

May 2020 Newsletter



Table of Contents

- 1) All-electric plane takeoff
- 2) Working Washington grants
- 3) Business Impact Webinar

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Source: magniX

A Seattle-based electric motor manufacturer, magniX, teamed up with Harbour Air to fit a Cessna Grand Caravan 208 with a 750-horsepower zero-emissions motor and they recently conducted their first test lake in Grant County's Moses Lake Airstrip.

The CEO of magniX, Roei Ganzarski, says this is just the first step and that their company hopes to continue developing fully green engines for airplanes that could eventually power larger commercial airliners.

Not only do these planes not require fuel, the absence of a fuel engine helps reduce maintenance times and costs. These costs could even be reduced by as much as 80 percent.

Their hope at magniX is for these low-cost engines to enable smaller airports of less-popular regions to create transportation that may not be available with our traditional cost airplanes.

Groundbreaking allelectric plane first takeoff in Moses Lake

These planes do have some drawbacks, however. The range of the plane went from roughly 1,200 miles to around 100 miles with an electric engine. The engines simply are not as powerful for these types of durations.

The company understands that progress on the range will be made, albeit slowly. Advances in battery capacity and power happen often. There are a variety of options that are in development, such as lithium sulfur and hydrogen options. However batteries end up going, magniX says they are ready for wherever the science decides to go and batteries will be able to be used in their planes regardless of what they are made out of.

The company is also not alone, with companies such as Ampaire, Lilium, Embraer and Pipstrel going forward with all-electric plans. NASA is also testing their experimental all-electric tech.

While the airplane range was drastically reduced, the reduction in airline pollution is a great first step and this is an historic event to be sure!



May 2020 Newsletter Page 2

Working Washington Small Business Emergency Grants

Washington State Department of Commerce



Washington State Department of Commerce

Governor Jay Inslee, coupled with the WS Department of Commerce, have rolled out a Working Washington Small Business Emergency Grant program for businesses affected by COVID-19.

The grants are reimbursable funds covering a variety of expenses. These grants helped provide nearly twenty small businesses in Grant County alone with reimbursement for expenses during this difficult time.

The Grant County EDC was among a committee of individuals from within Grant County to help review applications and will be the lead entity going forward as we work to distribute these funds to the grantees.

While many businesses were not able to receive grants, there were several businesses in Grant County who decided they did not necessarily need the grant and opted to return the money they were approved for in order for it to go down the list to businesses who might be in more need of help! This is the type of behavior that we see in our community that makes Grant County special!

The Grant County EDC is going virtual!

We at the Grant County
Economic Development
Council have been looking
for ways to bring business to
our county as efficiently as
possible during the COVID19 crisis.

One of the ways we have found to help people look for locations is the idea of developing virtual site visits. These visits involve combining drone footage with 360-degree camera video for potential businesses to find and virtually "visit" an area at home from anywhere in the world.



The setup, while involving a good amount of technology, is not particularly difficult to create and

can be used to great effect during our age of social distancing.

We want people to remain interested in Grant County even if they are uncomfortable with traveling at this time, and this is the perfect way to do it!

Grant County EDC hopes to have the opportunity to develop these crafted videos and maps in the near future, and incorporate them into our website as well.



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