Uber’s goal of building the futuristic world of urban aviation and aerial ridesharing can’t be achieved by a single organization. Advancements of this magnitude require the synergy and collaboration of federal, state and local governments; manufacturers; technology experts; architects; and other experts; and the open dialogue that must occur between them. This type of revolutionary change called for a groundbreaking summit that would bring together the largest number of policy makers and ridesharing industry leaders the world had ever seen. Uber delivered by staging the 2019 Uber Elevate Summit where this elite group gathered to make the vision of urban aerial ridesharing a reality by 2023.

In a hallmark event for the urban aviation industry, Uber brought together more than 1,200 leaders from more than 30 countries in the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C. for two days of technical sessions, hands-on demonstrations and networking events.

On three plenary stages custom made with raw, urban-like steel framework, more than 50 sessions featured speakers from Uber, FAA, NASA, General Aviation Manufacturers Association, Commercial Drone Alliance, Amazon, Alphabet and the Radio Technical Commission for Aeronautics. Speakers from airlines, manufacturers and architects joined government officials in planning urban aerial ridesharing’s next steps to becoming a reality. Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao, California Representative Scott Peters and Texas Senator Ted Cruz took the stage to discuss the federal government’s role in the process.

Among the key topics this elite group discussed were the regulatory path to urban air mobility, low-altitude airspace interoperability, safety initiatives, eVTOL (electric vertical take off and landing) concepts, designs for aerial ridesharing, infrastructure, skyport architecture, energy storage and self-driving technology.

Additionally, attendees went in depth on three key topics integral to urban aviation through dedicated tracks – eVTOL, batteries for eVTOLs and moving cities.

“What we’re doing here is so pioneering. If there’s one place in the world to be, it’s right here,” said Dara Khosrowshahi, Uber’s CEO.

Due to the unprecedented interest in the sold-out Summit, Uber Elevate welcomed more people to the event by streaming each of the 50+ sessions to an audience that topped 1 million viewers.

Beyond the Ronald Reagan Center, Uber Elevate continued its unique hands-on product demo experiences and keynote sessions at external events, including an inspiring evening at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, where attendees could not only see aviation’s past, but could learn about and envision its future in urban aerial ride-sharing.

In a highly practical environment, Uber Elevate deepened the connections between the people who are changing the face of aerial aviation. More than 1,200 people with the expertise needed to make aerial ridesharing a reality within three years worked together to drive towards this upcoming, groundbreaking reality.