

NBAA-BACE comes to Orlando at exciting time for business aviation

Ed Bolen looks forward to NBAA-BACE, which brings together key aviation contacts from around the world to a single meeting place to get critical work accomplished

 NBAA-BACE®
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Business aviation offers the unparalleled ability to link communities and companies around the world, and this is a very exciting time for this vital international industry. Deliveries of new aircraft are up, new airframes with exciting capabilities are reshaping the market, and business aviation operations are on the rise in nearly every market across the globe.

All this energy and enthusiasm will be surging throughout NBAA's Business Aviation Convention and Exhibition (NBAA-BACE) taking place October 16-18 in Orlando, FL. The third-largest trade show in the United States, NBAA-BACE brings together key aviation contacts from around the world, including current and prospective business aircraft owners, manufacturers and customers to a single meeting place to get critical work accomplished.

Approximately 25,000 attendees from across North America and around the globe will come to Orlando for NBAA-BACE, where they find more than 1,100 exhibits at the Orange County Convention Center (OCCC) showcasing the latest products and services available to help companies of all sizes travel safely, efficiently and securely.

Additionally, more than 100 aircraft of all sizes and for all missions will be featured between the main outdoor static display at Orlando Executive Airport (ORL) and at the indoor static display on the OCCC exhibit floor.

Dynamic speakers are another hallmark of NBAA-BACE, and this year's event will kick off with the Day 1 Keynote presentation by internationally recognized aviation innovator Bertrand Piccard, a pilot of Solar Impulse 2, the first aircraft to fly around the world without using a drop of fuel. Piccard will inspire attendees with his personal story and pioneering spirit, demonstrating all that is possible in aviation and beyond.

NBAA-BACE also provides an impressive venue to continue the vital dialogue between regulatory authorities and business leaders about the benefits of business aviation and discuss policies affecting the industry. Among the

featured speakers this year will be Dan Elwell, acting administrator of the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and Louisiana congressman and business aviation advocate Rep. Ralph Abraham (R-5-LA).

Vital educational opportunities and safety presentations

In keeping with its role as an international show, NBAA-BACE also presents an important opportunity for to learn more about the many important issues facing the global business aviation community. This year's event will host more than 50 education sessions addressing a wide range of topics of interest to readers of *World Commerce Review*.

With the international business aviation community growing and changing so rapidly, the only way to stay ahead of the curve is by putting yourself in the middle of it all

For example, a session about the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSA) will discuss the impact on business aviation from this global, market-based measure to help achieve goals for carbon neutral growth from 2020. Other scheduled sessions include discussions about forthcoming aviation technologies such as electrically-powered aircraft; weather forecasting tools; workforce retention and training; and business management and leadership.

The future of business aviation has never felt so exciting - or so close. Returning to the NBAA-BACE exhibit floor for 2018 is the Innovation Zone, hosting a wide range of informative discussions on such forward-thinking topics as expanding opportunities for unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) in business aviation; new fuels, efficient airframes and advances in propulsion systems; and vertical takeoff and landing (VTOL) aircraft that could revolutionize urban transport.

This year's event will also host vital discussions about operator safety, including the debut of NBAA's inaugural Small Operator Symposium on Monday, October 15 prior to the official opening of NBAA-BACE. This new symposium will specifically address issues facing operators with two airplanes or less.

The symposium's sessions will present information on areas specific to those issues faced by small flight departments, including a look at where small flight departments can learn how to properly address safety issues on a practical basis, and how a safety management system can help an operation of any size.

Also taking place October 15 is NBAA's 10th annual Single-Pilot Safety Standdown, featuring interactive learning opportunities, expert speakers and lively peer-to-peer discussions exploring practical tips to enhance operational safety and risk mitigation.

Scheduled presentations include a detailed analysis of single-pilot business aviation accident data and leadership briefings from NBAA President and CEO Ed Bolen and other industry officials.

Following the theme of *Safety Begins with You*, NBAA's fourth annual National Safety Forum on Thursday, October 18 will address the basics of maintaining skills and understanding automation in aircraft; examine the physiology and psychology that affects human performance and explore the relationship of leadership and professionalism in aviation safety.

Advancing careers and attracting new talent to industry

Workforce concerns remain a key issue affecting business aviation. NBAA recognizes the value in exposing students to the global business aviation industry to inspire them towards successful and rewarding aviation careers and providing opportunities for existing business aviation professionals to network with their peers and identify paths for advancement.

Middle school, high school and college students are invited to a day of student-focused programming and opportunities at the 2018 Careers in Business Aviation Day. Taking place Thursday, October 1, this important event will include a networking roundtable where college and university students may connect directly with business aviation industry leaders to discuss professional goals and get advice on how to best prepare for a rewarding career.

On Tuesday afternoon, NBAA's Coffee Social offers the chance for attendees to meet with the NBAA Board of Directors, Regional Representatives and committee members. Later than evening, the YoPro Networking Reception, hosted by the Young Professionals in Business Aviation (YoPro), will provide a fun, lively setting for attendees to engage with rising business aviation professionals.

In addition to these opportunities, the Innovation Zone will host a variety of sessions shining a light on the young professionals changing the face of business aviation, with panel discussions examining practical strategies for developing young talent, as well as how the industry must attract the next generation of employees while also reaching younger customers.

With the international business aviation community growing and changing so rapidly, the only way to stay ahead of the curve is by putting yourself in the middle of it all. NBAA-BACE offers more exhibits, more aircraft on static display and more opportunities for education and networking than any other event dedicated to this vibrant and strong industry.

On behalf of NBAA, I look forward to seeing you in Orlando from October 16-18 where the very best of the strong and vibrant international business aviation community will be on proud display. ■

Ed Bolen is President and CEO of the National Business Aviation Association (NBAA)

