



eVTOL
INSIGHTS

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF
ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY

ONES TO WATCH SPECIAL REPORT 2025

RECOGNISING THE NEXT
GENERATION OF TALENT IN
THE GLOBAL ADVANCED
AIR MOBILITY MARKET

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INTRODUCTION



The pace of innovation in the global Advanced Air Mobility market has never been more dynamic, and at the heart of this transformation are the people turning ambitious visions into operational reality.

As the sector now begins to transition from early-stage prototypes to scalable commercial solutions, it is the emerging talent within organisations; engineers, project leads, researchers, analysts and operational pioneers, who are quietly shaping the next era of aviation. This Ones to Watch Special Report celebrates those individuals.

Each person featured in this edition has been nominated by colleagues who recognise not only their technical expertise, but also their curiosity, resilience, and capacity to lead.

These are the professionals who ask the difficult questions, persist through challenges and who inspire others with their commitment to push the boundaries for all-electric flight. Their contributions span a wide range of disciplines,

from electric propulsion, autonomy, airspace integration, sustainability, infrastructure and regulation.

By showcasing these rising innovators, we aim to shine a spotlight on the future of the AAM workforce and the culture that will guide the industry forward.

As global demand for smarter mobility solutions accelerates, the sector will rely on thinkers and doers like those profiled here to drive meaningful progress. Their stories are a reminder that the next breakthroughs in aviation will not be defined solely by technology, but by the people who bring that technology to life.

We invite you to meet the individuals who are already shaping the skies of tomorrow and whose careers are only just beginning to take flight.

JASON PRITCHARD
EXECUTIVE EDITOR,
eVTOL INSIGHTS

ONES TO WATCH 2025 ALUMNI



FARAAZ AHMEND
Flight Controls Engineer, Horizon Aircraft



MAX YERGAN
VP Investments, Space Leasing International (SLI)



PERE LLORENC MARTINEZ
Airworthiness & Safety Director, Embention



SANDRO SALGUIERO
Senior Airspace Integration Engineer, SkyGrid



SERGEY RUDOMYOTOV
Chief Architect, URBI SKY



SHAWN FALZONE
Flight Control System, Navigation, and Mechanical Integration Lead, Wisk



UWE KIESEWETTER
Chief Engineer, Odys Aviation



VERONICA RECZEK
Senior Vertiport Planner at Skyports Infrastructure



YULIYA ZOLOTYKH
Founder, URBI SKY



SANDRO SALGUIERO

SENIOR AIRSPACE INTEGRATION ENGINEER, SKYGRID

Sandro leads research on integrating highly automated aircraft into the global airspace system. Prior to joining SkyGrid, Sandro worked on the design of instrument flight procedures and contributed to four advanced procedures now flown by airlines at Boston Logan International Airport.

His industry experience also includes flight deck design and flight testing. Sandro holds a PhD in Air Transportation Systems from MIT and an FAA commercial pilot certificate.

He is the recipient of AIAA's Jay Hollingsworth Speas Airport Award for contributions to improving airport-community relations, AIAA's Orville and Wilbur Wright Graduate Award for excellence in aeronautical research, Massport's Boston Logan Stars Award for significant contributions to airport operations, and Aviation Week's 20 Twenties award.

We were fortunate enough to hire him after he graduated from MIT last year. He has been instrumental in the thought leadership for Automated Flight Rules (AFR) and has authored our many of SkyGrid's CONOPS and Whitepapers.

He has a unique ability to make airspace management principles interesting. He also can capture the relevance of these principles and communicate to diverse stakeholders – from academics to politicians to airline operators. Airspace management is one of the limiting factors that will unlock the promise of AAM.

Sandro's contributions are guaranteeing that when the OEM's and Operators get to market, the airspace will be able to support their operations at scale. Airspace is often overlooked in AAM conversations, Sandro's external speaking at major industry conferences and events has been beating the drum to ensure the airspace matures when these AAM platforms get to markets.



SKYGRID



UWE KIESEWETTER CHIEF ENGINEER, ODYS AVIATION

Uwe Kiesewetter is the Chief Engineer of Long Beach, CA-based Odys Aviation, where he oversees the full scope of aircraft development for the company's two core platforms: Laila and Alta.

At Odys, Uwe leads a high-performing team of engineers across critical disciplines including structures, propulsion, aeromechanics, flight dynamics and controls, flight test, and systems engineering. Under his leadership, the team achieved a major technical milestone: the first successful flap-based lift transition flight for this unique hybrid-electric architecture; an accomplishment reached in just six months and marking a key inflection point in Odys Aviation's development roadmap.

Today, Uwe is spearheading Odys' engineering efforts toward the company's first full-scale flight transition, guiding the technical team through the next phase of integration, testing, and validation. He is also leading the engineering deliverables for Odys' proof-of-concept program in Oman, a landmark initiative demonstrating the company's dual-use hybrid-electric VTOL technology in real-world conditions.

Before joining Odys Aviation, Uwe served as Chief Engineer of the CityAirbus program, Airbus' full-scale eVTOL demonstrator, where he led the aeromechanics and flight test team in Donauwörth, Germany. He also played a pivotal role as Lead Engineer on the next-generation CityAirbus, a joint project between Airbus Helicopters in Europe and Vahana/A³ in the U.S.

A lifelong devotee to "making things fly," Uwe holds 13 published patents and was awarded the Eurocopter Award for Best Diploma Thesis during his advanced studies in Aerospace Engineering at the University of Stuttgart. Beyond his professional achievements, he is also an accomplished remote control pilot and a Model Helicopter Class F3C four-time German Champion and Vice-World Champion - living proof of his passion for precision flight in every form.

PERE LLORENC MARTINEZ

AIRWORTHINESS & SAFETY DIRECTOR, EMBENTION

Pere is a standout figure in the company and is shaping the future of drone certification and reliability.

With his meticulous approach to compliance and deep understanding of aviation safety standards, he has played a key role in guiding Embention through one of its most significant achievements to date.

In 2025, thanks to his efforts, Embention became the first company specializing in drone autopilots to obtain both APDOA (Alternative Procedures to Design Organization Approval) and POA (Production Organization Approval) certifications from the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA).

These dual recognitions mark a historic milestone for the drone and eVTOL industry, positioning Embention as a

benchmark in the design and production of certified, aviation-grade systems.

Pere's leadership reflects Embention's core values of innovation, safety, and excellence. His vision ensures that Veronte meets the highest standards of airworthiness, contributing to the integration of unmanned systems into the regulated airspace.

Through his commitment and expertise, Embention continues to pave the way for a safer and more reliable future in advanced air mobility. In an industry where safety defines success, Pere is truly one to watch in 2026.



FARAAZ AHMEND

FLIGHT CONTROLS ENGINEER, HORIZON AIRCRAFT

Since joining Horizon Aircraft, Faraaz Ahmed has quickly distinguished himself as an exceptional engineering talent within our organization. As a Flight Controls Engineer, Faraaz plays a pivotal role in developing and refining the systems that will ensure safe, precise, and the efficient operation of Horizon's novel eVTOL aircraft, the Cavorite X7.

Tom Brassington, Horizon's CTO commented that "Faraaz has an outstanding ability to translate complex control challenges into elegant engineering solutions. His precision, creativity, and reliability make him an integral

part of our technical team and a rising star in the eVTOL industry."

Faraaz combines technical expertise with a tireless commitment to excellence, consistently delivering complex systems work accurately and on time. His innovative thinking, meticulous attention to detail, and collaborative spirit have made him an invaluable member of the Horizon team and a rising star to watch in the future of advanced flight.



Horizon Aircraft





VERONICA

RECZEK

SENIOR VERTIPOINT PLANNER AT SKYPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE

Veronica is a rising star in the Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) sector, a professional whose blend of technical depth, curiosity, and passion is already shaping the industry's future.

She plays a pivotal role in designing and delivering the next generation of vertiports that will enable the safe and scalable deployment of electric air taxi services worldwide. She works closely with leading eVTOL manufacturers to ensure each site is tailored to aircraft performance, regulatory context, and operational efficiency, combining precision engineering with forward-thinking creativity.

Veronica has been instrumental in the development of Skyports' vertiport network in the Middle East, contributing to concept and detailed design, simulation studies, and airspace assessments.

Her work extends across Europe, Japan, Korea, Australia, and the US, translating complex local regulations into feasible, sustainable designs that accelerate AAM implementation. She has run numerous operational simulations to optimise airfield and terminal layouts, ensuring operational efficiency and safe integration of eVTOL operations into existing aviation and urban environments.

Before joining Skyports, Veronica gained extensive experience in aviation planning, where she led multidisciplinary teams delivering more than 20 international airport projects across the Middle East, Europe, Canada, US, Asia, and Australia. She also was one of the first professionals in the world with the official title of vertiport planner back in 2020.

She holds degrees from leading universities in Poland and the UK, including an MSc in Airport Planning from Cranfield University, which provides a strong academic foundation for her work. She is an active member of the Royal Aeronautical Society, the Vertical Flight Society, and the German Aviation Research Society, staying closely connected to emerging standards and innovations in the field.



Skyports

SHAWN FALZONE

FLIGHT CONTROL SYSTEM, NAVIGATION, AND MECHANICAL INTEGRATION LEAD, WISK

Shawn is a systems engineering leader with over a decade of experience guiding complex aerospace systems from concept to flight.

At Wisk, he is the Flight Control System, Navigation, and Mechanical Integration Lead, where he manages the cross-functional engineering efforts that integrate flight control and navigation hardware, software, and electronics to deliver safe, high-performance autonomous flight.

Recently, Shawn led Wisk's Flight Controls and Navigation teams to design, integrate, and test the autonomous control systems that guided Wisk's Gen 6 aircraft through a successful safety-of-flight campaign.

In addition, Shawn led his team through a selection and announcement of a partnership with Liebherr to develop the Gen 6 actuation system through certification of the aircraft and beyond.

Before joining Wisk in 2022, Shawn led several flight-critical system development programs with Moog Aircraft Group across a wide range of aerospace products.



YULIYA ZOLOTYKH

FOUNDER, URBI SKY

Yuliya is an emerging AAM leader in Central Asia. Over the last two years, she has built URBI SKY into a dedicated vertiport engineering and integration practice, initiating the Alatau Vertiport concept (FATO/TLOF layouts, passenger flow modeling, maintenance/charging zones) and localizing pre-FEED/FEED toolkits (BoD, CAPEX/OPEX model, risk/stakeholder matrices) for pilot sites.

She has advanced PR/GR dialogue around Advanced Air Mobility in Kazakhstan and connected aviation requirements with real-estate economics to position vertiports as commercially viable urban nodes (terminal + hotel + office/retail).

SERGEY RUDOMYOTOV

CHIEF ARCHITECT, URBI SKY

Sergey translates aviation constraints into an iconic, city-legible architecture. He authored the aerodynamic morphology of Alatau Vertiport (a streamlined figure evoking a four-rotor aircraft, with a “wing-bridge” that links ground and air).

He integrated terminal, hotel, office and retail functions, allocated technical wings for eVTOL service/charging, and addressed flows, safety zoning, massing and phasing with attention to downwash/wind/noise.

By elevating the typology from helipad-like infrastructure to a multi-level aerocomplex, he improves public acceptance and commercial synergy of UAM in urban fabric.



MAX YERGAN

VP INVESTMENTS, SPACE LEASING INTERNATIONAL (SLI)

Max is working to bring structured finance to the AAM industry. He has eight years of experience in various investing and transportation-related roles. Prior to SLI, Max was the founder of a sustainable logistics technology company based in NYC - Emissionless Transportation, and has five years of experience executing transactions for transportation and infrastructure companies in banking and private equity roles at CIT (now First Citizens Bank) and Turning Rock Partners, respectively.

SLI is the aerospace subsidiary of Libra Group, a global business group that has 20 years of aviation leasing experience and has completed over \$11 billion of aerospace transactions since 2004. SLI owns and leases assets that are

critical to the rapidly evolving aerospace industries.

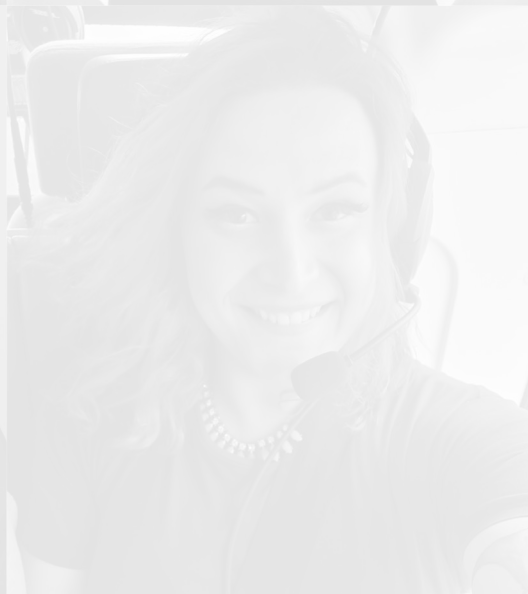
These include satellite and space infrastructure assets, as well as Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) aircraft. In July 2025, SLI placed a firm purchase order for 25 BETA Technologies' ALIA CX300 fully electric aircraft – the CTOL (conventional take-off and landing) variant of BETA's ALIA 250 eVTOL aircraft. The agreement extended the long-standing relationship between BETA and Libra Group through its subsidiaries.





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SIMON CORBETT

Founder

simon.corbett@iigroup.global

JASON PRITCHARD

Executive Editor

editorial@evtolinsights.com