PRESS RELEASE

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FLY-BOX PROOF OF CONCEPT LAUNCHES ITS TRIALS CAMPAIGN ON LAKE GENEVA

On the waters of Lake Geneva, the Franco-Swiss start-up Fly-Box, led by sailor and inventor Alain Thébault, has launched its freight transport prototype and begun its test campaign.

This 8-meter "Proof of Concept," named "*Fly-Box Compact*," is 100% electric. Its aluminium hull "takes off" from the water at 12 knots thanks to two large T-shaped foils. This technology significantly reduces hydrodynamic drag, increasing speed and reducing energy consumption. A true innovation hub with six patents filed, this *Fly-Box Compact* is a scale model that foreshadows the key design directions of the future production models. These full-scale *Fly-Boxes* will measure around 20 meters and be capable of flying 40-foot, 30-ton maritime containers, providing a robust, agile and novel solution for transport and logistics operators.

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PLATOON OF EXPRESS FLYING TAXIS FOR CONTAINER SHIPPING

Envisioned by Alain Thébault — pioneer of high-speed sailing with *l'Hydroptère* and of foil-based passenger transport with *SeaBubbles* — *Fly-Box seeks to introduce a fresh and efficient alternative within the maritime freight ecosystem*: electric flying platforms operating in fleets of 1 to 6 units, each transporting one container between major international ports and smaller secondary harbours.

The *Fly-Box* design meets the triple requirement of robustness, reliability, and agility expected by industry operators. The hull, foils, and propulsion will comply with sector standards to withstand industrial usage. The embedded systems, with integrated AI, will enable process automation and remote operation.

AN INNOVATIVE RESPONSE FOR MAJOR INDUSTRY CHALLENGES

Freight transport is the lifeblood of our globalized society. *Fly-Box* addresses three critical challenges for operators:

- Optimizing the speed and reliability of time-sensitive cargo deliveries;
- Decarbonizing logistics chains to meet increasingly strict regulatory thresholds;
- Alleviating road congestion caused by freight trucks, with their well-known issues: pollution, traffic, and infrastructure wear

With a range of 150 nautical miles, take-off speed at 12 knots, and cruising speed of 25 knots, *Fly-Boxes* will bring unmatched flexibility and responsiveness. *Fly-Box* will operate as a kind of 'sea train,' with one piloted unit leading the others autonomously tethered.

The start-up's goal is to divert a meaningful share of container traffic to sea by leveraging the decarbonization, decongestion, and agility advantages of its vessels on the critical distribution leg between major and secondary ports. To date, there are no direct competitors offering a comparable service. Alternatives remain limited to diesel trucks—highly polluting and prone to congestion—or feeder ships whose inertia inherently delays delivery times.

FROM FLY-BOX COMPACT TO FULL-SCALE FLY-BOX

The Proof of Concept was designed and built to test key architectural pillars of the project: structural sizing and stress, power and propulsion, flight dynamics, electronics, and remote operation. The trials on Lake Geneva in the coming months will generate valuable experience and data—especially to train the AI systems (machine learning)—that will become a core asset of the production-scale Fly-Boxes.

More information: www.fly-box.tech

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