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After 40 years working in the aviation industry, I am now retired from Airbus, and taking on new challenges as co-founder of A3 Aeroconsult.

The beginning: I started my career in late 1979 as a simulator engineer for THOMSON-CSF Simulation. Moving on, from 1981 to 1983, I worked for the French Technical Services of the Ministry of Defense where, as an aerodynamic engineer, I was responsible for the follow-up of wind tunnel studies for Airbus and Dassault programs, supporting also the French DGAC for the handling qualities aspects of the Airbus A310 Type Certification. In 1984 I joined the French Flight test center leading and coordinating research studies on simulators for development of fly-by-wire control laws. These control laws were then incorporated into the test program on the Airbus A300 B4 flight test bed prior to their use and successful implementation into the design of the Airbus A320.

My Airbus path: During the period from 1987 until 2019 my Airbus professional responsibilities fell across a broad range of technical areas while working directly with both FAA and EASA operational, engineering and flight test specialists. These areas included handling qualities and operational suitability domains of aircraft certification and participation with both European and US government agencies supporting a wide and diverse range of rulemaking activities. As part of my participation in rulemaking activities my responsibilities evolved to cover a broad spectrum of aircraft operational certification issues, all aspects of flight and cabin crew training, technical matters related to simulator qualification, electronic flight bag development and applications, and development of procedures and design of crew rest facilities for ultra-long-range operations. My work in these various fields also focused on the regulatory authority approvals for these Airbus products. From 2006 to 2014 many of my day-to-day responsibilities required an in-depth focus on the development of Operational Suitability Data (OSD) regulations for EASA, while also leading the implementation of OSD for the Airbus Company. From 2009 to 2017 my Airbus responsibilities expanded further as I was assigned to serve as Head of Airbus Operational Certification. In this capacity, my primary responsibility was as manager of the Airbus team in charge of ETOPS certification and operational suitability evaluations. These evaluations were part of the Airbus type certification process and were initially conducted jointly with both EASA and FAA across all Airbus programs. As time went on, these evaluations involved other regulatory agencies from numerous countries, including Canada, China and Brazil. My last assignment at Airbus was to provide both my experience and expertise in the regulatory application of operational suitability requirements and their operational use and benefits to the Airbus Customer Services Organization.

Upon Reflection - Looking Forward: Of all the many aspects of aviation in which I have worked and served over the past three-plus decades, Flight Operational Commonality has been the most prominent and personally rewarding. Working in this field I found I was able to provide my support and expertise to both the Engineering and Training & Flight Operations communities at Airbus. In this capacity I was able to provide an experienced, technical and value-added bridge between these two inter-related fields of aviation. The long and successful course charted by Airbus in aircraft design for flight operational commonality is today well known and established internationally and I am proud to have played a part in its success. The concept of Flight Operational Commonality is now accepted throughout international aviation and used by most of aircraft manufacturers worldwide. The benefits of cost reductions and safety enhancements have been proven and are now accepted worldwide by government authorities and airline customers alike.

Through A3 Aeroconsult, I hope to provide my experience, expertise and passion to Airlines, regulatory Authorities and other industry players that might benefit from my involvement.