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CORRECTED EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

- (15) Correction information:
Corrected version no 1 (W1 A2)
Corrections, see
Bibliography INID code(s)
Remarks

(51) International Patent Classification (IPC):
B64C 29/00 (2006.01)

(52) Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC):
B64C 27/02; B64C 27/54; B64C 29/0033

(48) Corrigendum issued on:
26.02.2025 Bulletin 2025/09

(43) Date of publication:
08.01.2025 Bulletin 2025/02

(21) Application number: 24206096.0

(22) Date of filing: 13.08.2020

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| <div>(84) Designated Contracting States: AL AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HR HU IE IS IT LI LT LU LV MC MK MT NL NO PL PT RO RS SE SI SK SM TR</div> <div>(30) Priority: 14.08.2019 US 201962886578 P 05.09.2019 US 201962896257 P 01.05.2020 US 202063018848 P</div> <div>(62) Document number(s) of the earlier application(s) in accordance with Art. 76 EPC: 20853016.2 / 3 999 420</div> <div>(71) Applicant: Unmanned Aerospace LLC La Jolla, California 92037 (US)</div> | <div>(72) Inventor: SHAANAN, GAD LA JOLLA, 92037 (US)</div> <div>(74) Representative: Durán-Corretjer, S.L.P. Còrsega, 329 (Paseo de Gracia/Diagonal) 08037 Barcelona (ES)</div> <div>Remarks: This application was filed on 11-10-2024 as a divisional application to the application mentioned under INID code 62.</div> |
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(54)

AERIAL VEHICLE

- (57) Aircraft capable of vertical takeoff and landing,
hovering, and efficient forward flight are described. An
aircraft includes two side mounted tiltable proprotors and
a central rotor disposed above the proprotors. The pro-
protors are tiltable between at least a horizontal position
for forward flight and a vertical position for vertical or
hovering flight. The central rotor may be powered for

vertical and transitional flight modes and may turn by
free auto rotation during forward flight. The proprotors
may be differentially tilted during vertical or hovering flight
to counter torque effects of the central rotor. The central
rotor may be foldable and/or easily detachable from the
aircraft to facilitate storage and transportation.

