€œBETAâ€), a U.S.-based electric aerospace company leading in the development and commercialisation of electric aircraft, have launched the UKâ€™s first real-world electric flight demonstrations across Royal Mailâ€™s essential Scottish mail flight routes.

The first of a series of demonstration flights across Scotland’s regional airport network took place today between Glasgow and Dundee, with further flights planned between Inverness, Wick and Orkney. The flights will carry representative letters and parcels, replicating the daily mail flights Loganair operates so Royal Mail can deliver to Orkney and the wider Scottish Highlands and Islands.

BETA's ALIA CTOL is an all-electric conventional takeoff and landing aircraft designed for regional cargo and passenger operations. It requires no new airport infrastructure, operates from existing runways, and recharges in approximately 20-40 minutes using BETA's fast-charging system.

With a max demonstrated range of 336 nautical miles and a payload capacity of up to 560kg, the aircraft is well matched to the high-frequency regional routes that define Loganair's Scottish network.

Royal Mail is the only delivery company to deliver to all 32 million addresses in the UK every day, including the country’s most remote communities. Fulfilling this Universal Service Obligation on routes across the Scottish Highlands and Islands depends on a complex network of road, sea and air, and on Loganair's six decades of experience connecting communities that depend entirely on reliable air connections.

The demonstration series is designed to show how electric aircraft could integrate into this existing network without disruption, using the same airports.

Royal Mail announced it was halving its use of domestic flights in 2024 as part of its Net-Zero by 2040 strategy, keeping only essential routes. Electrifying some of the remaining mail flights would further reduce Royal Mail’s emissions, building on wider

work including the use of 8,000 electric vans for deliveries and the use of drones to connect island communities.

Chris Paxton, Strategic Insight and Innovation Manager at Royal Mail, said: “This is an important step towards making electric mail flights a reality for some of the UK’s most remote communities. By working with Loganair and BETA Technologies, we’re proud to be the first UK delivery company to test an electric aircraft, supporting our journey to Net-Zero by 2040 while continuing to serve all 32 million addresses across the UK.”

Simon Newitt, Head of Sales and Support at BETA Technologies, said: "Scotland's geography makes it one of the most compelling environments for electric aviation anywhere in the world — short routes, existing infrastructure, and communities that have depended on reliable air connections for generations. Flying real postal routes alongside an operator with Loganair's experience is exactly how you validate this technology. We're proud to be working with partners like Loganair and Royal Mail, who recognise that keeping these communities connected and doing it sustainably are not competing priorities."

Luke Farajallah, CEO at Loganair, said: “This is a landmark day for European aviation, and in-particular for Scotland’s airline Loganair. We are not talking about concepts, prototypes, or distant ambition, this is a real tangible programme of flying across our network which will provide invaluable data on how an electric aircraft could perform in a real commercial environment.”

Source: International Distribution Services

CLASSIFICATION: CORPORATE | WWW.IPC.BE © 2026