

AIRCRAFT

Famed French aviation company lends its name to new hybrid aircraft

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Plans call for the Avions Mauboussin Alcyon M3c to seat five passengers, and have a range of 1,500 km (932 miles) Avions Mauboussin

From 1935 to 1948, French manufacturer Avions Mauboussin was known for its light sporting aircraft. Its name has now been revived, by a French startup that plans on building hybrid STOL (short take-off and landing) airplanes.

Many readers will already be familiar with VTOL (vertical take-off and landing) aircraft, which are a popular choice for proposed "flying taxis." With their ability to perform helicopter-like take-offs and landings, the vehicles could pick passengers up from urban locations such as office tower rooftops. Once they reached cruising altitude, though, they would switch to faster, more efficient fixed-wing forward flight.