AVIATION FOR EVERYONE

FORMER SPACEX ENGINEER NIKITA ERMOSHKIN IS ON A MISSION TO CHANGE HOW YOU THINK ABOUT PERSONAL AVIATION

Los Angeles-based Airhart Aeronautics is intent upon creating the safest, easiest-to-fly airplane ever engineered. The team, led by former SpaceX engineer Nikita Ermoshkin, aims to simplify personal travel by enabling people to fly with state of the art, user-friendly aircraft control systems and enhanced safety features, with the broader goal of making aviation more accessible. Ultimately, Ermoshkin's goal is to change how people interact with and think about flying an airplane.

Airhart's goals include developing an airplane with greater range, speed and autonomy, for a car-like experience in the air. More specifically, Airhart is focused on simplifying aircraft control systems and enhancing safety features, so that flying is easier and safer.

The company has already made significant strides, including flying a software testbed in November 2022 and exhibiting its first model, the Airhart Sling prototype aircraft, at EAA in July 2023.

The aircraft is being engineered using the Sling TSi airframe by Sling Aircraft, known for high-quality, durable and efficient light aircraft design and manufacturing. First deliveries of the Airhart Sling are expected in January 2026.

Airhart anticipates success because, as they state, they are developing the technology, airport infrastructure is already in place, and they see an opportunity with enormous scale ahead—without having to wait 25 years.

With over 19,000 general aviation airports in the US, more than 300 million Americans live within 10 miles of an airport. This proximity is key to the viability of their mission. Airhart believes this creates an enormous opportunity when combined with the newest, smartest technology and engineering. They note this as one of the greatest periods of technological innovation the world has ever seen, yet with personal aviation still built on technology from decades ago. Their mission is to enable people to learn to fly more easily and to make flying an airplane as simple as driving a car, a viable option for personal travel that could even replace cars for long road trips.

The Airhart Sling will be an experimental/home-built kit with a full Airhart avionics suite. This approach allows more flexibility and innovation during the development and certification process. The aircraft design includes advanced safety features and simplified controls, all aimed at a more accessible and enjoyable flying experience.

Their goal is to transition from the experimental phase to a fully certified aircraft under Part 23 regulations by 2031.

The Airhart Sling will fall under the Special Airworthiness Certificate within the experimental home build category, giving the company a broader market reach, which they hope will establish the Airhart and future models as the go-to mainstream personal aircraft.

The aircraft will have particular appeal to tech-savvy individuals and those interested in the latest advancements in aviation technology. Airhart foresees a diverse market, targeting existing pilot-owner operators, new pilots without planes and individuals who do not yet have pilot licenses. By designing an aircraft that is easy to fly, Airhart aims to reduce the barriers to entry for new pilots, making aviation more accessible to a wider audience, including those previously deterred by the complexity and cost of traditional small aircraft.

Their first model, the Airhart Sling, will stand out from traditional aircraft, such as single-engine trainer aircraft, through its emphasis on modern technology and user-centric design, featuring advanced avionics and optional supervised autonomy. The Airhart Sling will be the first small airplane designed for personal use that uses a fly-by-wire system.

The aircraft aims to be more intuitive for new pilots, reducing the learning curve and increasing pilot confidence.

The company has raised funds to support its projects. Its strong leadership team has diverse expertise in engineering, software development and business development—combined experience that strongly positions Airhart to achieve its goals.

Airhart's first focus is on the roll out and delivery of the Airhart Sling to customers. The company's long-term outlook includes plans to increase the size of the general aviation market and make flying a viable alternative to driving for many people.

Additional future models will be built on the success of the Airhart Sling by incorporating similar advancements in safety and ease of use.

The development of larger aircraft and trainers will cater to flight schools and commercial operators, providing similarly modern, efficient and safe options for pilot training and passenger transport. Airhart's commitment to innovation and accessibility in aviation suggests that future models intend to continue to push the boundaries of what is possible in personal and commercial aviation, ultimately transforming the industry.

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AIRHART LEADERSHIP TEAM

Nikita Ermoshkin
FOUNDER & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Under Ermoshkin's leadership, Airhart is simplifying personal travel by enabling people to fly with easier-to-use aircraft control systems and enhanced safety features, making aviation more accessible.

Fundamentally, his mission is to change how people interact with and think about flying an airplane.

A former SpaceX engineer, Ermoshkin holds a Bachelor of Science in electrical and computer engineering from Cornell University. He is a visionary aerospace engineer with a strong foundation in engineering and technology management. Passionate about advancing aviation, he continues to inspire and drive aerospace innovation.

Soren Rademacher
LEAD FLIGHT SOFTWARE ENGINEER
With degrees in mechanical and software engineering from North Carolina State University, Rademacher leads the development of flight software at Airhart. He previously worked at Carbon, focusing on additive manufacturing technologies.

Suleyman Barthe-Sukhera
GUIDANCE, NAVIGATION AND CONTROL ENGINEER
Barthe-Sukhera has a background in aerospace engineering and autonomous robotics. At Airhart, he ensures the robustness of autonomous flight systems, drawing on his experience validating embedded software for the Ford Mustang Mach-E and F-150 Lightning. He has a Master's degree from Grenoble INP–Ense3 in mobile autonomous robotic systems.

Cary Volpert
HEAD OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
Volpert has a rich history of taking innovative projects from concept to market. With a degree from the University of Pennsylvania and an MBA from UNC Chapel Hill, Cary drives business development at Airhart. ■