



Press Release

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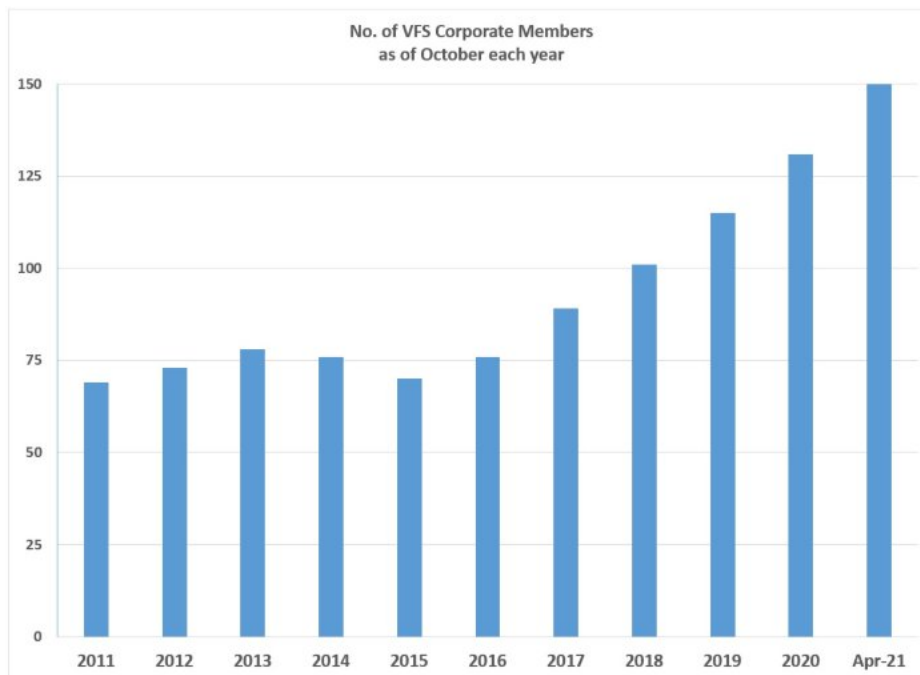
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Vertical Flight Society Continues Record Growth, Reaches 150 Corporate Members

15 new companies joined VFS as corporate members in the first quarter of 2021

Fairfax, VA, April 15, 2021 — The Vertical Flight Society (VFS), the world’s leading non-profit organization working to advance vertical flight, reports today that it has continued to experience record growth, propelled largely by the continued expansion of electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft developments around the world.

“Despite the pandemic, interest and investment in the eVTOL industry has accelerated, representing one of the few bright spots in what has been a very challenging time for most of the civil aviation industry,” said VFS Executive Director Mike Hirschberg. “VFS has been leading efforts to advance electric vertical flight for the past seven years and has helped create the large technical community across the eVTOL ecosystem.”



Growth in VFS corporate members over the past decade, despite the 2014 defense cuts

As of Jan. 1, 2021, a total of 137 companies had joined VFS, after a net 15% growth over 2020. In the first quarter of this year, an additional 15 companies have joined the Society, bringing the total to 150 net [corporate members](#). This is a 50% increase since January 2018, when the Society exceeded 100 members, and a 100% increase over the past 5 years.

In addition, the Society has now reached 6,100 individual members, as of April 1, 2021, which represents a full recovery from a loss of 400 members at the beginning pandemic and is the highest number of (current) members ever. Compare to three years ago, this is a 15% net increase in [individual members](#) since January 2018, when VFS had 5,300 members.

This growth in members is the result of the extensive support that VFS provides to the entire vertical flight industry, including technical resources, talent acquisition, educational opportunities and networking. In addition to the traditional core members from the global rotorcraft industry, the majority of the growth in members is due to the proactive support efforts and resources that VFS has provided to the eVTOL industry, which is now receiving billions of dollars of investment. In addition, substantial investments in next generation military and civil advanced rotorcraft have intensified an industry-wide demand for top talent and training.

Key eVTOL resources included the definitive World eVTOL Aircraft Directory — with 435 aircraft listed — on the VFS [eVTOL.news](#) website, which also includes 470 eVTOL news stories, including 240 in-depth articles from the Society’s *Vertiflite* magazine, the leading periodical on eVTOL and rotorcraft developments.

VFS has been at the forefront of what it calls the “Electric VTOL Revolution” since 2014 when it held the world’s first meeting of the eVTOL development community. This year’s [8th Annual Electric VTOL Symposium](#) — the world’s largest and longest-running event focusing on the incredible promise, progress and challenges of eVTOL aircraft — was held successfully, with 100 speakers and 600 attendees.

Last year, at the beginning of the global pandemic, VFS dramatically increased its online educational offerings. Since then, the Society has held more than 60 separate webinars and workshops, as well as several major online conferences, and three online short courses. The Society’s [Vertical Flight Video Library](#) now features some 375 videos, covering hundreds of hours of lectures, meetings and interviews, plus current and historical flight footage.

The cohort of 1st Quarter 2021 new VFS Corporate Members is listed below. Descriptions of each company, including links to websites and contact information, are found in the [VFS Corporate Member Directory](#). Information on the benefits and rates for corporate membership are posted on our [Corporate Membership](#) page.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Membership Class</u>
BAAZ GmbH	Associate
Caldwell Intellectual Property Law LLC	Small Business
Crown Consulting, Inc.	Small Business
Cypress International	Associate
ENSCO Avionics	Small Business
Garudeus Aviation, Inc.	Small Business
Intelligent Energy Ltd	Small Business
Intellisense Systems, Inc.	Small Business
LaunchPoint Electric Propulsion Solutions, Inc	Small Business
National Renewable Energy Laboratory	Associate
Olsen Actuators Ltd	Associate
PteroDynamics	Small Business
Real-Time Innovations	Small Business
SkyDrive Inc.	Associate
SMG Consulting	Associate
Urbineer Inc.	Small Business

“These past 12 months have seen amazing progress in eVTOL developments,” Hirschberg said. “Our members in industry, academia and government agencies around the world have been tackling the toughest challenges in vertical flight, proving out the promise of this new approach to air mobility.”

VFS recognizes the essential role our members play in advancing vertical flight technology. The Society has continued to provide foundational support, including increased online capabilities and networking opportunities in 2021, including in-person events again as soon as possible. Several important virtual and in-person events are planned in the coming months: www.vtol.org/events

VFS was founded as the American Helicopter Society in 1943 by the visionaries of the early helicopter industry, who believed that technological cooperation and collaboration were essential to support this new type of aircraft. Today, history is repeating itself, with VFS playing a similar role helping to advance today's revolutionary eVTOL aircraft.

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