



FACEBOOK'S INTERNET-BEAMING DRONE HAS COMPLETED ITS SECOND TEST FLIGHT AND DIDN'T CRASH

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Facebook has completed its second test flight for its solar-powered, internet-beaming drone called Aquila.

The flight was conducted on May 22 in Yuma, Arizona and lasted for one hour and 46 minutes. Facebook said that the drone "landed perfectly on our prepared landing site."

An earlier version of Aquila was "substantially damaged" in a crash during its first test flight over Arizona last year, according to an [investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board](#).

To avoid another crash, Facebook tweaked the design of Aquila by adding wing spoilers, a smoother exterior, and a "horizontal propeller stopping mechanism." The second version of the drone also includes hundreds of sensors to record details about flight performance.

Facebook plans to use Aquila to beam internet access to unconnected parts of the world. The drone is larger than a Boeing 737 and designed to stay aloft for months at a time at altitudes of roughly 60,000 feet. It's completely solar-powered and requires the same

amount of energy to run as three blow dryers.

Aquila is one part of Facebook's multi-pronged effort to bring more people online around the world. With two billion users, the social network is nearing [the limit of internet-connected people on earth it can currently reach](#).

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