



International
Air & Space
Training Institute™

SIMON WITTS

CEO and Founder

Simon's career in aviation spans a wide range of roles across most aspects of the operating side of the industry including many years at Board level. A BSc (Hons) graduate in Aeronautical Engineering/ Electronic Engineering (Avionics) from Queen Mary College, University of London, he initially worked in technical/engineering/flying roles and developed up to Senior Board level.



His career started in helicopters as a graduate engineer at Bristow Helicopters. Here he won the prestigious Royal Aeronautical Society Alan Marsh Award in 1982 for 'exceptional technical ability in the rotary-wing field'. He then broadened into senior and latterly executive board roles and worldwide experience with Racal Avionics (Decca), the UK CAA (in flight test and transport aeroplane certification (including full responsibility for the Boeing 777 project)), Air UK and British Regional Air Lines Group plc / Manx Airlines.

Latterly, his career further developed to include the accountability for and the running of all of the operational aspects of an airline at board level in the Chief Operating Officer role for the merged regional airline group British Airways (BA) CitiExpress/BA Connect. After overseeing the BA side of the operational merger of BA Connect with Flybe, Simon created, developed and implemented the Flybe Academy

After seeing this ground-breaking facility formally launched - a nationally significant project - he left Flybe to establish his own consultancy business where he immediately took on a role for the Group CEO at City & Guilds to create a new business-facing subsidiary - City & Guilds for Business - before founding Aviation Skills Partnership in 2013, a fast-growing business that was acquired by Pennant International Group plc in February 2019.

He left the acquired organization in December 2019 and has established four organisations that make up the ENGAP UK Consortium: Project ENGAP, ENGAP UK, Aviation 360 and IASTI - all committed to engaging and training the next generation of aviation professionals

He has held many airline executive board positions and was on the Board of a Sector Skills Council. He was also heavily involved in the Human Factors and early Safety Management work. Simon is a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society, Fellow of the Institute of Leadership & Management, Freeman of the Honourable Company of Coachmakers and a Founding Leadership Fellow of the House of St George at Windsor Castle. He was also Founder and past Chair of the Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS) Education & Skills Committee and past Chair of Trustees for the International Federation of Airworthiness