

Jim Williams

FAA REGULATORY AFFAIRS DIRECTOR



Driven by a career commitment to do all he can to enable routine unmanned aircraft operations across the U.S., Jim Williams is AURA's Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Regulatory Affairs Director. He leads the company's efforts to secure approval to utilize its network services to provide command-and-control (C2) links for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) and traditional manned-aircraft applications.

While Jim has more than 40 years of experience in the aerospace sector, almost three decades of that came in service to the FAA, including his time as the Executive lead for the UAS Integration Office – charged with accomplishing the safe, efficient, and timely integration of UAS technology into the National Airspace System (NAS) while balancing political pressures and the economic needs of the nation. He also spent several years as Director of the agency's Systems Engineering and Safety division. In 2015, he testified regarding UAS before the House Science, Space and Technology's subcommittee on Research and Technology.

Following his government stint, Jim worked with the global law firm, Dentons, and since then, has continued to provide technical counseling and regulatory and policy guidance to numerous industry stakeholders through his own consulting company. He co-chairs the RTCA Special Committee (SC-228) Working Group responsible for developing standards for C2 links necessary to control UAS and urban air mobility (UAM) aircraft.

Prior to joining the FAA, Jim was a flight test engineer and a production liaison engineer for the Lockheed-Georgia Company's C5, C-141 and C-130 programs. He also worked for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in Mission Control during the initial flights of the U.S. Space Shuttle. He received his BA in Aerospace Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology.