

AUGUST 2025



VOL.2 - ISSUE 10

Newsletter from The Commercial Aviation Association of Southern Africa NPC

From our CEO & GM

It is in woman's month where the world must reflect on the input and value many woman deliver into aviation- it is only fitting that this month that we focus on women in aviation and I hereby hand over my regular slot in our newsletter to **Melissa Sewgolam**, the grease in the wheels of CAASA, the ATC of the boards plans and in real terms a wonderful person that brings that 4th dimension to all we do.

Kevin

Women in Aviation: Leading with Resilience and Vision

With a month dedicated to women, it is fitting to pause and reflect on the vital role we play in shaping the aviation sector.

That said, this recognition should not be limited to a single month; we must embody it daily. Women in aviation bring dedication, confidence, and capabilities that continue to drive progress, innovation, and success across the industry.

Why It Matters

The presence of women in aviation is not only about fairness and equal opportunities; it is also about empowerment. It is about positive outcomes for all. It is about how women contribute to the growth, leadership, and sustainability of an industry that demands precision, resilience, and vision.

Time and again, I have found myself deeply inspired by the women seated alongside me at the table, leaders and professionals whose contributions are instrumental in advancing aviation. Their impact is undeniable, and their influence continues to strengthen the sector.

Cont.



IN THIS ISSUE

[AAD2026
UPDATE](#)

[EVENTS](#)

[NEWS](#)

[CELEBRATING WOMEN
IN AVIATION](#)

[AFFILIATE PARTNER
PROFILE](#)



Lead Partner

The Power of Women in Aviation

What makes aviation truly remarkable is the industry's growing commitment to welcoming and supporting women. Everyone who steps into this space not only contributes to today's industry but also inspires the next generation to take flight.

To the ladies I work with daily: you are the backbone of society, the workplace, and the aviation sector. Your strength and ability to multitask, solve problems, and support others have been genuinely inspiring. You remind us that growth is possible, dreams are worth chasing, and this industry is as much about people as it is about planes.

My Flight Path into Aviation

Although aviation has been part of my home for nearly two decades, through my husband's career in the field, my professional path initially lay in customer relationship management. There, I learned how women help shape the very culture of organisations, driving collaboration, trust, and long-term success.

Almost three years ago, I had the opportunity to join the aviation sector directly. It was, in many ways, like experiencing a fast take-off followed by a hard landing. I quickly learned that aviation is a demanding, fast-paced, high-pressure, and rigorously regulated field.

Acronyms such as CARCOM, AIC, CATS, and CARS soon became part of my daily vocabulary. It has been a steep learning curve, but one that has offered extraordinary opportunities for growth and contribution.

Each day brings new challenges, fresh regulations to comprehend, and dynamic issues to solve. Yet, what has empowered me most is working alongside exceptional women who lead by example, setting standards of excellence that inspire not only me, but everyone around them.

Setting the Pace for the Future

Aviation is a field where women don't merely keep up with the pace; they set it. The women in this industry are pioneers, leaders and role models proving that when given the space to thrive, they lift the entire sector with them.

As I look to the future, I remain proud to be part of this journey. Women in aviation drive today's industry and secure tomorrow's skies with opportunity, equity, and excellence.



Melissa Sewgolam - CAASA General Manager



**Commercial Aviation Association
of Southern Africa NPC**

YOUR AVIATION PARTNER



2026 Lead Partner

Our Affiliate Partners



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International Airport



Come Fly with Us

At CAASA we remain invested in *your* success.

To that end, CAASA would like to support our valued member's endeavours by offering the opportunity to participate and contribute to our monthly newsletters in the months ahead.

All we need is:

1. Your company logo (JPG or PDF)
2. Your company overview, along with the products and/or services you offer (long short form)
3. Share any significant milestones (again, long or short form and any supporting visuals (JPG or PDF) – Optional
4. All your contact details, including your website and social media links.

Do this, and we'll rack and stack your contribution for inclusion. We'll also share the final copy and the laid-out page(s) with you for review and approval before publication.

Get involved and reap the benefits of getting your business in front of curated, aviation-focused peers pro bono!

Reach out to our General Manager, Melissa Sewgolam (melissa@caasa.co.za) and she'll make sure your voice is heard amongst our fellow members and beyond.

With 80 years of legacy and reputation, your contribution can only help us foster growth in your business and across our critically important aviation sector.



EARLY BIRD

**BE A PART OF THE LARGEST DEFENCE EXHIBITION
ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT WITH EXCLUSIVE
EARLY BIRD DISCOUNTS!**

BOOK YOUR SPACE NOW!

Only valid until 30 September 2025.



**Take Flight
Ahead
of the Rest**

**Book early
and enjoy
the upside**

Why Secure Your Spot Early?

1. Prime Location Advantage

Choose from the best available exhibition spaces before general allocation opens — maximise your visibility and visitor traffic.

2. Early Bird Rates = Real Savings

Take advantage of discounted pricing and secure your place at a lower cost. It's a wise investment in long-term brand exposure.

3. Extended Pre-Event Visibility

Enjoy priority inclusion in AAD2026's marketing campaigns, digital platforms, and exhibitor listings — months before the event starts.

4. More Time to Plan & Promote

Early confirmation means more lead time to design your stand, brief your team, and create high-impact engagements.

5. Be Seen as an Industry Leader

Early participation shows confidence, professionalism, and commitment to shaping the future of aerospace, defence and security in Africa.

**Space is limited, and these discounts are time sensitive -
Secure your early bird advantage today and
take off with AAD2026.**

Contact: bookings@aadexpo.co.za | www.aadexpo.co.za

[Register Here](#)

CALLING ALL GENERAL AVIATORS

AAD is inviting general aviators from across the globe to come and participate in the first ever dedicated General Aviation Hub at AAD 2026. In its 13th edition since inception, the 2026 event promises to be the best and biggest yet.



SHOW PRIC RETUM MCP - 5m X 2m



EXHIBITION MARQUEE - 5m X 20m



WALK ON PACKAGE STAND - 5m X 4m

- 2.5m H Shell Scheme walling
- 5m Fascia - printed (313mm H x 4823m W)
- 1x Lockable Cupboard
- 1x Printed logo on cupboard (893mm H x 963mm W)
- 20 sq.m carpet tiles
- Shared DB
- 1x Plug Point
- General Lighting

WHY PARTICIPATE

- Prime position: the GA park has immediate access from the VIP entrance.
- The hub offers both indoor and outdoor exhibit facilities.
- Exhibitor package includes a printed Fascia.
- Potential Fly in opportunity.
- Drone and anti-drone technology demonstrations.

With all these benefits on offer, AAD is looking forward to the participation of general aviators from around the world, from the 16th to the 20th September 2026, to showcase innovation and capabilities at the biggest defence and aviation trade exhibition and air show in Africa

- @africaaerospaceanddefence
- @aadexpo
- @aadexpo
- @africaaerospaceanddefence

COUNTRIES REPRESENTED BY DELEGATIONS

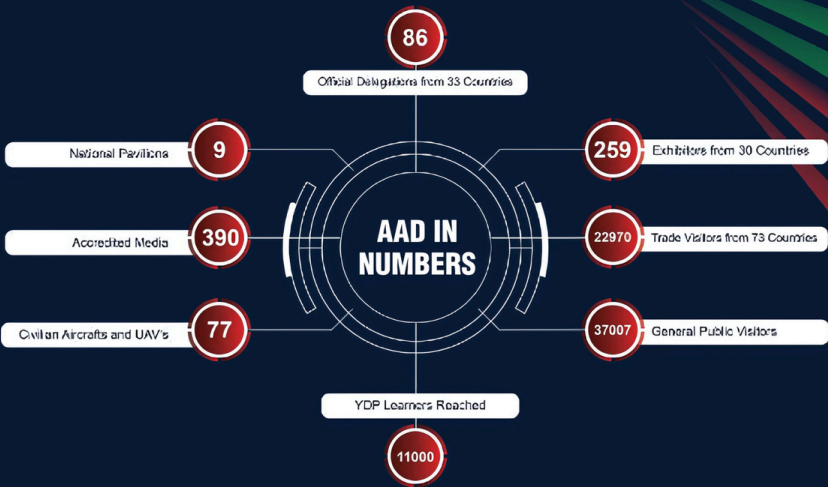


GENERAL AVIATION RATES

Total excl Branding outdoor furniture	Discounted amount till 30 September 2025	Standard Rate
Per Stand	R 32 368.00	R 35 605.00



AAD 2024 HIGHLIGHTS



AIRCRAFT RATES

Aircraft display: requires a minimum of 25sqm space booking

- (A1) Up to 3 tons
- (A2) 3.1 tons to 10 tons
- (A3) 10.1 tons to 25 tons
- (A4) 25.1 tons to 40+ tons

(A1) Up to 3 tons	R 2 500.00	R 2 500.00
(A2) 3.1 tons to 10 tons	R 4 500.00	R 4 500.00
(A3) 10.1 tons to 25 tons	R 9 200.00	R 9 200.00
(A4) 25.1 tons to 40+ tons	R 15 500.00	R 15 500.00

It is compulsory for exhibitors to enclose their aircraft and/or equipment with barriers or fencing. The above aircrafts rates are for exhibit space only and do not include landing and airport handling fees or the use of ground equipment.



Click here to view
the Sales Brochure in detail



EXPLORING NEW PATHS, SHARING SOLUTIONS
SHOWCASING INNOVATION AND CAPABILITIES

We Salute You



Honouring Women's Month: A MESSAGE FROM THE AAD EXHIBITION DIRECTOR, NAKEDI PHASHA

Annually on August 9, South Africa unites to honour Women's Day, a time for reflection, celebration, and renewed dedication to promoting gender equality. This observance, rooted in our nation's rich history of resistance and resilience, celebrates the courage and strength of South African women who have shaped the country's journey towards freedom, justice, and equity.

Women's Month 2025 is especially significant as it coincides with the celebration of International Women's Day, which this year is themed **"ACCELERATE ACTION."** The theme urges urgent, collective efforts to accelerate gender equality, with a particular emphasis on women's empowerment.

The importance of Women's Month can be traced back to the historic 1956 Women's March, when over 20,000 women of all races gathered at the Union Buildings in Pretoria to protest the oppressive pass laws of the apartheid regime. Their courageous defiance marked a crucial moment in the fight against both racial and gender discrimination. In this spirit, we remember their legacy, not as a memory fixed in time, but as a living call to action for today and the future.

At Africa Aerospace and Defence (AAD), we recognise that Women's Month is more than a commemoration; it is a national imperative. It challenges us to take stock of the progress made in achieving gender equality and to confront the very real challenges that persist.

South Africa has taken commendable strides in empowering women across politics, education, defence, and industry.

At AAD, we are proud to elevate and highlight trailblazing women who break boundaries and lead with distinction. From engineers and pilots to innovators, strategists, and peacekeepers, women are redefining what is achievable in our industries. Their contributions are invaluable, and their stories must be heard, celebrated, and amplified.

As we commemorate Women's Month, let us remember that progress is a shared responsibility. Whether through policy, mentorship, education, or advocacy, each of us has a part to play in ensuring a South Africa where every woman can thrive, feel safe, and realise her full potential.

As we celebrate AAD's 25th anniversary, we honour the formidable AAD women whose leadership, expertise, and vision have shaped our journey. From exhibition directors who charted bold new paths, to generals who broke barriers in uniform, to pioneering pilots whose courage and brilliance have been the wind beneath our wings. They are the strategists, engineers, diplomats, and innovators whose dedication has propelled AAD into its role as the continent's premier platform. Today, their legacy is not only in the milestones we celebrate, but in the boundless horizons we now dare to pursue.

This month, and always, we salute the women of our nation past, present, and future. We honour their sacrifices, celebrate their triumphs, and reaffirm our collective commitment to creating a fairer and more inclusive society.

Let us progress with purpose, unity, and unwavering faith in women's ability to create a better tomorrow.

Africa Aerospace And Defence 2026 Early Bird Sale

ACT NOW - PRICES INCREASE 1ST OCTOBER 2025

Connecting You to Qualified Decision-Makers, Buyers & Thought Leaders Across Global Defence and Aerospace sectors showcasing cutting-edge AI and shaping the future of defence, security, aerospace, and beyond. Join Africa's largest gathering of innovators, government leaders, and industry pioneers driving intelligent transformation across air, land, sea, and cyber domains.

[Click here to book, now](#)



WHAT TO EXPECT AT AAD 2026

Africa's premier defence and aerospace exhibition, Africa Aerospace and Defence (AAD), returns in 2026 at Air Force Base Waterkloof, Centurion, South Africa, from 16-20 September 2026. Bringing together industry leaders, governments, innovators, and defence professionals from across the globe for a five-day showcase of technology, collaboration, and strategic engagement.

- **World-Class Exhibitors**

AAD 2026 will host more than 300 exhibitors from over 30 Countries showcasing cutting-edge aerospace, defence, and security technologies. From unmanned systems to advanced weaponry, cyber defence to surveillance systems, the exhibition reflects the full spectrum of the industry.



- **Air Show & Demonstrations**

The public days attract more than 40 000 attendees and featuring thrilling aerial displays from local and international air forces, aircraft flypasts, aerobatics, and static displays and including some of the most advanced fighter jets and helicopters in service today.



- **Conferences**

Defence ministers, industry CEOs, and thought leaders will gather for high-level conferences, roundtable discussions, and networking events addressing topics such as maritime security, future warfare and counter terrorism, technology and development in Africa



- **Youth Development**

AAD's Youth Development Programme (YDP) continues to inspire the next generation, attracting more than 11,000 learners, with interactive exhibitions, career guidance, and access to STEM opportunities in aviation and defence.



- **Trade Visitors Participation**

More than 23 000 trade visitors from 33 countries are expected to participate in AAD 2026, including 9 national pavilions, showcasing defence diplomacy and international collaboration in action.





Industry News

AAD TURNS 25 THIS YEAR

When September appears on calendars this year it will mark the silver anniversary of the Africa Aerospace and Defence (AAD) exhibition – an event organisers say is the continent's premier such show.

In anticipation of next year's event at Air Force Base (AFB) Waterkloof, a newsletter notes 2025 is the 25th anniversary of AAD "influencing the future of aerospace and defence across the African continent".

[Read more](#)



Industry News

ARMSCOR DEEPENS TIES WITH AFRICAN NATIONS, DTIC TOUTS BUSINESS IN TURKIYE

The Cuba/South Africa connection was again in evidence at the Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University where 23 SA Military Health Service (SAMHS) graduates were welcomed post re-integration in the wake of medical training on the Caribbean island.

[Read more](#)



Industry News

OVER A DOZEN SOUTH AFRICAN COMPANIES TAKING PART IN IDEF 2025

Deputy Defence and Military Veterans Minister Bantu Holomisa is in Turkey for the 17th edition of Turkey's International Defence Industry Fair (IDEF), where he visited the more than dozen South African companies exhibiting there.

[Read more](#)

AMPLIFY YOUR BRAND AND INFLUENCE

Stand out at AAD 2026. Whether you want to boost brand recognition, generate high-value leads, or align with industry leadership, our tailored sponsorship opportunities deliver real results.

[Click here to view the full sponsorship brochure](#)



Secure Your Accommodation FOR AAD 2026

Given the high level of interest and the large numbers expected at this year's show, we strongly encourage all our visitors to book their accommodation and avoid disappointment.

As the expo dates are fast approaching, hotels in Waterkloof and around Pretoria are filling up quickly. We hope you have already booked your accommodation. If not, we recommend booking as soon as possible to ensure you have a comfortable place to stay during the expo. You can book through our official hotel partners

[Click here to book, now](#)

Let's Meet AAD Team AT DSEI 2025

Taking place from 9 to 12 September 2025, the AAD team is excited to attend DSEI London in the lead-up to #AAD2026.

We'd love to connect with you during the show and share more information about the upcoming Africa Aerospace and Defence Exhibition.

[Click here to contact the Expo Director](#)

THE AAD TEAM VISITS DSEI 2025



Important dates

TO KEEP IN MIND!

To make it easier for our exhibitors to plan their participation at AAD 2026, please see below for an easy breakdown of important dates.

16 - 18 SEPT 2026

TRADE DAYS & CONFERENCING

19 - 20 SEPT 2026

PUBLIC AIR SHOW DAYS

EARLY BIRD RATES VALID UNTIL 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

**STAY TUNED TO OUR SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS
FOR UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS!**





4th – 5th September
Radisson Blu Hotel & Convention Centre, Kigali, Rwanda

EXHIBITOR



CAASA will be exhibiting at this year's Aviation Africa Summit & Exhibition, 4–5 September at the Radisson Blu Hotel & Convention Centre, Kigali, Rwanda.

Come and join us and meet the team on the CAASA stand.

REGISTER TO ATTEND



www.aviationafrica.aero



info@aviationafrica.aero



Insight Theatre Speaker

**Come see Kev Storie (CEO CAASA) on
Day 2 @ 11:15**

**Panel - Business and GA: Opportunities
and threats for the expanding sector of
private aviation**





Annual General Meeting

Save the Date

Wednesday, 5 November 2025

Time: 10am

Hosted virtually, via **Microsoft Teams**

Save the Date
You are Invited!

**Annual Awards Dinner
& Year-End Celebration**



Friday, 31 October 2025

Time: 5pm onwards

Venue: TBC

Dress: Formal

RSVP: melissa@caasa.co.za



In association with
**Rwanda Civil Aviation Authority,
RwandAir and Rwanda Airports Company**

We cordially invite you to attend

Aviation Africa 2025 Summit and Exhibition

4th - 5th September 2025

Registration: 08:00 - 09:00hrs

Summit Start: 09:30hrs

Radisson Blu Hotel & Convention Centre,
Kigali, Rwanda

HOSTED BY:



SUPPORTED BY:



To secure your attendance, please
register online at www.aviationafrica.aero
- using promotional code: **CAASA25**

Dress: Business Attire



4th - 5th September

Radisson Blu Hotel & Convention Centre, Kigali, Rwanda

News

SSASS Lands First FlightLine System at Lanseria



In a landmark achievement for African aviation, SSASS Holdings, the strategic African partner of **uAvionix Corporation**, has successfully completed the first installation of the FlightLine air traffic surveillance system at **Lanseria International Airport**, located north west of Johannesburg. The deployment marks the beginning of a new era of cost-effective, high-performance ADS-B-based situational awareness for airports across the African continent.



This installation is part of a broader campaign led by SSASS Holdings to implement FlightLine, uAvionix's revolutionary aircraft surveillance system, across African airports – mirroring its recent expansion at major U.S. airports under the FAA's Surface Awareness Initiative.

FlightLine provides precise, real-time surveillance of aircraft movements on and around the airport using ADS-B technology. Designed for rapid deployment, the solution offers airports a scalable and minimally disruptive pathway to enhance safety, efficiency, and visibility into both manned and unmanned aircraft operations.

Read more: [Lanseria International Airport Becomes First in Africa to Deploy Avionix FlightLine, Pioneering the Future of Surface and Airspace Awareness](#)

Celebrating our Finest

August is the month when we highlight and celebrate some of the many incredible women working throughout the aviation sector.

To that end, we invited five trailblazers to share how they see women positively and actively informing the many areas of the aviation sector today.

DC Comics
SUPER HEROES



© 2005
USPS

.39
x 20
\$7.80

V 111

Chapter One

PLATE
POSITION

V 111

AVIATION'S WONDER WOMEN

I recently came across an admired philatelist's collection of postage stamps from around the world featuring comic book characters. It included a complete collector's sheet of 20 x 39c postage stamps featuring DC Comics Super Heroes (issued by the US Postal Service in 2006). Wonder Woman immediately caught my eye.

She made her debut in 1941. Her creator, William Moulton Marston, introduced her to the world with the following words:

"At last, in a world torn by the hatred and wars of men, appears a woman to whom the problems and feats of men are mere child's play. A woman whose identity is known to none, but whose sensational feats are outstanding in a fast-moving world. She serves as a symbol of integrity and humanity, so that the world of men would know what it means to be an Amazon. With a hundred times the agility and strength of our best male athletes and strongest wrestlers, she appears as though from nowhere to avenge an injustice or right a wrong! As lovely as Aphrodite - as wise as Athena - with the speed of Mercury and the strength of Hercules - She is known only as Wonder Woman!"

Among other superpowers, Wonder Woman could fly. She used lift and thrust to pursue her path with precision, courage, strength and compassion. This resonates strongly with the many remarkable women in the aviation sector. Like Wonder Woman, they may not seek recognition, but their positive impact is undeniable.

She parallels the way women inform and inspire others in aviation, but I will limit it to five.

1. Mission-focussed

Wonder Woman showed us the importance of being clear about the mission. She knew exactly what she had to accomplish and remained determined and focused on success. Nothing and no one could stand in her way. Her enhanced senses allowed her to detect danger and perceive details beyond ordinary human capabilities.

There are always specific reasons and motivations for action. Make sure it is the right reason. Commit to the mission. Understand the objective but remain aware of challenges and threats. Be prepared. Show up, work hard, get the job done, and move on.

2. Unique Strength

Wonder Woman's journey involved discovering her true strength and learning to use it effectively. Young Diana had to understand her skills and capabilities and worked hard to refine them. Beyond her physical strength, she was also known for her exceptional mental strength. Her emotional depth and vulnerability were not weaknesses but essential parts of her character, allowing her to connect with others.

Acknowledge your uniqueness and your skills. Work on improving yourself and aspire to be exceptional. It would be impossible to ignore. Be compassionate and perceptive; support others and teach them. Learn from others, rely on them, but always take accountability for yourself. Be true to your strengths.

3. Truth and integrity

Truth and integrity were central to Wonder Woman's character. She embodied these values through her actions and her iconic weapon, the Lasso of Truth. The lasso, consistently practical and indestructible, symbolised honesty and justice. Wonder Woman was consistent in her actions and demonstrated the importance of truth even in difficult situations. Her commitment to honesty and her belief in justice provided a powerful example of aligning actions with values.

Be transparent in your actions and communication, especially during times of change. Do the right thing. Let truth lead you. Inspire others to do the same. The truth is not always popular, but speak it and live it. Straightforward can be kind. Do not believe everything people tell you. Listen, consider, and validate if needed. In the end, justice prevails.

4. Be on the battlefield

To complete her mission, Diana asked them to take her to the front lines of war—not to a protected place, but to where the battle raged. Wonder Woman confronted evil forces, had her weapons ready and knew how to use them. Her actions on the battlefield were a powerful display of her strength and commitment to justice. She confronted the harsh realities of war head-on, challenging the norms of combat and inspiring those around her with her courage and bravery. She protected and defended humanity, particularly those who cannot defend themselves.

Make a difference where it matters. Be present. Solve the big problems. Act now. Be courageous when faced with criticism or resistance. Strive to be a guardian of safety. Protect. Overcome challenges and keep progressing. Have your tools ready. Do good where it has the most significant impact.

5. Resilience and perseverance

Wonder Woman showed resilience in high-pressure environments and situations in many ways. She overcame obstacles by persevering and remaining committed to making a difference and advocating peace. She was willing to learn and adapt but never lost her courage or compassion. Diana acknowledged her missteps and used them as opportunities for growth, demonstrating a true growth mindset. She proved that inner strength – built on self-belief and love – is a powerful force for positive change. She showed us that the path to becoming a hero is never easy, but it is always worth taking, filled with learning, growth and purpose.

It is challenging. It always will be. But learn from mistakes. Adapt. Do not doubt yourself. Remember your strengths and use them. Never give up, even in the face of adversity. Stay committed to the mission. Recognise the learning curve. Make the journey meaningful.

The metaphors of Wonder Woman remind us that true strength is not about dominance – it is about courage, wisdom and integrity. And just like her, women in aviation need not announce their power. They demonstrate it every single day – in the cockpit, in engineering hangars, in boardrooms, in air traffic control towers, and across every corner of the industry.



Authored by: Dr Estie Serfontein
Quality Assurance Manager – Africa
– ExecuJet Aviation (Pty) Ltd.

UNSUNG HEROES - THE WOMEN BEHIND THE SCENES

It's Women's Month again. Every year, I see countless articles about incredible female pilots who shaped aviation history. And every year, I think: Yes, they're amazing, but what about the women behind the scenes? The ones who don't get the applause, rarely get their names in magazines, but are quietly assisting in holding the industry together with coffee, highlighters, and sheer determination.

My aviation journey wasn't born from a lifelong dream of flying. My background is law. I spent years buried in court papers, negotiating settlements, and reading mountains of paperwork. Aviation wasn't on my (very detailed) career plan. But life has a way of redirecting you. A twist of events landed me in general aviation, and suddenly I was in a world where I didn't even know what a fuselage was.

Fast-forward to today, and I can't imagine doing anything else. Aviation is magical, demanding, and highly addictive.

Now, I head up the Legal and QCS portfolios (Quality Assurance, Safety, and Compliance) at Absolute Aviation. My team and I live in the space where precision is non-negotiable, where safety is never just a tick box, and where we balance the weight of regulations with the realities of keeping aircraft in the sky.

In aviation, every role plays its part. From the cockpit to the hangar to the office. My team works in the background, making sure the systems, records, and processes that support operations are airtight. We're not flying the aircraft or fixing it ourselves, but we're ensuring the people who do can do their jobs safely, efficiently, and without unnecessary obstacles.

It's a role as old as aviation itself. The Wright brothers had the unwavering support of their mother and sister, whose behind-the-scenes dedication helped make that first flight possible. Women in law, like Hazel Alberta Colclaser and Mabel Walker Willebrandt, have shaped aviation from the ground up, crafting the rules and frameworks that keep it safe. That's the essence of support: enabling others to succeed by keeping everything running smoothly in the background. In our own way, my team does the same for every flight under our care.

This is why I want to shine the spotlight on the women who are rarely recognised. The ones in quality assurance, safety and compliance. It's a blend of detail, diplomacy, and determination. The women in these roles are the first to spot a risk, the last to leave when things go wrong, and the reason "impossible" gets done before the close of business. They stand shoulder-to-shoulder with engineers and inspectors, guiding managers toward safer decisions and ensuring everything is done right the first time.

So, this Women's Month, let's celebrate not only those in the cockpit but also those in the hangars, offices, and control rooms: the women whose dedication and expertise keep our skies safe, every single day. Our Unsung Heroes.



Authored by: Alida Reynecke,
Chief Legal Officer –
Absolute Aviation

SUPPORT & GUIDANCE

Working in aviation is such a gift, one which some of us have had to earn through hard work, study, on-the-job training and years of dedication. In some cases, it meant that family life came very much second best. But that is the way it had to be then, and still has to be, as this is the only industry where if anyone fails at their job, be they a ramp sweeper or a CEO, then people die, spectacularly and within nanoseconds, everybody on the planet can read about it.

Aviation is a high-pressure environment and has, in general, been a home to thinking women since about the mid-90s, when the sight of a female in uniform running the show on the ground as a Duty or Station Manager was not too much of an unusual sight. After all, women were no longer only seen as cabin crew, they were also Pursers and Pilots, all of which was a significant part of the aviation landscape in Europe.

Accomplished professional women in aviation are still a rarity in Africa, as the internationally accepted requirements of our industry do, in some cases, put them at odds with their cultural heritage. However, there have been some brilliant trailblazers who enjoyed sharing their skills with the next generation.

At Rand Airport, I regularly see female engineers in training at the various schools and welcome the day that they hold their AME Licence with pride. These ladies are the current trailblazers and need to be applauded and supported in their endeavours as they are the future AMO Accountable Managers.

Without proper guidance from experienced women in management and a more supportive attitude from current industry leaders and regulators, it will be difficult for women to succeed in commercial aviation.



Authored by: Vivienne Sandercock,
International Aviation Consultant –
GA Aviation Consultants

INFORMING THE FUTURE

For me, the most exciting shift in aviation today is seeing more women not just present in the room but actively shaping the conversations and decisions that move our industry forward. Every day, our skills, insights, and leadership styles are making aviation stronger and more diverse.

From the cockpit to the boardroom, women are bringing a balance of technical knowledge, emotional intelligence, and collaborative leadership that is reshaping how we operate. It's a combination that's especially powerful in areas like safety, policy, and stakeholder engagement – spaces where trust, consistency, and vision matter as much as technical excellence.

At the Board of Airline Representatives of South Africa (BARSA), I've seen firsthand how women are driving these shifts. Whether it's influencing policy reforms, steering discussions on infrastructure and regulation, or building partnerships across government and industry, women are not just part of the process – they're often the ones leading it. And they're doing so with the kind of inclusive, future-focused thinking that ensures our industry remains competitive and sustainable.

I also see women creating opportunities for the next generation – mentoring, advocating for skills development, and widening the talent pipeline. These actions will leave a legacy that outlives any single career.

The real power of women in aviation lies in how we lead – with competence, collaboration, and courage.



It's not just about representation; it's about redefining leadership itself. The sector is more innovative, resilient, and ready for the future because women are here – flying higher, leading smarter, and changing the course of aviation for good.



Authored by: Sarah Bruce,
Project Manager –
BARSA

FLYING HIGH

August is a month of reflection, recognition, and celebration of the remarkable contributions women make across all sectors — and aviation is no exception. As we honour Women's Month, it's essential to spotlight the dynamic roles women play in shaping the aviation industry today.

From air traffic controllers to aircraft engineers, pilots to safety inspectors, and training specialists to operations managers, women are actively informing and transforming aviation through their expertise, precision, and resilience. The aviation sector is vast and multifaceted, with thousands of roles that demand not only technical skill but also an extraordinary level of attention to detail, discipline, and dedication.

Moreover, women have a natural strength in nurturing and educating young minds — a quality that shines especially in aviation training environments. Whether mentoring recruits or leading structured learning programmes, women bring empathy, clarity, and inspiration to the next generation of aviation professionals.

Not only are women multifaceted, but they also excel in multitasking — no job is too big or too small for a woman to take on with confidence and competence. Their adaptability and determination continue to break barriers and set new standards across the aviation sector.

As someone working in Aviation Training Resources, I see firsthand how women are not only participating but leading in aviation education, compliance, and innovation. They are mentoring the next generation, driving policy changes, and ensuring that aviation remains a safe, inclusive, and forward-thinking industry.

Let us continue to celebrate and support women in aviation — not just this month, but every day — as they soar to new heights and redefine what's possible.



Authored by: Kerrie Enslin,
Manager – Training Resources –
Solenta Aviation

SKIES AHEAD

Having just returned from the ICAO-sponsored 'Next Generation of Aviation Professionals' Summit in Durban, I have a renewed sense of enthusiasm for our young women in aviation.

Hosted by the SACAA and under the leadership of the Department of Transport, this summit was themed: "The Flight Plan for Future Aviation Talent: Innovate, Educate, Inspire – Building the workforce for the skies ahead".



ICAO reiterated its priority of attracting, educating, and retaining the next generation of aviation professionals, and a Day 1 panel shared sobering statistics:

Over 2.2 million licensed professionals will be required to staff the next generation of the aviation workforce:

- **554,000 pilots needed to command aircraft**
- **665,000 Aircraft Technicians needed to maintain those aircraft**
- **925,000 Cabin Crew required**
- **106,000 ATCs**

There were clear messages about future young workforce preferences, the need to train and upskill and to keep in mind what the market requires.

Since aviation is unforgiving from a safety perspective, we must always hire the best person for the job, albeit meeting hiring targets. This isn't a space where accommodating someone to tick a box is the right decision.

Aviation hires for skill and potential, and every flight deck, control room desk, and drone operation thrives on people who juggle complex tasks under pressure, something women often excel at through adaptive thinking. Women often approach risk with heightened attention to detail and risk mitigation. That translates into more robust safety protocols and vigilance. Women often approach risk with heightened attention to detail and risk mitigation. That translates into more robust safety protocols and vigilance.

That said, where women form integral parts of diverse teams, adding value to our aviation industry, teams thrive.



Authored by: Kim James,
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Affiliate Partner Profile



The Association of Aviation Design Organisation (AADO) **Est: 2014**

The Association of Aviation Design Organisations was founded in 2014 and aligned itself as an affiliate of CAASA in mid-2016. Primarily developed to protect the interests of the South African CAR Part 147 Approved Design Organisations and provide a unified representation from Industry to the SACAA relating to the design activities of the member organisations.

The association now has a more significant role to play providing technical advice to CAASA, CAASA's various sub-committees and members where aircraft design, modification, testing and certification issues are raised.

The Association is highly technical with membership limited to those organisations with a CAR Part 147 approval as well as those in the process of obtaining such approval. This keeps the membership roster up to the highest standards and current.



**AADO President and CAASA Board Member,
Matthew Buttle**

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The main objectives of the association are:

- to serve, promote, advance and mutually protect the interests of persons making it their business to design aircraft, their components and/or accessories and design modifications and repairs to aircraft, their components and/or accessories;
- to act as a link between such persons and state, provincial, municipal and other governmental authorities as well as other persons active in, or dealing with, aviation or aviation-related matters;
- to promote, support or oppose, and make representations on behalf of its members to any authority, as may be deemed expedient, on any proposed legislative or other measure affecting the interests of its members;
- to represent its members in any hearing which may be held by any body, commission or court, which hearing may or will affect the rights or interests of its members;
- to encourage its members to set high standards of aeronautical engineering work.

The Association also aims to build a relationship with the industry by providing advice and consulting to other industry players. Growth in the field is also encouraged through seeking partnerships with Universities and Technical Institutions so as to ensure our future is a bright one.



For membership details, please contact our General Manager, **Melissa Sewgolam** at: melissa@caasa.co.za