For nearly 60 years, Flight Safety Foundation publications have been recognized as an authoritative source of information that has contributed significantly to improving aviation safety. In the past, we have produced separate publications to address various safety topics, but now we are making big changes to that format.

The same quality will be found each month in Aviation Safety World, in an up-to-date, engaging format. In addition to the kinds of articles that you have been used to reading, Aviation Safety World will include editorials, letters to the editor and more timely coverage of issues facing the industry.

I would like to be the first to congratulate the FSF publications staff for a job well done. Led by Director of Publications Jay Donoghue, the staff has worked countless hours to make the transition to this new journal a reality.

As many of you know, the Foundation was launched after the Second World War by that era’s aviation industry leaders. As we launch our new publication, we have the support of today’s leaders, and I’m extremely pleased that several of them have contributed to this inaugural issue. Marion Blakey, Administrator of the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration, provides a look at new U.S. initiatives on page 43. Andre Auer, Chief Executive of the Joint Aviation Authorities in Europe, examines the transition to the European Aviation Safety Agency on page 24, while Dr. Assad Kotaite, President of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), provides a briefing on the results of the recently held Directors General of Civil Aviation Conference on a Global Strategy for Aviation Safety. You can find that article on page 12.

Dr. Kotaite’s term as ICAO President will soon end. During his time commercial aviation has seen many changes, and he has been instrumental in successfully guiding the worldwide industry, often through difficult times. I know that you all join me in wishing the best for Dr. Kotaite as he leaves ICAO and returns to private life. He has been an incomparable president. The aviation industry owes much to him and we will all miss him greatly.

In this first issue of Aviation Safety World, we bring you up to date on our Approach-and-Landing Accident Reduction (ALAR) program. There is also an interesting piece on how to best calculate passenger and baggage weights, a current concern in the regional airline and air taxi industry. This might be controversial, so let us have your views because we are eager to hear from you! And tell us what you think of the new format, the other information we have provided and what we ought to include in the future.

I am confident that you will like the look of our new magazine and that you will find it even more informative and useful than our publications have been in the past.

Stuart Matthews
President and CEO
Flight Safety Foundation