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Sent: Monday, 15 April 2019 2:27 PM
To: Australian Space Agency s22
Subject: Airbus Facebook Zephyr crashes [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

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<https://thewest.com.au/news/kimberley/facebooks-airbus-zephyr-drone-crashes-in-kimberley-test-ng-b881165181z>

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Facebook's Airbus Zephyr drone 'crashes' in Kimberley test

[Sarah Steger](#) The West Australian

Thursday, 11 April 2019 4:03AM



Sarah Steger



San Francisco-based startup, Elroy Air, is developing an autonomous drone that could be used to haul heavy cargo as early as next year, according to the company's website. The company has already raised US\$9.



A Facebook drone testing out a way to deliver internet services to remote communities has reportedly crashed in the Kimberley.

The drone, part of an initiative dedicated to helping the social media giant become a global internet service provider, was supposed to demonstrate Facebook's High Altitude Pseudo-Satellite communications capabilities.

It comes ahead of a meeting in Egypt later this year, where major companies are predicted to contend for control of the wireless spectrum, as 5G mobile networking rolls out.

The Airbus Zephyr drone, understood to be 25m wide, is a military-grade surveillance craft and has the capacity to fly in the stratosphere for weeks. The craft was expected to start a secretive, one-month flight mission on April 1, but reportedly crashed at take-off.

The test flight was organised to determine whether a Zephyr drone, armed with technology, could bring internet services to remote communities.

Facebook's intention to connect the "next billion" internet users has come under recent fire, with the social media platform copping blame for the spread of hate speech and disseminating propaganda overseas.

Spokespeople for Facebook, Airbus and the Australian Transport Safety Bureau were approached for comment by The Australian, but did not respond.

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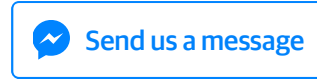
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Elroy Air's self-flying drones could soon be used to deliver cargo

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