

SMART AIRSPACE OUTREACH FOR LOCAL PILOTS

Integrating Advanced Air Mobility into Today's IFR Environment

What Is Smart Airspace?

Smart Airspace is a Virginia-based initiative focused on safely integrating Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) operations into the National Airspace System without compromising current aviation standards.

Why It Matters to You

- IFR remains the foundation for nearly all commercial operations
- New AAM aircraft will need specifically designed IFPs for IFR ops
- Ensures safety, efficiency, and compatibility with current regulations

Pilot-Focused Objectives

- Accommodate new aircraft performance and energy constraints
- Maximize efficient use of controlled airspace
- Work within current IFR rules while shaping future ATC models
- Maintain established safety levels

Regional Smart Airspace Network

Core Locations:

- KROA (Roanoke, VA) – Class C / Commercial hub
- KBKT (Blackstone, VA) – Class D / dual-use airport
- VT Vertiport (Blacksburg, VA) – Private PPR / innovation hub

Upcoming Flight Activity

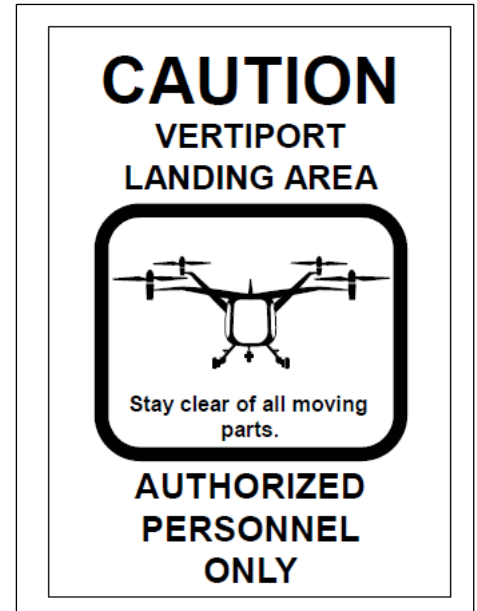
- Electra Aero eSTOL operations (July 2026)
- Textron Aerosonde UAS testing (July 2026)

What Pilots Should Expect

- Increased presence of non-traditional aircraft in the NAS
- Increased aeronautical research in Virginia
- Continued emphasis on communication, predictability, and safe separation

Join the Conversation

Engaging the local pilot community to share updates, gather feedback, and build awareness.



Stay Informed. Stay Prepared. Stay Safe.