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ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY

WOMEN IN AAM SPECIAL REPORT 2026

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WOMEN IN AAM



MARILYN PEARSON

Chairperson, eVTOL Insights' Women in AAM community

A Tribute to Women in Advanced Air Mobility

Honoring the women helping shape the future of aviation

Advanced Air Mobility is more than a new mode of transportation; it is a promise to connect communities, expand access, improve sustainability, and reimagine how people and goods move throughout the world. Bringing that promise to life requires visionaries, engineers, storytellers, regulators, operators, strategists, researchers, planners, and community builders working together across every layer of the aviation ecosystem.

Today, we celebrate a remarkable group of women whose leadership reflects the depth and diversity of AAM. From operations validation and propulsion engineering to infrastructure, regulation, safety, noise and vibration, launch planning, public-sector research, economic growth, land surveying, aviation strategy, and storytelling, these women are helping build an industry that is safe, scalable, inclusive, and worthy of public trust.

Their work reminds us that the future of aviation will not be defined by aircraft alone. It will be shaped by the people who validate systems, design hardware, plan infrastructure, write policies, listen to communities, explain complex ideas, and open doors for those who will follow.

In an industry moving quickly from concept to reality, these women's expertise will help ensure that progress is not only innovative, but safe and reliable.

We honor Annie Cheng of Wisk; Rachel Ozer of Odys Aviation; Rama Khalaf of Joby Aviation; Elham Boozarjomehri of Grey Jay; Melissa Rank of Woolpert; Susan Roe Musacchio of Aviatrix Company, LLC; Lavera Alexander of Monterey Bay Economic Partnership; Isabel Lima of Eve Air Mobility; Akshata Shetty of Skyports Infrastructure; Laurie McKnight of Ohio University's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service; Kanyarat Nanthavisit of Skyports Drone Services; and Patricia Nagata Hamza of Woven by Toyota and Toyota Motor Corporation.

To these women and to all women advancing AAM: thank you for your leadership, your technical excellence, your advocacy, and your imagination. You are helping aviation rise to meet the future—safely, thoughtfully, and with room for more women to see themselves shaping the sky.



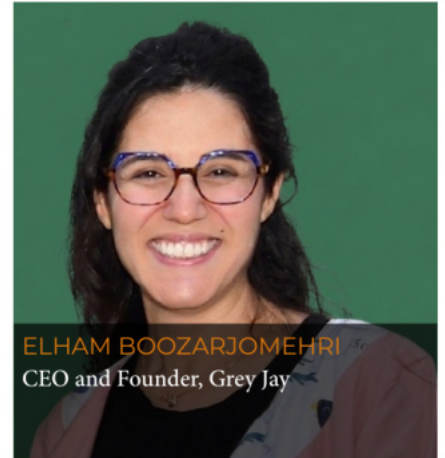
WOMEN IN AAM SPECIAL REPORT 2026



AKSHATA SHETTY
Launch Lead, Skyports Infrastructure



ANNIE CHENG
Senior Program Manager (Operations Validation), Wisk



ELHAM BOOZARJOMEHRI
CEO and Founder, Grey Jay



ISABEL LIMA
Head of Noise and Vibration,
Eve Air Mobility



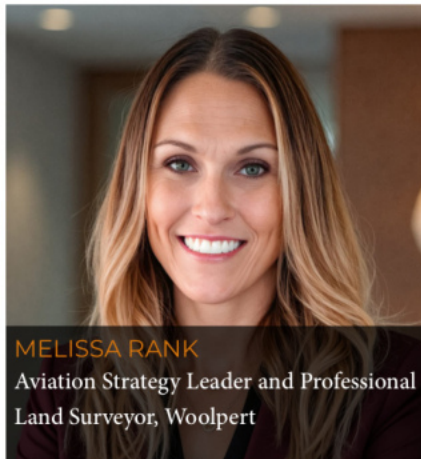
KANYARAT NANTHAVISIT
Regulatory & Safety Lead, Skyports
Drone Services



LAURIE MCKNIGHT
Senior Research Manager at Ohio
University's Voinovich School of
Leadership and Public Service



LAVERA ALEXANDER
Chief Growth Officer, Monterey Bay
Economic Partnership



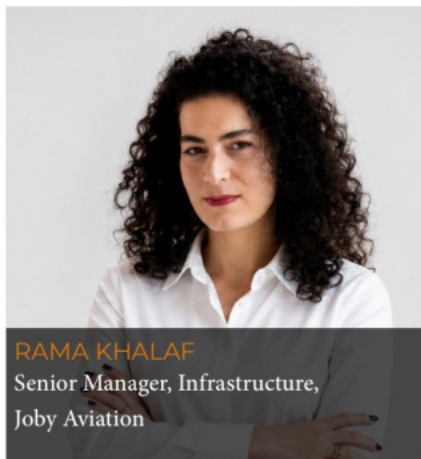
MELISSA RANK
Aviation Strategy Leader and Professional
Land Surveyor, Woolpert



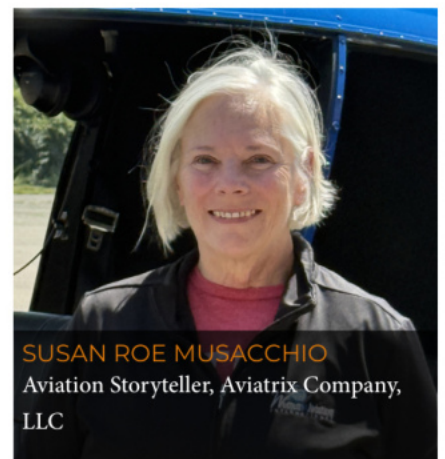
PATRICIA NAGATA HAMZA
Mobility Future Senior Manager, Woven
by Toyota and Toyota Motor Corporation



RACHEL OZER
Mechanical Engineering Manager,
Propulsion, Odys Aviation



RAMA KHALAF
Senior Manager, Infrastructure,
Joby Aviation



SUSAN ROE MUSACCHIO
Aviation Storyteller, Aviatrix Company,
LLC

FIVE THEMES SHAPING WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN AAM

Taken together, the women featured in this report reveal how Advanced Air Mobility is maturing. Leadership is no longer concentrated solely in aircraft development; it now extends across the infrastructure, regulation, public engagement and talent needed to turn technical ambition into dependable operations. Five themes stand out.

1

INFRASTRUCTURE MOVES FROM PLANNING TO DELIVERY

Rama Khalaf, Akshata Shetty and Lavera Alexander show that AAM infrastructure is moving beyond diagrams and feasibility studies. Vertiports, regional corridors and operational networks are now being designed, approved and built - with women leading the complex work of aligning airports, cities, developers, operators and communities.

2

REGULATION BECOMES AN OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY

The work of Annie Cheng, Kanyarat Nanthavisit, Melissa Rank and Isabel Lima demonstrates that regulation is not a final hurdle. It is an operating discipline embedded in testing, standards, acoustics, airspace integration and safety. The strongest organisations are treating regulatory insight as a core capability from the outset.

3

COMMUNITY ACCEPTANCE BECOMES A COMMERCIAL REQUIREMENT

Aircraft performance alone will not determine whether AAM succeeds. Susan Roe Musacchio, Laurie McKnight and Lavera Alexander highlight the importance of public understanding, workforce opportunity and regional benefit. Trust, noise, accessibility and local relevance will increasingly shape where services can launch and scale.

4

CROSS-SECTOR EXPERTISE ENTERS AVIATION

AAM is attracting leaders from architecture, automotive, urban planning, geospatial science, public policy and energy. Patricia Nagata Hamza, Elham Boozarjomehri and others demonstrate the value of combining aviation rigour with ideas from adjacent industries. That broader experience is helping the sector solve problems as an integrated mobility ecosystem.

5

MENTORSHIP BUILDS THE NEXT GENERATION

Across the profiles, leadership is defined not only by technical achievement but by the ability to develop others. Annie Cheng's team-building, Patricia Nagata Hamza's mentoring and Laurie McKnight's workforce programmes underline a shared priority: creating visible pathways into AAM and giving emerging talent the confidence and skills to lead.

“

The next phase of AAM will be shaped as much by integration, trust and leadership as by aircraft technology.



ANNIE CHENG

SENIOR PROGRAM MANAGER (OPERATIONS VALIDATION), WISK

Annie Cheng is a dedicated leader and mentor who directs Wisk's Operations Validation Program and has a contagious and unfiltered passion for making AAM a reality.

She leads a team that plans and conducts simulations and live flight tests whose results will inform operational, regulatory, and standards requirements to enable safe, efficient, and scalable air-ground integration. She is also a private pilot, computer scientist, airspace integration specialist, and remarkable systems thinker.

Annie's leadership in the Operational Testing and Validation domain has contributed enormously to advancing the AAM industry. She has been

instrumental in securing Wisk's strong industry standing.

In particular, her skillful collaboration with key external stakeholders—that include the FAA's William J. Hughes Technical Center and NASA's Advanced Air Mobility Pathfinder (AAMP) and Air Traffic Management and Safety Project (ATMS) teams—generated important insights that will advance the safe integration of autonomous eVTOLs into the national airspace.

Annie was also a major contributor to the Provider-of-Services to UAM (PSU) framework and the associated ASTM standard. These milestones were pivotal in laying the foundation for what PSU capabilities require from an operator's standpoint. She is now leveraging these learnings and rigor to maximize the insights from eIPP flights.

Annie builds environments where collaboration thrives. She is generous with her time and energy; she actively encourages and mentors her teammates to step up as captains when the moment calls for it, multiplying leadership rather than hoarding it.

Annie also leads by example. She takes on heavy workloads while making it look easy, and consistently building up her teammates through hands-on collaboration and unwavering positivity. By sharing her deep technical expertise and building high-functioning, collaborative teams, she paves the way for others to follow in her footsteps.

What sets Annie apart is her intrinsic ability to think systemically. She not only understands her piece of the puzzle; she understands how Wisk's technology will operate in the real world, across airspace, automation, and human operators. That rare combination of passion, empowering leadership, and deep systems insight makes Annie more than a strong contributor; she is a true force multiplier for Wisk and for the future of autonomous flight.





RACHEL OZER

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING MANAGER, PROPULSION, ODYS AVIATION

As Mechanical Engineering Manager for the Hybrid Propulsion team at Odys Aviation, Rachel has been a driving force behind the advancement of high-speed generator and hybrid power systems technology.

Her leadership has helped produce systems spanning 20 kW to 4 MW in output, technology that extends well beyond powering our VTOL aircraft. The demand for these systems has grown so significantly that it now draws interest from across the aerospace and ground-based power generation industries, with active inquiries from customers in Advanced Air Mobility (AAM), defense, and the energy sector.

Under Rachel's leadership at Odys, she helped solve the high-speed generator problem that much larger teams struggled to complete. The first generation was built, tested, and validated in record time.

Then, the development timeline for new generations of high-speed generators was cut nearly in half, from 12 months to just 7.5 months, while power density climbed from 12 kW/kg to 16 kW/kg. She also guided the development of Hybrid Power Systems featuring unified cooling and gearbox-free designs, resulting in a smaller form factor, greater reliability, and lower maintenance costs.

Rachel has played a central role in integrating our 100 kW Hybrid Power System into the Laila cargo UAV, giving it industry-leading range and payload capacity. As more AAM manufacturers seek to extend their aircraft's range and payload capabilities, Rachel's expertise in hybrid power generation is proving instrumental, not only in bringing our own VTOL aircraft to life, but in advancing the broader industry as well.

With over a decade of experience designing and leading complex electromagnetic and high-performance mechanical systems, Rachel brings deep technical expertise to her role. Before joining Odys, she was responsible for the mechanical design of electromagnetic systems at Virgin Hyperloop, maturing novel engines from concept design through qualification and initial production.

As a Mechanical Engineering Manager at CarbonCapture Inc., Rachel led the mechanical design and deployment of the company's first full scale direct air capture module. She holds a BS in Atmosphere and Energy Engineering and a Master's in Mechanical Engineering, both from Stanford University.





RAMA KHALAF

SENIOR MANAGER, INFRASTRUCTURE, JOBY AVIATION

Rama is a licensed architect, private pilot, and certified UAM professional, bringing all three disciplines to her role as Senior Manager, Infrastructure at Joby.

Before joining Joby, Rama spent years in architecture and real estate, delivering commercial redevelopment, hospitality, and luxury residential projects across London, Amman, Abu Dhabi, and Dubai. That grounding in conceptual design and asset delivery gave her a rare fluency: the ability to judge whether a piece of infrastructure is not just technically feasible, but also architecturally sound and commercially viable from day one.

Her move into aviation was deliberate. Passionate about the industry's direction, she relocated to Dubai specifically because AAM was happening there, choosing to help build the precedent that other markets would eventually follow.

Earning her pilot's license added a dimension most infrastructure professionals never gain: a working understanding of airspace itself. She sees vertiports

not as isolated structures but as one part of a single ecosystem: airspace, aircraft, and ground infrastructure functioning together, where each decision shapes the others.

As Dubai positions itself to become the first market in the world to launch commercial air taxi operations, the infrastructure decisions made today will define whether the model is workable at scale. Rama's role puts her directly in those early, foundational conversations, translating vertiport infrastructure from a theoretical concept into a concrete, buildable reality.

She also does this work in a field where women remain a distinct minority. Her presence at the intersection of aviation, architecture, and urban development as both a licensed pilot and an infrastructure lead offers other women considering a path into AAM a working example that didn't widely exist before.



ELHAM BOOZARJOMEHRI

CEO AND FOUNDER, GREY JAY

As a transportation planner, aerospace engineer, and Executive Director of Grey Jay, Elham Boozarjomehri is a pioneer in integrating Advanced Air Mobility into Canadian transportation planning frameworks.

Her work provides municipal leaders, regional authorities, and Indigenous communities with the analytical models and practical tools needed to evaluate, plan, and actively deploy AAM—from zero-emission regional aircraft to drone networks—as a seamless extension of their public transit, ferry, and road networks.

Elham should be considered for her rare blend of high-level technical forecasting and end-to-end implementation expertise. Using complex spatial modeling, trip-distribution algorithms, and economic demand analysis, she builds actionable strategies that support communities high-level master plans and operational reality. Her work spans transit Urban Air Mobility (UAM) forecasting for Metro Vancouver as well as regional public fleet sizing models.

Beyond long-term planning, Elham directly support communities on how to establish and own their own AAM infrastructure. A prime example is her work with Montana First Nation, where she is helping lay the groundwork for a community-led drone service designed for delivery and wildfire monitoring.

She equips local leadership with the operational, technical, and regulatory frameworks required to start, govern, and maintain their own drone and air mobility services. By combining rigorous data modeling with direct execution strategies, Elham empowers communities to not only plan for the future of air mobility, but to build, own, and operate it as vital public infrastructure.





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MELISSA RANK

AVIATION STRATEGY LEADER AND PROFESSIONAL LAND SURVEYOR, WOOLPERT

Melissa has spent close to two decades building the unglamorous, essential infrastructure of aviation planning — geospatial standards, FAA compliance, airspace and vertiport readiness — the layer of work that determines whether AAM actually becomes operational rather than theoretical.

At Woolpert, she co-authored the first FAA Heliport Survey Standards, which will be included in the upcoming AC 150/5300-18D.

She led project execution and provided expertise on Florida DOT's Statewide AAM Strategic Plan and the Miami-Dade Aviation Department's AAM Strategic Plan and Site Selection Analysis. Additionally, she served as a geospatial subject-matter expert for Woolpert's Emerging Technology team while overseeing complex federal, state, and military survey programs.

As Aviation Practice Lead at Wilson & Company, she focused on enhancing her team's skills through transformational leadership and mentorship. Currently, she serves as a strategy consultant at Altus Aviation Group, providing advice to engineering, planning, public-sector, and infrastructure owner stakeholders.

She was named a 2026 Influential Women honoree, and her regular commentary on Part 74, BVLOS, and UAFR rulemaking has made her one of the clearer voices translating regulatory shifts into what they actually mean operationally for infrastructure owners.



SUSAN ROE MUSACCHIO

AVIATION STORYTELLER,
AVIATRIX COMPANY, LLC

Susan Roe Musacchio is helping tell the story of aviation's next great transformation—and bringing communities into the conversation about what comes next.

A third-generation aviator, student pilot, filmmaker, and founder of Aviatrix Company, Musacchio produced a documentary on the Pulitzer Electric Aircraft Race, capturing an important milestone in the development of electric aviation.

The film premiered at Seattle's Museum of Flight, bringing the story of electric aircraft racing and emerging aviation technology to one of the world's leading aviation museums. She also founded the world's first aviation film festival, creating a platform where aviation, history, technology, and storytelling come together.

Today, her focus increasingly includes Advanced Air Mobility and the emerging world of electric aircraft and eVTOL technology. In Chicago, she hosts "The Third Age of Aviation," bringing together aviation leaders, innovators, pilots, and the public to explore how new technologies could reshape flight and transportation.

For Musacchio, the future of AAM depends on more than building revolutionary aircraft; Communities must understand them.

As eVTOL aircraft move closer to operating in cities and communities, public education will be critical. Questions surrounding safety, noise, infrastructure, sustainability, and community impact cannot remain conversations held only within the aviation industry.

People need opportunities to see the technology, meet the people developing it, ask questions, and understand how it could affect their lives.



That is where Musacchio sees the power of storytelling.

Through documentary film, screenings, interviews, panels, podcast and public programs, she translates technological change into human stories and connects aviation innovators with audiences encountering these ideas for the first time.

At 64, while continuing her own pilot training, Musacchio is also demonstrating that aviation's future belongs to people of every generation.

Advanced Air Mobility will need engineers, entrepreneurs, investors, pilots, and policymakers. It will also need storytellers who can build understanding and trust between innovation and the communities it hopes to serve.

Susan Roe Musacchio is helping build that bridge—documenting aviation's Third Age while inviting the public to become part of its future.





eVTOL Insights' Europe Conference 2026

eVTOL Insights has released an early draft of the agenda planned for its Europe Conference, which takes place in Toulouse, France on October 15th.

It is hoped the early release will provide potential delegates with a sneak peek at discussions set to take place when leaders from across the Advanced Air Mobility (AAM), uncrewed aviation and next-generation aerospace sectors gather in one of Europe's biggest aerospace hubs.

The conference will aim to bring together aircraft developers, drone operators, regulators, airports, air navigation service providers, investors, manufacturers and policymakers to explore how the industry can move from demonstrations and pilot projects towards large-scale deployment and commercial success.

Four Key Themes

The conference programme will be structured around four core pillars:

1. Commercialising Aerial Services
2. Scaling Autonomy
3. Integrating Airspace
4. Building Europe's Aviation Future

Potential speakers interested in contributing to keynote presentations, fireside chats or panel discussions are encouraged to register their interest. The draft agenda is intended as a framework for discussion and remains subject to refinement as industry input is gathered in the lead-up to the event.

Located at the heart of Europe's aerospace industry, Toulouse provides the ideal backdrop for discussions focused on the next phase of aviation innovation and deployment.

Tickets are now on general sale for £700. Students can also attend the event for £200.

The price includes entry to an evening networking reception, scheduled for the 14th, the conference on the 15th and a site visit planned on the 16th.

For all speaker enquiries, please email jason@evtolinsights.com.

LAVERA ALEXANDER

CHIEF GROWTH OFFICER, MONTEREY BAY ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

Lavera is also Director of the California Advanced Air Mobility Corridors Initiative (CAAMCI), where she is leading one of the most ambitious regional infrastructure efforts in the AAM sector today.

With more than two decades of leadership experience advancing cross-sector collaboration and transformative impact within the nonprofit sector, Lavera brings a perspective to advanced air mobility that is too often missing from the conversation, one grounded not in aircraft technology alone, but in the regional infrastructure, workforce development, and community readiness that will ultimately determine whether AAM succeeds at scale.

Under her direction, CAAMCI is building California's first FAA-compliant, multi-airport flight corridor network, connecting four rural Central Coast airports through a \$7.45 million state-funded initiative.

This work has helped position the Monterey Bay region, spanning Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz counties, as one of the highest concentrations of AAM activity anywhere in the United States, and Lavera's leadership has been central to turning that potential into a coordinated, operational reality involving public agencies, private companies, and civic partners alike.

Beyond the technical and logistical execution, Lavera has distinguished herself as a clear, consistent public voice for the industry. Through her "CAAMCI Chronicles" series and published commentary, she has worked deliberately to cut through the acronyms and insider language



(AAM, eVTOL, UAS, OEM) that can make the field feel inaccessible, instead connecting the work to tangible outcomes people understand: better jobs, faster emergency response, and stronger regional economies.

Her writing consistently makes the case that economic development belongs at the center of the aviation conversation, not on its periphery.

Lavera's ability to bridge economic development, aviation infrastructure, and public communication, while managing a multi-stakeholder, multi-airport initiative of national significance, makes her a standout example of the diverse expertise driving AAM forward.

She represents the kind of leadership the industry needs more of: strategic, collaborative, and committed to ensuring that the benefits of advanced air mobility reach the communities it's meant to serve.



ISABEL LIMA

HEAD OF NOISE AND VIBRATION, EVE AIR MOBILITY

The Head of Noise & Vibration leads Eve Air Mobility's acoustic certification, noise, and vibration engineering activities, ensuring the Eve 100 eVTOL meets regulatory requirements while supporting environmental sustainability and community acceptance. The role serves as the company's technical authority on aircraft acoustics, working closely with engineering, flight test, and certification teams to optimize aircraft performance and advance industry standards for advanced air mobility.

Isabel is a driving force behind one of the most important challenges facing Advanced Air Mobility: ensuring that eVTOL aircraft can operate quietly, responsibly, and with public acceptance.

She combines deep technical expertise with a commitment to environmental stewardship, helping shape the standards and technologies that will enable sustainable urban air mobility around the world. Her work is not only advancing Eve's aircraft program but also helping define how the broader industry approaches noise, certification, and community integration.

Through her leadership in acoustic engineering, collaboration with regulators, and dedication to responsible innovation, Isabel has made a lasting impact on the future of Advanced Air Mobility.

Her contributions extend beyond technical achievement, influencing certification frameworks, advancing public confidence, and paving the way for the successful adoption of eVTOL aircraft worldwide. As a respected engineer, industry leader, and role model for women in aerospace, Isabel exemplifies the vision, expertise, and influence that the eVTOL Insights Women in AAM Recognition was created to celebrate.



AKSHATA SHETTY

LAUNCH LEAD, SKYPORTS INFRASTRUCTURE

Akshata leads the delivery and operational readiness of what is set to become the world's first commercial air taxi network. Working at the intersection of infrastructure development, operations, regulation, design and commercial partnerships, she plays a pivotal role in ensuring every element comes together into a safe, scalable and future-ready ecosystem.

With a background in Civil Engineering and a Master's degree in Urban Planning and Environment, Akshata combines technical expertise with strategic thinking to bridge the gap between city planning, aviation infrastructure and operational delivery. Her career in aviation began in airport advisory, where she contributed to major aviation and urban development projects across the Middle East, including airport masterplans, heliport feasibility studies and sustainability programmes.

Since joining Skyports at the outset of Dubai's Advanced Air Mobility programme, Akshata has been instrumental in transforming the city's vision for air taxis into reality. From the earliest planning stages through to construction, approvals and operational readiness, she is playing a central role in delivering the world's first commercial vertiport network.

With the first vertiport by Dubai International Airport now certified, VDX, and the remaining initial network nearing completion, especially Dubai Marina Vertiport, followed by Dubai Mall and The Palm Jumeirah, her work has been fundamental in establishing the infrastructure, processes and partnerships required to launch commercial eVTOL services in Dubai.



Her role involves coordinating multidisciplinary teams, aligning stakeholders, supporting approvals, permits and certification activities, and working closely with authorities, regulators, developers and aircraft operators to ensure each vertiport is not only compliant, but ready for safe and seamless operations from day one.

While her immediate focus is the successful launch of Dubai's network, Akshata is equally committed to shaping what comes next. By transforming the experience gained from this world-first programme into repeatable processes and best practices, she is helping lay the foundations for future Advanced Air Mobility networks around the world.



PATRICIA NAGATA HAMZA

MOBILITY FUTURE SENIOR MANAGER, WOVEN BY TOYOTA AND TOYOTA MOTOR CORPORATION

With more than 25 years in aerospace, Patrícia Nagata Hamza has built a career spanning commercial aviation, executive aviation, defense and security, and Advanced Air Mobility.

Currently, she serves in a dual role across Woven by Toyota and Toyota Motor Corporation, where she helps enable the future of air mobility by connecting business strategy, certification, manufacturing, maintenance readiness, and operational planning. She also established the Market Intelligence capability at Woven by Toyota, providing strategic insights that support leadership decisions on emerging mobility technologies for the automotive ecosystem.

Before joining the Toyota Group, Patrícia spent more than 20 years at Embraer, contributing to several aircraft programs before joining the team that launched EmbraerX's Urban Air Mobility project, which later evolved into Eve Air Mobility. This experience gave her a unique perspective, combining the discipline of conventional aerospace with the agility required to develop an entirely new aviation ecosystem.

Beyond her corporate responsibilities, Patrícia serves as a Senior Advisor to the Advanced Air Mobility Institute (AAMI), contributes to international advisory boards, and mentors young entrepreneurs and students in Japan. She is passionate about sharing knowledge and strengthening collaboration among industry, academia, government, and regulators to support the responsible growth of AAM.

Recognized among the Top 50 Advanced Air



Mobility Changemakers, Patrícia is known for connecting engineering, certification, operations, and business strategy to transform complex challenges into practical solutions.

Throughout her career from Embraer to Toyota, she has built bridges between the aerospace and automotive industries, helping combine the strengths of both sectors to accelerate the safe commercialization of Advanced Air Mobility.

Through her technical expertise, strategic leadership, and international perspective, she continues to foster collaboration across organizations and disciplines, helping create practical pathways for safe, scalable, and commercially viable AAM while inspiring more women to pursue careers and leadership opportunities in aerospace.





North America Conference Phoenix, Arizona – April 2027

eVTOL Insights is pleased to announce its next North America Conference will be in Phoenix, Arizona and is scheduled for late April 2027. Exact dates and venue details will be confirmed in due course.

Following the continued growth and success of its North America Conference series, the latest of which happened at the National Advanced Air Mobility Center of Excellence in Ohio last week, eVTOL Insights is bringing its event to one of the United States' fastest-growing innovation hubs.

Phoenix offers a dynamic ecosystem for aerospace, technology and mobility, making it an ideal location to convene global industry leaders, policymakers, investors and innovators shaping the future of eVTOL aircraft and urban air mobility.

The 2027 conference will build on previous editions, by delivering high-level keynote presentations, panel discussions and networking opportunities. Attendees can expect in-depth insights into a host of different industry topics, from certification, infrastructure, operations and emerging technologies driving the AAM market forward.

Two site visits will also be organised either side of the conference, giving delegates an exclusive opportunity to go behind the scenes of companies working in this industry.

And in addition to the conference, eVTOL Insights will once again host its Global AAM Awards after the program finishes, recognising continued excellence in Individual, Team and Company categories.

Speaker and sponsorship opportunities are now available, with various packages to cater for additional exposure and awareness.

For more information, please contact Sam Bromley, Sales Manager at eVTOL Insights, via email. He can be reached via sam@evtolinsights.com

Further details, including confirmed dates, venue, speaker announcements and registration information, will be released in the coming months.

LAURIE MCKNIGHT

SENIOR RESEARCH
MANAGER AT OHIO
UNIVERSITY'S VOINOVICH
SCHOOL OF LEADERSHIP
AND PUBLIC SERVICE

Throughout her career, Laurie has worked extensively with community leaders to prepare citizens for promising industry opportunities. Recognizing the potential of Advanced Air Mobility in Appalachia, particularly for recent graduates and new workforce entrants, she has spearheaded efforts to bring this industry to the region.

As a Senior Research Manager at Ohio University's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Service, Laurie develops and deploys innovative community engagement programs.

'As important as AAM technology and aviation feasibility issues are, Laurie has been brilliantly engaging with Appalachian civic leadership to ensure that the region's GA airports - of which there are 230 - and the communities they serve are prepared to support AAM.'

She recently completed a study for the Appalachian Regional Commission to look at how general aviation airports could be used as an economic driver for its Appalachian counties.

Many of these airports are not equipped to handle the new infrastructure associated with AAM, so educating these LDDs was important to begin getting them to think about how they would best utilize this rapidly evolving technology.

Laurie visited and presented at nine LDDs in



Kentucky, four in Ohio and a colleague presented at two in North Carolina. The goal was to get these LDDs interested and thinking about how this could be best utilised in their region.

Laurie plays a critical role in helping general aviation (GA) airport managers understand facility requirements for emerging AAM aircraft. Notably, she led the design of an expansion to Ohio University's flight training programs, integrating electric aircraft into the instructional fleet and establishing nearby GA airports as a regional AAM Training Network.

By expanding pilot training capacity and integrating electric aircraft, Laurie is breaking down financial barriers and expanding access to high-growth aviation careers for youth throughout Appalachia.

OHIO
UNIVERSITY
Voinovich School of
Leadership and Public Service



KANYARAT NANTHAVISIT

REGULATORY & SAFETY LEAD, SKYPORTS DRONE SERVICES

Kanyarat has become one of the driving forces behind the company's ability to conduct complex, first-of-a-kind drone operations across multiple countries and regulatory regimes.

Since joining Skyports in October 2024 as a Regulatory & Safety Associate, she was promoted to lead the function in January 2026, a rapid progression that reflects the trust placed in her technical judgement and her ability to translate cutting-edge drone capabilities into terms that regulators can approve with confidence.

Her path into aviation is anything but conventional. Kanya trained as a civil engineer in Thailand before deliberately pivoting into aviation, first as cabin crew with Nok Air, then as a Public Aerodrome Standards Division Officer with the Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand (CAAT), where she worked on the regulator's side of the table overseeing aerodrome filings.

She further strengthened that foundation by completing a Master's in Airport Planning and Management at Cranfield University before joining Skyports. That journey, from engineer, cabin crew, and regulator to industry-side regulatory lead, has given her a rare 360-degree perspective on how new aviation technologies earn the right to operate safely.

This perspective has helped Skyports secure some of the most significant regulatory breakthroughs in the advanced air mobility sector over the past year.

Kanya's team has secured a run of regulatory milestones that are directly expanding what is



operationally possible in drone logistics and BVLOS (beyond visual line of sight) flight.

Beyond the technical achievements, Kanya is a visible example of what a modern aviation regulatory career can look like. As a Thai woman who has built her career across continents and disciplines, including civil engineering, commercial aviation, government regulation, and now Advanced Air Mobility, she embodies the diversity of experience and perspective that the AAM industry needs as it matures. She has spoken openly about how Skyports' culture of recognising capability over background enabled her to build her career, and she continues to champion that same openness for those entering the industry, particularly professionals transitioning from conventional aviation and engineering.

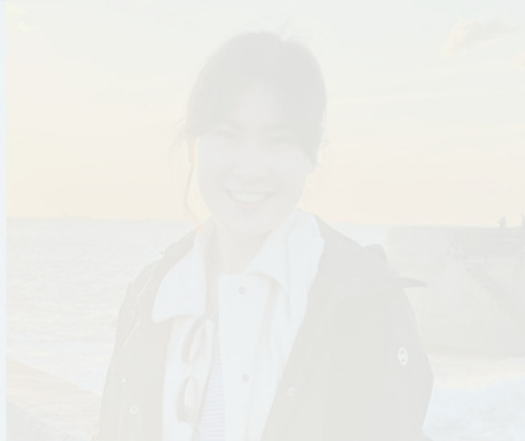


Skyports
DRONE SERVICES

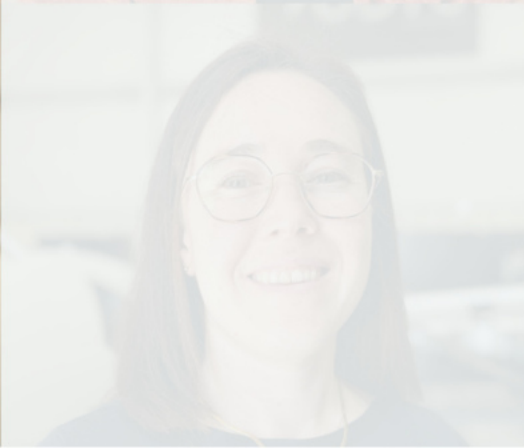


eVTOL INSIGHTS

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF
ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY



WOMEN IN AAM
SPECIAL REPORT 2026



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