

Safety in Airworthiness

Thursday 15th January 2026

London, UK

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AGENDA

Moderator: Ian Dearing, Chief Surveyor - Airworthiness, 2-REG Aircraft Registry

8.45 - Registration & Networking Coffee

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9.15 - Opening Remarks

Panagiotis Panagopoulos, CEO & Founder, Aeropodium

Ian Dearing, Chief Surveyor Airworthiness, 2-REG Aircraft Registry

9.45 - A Regulator's View of Safety in Airworthiness

Ian Dearing, Chief Surveyor - Airworthiness, 2-REG Aircraft Registry

ICAO and the management of the State Aviation Safety System including the State Safety Plan. Aviation Regulations, the minimum standard for safe operations. Responsibilities for compliance and safety. Independent monitoring and safety assurance. The Regulatory role and support to industry. What the regulators are seeing.

10.15 - Safety in Part 21

Jack Coleman, Safety Manager, Initial Airworthiness, Airbus Helicopters UK

Jack will clarify what Safety Management Systems (SMS) aim for in design approval, distinguishing SMS objectives from traditional aircraft safety requirements. We'll examine key organisational factors currently influencing design organisations and discuss how SMS should be viewed as an evolution, not a revolution. Crucially, the presentation will argue that SMS should support rather than compete with the independent monitoring function, reinforcing both safety assurance and compliance oversight within the design environment.

10.45 - Measuring Safety in Continuing Airworthiness

Paul White, Continuing Airworthiness Consultant

Paul aims to connect with colleagues who share a passion for aviation safety, regulatory compliance, and airworthiness management. He is eager to share insights on overcoming the challenges of evolving aviation regulations and to collaborate on advancing next-generation standards for operational safety and quality. His presentation will investigate how continuing airworthiness organisations can measure their contribution to safety performance.

11.15 - Networking Coffee Break

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11.45 – Worldwide SMS Issues and How to Solve Them

Silas Hays, SMS Designer, Trainer & Safety Culture Specialist

1. Safety Leadership Engagement

- Leadership's role in Safety Culture, Just Culture, Policy Implementation, Management of Change and Integration across Departments/Functions

2. Proactive Hazard Identification

- Many organisations rely on reactive reporting rather than proactive methods like audits, safety surveys, or facilitated workshops (e.g. BowTie or HAZID sessions).

3. Risk-Based Decision Making (ALARP/Tolerability)

- Hazards are identified, but decisions are not consistently based on robust risk assessment or tolerability frameworks. Risk escalation and communication pathways are often unclear.

4. SMS Performance Monitoring

- Organisations collect volumes of safety data but don't measure **SMS performance** itself. KPIs focus on lagging indicators (e.g. number of reports) rather than system effectiveness or outcomes.

5. Occurrence Investigation Quality

- Investigations are often too shallow, focus on individual error, or skip thorough root cause analysis. Lessons are not fully integrated into systemic safety improvements.

12.15 - Uncrewed Aerial Systems (UAS) – Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) Operations

Becky Smith, Continuing Airworthiness Manager and UAS Accountable Manager, National Grid

- Introduction to Critical National Infrastructure (CNI) aerial inspections and 'Project Atticus'
- Relationship between crewed and uncrewed operations at NGET
- Advancements, regulatory considerations, and operational constraints for scaled BVLOS operations
- Managing deconfliction of internal operations, third party operations, and CNI intersections
- The importance of EDI and psychological safety in airworthiness

12.45 - Networking Lunch Break

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13.45 – Delivering the Next Generation of Safety Professionals

Nicola Osborne, Director Safety & Compliance, Titan Airways

- Building solid foundations
- Key challenges
- Driving competence
- The practicalities in an operational environment
- Solutions as a destination

14.30 - Influencing Aviation Safety Behaviours and Promoting Wellbeing

Sam Lee, Managing Director, Integra Aerospace

Sam will discuss, on a personal level, why we often observe people behaving in a way that we don't understand and what we can do about it. This session will provide a thought-provoking perspective on what it takes to see change and transformation, both at a corporate level and personally.

15.00 – Networking Coffee Break

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15.30 – Speakers' Panel Q&A

16.30 - Concluding Remarks

SPEAKERS

Jack Coleman, Safety Manager, Initial Airworthiness, Airbus Helicopters UK

With 12 years of experience in initial airworthiness across both civilian and military aviation, Jack has worked on a wide range of platforms from large fixed-wing aircraft to rotary-wing systems. A former Compliance Verification Engineer (CVE) and an established safety trainer, Jack also brings valuable expertise in auditing within the design domain. Jack's particularly passionate is about the gamification of training and is a strong advocate for shifting how the industry views compliance, safety, and performance, believing that a fresh perspective is key to the continued success of aviation.

Ian Dearing, Chief Surveyor Airworthiness, 2-REG Aircraft Registry

Ian has over 35 years of working in aviation across both military and civil environments, whilst holding Executive Management positions with a Regulator, Airlines, MROs and Consultant organisations. He is an EASA licensed aircraft Engineer (B1,B2,C) holding a Bachelor of Aircraft Engineering (BEng) degree. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society (FRAeS), Member of the Institute of Engineering and Technology (MIET) and Associate Member of the Association for Project Managers. Ian has previously held an EASA Form 4 position for the Continuing Airworthiness Management of a cargo Airline fleet.

Silas Hays, SMS Designer, Trainer & Safety Culture Specialist

Silas Hays is a Chartered Engineer and internationally recognised expert in Safety Management Systems (SMS), with over 30 years of experience spanning military and civil aviation. With a foundation in aeronautical engineering and airworthiness, he has designed and implemented SMS frameworks for organisations including Boeing Defence UK, Thales, Cobham, and the UK Ministry of Defence. Silas is a CAA International-qualified SMS evaluator, a certified Lead Auditor, and a seasoned investigator with hundreds of safety reviews to his name.

He specialises in SMS strategy, safety culture, Human Factors, and regulatory compliance across ICAO, EASA, CAA, MAA, and Def Stan 00-056 frameworks. A regular speaker at industry events such as FlightGlobal and RAeS symposia, Silas is also the founder of THI-SMS, delivering bespoke SMS diagnostics, training, and coaching. His approach blends deep technical knowledge with cultural insight to deliver practical, sustainable improvements in airworthiness and organisational safety.

Sam Lee, Managing Director, Integra Aerospace

Sam is passionate about making a difference and has dedicated the past decade to building a company that is truly aspiring to engage with people in our industry in ways often unseen in aviation training. His creative, personable, and engaging approach often challenges the way people think, specifically when it comes to safety training and human factors. Beginning his career as a teenager cleaning PA38 Tomahawks in return for flying time, Sam earned his way to gaining both pilot and engineering licenses, instructed at a Technical College, before venturing into the learning and development space to shake things up by starting Integra Aerospace, a team of people who are passionate about creating training that is interactive and engaging.

Nicola Osborne, Director Safety & Compliance, Titan Airways

Nicola Osborne is an accomplished aviation safety leader with extensive international experience, having served as EASA and UK CAA Safety Manager (covering CAMO, 145

and AOC approvals) for several operators across the UK and Europe. Nicola's passion for aviation was evident from a young age, as she began flying light aircraft at fifteen and later became a commercial pilot after earning a Business Management degree from the University of Sheffield. Nicola is recognized for their strategic leadership in building proactive safety cultures and driving operational resilience through collaboration and accountability. Her cross-functional expertise spans AOC, CAMO, 145, as well as Commercial Air Transport (CAT) and Specialised Operations (SPO) approvals. As a respected leader and advocate for safety, Nicola is dedicated to sharing her knowledge and experiences, offering valuable insights into the future of aviation safety and the challenges faced in an operator environment.

Becky Smith, Continuing Airworthiness Manager and UAS Accountable Manager, National Grid

Becky was the first female apprentice at Airbus Helicopters UK (fka Eurocopter) where she progressed to Licensed Engineer, managing maintenance inspections across a broad civil and military portfolio, before moving into technical, regulatory, project, and contract management roles. Becky joined National Grid Electricity Transmission (NGET) in 2023 and graduated from the University of Warwick in 2024, obtaining MSc with Distinction in Engineering Business Management. Becky is the CAA Nominated Postholder responsible for airworthiness of the NGET helicopter fleet; Accountable Manager responsible for NGET drone operations; Trustee of Devon Air Ambulance; Member of the Institute of Engineering and Technology (MIET); Samaritans Listening Volunteer; and dedicated change-maker, passionate about EDI, social mobility and mental health.

Paul White, Continuing Airworthiness Consultant

With a distinguished track record of over 35 years supporting continuing airworthiness, Paul is committed to advancing the highest standards of safety and operational excellence. Drawing on extensive experience as an Independent Consultant he has delivered expert guidance for both CAMO (Continuing Airworthiness Management Organisation) and MRO (Maintenance, Repair & Overhaul) organisations across the globe, supporting regulatory approvals and upskilling teams to ensure ongoing compliance with UK CAA, EASA and EASA based requirements. Paul is a Member of the Royal Aeronautical Society (MRAeS) and the International Federation of Airworthiness (IFA). Utilising his skills in consulting, Paul is currently a Nominated Person for UK CAA Part-CAMO, Part-CAO and Part-145 organisations, championing best practices in regulatory alignment, safety management, and compliance monitoring whilst also delivering specialist support and training in in these areas working closely with organisational leadership and nominated persons to instil robust airworthiness and compliance cultures.