

# Akin

## Autonomous Akin



July 2024

Share this   

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!

### In This Issue

- [Akin Spotlight](#)
- [Updates from Washington](#)
- [Industry News](#)
- [Akin Thought Leadership](#)
- [Events](#)

## Akin Spotlight

### Akin Launches AI Law & Regulation Tracker

Akin has launched its [AI Law & Regulation Tracker](#), a platform focused on key trends affecting artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) technologies to keep readers ahead of the curve. Akin's AI Tracker is led by an international, cross-practice AI industry team in the fields of policy, national security, intellectual property, data privacy, and health, with support across all firm practices.

[Read the Article](#)

## Updates from Washington

## On the Hill

---

### **Bipartisan House Bill Seeks to Reauthorize Federal Counter-Drone Authority - *NextGov***

“House lawmakers introduced legislation on Tuesday that would extend the federal government’s ability to mitigate threats posed by unmanned aircraft systems, or UAS, while also attempting to safeguard the civil liberties of drone enthusiasts. The legislation, introduced by Rep. Mark Green, R-Tenn. – chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee – would extend the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice’s abilities to counter risks posed by errant drones, which are set to expire in September.”

[Read the Article](#)

---

## In the Executive Branch

---

### **FCC Waives 5.9 GHz Rules to Allow for Smart Car Tech - *Law360***

“The Federal Communications Commission has voted to waive certain restrictive connectivity rules for cars, allowing automobile equipment manufacturers to make use of the 5.9 gigahertz band for Cellular Vehicle-to-Everything technology.”

[Read the Article](#)

### **U.S. Tightens Car Mileage Rules, Part of Strategy to Fight Climate Change - *New York Times***

“The Biden administration on Friday tightened vehicle fuel mileage standards, part of its strategy to transform the American auto market into one that is dominated by electric vehicles that do not emit the pollution that is heating the planet.”

[Read the Article](#)

### **FAA Makes Drone History in Dallas Area - *FAA***

“In a first for U.S. aviation, the FAA has authorized multiple operators to fly commercial drones without visual observers in the same airspace. The authorizations for Zipline International and Wing Aviation allow them to deliver packages while keeping their drones safely separated using Unmanned Aircraft System Traffic Management (UTM) technology. In this system, the industry manages the airspace with rigorous FAA safety oversight.”

[Read the Press Release](#)

---

## In the Courts

---

### **The Supreme Court just Kneecapped Tech Regulation - *Axios***

“The Supreme Court’s decision Friday limiting executive branch power also further hobbled U.S. government efforts to roll back Big Tech’s power. Why it matters: Tech giants have long fueled efforts to pass new federal laws limiting the companies’ influence. But now, and for a long time to come, advocates will need to find other ways to achieve that goal.”

[Read the Article](#)

## Industry News

## Unmanned Aircraft Systems

---

### **Amazon Drone Delivery Plans Move a Small Step Forward - *Bloomberg***

“Earlier this year, Amazon.com Inc. put its MK27-2 drone through its paces in simulated delivery operations at an airport in Pendleton, Oregon, that has been the main site for the 87-pound hexacopter’s testing. For these trials held in early April, Amazon’s drones had some company: Flying nearby at various points were small planes, helicopters and a hot air balloon, a fleet assembled to demonstrate how the drone’s automated avoidance software reacted to congested airspace. Inspectors from the Federal Aviation Administration watched the tests . . . The FAA subsequently authorized Amazon to fly beyond observers’ visual line of sight . . .”

[Read the Article](#)

### **Ground-Based Detect and Avoid Facilitates FAA BVLOS Waiver at Michigan Test Site - *Drone Life***

“Unmanned Vehicle Technologies, LLC (UVT) and uAvionix have announced that UVT has been granted a Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) waiver to operate small unmanned aircraft systems (sUAS) Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) at their test site in Michigan. The waiver, identified as 107W-2024-01230 and issued under Part 107 regulations, allows UVT to conduct BVLOS operations without the need for Visual Observers (VOs).”

[Read the Article](#)

### **Skyfront Launches Water-Cooled Perimeter 8+ WC for Reliable Drone Operations in Extreme Heat - *Commercial UAV News***

“Skyfront, a drone developer focused on long-distance endurance applications in difficult operating environments, recently announced their new water-cooled Perimeter 8+ WC. Designed for desert conditions, the 8+ includes heat resistant avionics for increased flexibility and peace of mind.”

[Read the Article](#)

### **Hostess Takes to the Skies With Drone Delivery Marketing Campaign - *Consumer Goods Technology***

“The Hostess brand, manufactured by parent company J.M. Smucker, has launched a seasonal marketing campaign that is tapping autonomous drones to deliver “joy-filled” packages . . . Hostess is working alongside Drone Up for the initiative and will be delivering these packages in select cities in Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Texas, Utah, and Virginia. Any other winning submissions will be delivered by mail.”

[Read the Article](#)

---

## **Advanced Air Mobility**

---

### **Air Taxi Maker Archer Aviation Receives FAA Nod to Start Commercial Services - *Reuters***

“Archer Aviation said on Wednesday the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has granted the company a certificate to begin commercial operations, making it the second electric air taxi maker to achieve the key milestone.”

[Read the Article](#)

### **Boeing’s Wisk Aero Buys Verocel to Boost Software Safety for its Self-Flying eVTOL - *TechCrunch***

“Wisk Aero, a subsidiary of Boeing, has acquired Verocel, a software verification and validation company that’s been serving the aerospace industry for 25 years. Wisk has an autonomous-first approach to electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft. The company’s Generation 6 aircraft, slated to begin airborne tests this year, is designed to be supervised by humans, but not physically flown by them.”

[Read the Article](#)

### **Boeing’s Wisk Aero Buys Verocel to Boost Software Safety for its Self-Flying eVTOL - *TechCrunch***

“Wisk Aero, a subsidiary of Boeing, has acquired Verocel, a software verification and validation company that’s been serving the aerospace industry for 25 years. Wisk has an autonomous-first approach to electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft. The company’s Generation 6 aircraft, slated to begin airborne tests this year, is designed to be supervised by humans, but not physically flown by them.”

[Read the Article](#)

### **Archer Plans Air Taxi Network to Link San Francisco Bay Area - *Axios***

“Archer Aviation is cooking up plans for an air taxi network that would link five key cities in the San Francisco Bay Area . . . If it happens, it could transform commuting in one of the most traffic-choked regions in the U.S., replacing drives of one to two hours with flights of 10 to 20 minutes, the company said.”

[Read the Article](#)

### **UAM Developer Archer Looks to Private Terminals for Take-off - *Airport Technology***

“Archer Aviation has partnered with Signature Aviation, a private terminals operator, to lay the groundwork for a series of air taxi terminals at some of the US’s largest and most important airports. Although the agreement is only in an initial Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) phase, it could pave the way for air taxi networks to be built across major US cities within a decade. Signature manages more than 200 private terminals at major airports, including hubs like Newark International (EWR) and Chicago O’Hare (ORD). It has identified five locations, including EWR and ORD as sites to start the air taxi hub business. These will cover key markets for Archer and the UAM sector, including Texas, New York, Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area.”

[Read the Article](#)

---

## **Autonomy & Electric Vehicles**

---

### **Self-Driving Technology Pilot Launches at JFK’s Long-Term Parking Lot - *Passenger Terminal Today***

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey has announced that starting July 16, customers at John F. Kennedy International Airport (JFK) will have the opportunity to participate in the agency’s first self-driving vehicle pilot designed to serve the traveling public. The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) has approved the public use of autonomous shuttles in a large on-airport parking lot, to provide easier access between parked vehicles and AirTrain JFK stations.

[Read the Article](#)

### **TotalEnergies and SSE Join Forces and Create Source, a New Major Player in EV Charging in the UK & Ireland - *Automotive World***

TotalEnergies and SSE have signed a binding agreement to create a joint venture to establish a new major player in EV charging infrastructure in the UK and Ireland, under the brand “Source”. The new business will deploy in both countries up to 3000 high power charge points, meeting demand from EV and fleet owners to provide fast and reliable charging.

[Read the Article](#)

### **China’s BYD Seeks Entry to Canada EV Market Despite Likely Tariffs - *Bloomberg***

“Chinese electric carmaker BYD Co. is looking to enter the Canadian market just as Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s government works to clamp down on imports of vehicles from the Asian powerhouse. Lobbyists for the company, which sells its electric vehicles for less than \$10,000 in China, filed notice with Canada’s federal registry that they plan to approach officials and lawmakers to advocate for BYD’s anticipated entry.”

[Read the Article](#)

## **Toro's Future is Increasingly Electric and Autonomous, Helping to Beautify Golf Courses - *Star Tribune***

“After years of development and testing Toro will bring two autonomous lawn mowers to market by the end of the year that are signature products of their long-term strategy . . . The autonomous vehicles are a pillar of Toro's strategic plan under CEO Rick Olson of more autonomous, electric and hybrid vehicles. Toro now offers electric products ranging in size from residential mowers, snowblowers and handheld tools to zero-turn mowers that are the workhorse of golf and grounds crews.”

[Read the Article](#)

---

## **Intellectual Property and Autonomous Systems**

---

### **Cyngn Inc (CYN) Receives Patent for 21st US Patent for Adaptive Object-based Decision Making System - *Street Insider***

“Cyngn Inc. today announced the notice of allowance for a new patent for the Company's autonomous vehicle (AV) solutions. This patent introduces an adaptive decision making method designed to enhance how AVs operate in real-world environments in response to other detected objects. AVs rely on sensors to scan and understand their surroundings, which enables detection of nearby objects. This patent describes a method to apply driving rules and rules associated with detected objects to inform decisions of the AV.”

[Read the Article](#)

### **Tesla's New Patent: A Complete Self-Cleaning Apparatus Built into a Robotaxi - “Sanitization Vapor, UV Disinfectants, Cleaning Mechatronics, Sanitation Robot Stations, & More” - *Torque News***

“A Tesla patent application has come to light, showing the EV maker is thinking long and hard about how car cleaning will evolve once we transition to fully autonomous vehicles. At the recently held Tesla shareholders' meeting, the EV maker showed off an autonomous ride-hailing app. The video shared by Tesla teases the company's upcoming robotaxi feature and how a passenger can use the app to hail a vehicle driven by computer vision . . . Tesla's newly discovered patent attempts to deal with the issue of vehicle cleaning and sanitization in the world of level 5 autonomous robotaxis. Currently, in any ride-sharing implementation, the car driver is responsible for maintaining the cleanliness of his/her vehicle.”

[Read the Article](#)

---

## **Technology, Autonomy, and the Environment**

---

**That Drone in the Sky is Here to Warn New Yorkers About Flooding - *New York Times***

“New York City officials have found a new way to deploy their stable of drones: flying them in vulnerable neighborhoods to blare safety messages that flash flooding may be coming.”

[Read the Article](#)

### **Rescue from Above: How Drones May Narrow Emergency Response Times - *KFF Health News***

“The drones are coming. Starting in September, if someone in Clemmons, North Carolina, calls 911 to report a cardiac arrest, the first responder on the scene may be a drone carrying an automated external defibrillator, or AED. ‘The idea is for the drone to get there several minutes before first responders,’ such as an emergency medical technician or an ambulance, said Daniel Crews, a spokesperson for the sheriff’s office in Forsyth County, where Clemmons is located.”

[Read the Article](#)

### **Mount Everest: First Ever Drone Delivery Brings Oxygen Tanks to Camp 1 - *Sky News***

“A DJI device delivered three oxygen bottles and 1.5 kg of other supplies in a test done in April 2024, the Chinese drone maker reported.”

[Read the Article](#)

### **Drone Technology Delivers Transmission First for Powerlink - *PV Magazine Australia***

“State-owned Powerlink is using drones to ‘string’ 50 kilometres of high-voltage power lines that will connect the 250 MW / 2,000 MWh Kidston pumped hydro energy storage project being built in north Queensland to the National Electricity Market . . . Traditionally, power line installation or repairs are done via helicopters or by ground crews, but Powerlink Chief Executive Officer Paul Simshauser said Infravision’s drone powerline stringing system has to date proven to be more versatile, have less impact on landholders and safer than the established methods.”

[Read the Article](#)

## **Akin Thought Leadership**



[Akin Launches AI Law & Regulation Tracker \(August 1, 2024\)](#)

[2024 FAA Reauthorization - Key Developments in Emerging Aviation \(June 12, 2024\)](#)

[GM Touts Racing Innovation, IP Boon as It Bids to Join Formula 1 \(March 28, 2024\)](#)

[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 \(February 13, 2024\)](#)

## Events

### [First Advanced Air Mobility Symposium](#)

September 9-12, 2024  
Montreal, Canada

The theme is "*Advanced air mobility (AAM) global harmonization and interoperability: Challenges and opportunities*". The symposium will build upon the developments of DRONE ENABLE with attention given to concepts for AAM, electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft, vertiports, automation, trust framework and airspace integration.



Learn more about Akin's Autonomous Systems and Advanced Mobility practice.

[Learn More >](#)

### Questions?

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



**Jennifer L. Richter**  
[Email](#)  
Washington, D.C.  
+1 202.887.4524



**Christian C. Davis**  
[Email](#)  
Washington, D.C.  
+1 202.887.4529



**Susan H. Lent**  
[Email](#)  
Washington, D.C.  
+1 202.887.4558



**Rubén H. Muñoz**  
[Email](#)  
Philadelphia  
+1 215.965.1263

**Hyongsoon Kim**  
[Email](#)  
Irvine  
+1 949.885.4218

**Nicole McFarland**  
[Email](#)  
Washington, D.C.  
+1 202.887.4508



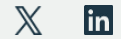


**Sharanya Sriram**  
[Email](#)  
Washington, D.C.  
+1 202.887.4278



**Joseph Hold**  
[Email](#)  
Washington, D.C.  
+1 202.887.4007

[akingump.com](http://akingump.com)



© 2024 Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP. All rights reserved. Attorney advertising. This document is distributed for informational use only; it does not constitute legal advice and should not be used as such. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome. Receipt of this information does not create an attorney-client relationship. Do not act upon this information without seeking professional counsel. All content is presented by Akin and cannot be copied or rebroadcasted without express written consent. Akin is the practicing name of Akin Gump LLP, a New York limited liability partnership authorized and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority under number 267321. A list of the partners is available for inspection at Eighth Floor, Ten Bishops Square, London E1 6EG. For more information about Akin Gump LLP, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP and other associated entities under which the Akin network operates worldwide, please see our [Legal Notices](#) page.

[Update Your Preferences](#) | [Subscribe](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Forward to a Friend](#) | [Legal Notices](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

This email was sent by: 2001 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20006-1037