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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 tilttable proprotors and a central rotor disposed above the proprotors. The proprotors are tilttable 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.

