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Yandex.Taxi Eyes On-Demand Helicopter Service – Reports

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Moskva News Agency

The Yandex.Taxi ride-hailing service is in talks to add helicopters to its fleet of vehicles in Moscow, Russia's Kommersant business daily reported Thursday.

Several companies offer air taxi services in the Russian capital, one of which offers hour-long helicopter rides for the ruble equivalent of $708.

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Yandex.Taxi is in four-way discussions with Moscow City Hall, the Russian Helicopters holding company and a St. Petersburg-based aviation firm to offer helicopter taxis, Kommersant reported, citing a source close to one of the partners.

Initial rides will be offered from the Moscow Ring Road, or MKAD, to Moscow region. The service is expected to expand and begin picking up passengers from the inner Moscow Garden

Ring road.

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The Russian tech giant confirmed the plans and told Kommersant it will sign a four-way cooperation agreement to "promote the concept of urban air mobility" in August. The head of a Russian Helicopters subsidiary also confirmed that talks are underway.

"A full-fledged air taxi included in the public transport system is expected to be created in Moscow as a result of this project," Ilya Mikhalchenko, head of VR-Technologies, was quoted as saying.

Yandex.Taxi merged with Uber two years ago in a service called NewCo, accounting for roughly 35 million monthly trips and a monthly revenue of $131 million in Russia and neighboring countries.

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