Vertical Flight Society
www.vtol.org

Technical Council 2025 – 2026

*Non-Voting Position

Technical Directors Emeritus
Mahendra Bhagwat, Daniel I. Newman, Marilyn Smith, Chuck Hughes, Jr., Andy Keith, John M. Davis, Judah Milgram, Marc W. Sheffler, David A. Peters

Appointed Members
Farhan Gandhi, JVR Prasad, Rainer Heger, James Wang, Wayne Mantay
*Matt Arace (Student Rep. 1) **
*Aaron Crawford (Student Rep. 2)**

Technical Director
Al Brand

Annual Forum
Forum 82 Chair: Karen Feigh *
Forum 82 Deputy Chair: Marc Alexander*

FORUM82 THE FUTURE OF VERTICAL FLIGHT MAY 5-7, 2026 | WEST PALM BEACH, FL, USA

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VFS Executive Director*
Angelo Collins

Technical Program Director*
Julie M. Gibbs

Student Design Competition*
Chair: Luigi Ricci Moretti

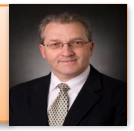
Hover Challenge Competition*
Chair: Vacant

Journal of AHS
Editor-In-Chief: Hyeonsoo Yeo

VFF Selection Committee*
Chair: Mahendra Bhagwat

History Committee*
Chair: Bob Beggs

Education Committee
Chair: Ed Smith



Deputy Technical Directors

Aeromechanics
Joe Horn

- Acoustics
- Aerodynamics
- Dynamics
- Handling Qualities

Ops & Product Support
John O'Neill

- Operations & Infrastructure
- Product Support Systems Tech
- Test & Evaluation

Systems Engineering
Cathy Cheung

- Integrated Vehicle Health Mgmt. (IVHM)
- Safety
- Systems Eng. Tools & Processes

Design Build Vertical Flight (DBVF) Competition
Chair: Adithya Ramaswami

Systems Integration
Andy Smith

- Autonomy & UAS
- Avionics & Systems
- Crew Stations & Human Factors
- Modeling & Simulation

Vehicle Design
Carl Russell

- Advanced Vertical Flight
- Aircraft Design
- eVTOL
- Propulsion

Vehicle Integrity
Leigh Altman

- Crash Safety
- Manufacturing Tech & Processing
- Structure & Materials

Tech Council
VFS Staff
Technical Committees
Competitions
Phase out