



Associate Technical Fellow Guidelines

The Vertical Flight Society is pleased to open the inaugural Associate Technical Fellow nomination process. The **Associate Technical Fellow (ATF)** recognizes Vertical Flight Society (VFS) members who have established a distinguished technical career and acknowledge individuals whose professional achievements, technical contributions, publications, and service to the Society have had a meaningful impact on the vertical flight community. **VFS encourages self-nominations or nominate a deserving colleague – the ATF nomination process will remain open until **September 30, 2026**.**

Associate Technical Fellow recipients will receive a certificate and be recognized on the awards page with all other [VFS Awardees](#).

Eligibility Criteria

1. VFS Membership: Applicants must have maintained a minimum of **five (5) consecutive years of membership** in the Vertical Flight Society beyond the Student membership level.

- VFS Student Membership: 4-years continuous

2. Sustained Service and Leadership: Candidates must demonstrate ongoing commitment and leadership within VFS through sustained volunteer service and engagement. Evidence of contributions should include participation in one or more of the following areas:

- Active membership on a VFS Technical Committee or Committee Leadership Roles.
- Service as an Editor-in-Chief, Associate Editor, or Reviewer of the *Journal of the American Helicopter Society (JAHS)*.
- Local Chapter or Regional Officer
- Primary organizer in VFS local chapter or regional event.
- Participation on VFS Board of Directors or Technical Council
- Volunteer service on other VFS committees and programs, including:
 - Student Council
 - Education Committee
 - Design-Build-Vertical-Flight (DBVF) Competition: University team member or judge
 - Student Design Competition (SDC): University team member or SDC Committee member
 - Vertical Flight Foundation (VFF) Scholarship Review Committee

3. Technical Publications and Professional Recognition: Candidates should be recognized contributors to the body of knowledge in vertical flight technology through

authorship of technical publications. Applicants must have contributed at least one of the following:

- A published article in the *Journal of the American Helicopter Society (JAHS)*.
- A technical paper presented at a VFS Annual Forum, VFS Technical Meeting, or a related professional conference, such as:
 - European Rotorcraft Forum (ERF)
 - American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) events

4. Career Impact: Candidates must demonstrate a proven record of accomplishment in engineering, research, development, testing, operations, or other professional roles related to vertical flight technology. Career achievements that reflect contributions that have advanced programs, improved industry practices, enabled new capabilities, or supported the growth and success of the vertical flight community.

Note: VFS Honorary or Technical Fellows are not eligible.

Selection Criteria

The **ATF scoresheet** is designed to help applicants document and communicate how their experience aligns with the established eligibility criteria e.g., years of membership, publications, committee service etc.

Important: This scoresheet is designed to help applicants articulate their qualifications and provide a consistent framework for review. Numerical totals are used as a guide to document experience and contributions. Final evaluation is based on the overall quality, significance, and sustained impact of the candidate's professional achievements and service to the vertical flight community.

Supporting Documentation (*Optional*): nominees may include *optional* documentation that demonstrates the scope and impact of contributions. Examples of supporting documentation publication citations, leadership positions, awards, technical accomplishments, or other records of professional contribution.

Evaluation Considerations: Nominees are evaluated holistically based on:

- Technical excellence and professional accomplishments
- Contributions to vertical flight research, development, and innovation
- Service, leadership, and engagement within VFS
- Publication record and dissemination of technical knowledge
- Demonstrated impact on the vertical flight profession and community