

## RAeS Solent Branch Hosted Joint Lecture

# The Autonomous Systems Journey from Lab to Ubiquity

**Professor William (Andy) Wright FEng, FIET, CEng, PhD, BSc**  
**EPSRC Council, Chair Trusted Autonomous Systems (TAS) Hub**

**Wednesday 20th March**

**6 pm Doors open, 6:30 pm Lecture**

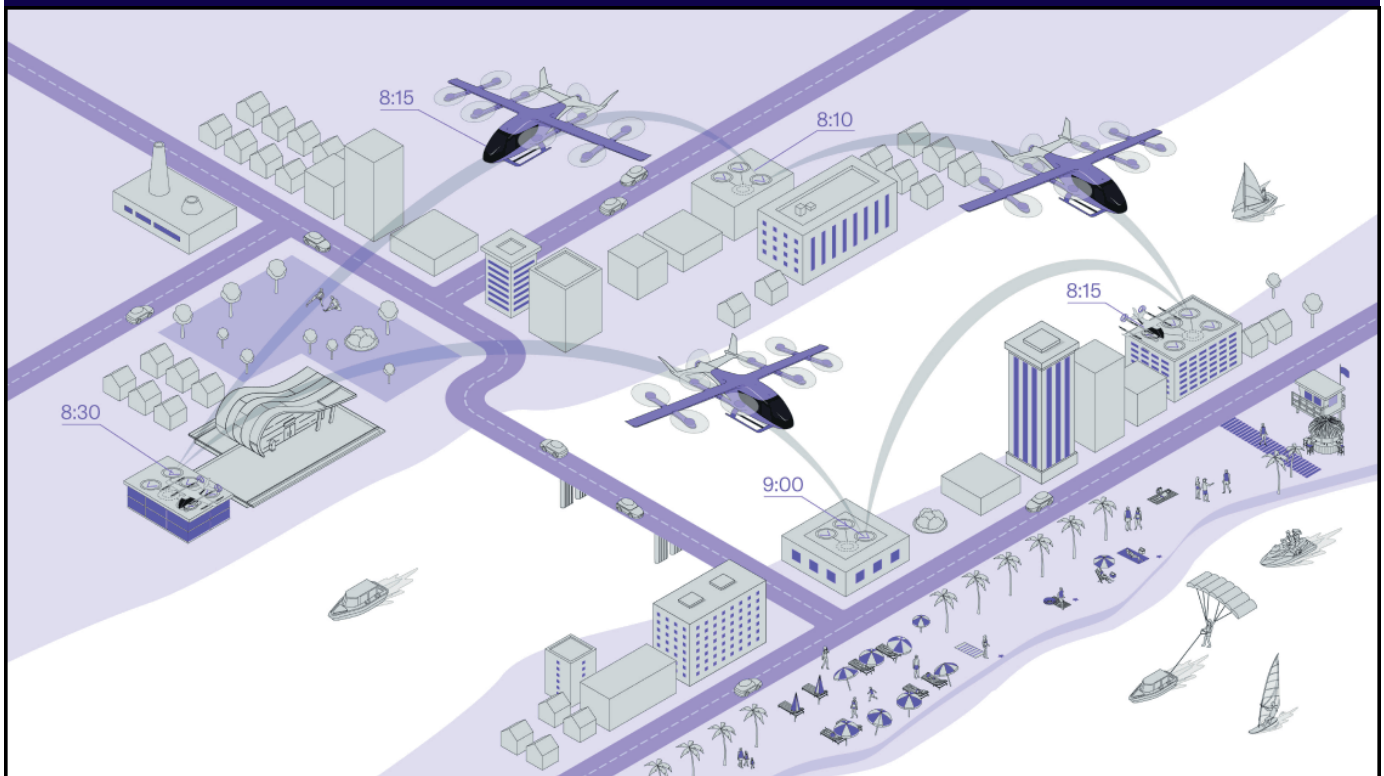


Image credit Eve Air Mobility by Halo Aviation

Andy has been involved in the development of new and novel technology for over 30 years, including in many of the key technologies underpinning autonomous systems.

That, combined with his having led BAE Systems technology strategy and innovation initiatives for many years and his chairing of the UKRI's Trusted Autonomous Systems Hub, makes Andy as well placed as anyone to describe Autonomous Systems progression from the lab to everyday use and the many challenges that remain to the realisation of their full potential.

**Open to All - Members and non-Members Welcome**  
**Admission Free**

**email: [solent@aerosociety.com](mailto:solent@aerosociety.com)**

**Venue:**

**Physics Building Lecture Theatre C - Room 46/2005**  
**University of Southampton**  
**SO17 1PS**

**East and west entrances:**

**<https://w3w.co/spoke.bike.dairy>**  
**<https://w3w.co/horns.both.racing>**

**18:00 - Doors open**

**18:30 - Lecture starts**



**[www.solent-raes.org.uk/lectures](http://www.solent-raes.org.uk/lectures)**

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### Abstract:

The availability of high performance computing and communication has allowed the use of intelligent systems to become a reality in both military and civil systems.

This talk will review of some of the key areas technologies that during my career have underpinned the development of these systems. The talk will explore how these lab based systems became a reality and at the same time the challenges that still remain to be addressed.

### Biography:

Professor William (Andy) Wright FEng, FIET, CEng, PhD, BSc, is a member of the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) Council.

Andy is an independent technology consultant, Professor in Practice for the University of Glasgow College of Science and Engineering, and Professorial Fellow Enterprise at the University of Southampton, supporting the universities' strategic development and links with industry.



In 2022 he retired as the Strategic Technology Director for BAE Systems CTO organisation. In this role he was responsible for the strategic development of BAE Systems Technology Programme in the UK as well as supporting technology development across the global business. He was involved in setting up several unique multinational programmes across the UK, the US, and Australia, which would develop new products in areas such as autonomy, and data fusion and analytics.

As Director of the BAE Systems Open Innovation initiative (I3), a corporate venturing fund invested directly in small and medium-sized enterprises, he gained first-hand experience working with them to mature and exploit novel products in biometrics and security systems.

Andy has been involved in the development of new and novel technology for over 30 years, with research experience in artificial intelligence, autonomy and machine learning, having taken visiting posts in academia, including at the universities of Bristol and Caltech in the US.

He is currently the Chair of the Trusted Autonomous Systems (TAS) Hub, a major UKRI Research Programme <https://tas.ac.uk/>

He is a chartered engineer. He was appointed Visiting Professor at the University of Southampton in 2005 in computer science. He is a fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering, fellow of the Institution of Engineering and Technology and

[www.solent-raes.org.uk/lectures](http://www.solent-raes.org.uk/lectures)

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