

## **VERTICAL FLIGHT SOCIETY UK**

### **The Vertical Flight Society UK Foundation Charitable Incorporated Organization**

#### **Report of the Trustees for the period 1 May 2023 to 30 April 2024**

##### **Aim and Purpose**

The Vertical Flight Society UK works closely with The Vertical Flight Society (VFS) headquartered in Fairfax, Virginia, USA and previously known as the American Helicopter Society. The VFS is the world's premier professional vertical flight technical society and is recognised by the United States Internal Revenue Service (IRS) as a 501(c)(3) charity (see [www.vtol.org](http://www.vtol.org) for more details).

The VFS UK operates throughout England, Wales and Scotland.

##### **Objectives and Activities**

The VFS UK is committed to educating as many people as possible living within the British Isles in vertical flight science and technology and related mechanical and engineering skills. VFS UK organises presentations and lectures on subjects relevant to Vertical Flight with a focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (known as STEM).

The benefits of the purposes are advancing the education of the public, particularly engineers and scientists, in scientific and technological subjects related to vertical flight.

VFS UK advertises its events through links with Universities and other educational establishments. It also advertises through relevant professional websites.

VFS UK events are open to all with most activities taking place on-line.

A working party meets throughout the year to review and produce policies for the VFS UK.

All activities performed were aiming to maximise public benefit and there were no fees charged for participation.

##### **Achievement and Performance**

The Trustees met regularly (virtual, on-line meetings) to plan the management structure of VFS UK and to plan all CIO activities. The Trustees also undertook training, again, virtually.

During this reporting period the media-outlets of the Charity were updated with a complete re-drafting of the web pages, X, Facebook, YouTube and LinkedIn. There is now a policy in place for managing the outlets and for checking the disseminated information.

In addition, online public events were organized using streaming and online collaboration tools.

On 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024, the VFS UK held a joint conference with the RAeS on turbulence effects:

The event was held at Shrigley Hall, Cheshire and brought together researchers from the UK and abroad. The audience was treated with 12 extraordinary presentations over a very full day, sparking insightful discussions. This mini-conference was put together following the MoU between RAeS and VFS. Air turbulence is still one of the unsolved challenges in modern aerodynamics and has great implication and impact on helicopter operations. Modelling and simulation were seen as key to understanding the interaction between the aircraft and the air. More importantly, the speakers highlighted the need for more data and more in-flight experiments. Keynote presentations from QinetiQ, the UK AAIB and WSP of Canada demonstrated the clear interest of industry in this difficult problem.

On 20th November 2024, Prof Antonio Filippone of the University of Manchester delivered a webinar on aerial firefighting using helicopters. This is part of the VFS UK Chapter seminar series 2024. The seminar covered some of the data from recent fires in the US and discussed how scientific analysis can be used to streamline operations, improve practices and even pave the way for new vehicle designs suitable for fire-fighting.

The Annual meeting took place on 23rd February at the RAF Club in London.

This event attracted the interest of 65 delegates and included talks on helicopter flight tests. The topic of flight testing is not only interesting for engineers but is also seen as important for the management of development projects due to its link with certification and the ultimate completion of the design of vehicles. The event also included exciting updates on new eVTOL start-ups detailing some of the characteristics of future vertical lift aircraft. The VFS UK Award Ceremony closed the conference celebrating the contributions of our members and providing encouragement to young members for careers in vertical lift.

Each year, the VFS UK makes a number of awards. This year:

Bryan Finlay and Jeremy Graham received the President's Award for Lifetime Achievement;

Richard E Brown received the Award for Extraordinary Work in Vertical Flight; and

Dmitrij (Dima) Usov received the David Gibbings Award for Early Career Achievement

The VFS UK Management structure is detailed in the Administrative Section below.

The Officers of VFS UK meet (virtual) on the afternoon of the first Friday in the Month.

The VFS UK promotes its activities through the VFS and the VFS UK Chapter. Membership of the VFS UK Chapter has been stable at near 200 people during this reporting period and is drawn from Industry and Academia.

### **Financial Review**

VFS UK has received no income during this reporting period.

VFS UK has incurred no expenditure during this reporting period.

VFS UK has no assets or liabilities.

VFS UK now has a bank account.

The Trustees therefore consider that a financial audit is not required for this reporting period.

## **Volunteers**

The Trustees would like to thank all those who volunteered to serve as Officers of VFS UK during this reporting period making valuable contributions to the running of VFS UK allowing this charity to fulfil its aims and objectives.

## **Administrative Information**

The correspondence address for the VFS UK is 17 King John Road, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 4PG.

The following have served as Officers during this reporting period:

George Barakos	Secretary and First Trustee
Antonio Filippone	Treasurer
Thomas Fitzgibbon	Student Chapter Chair
Ian Frain	Public Relations
Rafael Morales	University Liaison
Adrian Neve	Awards & Scholarships Chair
David Niven	Technical Chair
Darrell Swanson	Vice President, Tech Meetings
Paul Taylor	President and First Trustee
Mark White	Membership Chair and First Trustee

Prof. Antonio Filippone has agreed to be a Trustee “in waiting” allowing the Charity to continue to operate in the event of one of the Trustees being indisposed.

## **VFS-UK**

### **Financial Statements for the year 1 May 2023 to 30 April 2024**

#### **Income**

VFS UK has received no income during this reporting period.

#### **Expenditure**

VFS UK has incurred no expenditure during this reporting period.

#### **Assets and Liabilities**

VFS UK has no assets or liabilities for this reporting period.

**Approved by the Trustees on 18th February 2025 and signed on their behalf by Paul Taylor (VFS UK President and Trustee).**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'PT', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.