



CAASA Newsletter



The Commercial Aviation
Association of Southern Africa

August 2026

Content Guide

Discover the latest insights, updates and perspectives shaping South Africa's aviation industry. In this edition, our CEO reflects on the future of aviation, the importance of competence and collaboration, and the legacy we have the opportunity to build for the next generation.

As we celebrate Women's Month, we also recognise and celebrate the women in aviation whose expertise, leadership and contributions continue to strengthen and shape our industry.

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FROM OUR CEO

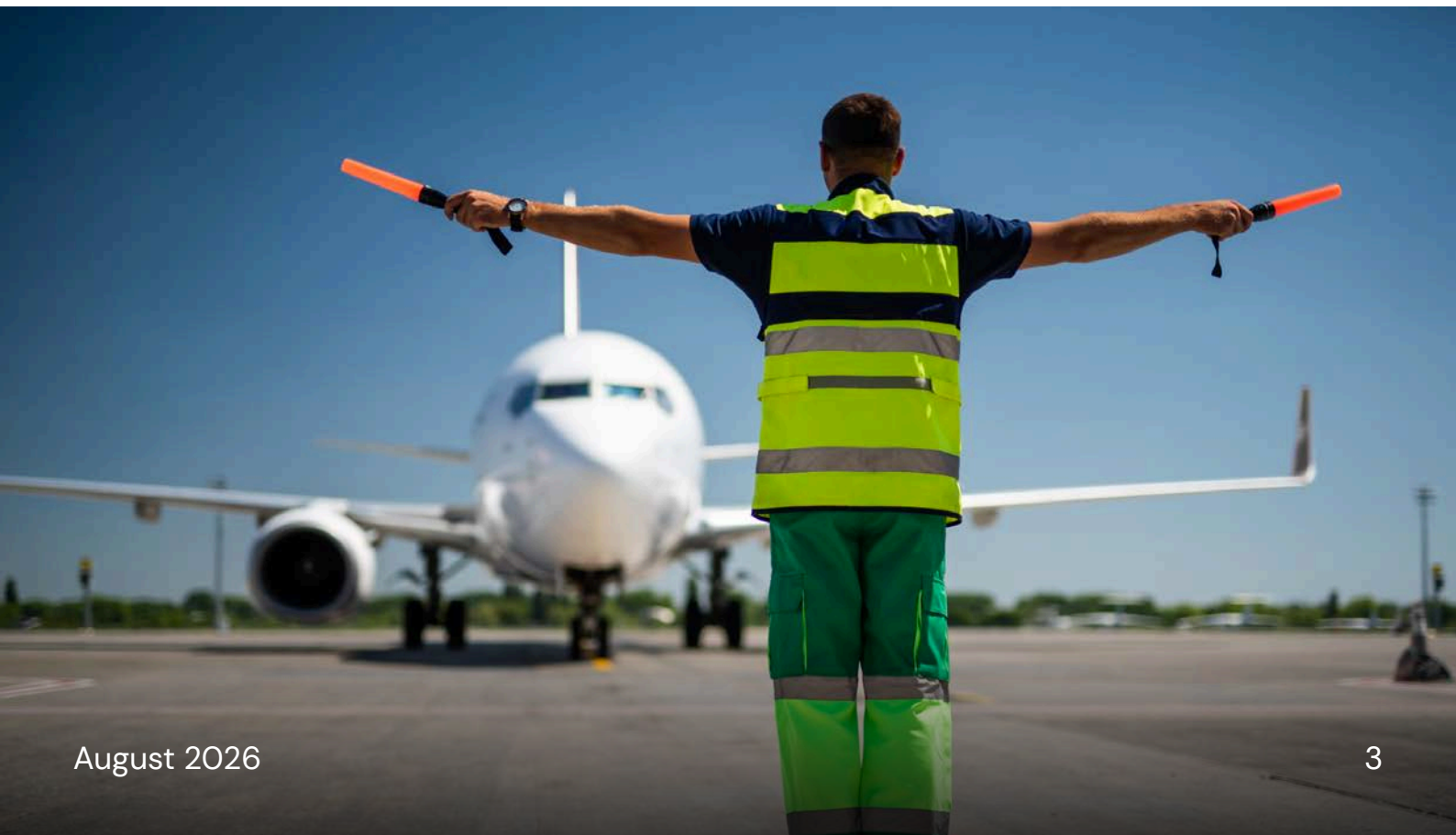
A Legacy Worth Building

Every nation eventually faces a choice: manage its decline, or build for growth. The South African government is at such a crossroads, and aviation faces a similar choice. The balance has shifted significantly towards safety within the regulatory environment, with too little focus on enabling growth and creating the future we want and need. As an industry, we must consider how aviation can contribute meaningfully to economic development and make a dent in youth unemployment.

Legacy isn't about the regulations we write or the committees we form. It's about what we leave behind that creates opportunities for the next generation. It's about handing over a sector that is stronger, safer, economically enabled, and more competitive than the one we inherited, both nationally and on the global stage.

The aviation industry has always been about looking forward. Every flight plan focuses on the destination, not the runway behind us. Yet many of our policy discussions remain stuck in the past, slowed by bureaucracy and outdated thinking. We need the best and most experienced people to guide the way.

If we were to design our aviation system from scratch today, knowing what we now know, would we build it the same way? The answer is no.



Competence is Our Currency

We have learned that institutions only perform as well as the people who lead them. The cost of prioritising politics over competence has resulted in weakened institutions and slower growth. In aviation, this is not an option.

This industry operates on competence, precision, and accountability. Aircraft don't respond to political slogans, and safety systems can't be compromised. The South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) must remain a world-class regulator, with every critical position filled by qualified experts. This isn't about politics or history; it's about ensuring that safety-critical decisions are made by the people best equipped to make them. Competence must come first.



A Smarter Approach to Regulation

As we position ourselves globally, we must stay focused on our core obligations under the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). ICAO sets the framework for safety, security, and international credibility.

But we must ask: does everything need the same level of state control?

There is a real opportunity to devolve certain recreational and administrative functions to capable industry bodies. When properly empowered, the private sector often offers greater agility and innovation. The principle is simple: oversight should be strong, accountability should remain, but regulation must be proportionate to risk. Not everything that can be regulated needs to be regulated. If we can't enforce it, it's just paperwork. Effective regulation is enforceable regulation.

South Africa could become known not just as a safe aviation environment, but as one of the most enabling aviation jurisdictions on the continent. This requires a new relationship between the regulator and the industry.

Partnership Over Prescription

True partnership starts with a blank page, not a predetermined outcome. The regulator and industry share the same goals: safety, economic growth, investment, and jobs. Those aren't competing agendas.

The industry holds decades of operational experience. That knowledge shouldn't just be heard; it should actively shape policy. Countries that embrace collaboration build greater trust and better compliance than those that rely on confrontation. When the regulator comes to the table with a predetermined position, it inhibits freedom of thought and innovation. When there is an opportunity to build something new, it should genuinely be new, without predetermined outcomes or unnecessary preconditions.

We also need agility. Technology and business models evolve quickly. Regulation cannot remain static. If a rule creates unnecessary barriers to growth, we need the confidence to change it. Agility is not the enemy of safety; when supported by evidence, it can actually strengthen safety.

Lift vs. Drag

The principle of flight — lift exceeding drag — applies perfectly to policy. Unnecessary regulation, slow decisions, and missed opportunities for collaboration create drag.

Expert appointments, sensible reforms, and genuine partnership generate lift.

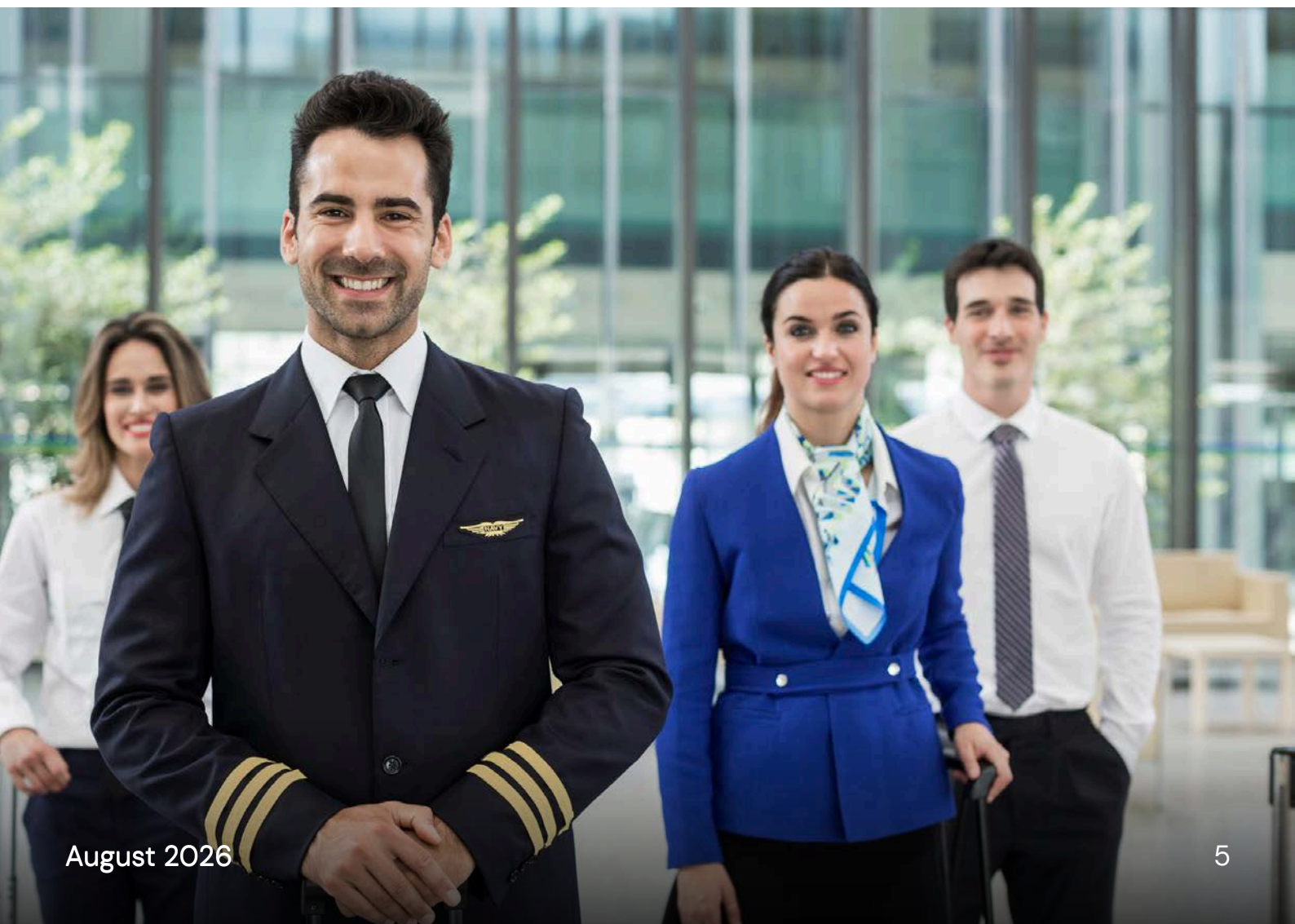
Every competent appointment builds confidence. Every constructive partnership creates momentum. That is the legacy we should seek, not simply preserving what exists, but building a future that South African aviation, and the people who depend on it, deserve.

If we choose expertise with expediency, and partnership over bureaucracy, South African aviation can once again be a great success story.

That is a legacy worth leaving.



– Kevin Storie, CEO



Finding My Place in Aviation

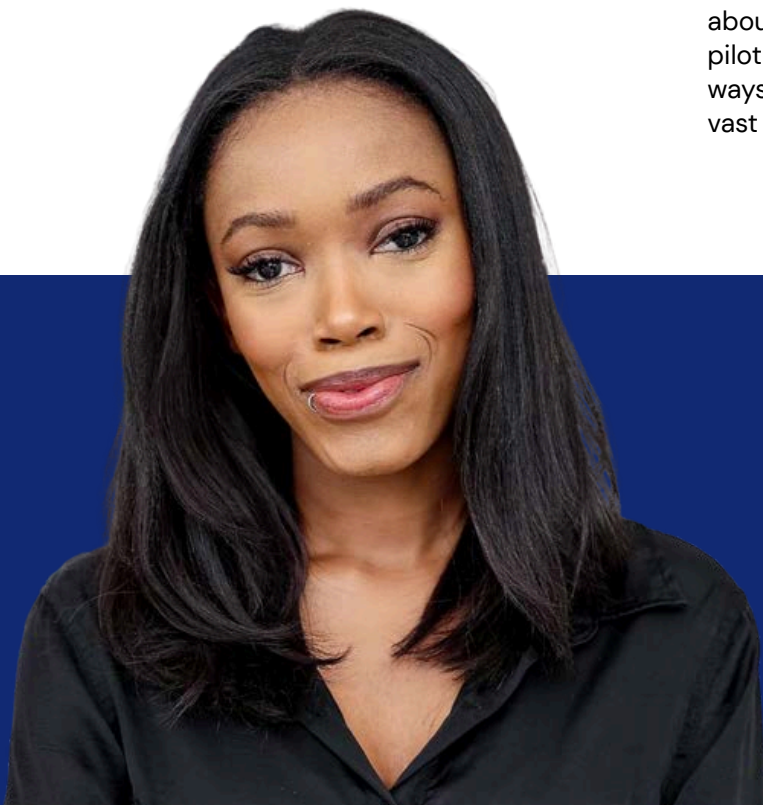
By Bonolo Matjila, Business Development Lawyer, Dentons South Africa

For a long time, I thought there was only one way to build a career in aviation: to fly.

My boarding school in Cape Town offered flight training as an elective, and I began working towards my Private Pilot's Licence. I completed the ground school component and began logging hours with the Cape Town Flying Club. Eventually, the cost of training became prohibitive, and I never completed my licence. At the time, I thought I had simply missed my chance to become part of the industry.

I went on to study law, and my career took a few more unexpected turns from there, including co-founding a business and learning firsthand what it takes to build something from the ground up. That experience, combined with a growing interest in the intersection of law, business and strategy, eventually led me to an opportunity I had not anticipated: helping to establish Dentons' aviation practice alongside the Partner leading it.

Dentons is the world's largest law firm, with the largest footprint of any firm on the African continent. This meant that the practice we were building was not simply an additional offering, but an opportunity to develop a genuine offering for an industry that is critical to Africa's economic growth. There was no established playbook to follow, which was both daunting and energising. Looking back, I realise that I had been thinking about aviation too narrowly. I had wanted to be a pilot, but I had not yet understood just how many ways there are to build a career in an industry as vast and interconnected as aviation.



Bonolo Matjila

Business Development Lawyer,
Dentons South Africa

Coming into the industry from outside, one of my first challenges was understanding the breadth of the aviation ecosystem. Beyond airlines and airports, there are lessors, financiers, regulators, manufacturers, maintenance and repair organisations, and many other stakeholders, each with different priorities and interests. I had to develop an understanding of how these players interact and, importantly, where legal and strategic value could be created across that ecosystem.

A significant part of my role has involved supporting South African aviation businesses as they expand across the continent, drawing on Dentons' African footprint to help them navigate new markets. The work has given me considerable exposure to the industry and has required me to understand markets, identify opportunities, build relationships with senior stakeholders and translate what I learn into practical strategies for growth. It has also required me to become comfortable with asking questions, listening carefully and recognising that I will not always be the most knowledgeable person in the room.

That has been particularly important because I am often one of the youngest people at industry gatherings across the continent, and frequently one of only a few women in the room. Early in my career, that could feel daunting. With experience, I have come to see it differently. Being the youngest person in the room does not mean that you have nothing to contribute. It gives you an opportunity to listen carefully, learn from those around you and contribute from the perspective that you do have.

The aviation industry has been generous in that regard. I have met industry veterans who have been remarkably willing to share their knowledge and experience, often encouraged by seeing younger professionals take an interest in the sector. Their willingness to pass on what they have learned has been one of the most valuable aspects of my experience in aviation. It has also reinforced for me that professional growth is not simply about accumulating knowledge yourself, but about remaining open to learning from people with different experiences and perspectives.

These experiences have shaped my understanding of leadership. I have learned that confidence does not always precede opportunity. Often, it develops because you are willing to take on something before you feel completely ready. For me, leadership means being prepared to take initiative in situations where the outcome is not certain, to ask questions when I do not have all the answers and to operate effectively in unfamiliar territory. It also means recognising when to listen, creating opportunities for others to contribute and taking responsibility for work that has not been done before.

I have been fortunate to see many examples of this kind of leadership across South African aviation. The industry continues to carry a reputation for being male dominated, and there is undoubtedly more work to do to ensure that women can participate and progress across the sector. At the same time, my own experience has increasingly been one of working alongside highly capable women in leadership positions across aviation. That has given me considerable optimism about the future of the industry. The women already leading in aviation have an important role to play in creating opportunities for those who come after them. Representation matters, but so does the willingness to share knowledge, make introductions, open doors and create environments in which other women can see a place for themselves in the industry.

When I think back to the 15 year old who first sat in a cockpit, I doubt she could have predicted where that experience would eventually lead. She did not become a pilot. She became a lawyer, an entrepreneur and, eventually, someone working at the intersection of business development, strategy and aviation. If I could tell her anything now, it would be that she is in the right place. Not because the path unfolded exactly as planned, but because each unexpected turn provided an experience that became useful for whatever came next.

Creating your own path does not necessarily mean knowing exactly where you are going. Sometimes, it means being willing to recognise an opportunity, step into something unfamiliar and trust that the experience will shape the next stage of your career.

Finding My Place in Aviation: Building a Career, Confidence and Credibility

By Joy-Ann Smyth, Quality Manager, Federal Airlines

When people hear that I work as a Quality Manager in the aviation industry, they often assume that aviation was always part of my career plan. The truth is that my journey into aviation was anything but conventional.

Although I grew up around aviation, my childhood dream was to become a ballerina. I pursued ballet studies at a tertiary level and spent a number of years working towards what was then my dream career. While my professional path ultimately took me in a different direction, the discipline, resilience and commitment I developed through ballet laid a strong foundation for the opportunities and challenges that would follow later in my career.



Joy-Ann Smyth

Quality Manager,
Federal Airlines

My career then led me into the fitness industry, where I gained valuable experience in operations and management. It was only after leaving the fitness industry that aviation unexpectedly entered my professional journey. A family friend, who owned a flight school with his business partners, asked me to assist with general administrative duties. What began as a temporary opportunity soon developed into a full-time role supporting front office operations and the management team. Looking back, I could never have imagined that this would be the first step towards a career that would challenge me, inspire me and ultimately become my professional home.

The first few months in aviation were both exciting and overwhelming. Aviation is a highly regulated industry with its own language, culture and expectations. I quickly discovered what felt like an endless list of regulations, procedures and acronyms. At times, it felt as though I was learning a completely new language.

There were certainly moments of frustration and many occasions when I felt out of my depth. However, those challenges were also what drew me in. Aviation provided an opportunity to continuously learn, expand my knowledge and solve complex problems. It is an industry where there is always something new to discover, and that constant learning has become one of the aspects I enjoy most about my career.

One of the biggest learning curves was understanding aviation legislation, compliance requirements and quality management principles within such a highly regulated environment. Because I did not come from a traditional aviation background, I often felt that I needed to work harder to establish my credibility. Self-study became an important part of my growth. I spent many hours building my knowledge and developing a deeper understanding of the industry to ensure I could perform my responsibilities effectively and contribute meaningfully.

Like many women working in a traditionally male-dominated industry, there were times when I felt I had to prove myself. Looking back, I realise how fortunate I have been to be supported by remarkable people who believed in me, often before I fully believed in myself.

One of the earliest and most influential was my dance teacher, Hazel MacGregor. During my ballet years, she continually challenged me to strive for more, pushed me beyond my comfort zone and encouraged me to pursue my goals with discipline and determination. Many of the lessons I learnt during that time, particularly around perseverance and resilience, would later prove invaluable in my professional life.

During my years in the fitness industry, I had the privilege of working under Ludwig Haufler at Virgin Active. His leadership and support provided opportunities for personal and professional growth and helped develop many of the management and leadership skills that I continue to draw on today. Being selected for both Management Development and Leadership Development programmes during this time was a significant milestone and provided valuable learning opportunities that have remained with me throughout my career.

My transition into aviation was made possible by the owners and management team of Flight Training Services, who gave me the opportunity to enter a completely new industry. They trusted me, invested in my development and provided an environment where I could learn, grow and expand my skills. Their belief in my abilities gave me the confidence to take on new challenges and laid the foundation for my future career in aviation.

Later, when I joined Federal Airlines, I was fortunate to work under the guidance of Wade Laing. His mentorship helped me develop a deeper understanding of the quality and safety environment and provided valuable knowledge, experience and insight that ultimately helped me grow into the role of Quality Manager. Over the years, every Chief Executive Officer and Executive Manager I have worked with has contributed to my development in different ways.

Each has offered valuable lessons, perspectives and support that have shaped not only my career, but also my character.

Looking back, I realise that while careers are built through hard work and determination, they are strengthened by the people who invest in us, encourage us and help us see possibilities we may not yet see in ourselves.

Reflecting on my journey, there was no single moment when I suddenly felt that I had found all the answers or fully "made it" in aviation. In many ways, I still view myself as a student of this industry. What has changed over time is my confidence in navigating challenges, asking questions and trusting the knowledge and experience I have gained along the way. Rather than one defining moment, it has been a collection of milestones, lessons learnt, responsibilities accepted and obstacles overcome that have helped me feel that I belong in the industry.

The journey continues, and with every new challenge comes another opportunity to learn and grow.

When I think about the achievements, I am most proud of, they are not necessarily specific titles or positions. While career progression and professional milestones are rewarding, my greatest accomplishment has been my personal growth. The knowledge I have gained throughout my career is important, but what I value even more is the self-awareness I have developed along the way.

Aviation has taught me resilience, adaptability, humility and the importance of continuous learning. It has also allowed me to build meaningful relationships with colleagues, mentors and leaders who have positively influenced both my professional and personal development.

Over the years, I have also witnessed encouraging changes in the role and representation of women in aviation. More women are stepping into leadership positions, technical roles and operational environments that were once predominantly occupied by men. While there is still progress to be made, there are increasing opportunities for women to build successful and rewarding careers across every area of the industry.

For any young woman considering a career in aviation, my advice is simple: grab the opportunity with both hands. There will be moments when you feel uncertain, overwhelmed or unsure if you belong. Those feelings are normal. What matters is your willingness to learn, to work hard and to build strong relationships.

Throughout your journey, there will be people who support, mentor and encourage you. Be open to learning from them, seek out opportunities to grow and never underestimate the value of investing in yourself. What you put into your career is often what you will get out of it.

My journey into aviation may not have followed the path I originally envisioned as a young ballerina, but it has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. It has been a journey of continuous learning, professional development and self-discovery.

Most importantly, it has taught me that finding your place in aviation is not about where you start or how much you already know. It is about having the courage to embrace opportunities, being willing to learn, building meaningful relationships and continuing to grow with every challenge along the way.

WOMEN IN AVIATION

A New Chapter in African Aviation Publishing

By Sherryn de Vos

Taking the helm of an established industry publication is never a simple undertaking. Taking on one of South Africa's best-known aviation titles without a background in aviation, and navigating an industry built on decades of established relationships and tradition, presents an entirely different challenge.

This was the challenge Phillippa Dean accepted when African Pilot Magazine became part of her publishing portfolio in December 2024. I joined a month later, and watched as she found her feet, immersed herself in aviation, and slowly tackled her fear of flying. Although, the jury might still be out on that.

Already an experienced publisher and editor through Railways Africa Magazine, Phillippa understands specialist industry publishing.

Aviation, however, was new territory.

She entered a highly technical sector, laden with its own language, a highly complex stakeholder landscape, deeply established networks, and an audience that had developed a strong relationship with African Pilot and its previous leadership. This was not going to be an easy feat.



Phillippa Dean

Publisher & Editor,
African Pilot Magazine

The handover from long-standing editor, Athol Franz, meant that there was an important legacy to respect. Franz had built a distinctive publication and a loyal audience over many years, and the question facing its new leadership was not simply how to continue publishing African Pilot, but how to grow the brand beyond generational legacies.

There were plenty of those who questioned whether that could actually be done.

Phillippa was entering an industry that has traditionally been male-dominated and where professional networks and relationships had been built over decades. As someone who worked alongside her during the transition, writing for the publication, I saw first-hand the scale of the learning curve.

We were both told, in different ways, that African Pilot had been created for a particular audience and that changing its direction would be difficult.

Rather than attempting to replicate what had come before, Phillippa chose to learn.

She immersed herself in the sector, engaged with industry associations, operators, manufacturers, aviation professionals, and businesses, and began developing an understanding not only of aircraft, but of the wider ecosystem that keeps African aviation moving.

Her willingness to sit back and listen has arguably become one of the defining characteristics of the publication's evolution.

One year and nine months into the journey, African Pilot is continuing to establish a broader role within the industry.

Its coverage increasingly reflects the diversity of modern aviation, from commercial and general aviation to training, maintenance, manufacturing, technology, regulation, infrastructure, and the people building careers across the sector. Literally encompassing the mantra she set at the start: African Pilot is for those who fly and for those who make flight possible.

Phillippa has also brought a distinctly forward-looking approach to the publication. Rather than viewing aviation as an isolated industry, she sees it as part of a much larger African economic narrative.

Her experience across both rail and aviation has reinforced her belief that transport and transport infrastructure are fundamental to industrialisation, regional integration, job creation, trade, and economic development. Whether goods and people move by rail or by air, both sectors depend on strong infrastructure, effective policy, investment, skills, and collaboration.

It is this broader perspective that is increasingly shaping African Pilot's direction.

For Phillippa, publishing is not simply about reporting on an industry. It is about creating connections between the people and organisations within it, opening conversations, and providing a platform through which the sector can share its challenges, achievements, and opportunities.

Her journey also carries particular significance during Women's Month.

Not because her success should be defined solely by being a woman in aviation, but because her experience demonstrates what can happen when someone is prepared to enter an unfamiliar environment, challenge established expectations, build knowledge, and contribute a different perspective.

The aviation industry Phillippa entered less than two years ago was entirely new to her. Today, she is helping to shape conversations within it.

There is still much to learn, and much more she wants to achieve. But perhaps the most significant change is that African Pilot is no longer simply navigating a transition. It is developing its own identity for the future, connecting established voices with emerging ones and creating space for a broader aviation supply chain to be part of both the African conversation and the opportunity.

This may prove to be one of its most important contributions in an industry where progress depends increasingly on collaboration.

From the Apron to Leadership: 27 Years of Saying Yes to Opportunity

By Hester Swarts, Group Quality Manager, Safomar Holdings

After more than 27 years in aviation, Hester Swarts, Group Quality Manager at Safomar Holdings, has built a career spanning reservations desks, airport aprons, flight operations, safety and quality management. Her journey is a reminder that a successful career does not always begin with a carefully mapped-out plan. Sometimes, it begins with curiosity, a willingness to learn and the courage to say yes when the next opportunity appears.

For Hester Swarts, aviation was part of life long before it became a career.

Her father worked for two airlines, and as a child, visits to his workplace invariably included a trip to the aircraft viewing deck. Watching aircraft arrive and depart sparked an interest that would eventually develop into a career spanning more than two decades and almost every corner of aviation operations.

After matriculating in 1998, Hester joined Nationwide Airlines as a Reservations Agent. It was an entry-level role, but she was already looking beyond the confines of her job description. Whenever possible, she assisted the Passenger Services team, driven by a desire to understand more about how an airline worked.



Hester Swarts

Group Quality Manager,
Safomar Holdings

That curiosity would become a defining feature of her career.

In April 2000, she made her first major professional leap, resigning from Nationwide to join South African Airways (SAA). At the time, leaving the security of her first job was daunting.

"It was my first time moving between companies, and at that age, the idea of resigning and starting somewhere new was genuinely frightening," she recalls. "I had no idea what adventures were waiting for me on the other side of that decision."

Those adventures proved extensive.

Learning to Say Yes

In 2009, another opportunity arrived when Hester joined Egypt Air as a Supervisor. Her responsibilities extended across passenger services and office administration, overseeing operations from the aircraft's arrival in the morning until its departure later that day.

By then, she had also experienced one of the realities faced by many women building long-term careers in aviation: balancing an industry built around shifts and operational demands with family life.

Her years at SAA coincided with major personal milestones. She grew up professionally, got married and had her children, all while continuing to work shifts. It required resilience, but it also demonstrated that career growth rarely happens in isolation from the rest of life.

In 2014, Hester made another significant change. She left the airline environment and joined Fireblade Aviation, then a new start-up, entering the world of charter aviation.

During her nine years at SAA, Hester worked across reservations, ticketing, passenger check-in and boarding before undertaking six weeks of training as a Ramp Agent. The role took her directly onto the apron, where she was responsible for ensuring everything from catering and newspapers to baggage was loaded and the aircraft prepared for departure – regardless of the weather.

She later moved into Client Airlines, where SAA teams provided passenger handling services for international carriers.

It was not a career path Hester had planned. Each new experience simply gave her the skills and confidence to take on the next.

She spent eight years in Flight Operations, developing an understanding of the operation from beginning to end – from preparing the initial quote and arranging overflight permits to ensuring guests reached their final destination safely.

It was also where another unexpected opportunity would change the direction of her career.

Fireblade's Accountable Manager called Hester into his office and asked whether she would consider moving into the Quality and Safety department if the opportunity became available. The answer was immediate.

"That question was music to my ears," she says. Quality and Safety was a direction she had wanted to explore, but accepting the role meant leaving behind an area in which she had spent years developing considerable expertise and stepping into something unfamiliar. She took the opportunity.

It proved pivotal. Hester remained within Fireblade's Quality and Safety department until 2025, building the experience that ultimately led to her current position as Group Quality Manager at Safomar Holdings.

Leadership That Recognises Potential

While Hester's career demonstrates the importance of taking opportunities, it also highlights the role leaders can play in creating them.

One of the people who left a lasting impression on her was Lindiwe Bhengu, a team leader during Hester's years at SAA. Hester remembers Lindiwe being noticeably harder on her than on other members of the team. Eventually, she asked why.

"It is because I see potential in you," Lindiwe told her.

The answer changed Hester's perspective.

Rather than seeing high expectations simply as pressure, she began to understand what it meant for someone to recognise potential in another person and challenge them to reach it.

It is a lesson that continues to influence her own definition of leadership today.

For Hester, leadership is not simply seniority or a job title. It is about recognising what people may be capable of before they necessarily recognise it themselves. It means setting high standards, creating opportunities and trusting people with the responsibility to grow into them.

Her experience at Fireblade reinforced the same lesson. Someone recognised that her operational knowledge and capabilities could translate into Quality and Safety and gave her the opportunity to prove it.

"Leadership isn't just about a title; it's about creating the conditions for other people's growth, the way mine was created for me."

Building a Broader View of Aviation

Today, Hester's role at Safomar Holdings has expanded her perspective once again.

Her position exposes her to a broad cross-section of the aviation sector, encompassing aircraft parts, paints and lubricants, Flight Operations, Aircraft Maintenance and the Academy where the next generation of engineers is trained.

After a career spent learning individual parts of the aviation ecosystem in considerable depth, she is now able to view quality across an entire group.

That breadth matters. Her leadership is informed not only by formal quality management experience, but by years spent checking in passengers, working on aprons, coordinating flights and understanding what it takes to keep aviation operations moving safely and effectively.

It is knowledge accumulated one role at a time.

Creating Space for the Next Generation

Hester has spent much of her career working in environments traditionally dominated by men. Her own experience, she says, has overwhelmingly been one of professional respect.

What she would like to see now is more women receiving access to the same kinds of opportunities that shaped her career. That means giving women opportunities to move between departments, gain experience in technical and operational areas, undertake training and take on meaningful responsibility early in their careers.

"The more women who are given that access and that trust, the more of us there will be in the leadership rooms of tomorrow."

It is perhaps a fitting perspective from someone whose career has been shaped by people opening doors – and by her willingness to walk through them.

Looking back at the young woman who entered Nationwide Airlines in 1998, Hester would offer one piece of advice: do not be afraid of the unknown.

The young Reservations Agent could not have known that her career would eventually take her onto aircraft aprons, through airline and charter operations, into Quality and Safety and ultimately into a group-level leadership position.

There was no fixed roadmap connecting those roles.

There was curiosity. There were people who recognised potential. And, at crucial moments, there was a willingness to take the opportunity even without knowing exactly where it would lead.

"Say yes to the opportunity even when you don't feel ready, because that is usually exactly when the growth happens. And remember the people who believe in you – they see something in you long before you see it in yourself."



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In September, the L&A Aerospace Academy for Safety & Quality is hosting an Aviation Critical Thinking Workshop Series.

This virtually presented series of single-day workshops is specifically tailored to the requirements of Aviation Professionals.

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You are cordially invited to
join us for our Annual

CAASA Awards Dinner & Year-End Celebration

In what promises to be a night to remember, please unite
with us in acknowledging, applauding and celebrating our
members, affiliate partners & peers.

Date

30th October 2026

Time

18:00

Date

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Dress

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Showcasing cutting-edge technology and innovation in the aerospace and defence industries, this premier event, held at Air Force Base Waterkloof in City of Tshwane, South Africa, offers a unique opportunity for attendees to witness the latest advancements, thrilling aerobatics and displays of a diverse array of aircrafts.

The AAD airshow is a family-friendly event with activities and attractions for all ages. Children and adults alike can enjoy interactive exhibits, simulators and the chance to meet pilots and military personnel. Food stalls, merchandise vendors and entertainment options ensure a perfect fun filled outing for family and friends.

This year's air show promises an anticipated attendance of 65 000 spectators - so get your tickets early!

THE AIRSHOW TAKES PLACE ON THE WEEKEND OF 19 & 20 SEPTEMBER 2026

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Day 1 | 16 September 2026

THE FUTURE OF WARFARE

Unpacking the operational impact of artificial intelligence, drones and autonomous systems, cyber warfare and the growing importance of space-based capabilities.

Day 2 | 17 September 2026

AFRICAN DEFENCE INDUSTRY SHOWCASE

Will cover funding models, public-private partnerships, supply chain resilience and the development of local manufacturing capacity.

Day 3 | 17 September 2026

COMMERCIAL & MILITARY AVIATION

Key discussions will address infrastructure development, airspace management and maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) capabilities, alongside the integration of unmanned aerial systems and emerging technologies

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AAD 2026 SHOW DAILY

Produced by DefenceWeb

Published across three shows, the AAD 2026 Show Daily is the official daily print magazine of the exhibition - produced by DefenceWeb, Africa's leading defence news portal. For rates and availability, contact Robert Mace robert@defenceweb.com

AAD 2026 EXHIBITION CATALOGUE

Produced by Creative Space Media

The official AAD 2026 Exhibition Catalogue is the definitive reference document of the show - an A5, 150-page full colour publication distributed to 10,000 targeted delegates, including VIP delegation packs and media kits. For rates and availability, contact James james@creativespacemedia.co.za

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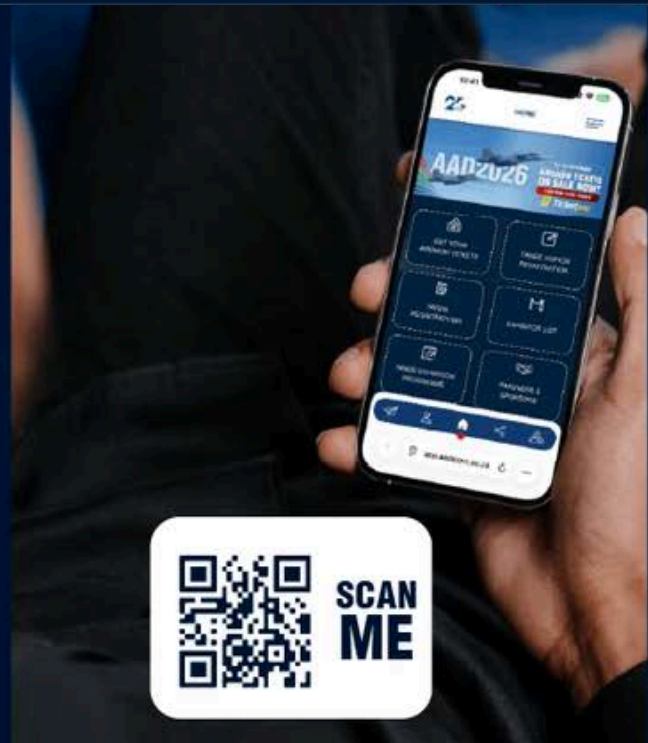
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Staying updated on all things AAD is easier than ever with the official AAD mobile web app. Whether you are looking for the latest event schedules, exhibitor information and (where to find them at the event), news or venue detail, our app has you covered.

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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

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Industry News

HENSOLDT SOUTH AFRICA JOINS AAD 2026 CONFERENCE AS SPONSOR

HENSOLDT South Africa, one of Africa's leading defence and security electronics companies, has joined the AAD 2026 Conference as a sponsor, reinforcing its commitment to advancing defence innovation and indigenous technological capability in Africa.

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Industry News

DUAL-USE TECHNOLOGY TAKES CENTRE-STAGE AT AAD 2026: SADG PRESENTS ICTAS CASE STUDY

The South African Defence Group (SADG) will present a focused paper on dual-use technology at Africa Aerospace and Defence AAD 2026, highlighting how sovereign digital systems developed for commodity management can strengthen defence logistics and industrial capability.

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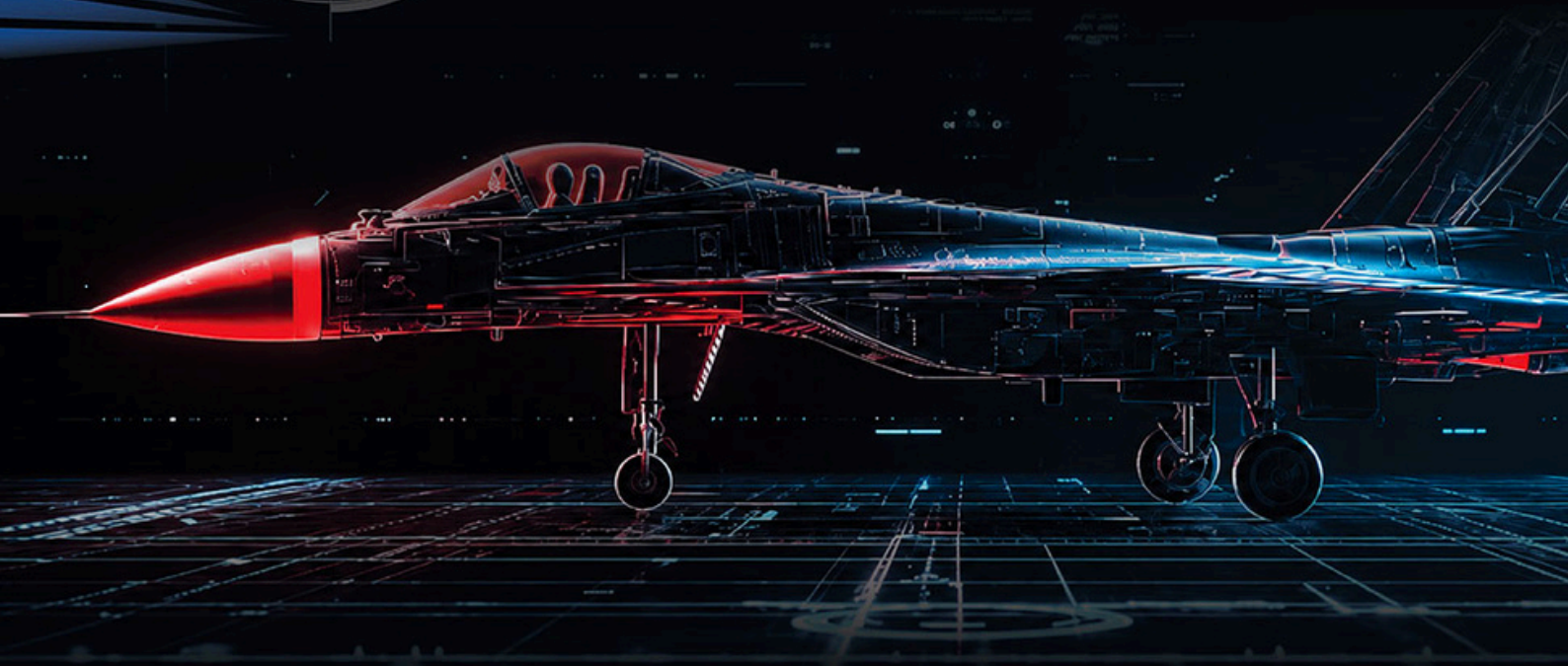




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01

Your company logo
(JPG / PNG / PDF)

02

Company overview, products & services
(Long or short-form)

03

Significant milestones & supporting images
(JPG / PNG / PDF)

04

Contact details
(Including website address & social media)

Reach out to our General Manager,
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