

AN Introduction

Hello to the readers of *Aviation Safety World* and supporters of Flight Safety Foundation!

As the new president and CEO of the Flight Safety Foundation, I get this space each month to speak my mind about safety and what the Foundation is doing. But for my first effort I thought it made sense to tell you a little about me and my initial plans at the helm of this organization.

I join the Foundation after spending many years at the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and International Civil Aviation Organization. Over the years I have developed an appreciation for what can be achieved when industry partners and regulators combine efforts to improve aviation safety. Our aviation system has achieved some impressive safety goals – especially in the US, Western Europe, and parts of Asia.

But we cannot celebrate gains in some regions of the world while other regions continue to endure tragic losses. Aviation is fundamentally a global industry. A crash in Western Africa might involve a dry lease from a company in Florida, an airworthiness certificate from southern Africa, an airline based in the Middle East, pilots from Eastern Europe, and a bank from in the Mediterranean. The aircraft might carry passengers of a dozen different nationalities. Accidents today have global roots and have global impacts. We need to find global solutions.

The solutions we find must be systemic. Much of the burden for safety remains on the shoulders of the technical professionals, a burden that grows heavier as the demand for air travel outpaces the development of our workforce and infrastructure. We must continue the effort to spread the burden, the sense of responsibility for safety. The subject of safety must be approached with the same sense

of urgency and ownership in the boardroom as it is on the flight line. It must continue to involve regulators, lessors, manufacturers, airlines, airports, insurance firms and more in concerted action. I believe one of Flight Safety Foundation's key roles is to drive the developing safety consciousness for all of these institutions, around the world, all of the time.

We already are working with many partners, including manufacturers, airport and pilot groups, airline associations and air traffic control providers, to develop a Safety Roadmap that will focus and coordinate our efforts.

Together we can achieve great things.

I deeply admire all the accomplishments of the Flight Safety Foundation. It's an awe-inspiring task to take over the running of this organization. It has a proud history and a well-earned reputation for technical competence and independence. I assure you that the pursuit of new global goals will not dilute the technical excellence that has been the hallmark of this institution.

I want to acknowledge Stuart Matthews, the outgoing president and CEO. He worked tirelessly to make the Flight Safety Foundation fiscally strong and internationally respected. Without his efforts over the years, the Foundation would not be in a position to spread the message of safety throughout the world with the effectiveness it has today. I look forward to continuing that work while we expand our efforts in all facets of the aviation industry.



A white, cursive handwritten signature of William R. Voss on a dark background.

William R. Voss
President and CEO
Flight Safety Foundation