



# Aircraft Builders Council

## 2018 Annual Conference • Speaker Biographies

**Matt Barton, Partner**  
**Flightpath Economics, LLC**

Matt Barton is an aviation economist with twenty years of experience at the intersection of airline finance, labor dynamics, and strategy. His career to date has covered key portions of the industry, including: labor negotiations, fleet and network planning, and regulatory advocacy. During the bankruptcies of American Airlines, United Airlines, and Sun Country Airlines, Matt served as a financial advisor to creditors, labor groups, and other stakeholders. In 2010, Matt helped to facilitate the successful merger of two large US network airlines by leading an external analysis of synergies and financial performance. Outside the United States, Matt has led restructuring projects at China Southern, Shenzhen Air, Cebu Pacific, and Fiji Airways. At the negotiating table, Matt has modeled contract costs and represented pilots and flight attendants at United Airlines, American Airlines, US Airways, Frontier, AirTran, NetJets, Horizon Air, Atlas Air Worldwide, and others. He was part of the startup team for a new airline that operated small regional jets in Hawaii, and has participated directly in the planning and establishment of five other startup airlines worldwide. Prior to these consulting roles, Matt worked in corporate planning functions at US Airways. Matt earned an MBA from London Business School and a BA from the University of California.

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**Itash Samani**  
**Global Head of FSTD Regulatory Affairs, CAE Training Strategy**

Itash has worked in flight simulation for over 35 years, in design and manufacturing as well training operations. He has extensive experience in aerodynamics and avionics systems simulation, and through his career held various managerial positions including Manager of Engineering, Manager of Acquisitions, Manager of Regulatory Compliance, Head of Regulatory for FAA Part 142, and currently holds the position of Global Head of Regulatory Affairs (FSTD). Itash has been with CAE for just over 20 Years.

He currently holds the position of Chairman of the Training Device Work Stream (TDWS) subcommittee as part of the International Pilot Training Association (IPTA) comprised of ICAO, IATA, OEMs, ATOs, Airlines and RAeS amongst others, and which is charged with the continuing oversight, amendment and adoption of ICAO 9625 Manual of Criteria for the Qualification of FSTDs.

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**Captain Lou Németh**  
**Chief Safety Officer, CAE**

Captain Lou Németh, in his role as Chief Safety Officer of CAE, is responsible for flight safety matters within the CAE aviation training enterprise.

Some highlights of Capt. Németh's career, prior to joining CAE include i) 27 years of service with US Airways as a Captain, pilot training manager, instructor pilot and courseware developer; ii) Service as a Board member and advisor to institutions such as Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and the Council of Aviation Accreditation and, iii) Expert witness in investigations in which human factors training was considered as a possible causal circumstance.

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**Christopher Hickey**  
**Partner, Fitzpatrick & Hunt, Pagano, Aubert, LLP**

Chris is a partner in the Los Angeles office of Fitzpatrick & Hunt, Pagano, Aubert, LLP. He has over 15 years of experience handling a wide range of complex product liability and commercial litigation matters. These matters have included: litigation stemming from major air crashes (commercial and military); personal injury and wrongful death suits involving aerospace products, industrial equipment, and petroleum products; and commercial matters involving contractual disputes. He has experience representing both U.S. and international corporations and has defended cases at both the trial and appellate levels. One of his most significant accomplishments is a Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal decision which expanded the scope of the General Aviation Revitalization Act (GARA) defense to include older used parts being installed on newer aircraft. USAU v. Nabtesco, 697 F.3d 1092 (9th Cir. 2012).

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**Dr. Christian Popp , Ph.D.**  
**Ph.D., Manager Flight Safety Systems**

Christian Popp holds a PhD in Business Administration. Since beginning of his career, he has held various positions in Pilot Training, Flight Operations, and Process Improvements. In his current role as A320 captain and manager of Flight Safety at JetBlue Airways (USA), he consults on operational effectiveness and human factors in flight operations and training. Christian has extensive work experience in competency-based training and has given lectures on AQP/AQTP in the United States, Europe, and Asia. Christian also provides consultant and training to organizations outside the aviation industry in the areas of "Industrial Human Factors Analysis" and "Human Performance and Organizational Behavior".

In 2015 he co-developed the "OneTeam Cockpit" concept, a Human Factor centric approach to interpersonal communication and workload balancing in the cockpit.

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**Dr. Scott Shappell****Professor and Chair, Human Factors & Behavioral Neurobiology**

Dr. Shappell is currently a Professor and Chair of the Department of Human Factors and Behavioral Neurobiology at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. Before joining the faculty at ERAU in the fall of 2012, Dr. Shappell was professor of Industrial Engineering at Clemson University from 2005-2012. Before that, he was the Human Factors Research Branch Manager at the Civil Aerospace Medical Institute. In addition, he has served nearly 20 years (11 years on active duty) in the U.S. Navy as an Aerospace Experimental Psychologist. During his time in the US Navy, Dr. Shappell served as the Human Factors Branch Chief at the U.S. Naval Safety Center and as a human factors accident investigation consultant for the Joint Service Safety Chiefs. He has published/presented well over 200 papers, books, and presentations in the fields of accident investigation, system safety, behavioral stressors, sustained operations and fatigue. While noted for his work in aviation, Dr. Shappell has been involved in a variety of industries including petrochemical industry, forensic science, mining, and medicine.

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**Grant Organ****Founder, ARETAI**

Grant Organ is one of the founders of Aretai Risk Management Consulting. Grant specialises in the delivery of risk and crisis management solutions to a range of global organizations, with a particular emphasis on the aviation sector. His risk management experience has deep roots in the London aviation insurance market, where he developed his innovative consulting reputation with his global network of long-term clients, while working as a managing consultant at Marsh & McLennan Companies. Grant also spent more than 20 years with British Airways in a variety of senior operational management roles including responsibility for the airline's global corporate crisis response.

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**Richard Perrot****Vice President, Marketing & Product Policy Thales InFlyt Experience**

Richard Perrot is the Vice President of Marketing & Product Policy at Thales InFlyt Experience. He leads all aspects of global marketing and product policy with a market driven approach. His focus is on providing value to our airline partners with innovative inflight entertainment systems, connectivity solutions and digital services. He is based in Irvine, California.

With over 20 years of global marketing experience in the aviation and aerospace industry, Richard brings a unique blend of marketing management, strategic negotiation skills, sales operations expertise and international business knowledge. He joined Thales in 2009 and has held key positions of increasing responsibility leading marketing and sales initiatives. He is a graduate of the Grenoble Ecole de Management in France.

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**Dr. David Pritchard**

**President of Pravco, LLC**

Dr. Pritchard is the President of Pravco, LLC and an Associate Professor at the State University of New York - Empire State College located in Buffalo, New York USA and his Ph.D. dissertation from the State University of New York University at Buffalo is titled "Global Decentralization of Commercial Aircraft Production: Implications to the U.S. Based Manufacturing Activity".

Dr. Pritchard has over 25 years of aerospace experience and has been involved with seven aircraft launches, managed international offsets programs, completed foreign financing transactions and has expertise in aerospace marketing and product introduction into the regions of Europe, Russia/CIS, China and Asia.