Final Destination

Airplanes may also soon be piloted by robots rather than pilots. A few facts on the future of artificial aviation intelligence:

We have liftoff. Dozens of startups have raised about $7 billion in this emerging technological race.

The self-driving aircraft market is expected to grow 25 percent per year over the next couple of decades, reaching $325 billion by 2040.

Like ships, most automated airplanes will still have human pilots at first before going full robo.

AI aircraft will initially be limited to industrial applications, then be opened to cargo transport and eventually to passenger taxi services.