

Speakers Biographies



Hazel Courteney

State Safety Programme Manager
Civil Aviation Authority, Republic of San Marino

Will introduce and moderate the session.

Hazel is an established international consultant in aviation safety management and human factors, often working on behalf of EASA, ICAO and IATA in Europe, Middle East, Africa and Asia. She Chaired the ICAO Safety Management Panel that developed Annex 19 on Safety Management including the requirements for State Safety Programmes and Safety Management Systems.

Previously she spent 20 years at the UK CAA and has also worked in Safety and Performance at NATS, and in Aircraft Design at British Aerospace, Westland Helicopters and Easams Systems House. She continues to provide some consultancy in aircraft design, particularly rotorcraft. She has a Ph.D. in Aircraft Design and in her spare time, she flew light aircraft for 15 years.



Marco Conti

Director General
Civil Aviation Authority, Republic of San Marino

Introductions

Born in Rimini, Marco Conti graduated in mechanical engineering at the University of Bologna.

From 1995 to 2009 he directed the Vehicle Registry Office of the Republic of San Marino and in 2010, for the April-October mandate, he held the highest office of the Republic of San Marino, being elected Captain Regent and exercising the functions of Head of State.

Since March 2009 he has been Director General of the Civil Aviation, Maritime Navigation and Homologation Authority of the Republic of San Marino.



Jorge Colindres

Chairman

San Marino Aircraft Registry

Introductions

Sir Jorge Colindres Marinakis is the Founder, Owner and Executive Chairman of Aviation Registry Group of Companies, a pioneering organization in the aviation industry. With over thirty years of experience spanning aircraft sales, acquisitions, certification, and regulatory matters, Sir Jorge has made a lasting impact on the industry. His vision and leadership have guided to found, develop, and manage two of the world's most respected aircraft registries- The Registry of Aruba, founded in 1995 and the San Marino Aircraft Registry, founded in 2012.

These Registries serve an elite clientele that includes Heads of State, royal families, high-profile individuals and well-regarded aircraft operators from around the globe. Mr. Colindres is well regarded for his exceptional relationships with clients and his expertise. Before his aviation career, Mr. Colindres served as a Lieutenant JG Piranhas for the Special Forces of the Honduran Navy, awarded with the distinguished navy medal second-grade, showcasing his leadership and commitment to service. In recognition for his contributions, he was honored by the Republic of San Marino as a Knight of the Order of Saint Agatha and was inducted into the Honor Wall of the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum in Washington, DC—a testament to his legacy and pioneering influence.



David Colindres

President

San Marino Aircraft Registry

Introductions

Early Life and Education:

David Colindres was born in Honduras into a family with a deep passion for aviation. Growing up, he was surrounded by stories of pilots and aircraft, fueling his own fascination with the industry. Born and raised in the heart of aviation, he developed a keen interest in aircraft technology and regulations from a young age.

David pursued his education at Purdue University Krannert Business School with a focus on International Business and Marketing, earning a degree from this prestigious university. His academic journey equipped him with a solid understanding of the complexities of the aviation industry, including aircraft registration processes, safety regulations, and international aviation laws.

Career Path:

After completing his education, David embarked on a dynamic career in aviation with his father "The Godfather of Aircraft Registries" Sir Jorge Colindres. He began his professional journey working for the family business and world renowned The Registry of Aruba, where he gained invaluable experience in aircraft registration, transactions, regulatory compliance, and international aviation. His expertise and dedication quickly earned him recognition within the industry.

David's passion for aviation and his desire to contribute to the industry's growth led him to transition within five (5) years to a role as VP of Operations of The Registry of Aruba. He joined the aviation regulatory arena of Aruba, where he played a key role in shaping aviation policies and overseeing the registration and certification of aircraft. His leadership skills and strategic vision propelled him to increasingly senior positions within the company.

Appointment as President of the San Marino Aircraft Registry:

In recognition of his exceptional leadership and expertise, David was appointed as the President of the San Marino Aircraft Registry. As the head of the registry, he is responsible for overseeing the registration and certification of all civil aircraft. His role involves ensuring compliance with international Civil Aviation Standards, enhancing the efficiency of registration processes, and fostering collaboration with industry stakeholders.

Under David's leadership, the aircraft registry has achieved as of December 2023, 417 active registrations and 938 in total since 2012. Have implemented innovative solutions to streamline registration procedures, improve data accuracy, and enhance transparency. His commitment to excellence and dedication to safety have earned him the respect of his peers and the trust of the aviation community.

Vision for the Future:

As President of the San Marino Aircraft Registry, David is driven by a vision of advancing the registry's capabilities to meet the evolving needs of the aviation industry. He is committed to leveraging technology and modernizing processes to enhance the efficiency and reliability of aircraft registration services. Additionally, he is focused on promoting international cooperation and harmonization to facilitate seamless aircraft transactions across borders.

David's unwavering dedication to aviation safety, regulatory compliance, and customer service continues to position the aircraft registry as a global leader in the field. His passion for aviation and his visionary leadership inspire confidence and drive progress in the industry.



Gretchen Haskins

Former UK CAA Group Director and NATS
Safety Director

How to Get Your Boss Engaged in Safety

Gretchen Haskins is a board member for HeliOffshore Ltd. An organisation dedicated to global aviation safety. She is an aviation industry leader in safety performance improvement and an internationally-recognised expert in human factors.

Previously, she was CEO of HeliOffshore and before that served on the board of the UK Civil Aviation Authority as Group Director of Safety, overseeing aviation safety in the UK. Prior to that, Gretchen was Group Director of Safety at the UK air traffic company NATS where she championed activities to support frontline operational safety. Gretchen has worked in nuclear certification and safety of intercontinental ballistic missiles, joint airworthiness trials for military aircraft, defense system design and as an expert advisor to NATO on human performance and safety critical system.

She has a strong aviation background and has flown jet and piston aircraft in the U.S. Air Force. She is a graduate of the US Air Force Academy and the University of Southern California.



Stefan Schwindt

is Senior Principal - Aviation Cybersecurity
GE Aerospace

GPS Spoofing and Cyber Risks for Operators

He has a leading role in cybersecurity, for both the GE Product range and in international activities and the development of international standards.

As chairman for the ED203A on Airworthiness security (protection of the airworthiness of an aircraft from intentional unauthorized electronic interaction) he was recognised with the RTCA Significant Contributor Award.

Stefan holds an M.Eng in Aerospace Engineering from UMIST, a D.Phil in Solid Mechanics from the University of Oxford and an Executive MBA from ESCP Europe.



Domenico Carlo Marino

International Lawyer

*Accountability, Reporting and Protection of
Safety Information*

Domenico Carlo (Dom) Marino is a Risk Management, Legal, and Compliance Expert with 20 years of experience in the aviation industry. Domenico's experience focuses on legal and regulatory support, performance improvement, and strategic thinking, primarily at the state level, but also to ensure legal and regulatory fitness of projects undertaken by major stakeholders.

He initially developed a strong foundation as a civil litigator in the USA aviation sector but enhanced strategic and regulatory abilities through senior management roles in strategy and policy at the UK Civil Aviation Authority.

Domenico currently collaborates with international aviation organisations, national aviation authorities, sovereign states, and aviation companies to assist them in fulfilling their strategic objectives and ensuring optimal performance and regulatory compliance.



Frank Bauer

Head of Airworthiness
Civil Aviation Authority, Republic of San Marino

SMS for Airworthiness

Frank has been working in aviation since 1987. He started his career with a German Navy squadron as Crew Chief and Petty Officer and then worked for various prestigious European aircraft maintenance organisations in Germany and Switzerland as a Certifying Staff including Run-up and taxi authorisations.

In 2000, he became Maintenance Controller at Netjets Europe in Portugal/Lisbon where he was fundamental in helping establish the Maintenance Control section. His next job brought him back to Switzerland, where he worked as Deputy Postholder Maintenance (JAA), but later also as Nominated Postholder Continuous Airworthiness (EASA) for various Swiss AOCs. In 2008 he was authorised by the Swiss FOCA to issue and recommend airworthiness review certificates for all aircraft that the CAMO had in the approval plan. He later received this authorisation also from the UK CAA.

His path to becoming a regulator began in 2010, initially as an Airworthiness Surveyor for the Isle of Man, followed by the San Marino CAA in December 2013 as Airworthiness Inspector. In addition, since 7 years, he is the only person authorised by CASA Australia to issue CoAs, who is not residing in Australia.

In 2021, he was promoted to Head of Airworthiness for San Marino, leading now a team of more than 30 designated Airworthiness Inspectors based globally across 5 continents. He also led the airworthiness team that was able to achieve FAA CAT 1 approval in 2023.



Tony Heather

Deputy Head of Airworthiness
Civil Aviation Authority, Republic of San Marino

SMS for Airworthiness

Tony has been in the Aviation business now for some 54 years, during that time he has worked in the Regulatory environment approximately 35 years. 20 plus years with UK CAA as an Airworthiness Surveyor and for the last 10 years he has worked with San Marino CAA and SMAR as a Senior Airworthiness Inspector and is also the Deputy Head of Airworthiness.

Notably Tony was one of two subject matter experts assigned to represent EASA during the investigations of a major aircraft accident of a B747 – flight TWA 800 – where the centre wing fuel tank exploded during the climb phase. He also was the EASA rule drafting chairman for the Electrical Wiring Interconnect System (EWIS) and Fuel Tank Safety regulation changes.

Tony has worked with several organisations assisting them in their implementation of a Safety Management System and is a keen advocate of keeping an SMS simple and proportionate for the organisation in question.



Kerstin Mumenthaler

Accountable Manager
Axis Aviation

SMS OPS: Our Journey

Kerstin's vocation is aviation and to be a pilot, holding an ATPL since 2004. She has turned this passion into a career and besides flying for over 20 years, she also has a very extensive background in all areas of commercial aviation, including proven knowledge in safety management (Master of Science in Air Safety Management, City University London in 2005), including as Safety Officer for the Airbus fleet of a former German airline and as Emergency Response Manager, where she implemented business continuity/crisis procedures, conducting exercises, training executives in leadership roles, crisis communication and crisis team procedures, and implementing systems for Special Assistance Teams (SAT) and Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM).

And so she focused her academic training on this and has held leadership positions alongside flying throughout her career, including trainer for basic business continuity management/crisis management and psychological special assistance teams, and lecturer at Kalaidos University, Switzerland and TÜV SÜD Academy, Germany.

Today she is Accountable Manager of Axis Aviation and their AOCs in San Marino and Switzerland.

She is always looking for new challenges in the industry; standing still is definitely not for her. With Axis, she shares the vision of creating a new customer journey in business aviation, using digitalization for more transparent, efficient and safer operations.



Menno-Klaas van der Heide

Global Director | Head of Premium Markets
Lilium GmbH

Safety Issue in Manufacturing New Technologies

Menno-Klaas van der Heide is the Global Head of Premium Markets at Lilium, where he is responsible for spearheading the company's strategy in high-end aviation markets. Since joining Lilium early 2024, he is responsible for driving global sales. His focus is on innovation, operational efficiency, and aligning Lilium's strategic objectives with the rapidly evolving landscape of sustainable aviation.

With over two decades of leadership experience across the aviation, mobility, and consulting industries, Menno has held senior roles at NetJets Europe and Capgemini. At NetJets, he served as Senior Vice President, leading commercial strategies and driving market expansion across Europe. At Capgemini, he worked on business development and growth strategies within the aerospace and aviation sectors.

Lilium, founded with the vision of creating a new era of regional air mobility, is developing an all-electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) jet. Using the Lilium Jet, designed to offer leading capacity, low noise, and high performance with zero operating emissions, Lilium is accelerating the decarbonization of air travel. In this presentation, Menno will provide an overview of Lilium's business model, the unique advantages of the Lilium Jet, and the current regulatory landscape. He will also discuss the critical role of air and ground infrastructure in enabling the safe and efficient deployment of eVTOL technology, as well as the regulatory challenges Lilium faces as it moves toward commercial operations.



Ashwani Gupta

Safety Manager
Empire Aviation

Empire Aviation on Aviation Safety

Ashwani Gupta is a seasoned aviation professional with an extensive career spanning commercial, private, and military aviation. He specialises in safety management systems (SMS) and has been a pivotal Empire Aviation Management team member since 2012. During his tenure, Ashwani successfully implemented ICAO-compliant Safety Management Systems under various regulators, including the SM CAA, ensuring top-tier safety standards across the board.

Ashwani's background is enriched by his military service, where he excelled as a flight crew, instructor, examiner, and inspector. This diverse experience laid a strong foundation for his subsequent roles in commercial aviation, including a notable tenure with Air India, where he was instrumental in achieving IOSA compliance.

Ashwani's qualifications include a Diploma in Safety Management from IATA, underscoring his safety oversight and regulatory compliance expertise. His passion for safety, training, and operations is evident in his commitment to fostering a robust safety culture within the aviation industry.



Capt Paul Stephens

Head of Flight Operations
Civil Aviation Authority, Republic of San Marino

SMS for Flight Operations

Paul Stephens has been Head of Flight Operations for San Marino Civil Aviation Authority for the last 3 years having spent 4 years as a Designated Flight Operations Inspector. He is a highly motivated aviation professional with over 40 years of experience in a variety of roles.

He has held positions as Flight Operations and Training Manager postholder for Commercial Air Transport Operations including professional duties as Instructor, Examiner and Senior Examiner. Served 20 years with the UK CAA as a Senior Flight Operations Training Standards Inspector.

He has significant experience in the development of EASA aircrew regulations as well as taking a key role in the implementation project of these regulations in the UK CAA within Flight Operations, Licensing and Training Standards and ATO Approvals.

He has held positions as EASA chair of the OEB for Boeing 737 and Bombardier Global products and was technical lead for overseas assistance projects to National Aviation Authorities across the Globe for both EASA and UK CAA International.

He was part of the delivery team for the UK CAA implementation of basic, intermediate and advanced SMS training for all departments within the UK CAA.

He lives in the UK with his wife and has a daughter and grandson and is an avid sailor.



Claudio E. Pacozzi

Deputy Head of Flight Operations
Civil Aviation Authority, Republic of San Marino

SMS for Flight Operations

Claudio has accumulated nearly four decades of experience in the aviation industry. He spent almost 15 years as an airline captain, instructor, and check-airman before transitioning to the Swiss Federal Office of Civil Aviation, where he served as a flight operations inspector and project manager. After several years in the regulatory sector, Claudio returned to the industry as a captain on various business jets and assumed the role of a Nominated Person Crew Training for a prominent business jet operator in Europe.

A few years ago, Claudio decided to hang up his captain's hat and embarked on a new adventure as a consultant and auditor for IS-BAO and IOSA.

He advocates for the principles of a lean and efficient organization, emphasizing the importance of individual responsibility. In addition to his consulting work, Claudio continues to serve as a compliance monitoring officer for a Swiss helicopter operator.

For the past few years, he has been a member of the designated flight operations inspector team at SMAR. In his capacity as a senior flight operations inspector, he also serves as the deputy to Captain Paul Stephens, the Head of Flight Operations.

Claudio resides in Switzerland with his wife and has two grown daughters. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his grandson, hiking in the picturesque Swiss landscapes, and sailing.



Artur Koloszar

Safety and Compliance Monitoring Manager
Q.C.M. Holding AG

SMS AIR: Our Journey

Artur is a distinguished aviation professional with a comprehensive background in continuing airworthiness, quality assurance, and safety management. Currently serving as the Safety and Compliance Monitoring Manager at Q.C.M. Holding AG, Artur has been pivotal in implementing an effective safety management system within the Q.C.M. group.

Artur's career began as a Maintenance Engineer, where he developed a strong foundation. At Q.C.M. camo plus AG, Artur served as Maintenance Coordinator and Airworthiness Review Staff, ensuring compliance with stringent airworthiness standards. Additionally, as a postholder for different organizations, Artur further specialized in maintaining airworthiness protocols.

Demonstrating an ongoing commitment to quality and education, Artur currently holds several key positions: Safety and Compliance Monitoring Manager at Q.C.M. camo plus AG, Part-147 Quality Manager and Instructor at Q.C.M. Quality Control Management AG, Independent System Monitoring Manager at Q.C.M. Design GmbH, and EN9100 Quality Manager at Q.C.M. Flamelab Sp. z.o.o.

Artur's expertise and dedication to safety and compliance make him an invaluable asset in the aviation industry, offering insightful perspectives on implementing safety management in Continuing Airworthiness Management Organizations.



Holger Ostheimer

Managing Director
DC Aviation Al-Futtaim

DC Aviation on Aviation Safety

Holger is the Managing Director of DC Aviation Al-Futtaim in Dubai. A joint venture business between the DC Aviation Group and the Dubai based international business conglomerate Al-Futtaim.

He has been advising both JV partners in the making of the organization before taking on managing the live business in 2012.

During the buildup stages Holger formed a team in Dubai to provide technical expertise on developing the hangar facility structure, establishing all operational, administrative and commercial structures, as well as obtaining a UAE aircraft operator certificate and a CAR 145 maintenance organization.

Originally educated at Frankfurt's Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Germany in the area of Sports Science, Biology and Education he built his career with extensive experience in the areas of airline operations, aircraft brokerage, flight support as well as obtaining a commercial flight crew license back in 2001.

Holger is a passionate business professional with a strong emphasis on premium quality operations and an understanding for people relations.



Shafiul Alom Syed

Chief Executive Officer
RoyalJet

RoyalJet on Aviation Safety

Shafiul Syed is a seasoned aviation executive, a dynamic leader with more than three and a half decades of experience in the aviation industry.

Throughout his career, he has held key leadership positions across various departments, including engineering, operations, customer service, and marketing

His extensive background has provided him with a deep understanding of the industry and a comprehensive view of the evolving aviation landscape. Shaf is widely recognized for his motivational leadership, customer-centric approach, and strategic vision.

He has a proven track record of driving change initiatives and implementing successful business strategies, effectively transforming plans into actionable solutions.



Capt. Sakeer C. Sheik

Managing Director
Titan Aviation

Titan Aviation on Aviation Safety

Capt. Sakeer C. Sheik is the Founder and Managing Director of Titan Aviation, a leading aircraft management company headquartered in Dubai, UAE, with a global presence. Driven by a passion for aviation and a career distinguished by innovation, Capt. Sakeer has had a pivotal role in corporate aviation.

Beginning his career in the mid-1990s with a Pilot Training Academy, Capt. Sakeer emerged as one of the youngest pilots to own an aircraft in India. In 2004, he established Titan Aviation in Dubai, building it into a prominent name within the industry.

An alumnus of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Florida, Capt. Sakeer has also served as a Board Member and Government Representative for various aviation companies in the Middle East. As a seasoned industry veteran, Capt. Sakeer has demonstrated that owning or chartering a private jet can be a cost-effective choice for high-net-worth individuals and large corporations, offering significant time savings and tangible benefits. He is a devoted advocate for flight safety, dedicated to steering clients away from the grey charter market and promoting best practices in Safety Management Systems.

A forward-thinking leader, Capt. Sakeer is committed to embracing technology and driving business innovation. He champions sustainability practices and is at the forefront of integrating new innovations in the industry, such as EVTOL (Electric Vertical Take-Off and Landing) and UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles). His strategic vision and dedication to advancing corporate aviation, while upholding the highest safety standards, are driving progress in the industry.



David Van Den Langenbergh

Chief Technical Officer
LuxAviation Group

Luxaviation on Aviation Safety

David Van Den Langenbergh has over 20 years of experience in business and commercial aviation. A native of Schoten, Belgium, David, 44, was Airworthiness Manager of Belgium-based Abelag Aviation, which he joined in 2006 as head of Part 145 repair station maintenance. Prior to that, he worked for ten years as line and base maintenance manager at Lufthansa Technik and Delta. His early years were spent in general aviation, first at Bossaerts Aviation Service, then Styl Aviation and finally ABC Aviation, where he worked as a mechanic before moving up to the post of inspector. David entered aviation right out of vocational school and is largely self-taught. He obtained his pilot's license at the tender age of 21

He and became Chief Technical Officer of Luxaviation Group in September 2014. David has been a Dassault Falcon Operators Advisory Board member for 10 years and served as chairman from 2013 to 2018.

Since 2016 he's board member of the General Aviation Manufacturer's Association where he's a member of the Airworthiness & Maintenance Committee. David discusses on a regular basis with EASA, FAA and EU aviation representatives to support Business and General Aviation interests.

In 2024 David was elected to join EBAA's board of Governors and has an active role supporting Business Aviation with a specific focus on Airworthiness, Part 66 licensing and Safety in general. David is also accountable Manager for the Luxaviation San Marino AOC, offering an international commercial operation platform for aircraft owners that need a flexible solution combined with professional, secure and safe aviation environment.