

# Slovak makers of flying car press on after crash

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The AeroMobil 3.0 prototype flies over Nitra

Slovak tech firm AeroMobil is working on a new prototype of its flying car, weeks after the vehicle of the future spread its wings and crashed during a test flight.

"Sometimes you have to push the vehicle to the limit, to see how it behaves," AeroMobil chief strategy officer Martin Bruncko told AFP about the May 8 incident.

Inventor Stefan Klein was flying the blue-and-white airborne automobile 900 feet (270 metres) off the ground when he was forced to deploy a parachute to slow its descent.

Klein escaped unharmed but the flying car was damaged in what the company called an "[emergency landing](#)". AeroMobil would not say what prompted the crash.

The company is now back at the drawing board and hopes to see pre-orders in 2017 before delivering its first [flying cars](#) to clients in 2018.

It still needs to obtain a green-light from the European Aviation Safety Agency for commercial [flying](#).

Klein said the company has seen interest from countries including Indonesia, Russia and South Africa for the cars that could cost around 500,000 euros (\$560,000) or more.

The prototype that crashed will be displayed at the Milan Expo 2015.

The vehicle for two is six metres long so it fits neatly in a parking space or garage and tanks up at any filling station. But once it reaches an airport it can unfold its wings within seconds and become a plane.

Once airborne, it can reach a top speed of 200km/h (120 mph) and travel as far as 700 km (430 miles), consuming 15 litres (4 gallons) of petrol per hour.

"It integrates two utilities in a similar way as a smartphone, which is a good phone and internet browser in one," said AeroMobil spokesman Stefan Vadocz.

"In the past you needed two separate products."

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