A Systematic Review of Ground-Based Infrastructure for the Innovative Urban Air Mobility

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Abstract:

Due to the increasing level of urbanization and traffic congestion and upcoming innovative Vertical Take-off and Landing (VTOL) vehicles, studies predict that up to 160,000 passenger drones will be used worldwide by 2050 [1]. The development of a suitable ground-based infrastructure is necessary to be able to supply these urban air vehicles. Mainly this includes networks of take-off and landing sites, facilities for maintenance, energy supply, as well as navigation and communication capabilities. Further requirements comprise robust business and operating models for the emerging service providers and regulatory frameworks, particularly regarding safety, liability and noise emissions [1].

Addressing these main challenges is one goal of the research project i-LUM¹ to develop methodical, systemic and knowledge-based fundamentals for the elaboration and the feasibility of innovative urban air mobility (UAM) concepts and technologies, exemplarily applied to the Hamburg metropolitan region [2].

The project contains five main work packages (WP) that comprise societal interactions and legal framework, demand modeling and concept development, ground-based infrastructure, airspace organization and operation and overall modeling and assessment (see Figure 1). This paper focuses on the ground-based infrastructure in WP 3, which is divided into four main research-topics: Development of a methodology for capacity modeling of vertiports (3.1), automated ground-based MRO (3.2), conceptual design of an energy-management-system (3.3) and integration of vertiport concepts into a metropolitan area (3.4).

The objective of this paper is to provide an overview on the current results and developments in the field of UAM ground-based infrastructure, conducting a systematic literature review, and to identify the most relevant research gaps in the field. For the systematic literature analysis, our search string contains vertiports and the equivalents, urban air mobility and equivalents, and search phrases

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for the individual domains. The first screening of the abstract and citation database SCOPUS (searched in keywords and abstracts; www.scopus.com) identified 194 research articles (see Figure 2).



Homographies Embedded systems Vehicles Aircraft control Figure 2: Index keywords aggregated from the search results gathered with our search string on

SCOPUS

We narrow down the results by using exclusion criteria (e.g. no image recognition of vertiports). We categorize the most relevant topics for ground-based infrastructure in UAM. Finally, the review is conducted, in which the information is gathered out of the literature and prepared for further work steps. Concluding, we present a structured content analysis of our research domains regarding to the ground-based infrastructure for innovative UAM.

Bibliography:

- 1 MANFRED HADER; Stephan Baur; Sven Kopera; Tobias Schönberg; Jan-Philipp Hasenberg (2020): Urban Air Mobility. USD 90 billion of potential: How to capture a share of the passenger drone market. In: Focus Roland Berger.
- 2 Hamburg University of Technology (TUHH), Helmut-Schmidt-University Hamburg (HSU), Hamburg University of Applied Sciences (HAW), HafenCity University Hamburg (HCU) Application Innovative Airborne Urban Mobility i-LUM. Revised application for a funding project under the Hamburg X initiative on the topic of innovative air-supported urban mobility (i-LUM), related link: https://www.tuhh.de/ifpt/forschung/forschungsprojekte/laufende-projekte/ilum.html