



MOVE

Center for Mobility with Vertical Lift

Investments for eVTOL Workforce Development

Farhan Gandhi

Redfern Chair Professor and MOVE Director

RPI Center for Mobility with Vertical Lift (MOVE)



Rensselaer

Strategies for eVTOL Workforce Growth

Increase Graduate (MS and PhD) Students at Current VLRCOEs and Related Centers

- At institutions where a comprehensive VTOL curriculum is already offered, capacity exists, and grad students can easily be increased by a factor of 2-3.
- Cost of additional ~50 grad students is ~\$5M/year (in supp. to VLRCOE program).

Hire Adjunct Professors and Professors of Practice at VLRCOES and Related Centers

- For example, retired experts from Army/DoD/NASA Labs, or VTOL industry.
- 10-12 such appointments would cost around \$1.5-2M/year (in supp. to VLRCOE program), and increase graduate training capacity by an additional ~50/year.
- The \$1.5-2M/year covers professorial appointments, grad students supported on institutional funds or other research contracts.



Strategies for eVTOL Workforce Growth

Increase in Tenure/Tenure-Track Faculty at VTOL/eVTOL-active Universities

- eVTOL industry leverages Institutional investment (based on grad student and research funding growth).
- 5-7 additional Tenure/Tenure-Track faculty can support ~50 additional graduate students (at cost of \$5M/year)

Above 3 combined (at \$12M/year) would support an additional ~150 students spread across Centers and partner institutions, resulting in 50-75 MS/PhD graduates/year entering the VTOL/eVTOL job market.



Workforce Growth through Government/Industry Collaboration

Develop VLC-style Government-Industry Consortium (for pre-competitive research)

- Identify areas of research of interest to large parts of eVTOL industry.
- A substantial part of this funding directed to eVTOL active Centers/partners.
Research investment also supporting workforce development.
- Boost to new eVTOL companies may not have the resources that legacy VTOL companies do.
- Universities awarded 2-3 year grants.
- \$5-6M/year to the universities (industry-government cost-share), can result in an additional ~50-60 graduate students (20-30 additional students joining the eVTOL workforce each year).



Summary

- Using a combination of additional direct support from DoD to VLRCOE program, and VLC-type shorter term industry-government joint support can result in up to 70-100 additional VTOL/e-VTOL trained MS/PhD students/year entering the workforce.
- Cost of \$17-18M/year.
- These trained graduates with advanced degrees would be the linchpins in the VTOL/eVTOL industry, around whom other engineers (with undergraduate degrees) can work, to meet the total workforce needs.

