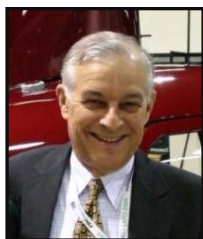


By partnering with Uber, we're making this new mode of transportation familiar and accessible, connecting the ground and the sky through a system designed to save people time and fit seamlessly into how they already move."

Joby and Uber have been working together to deliver the future of urban air mobility since 2019. In 2021, Joby acquired Uber's Elevate division which played a pivotal role in establishing the urban air mobility sector and developing the tools required for market selection, demand simulation and multi-modal operations.

Last year, Uber and Joby announced plans to bring Blade's commercial helicopter service to the Uber app in 2026, following Joby's acquisition of Blade's passenger business. The partnership will help pave the way for Joby's electric air taxi service, once approved, to expand to markets around the world, including Dubai, New York, Los Angeles, the United Kingdom, and Japan.



## Welcome to our March 2026 Report

By Rob Rich

Editor of Rotorcraft  
Asia-Pacific e-News

As mentioned previously, I really appreciate those folks who are sharing their new data bases with your editor and our almost 6,000 readers. Rotortrade's latest research indicates there are 34,254 helicopters in their report.

Several decades ago Australia had the third largest helicopter fleet. To be fair, if Russian numbers were studied we would have been fourth.

It may be of interest to note the Asia-Pacific region has an estimated 7,600 helicopters. Of this number Australia (2,650) and NZ (950) have 3,600. Or 47% of the Asia-Pacific's fleet.

More updates in our April Report.

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## Late News – Bali Conference – Late News

### VAI Southeast Asia Aviation Safety Conference - May 27-29, 2026

The Southeast Asia Aviation Safety Conference isn't your typical safety conference. It's a regional gathering built from the ground up; designed to listen first, collaborate widely, and tailor safety improvement efforts to fit the real-world challenges of operators and regulators across Southeast Asia.

## We're here to build a community of trust, learning, and regional safety leadership.



**François Lassale,  
President & CEO,  
Vertical Aviation  
International**

*"We're not just here to listen, we're here to share proven practices, collaborate across the entire vertical lift community (including AAM), and deliver practical takeaways that enhance safety and prevent accidents across the region. We're here to help co-create something that works for the region, by the region."*

The event is designed in two distinct parts:

**Day 1: Plenary Session.** A full day of strategic engagement for senior leaders, regulators, decision makers, and engaged operators, engineers, and stakeholders to explore regional safety priorities, policy direction, and shared leadership goals.

**Days 2-3: Technical Workshops.** Interactive breakout sessions, peer learning forums, and hands-on exchanges for supervisors, safety professionals, engineers, and frontline operators.

VAI is partnering with operators throughout the region to develop a bespoke program that reflects Southeast Asia's unique operating environments while including core safety topics like safety management systems and safety culture.

### Program Highlights

- **Collaborative Workshops** tailored to the knowledge base and needs of local operators and regulators
- **Regulator Roundtables** to encourage open, peer-to-peer dialogue between civil aviation authorities
- **Lessons Learned Panels** highlighting proven safety initiatives from around the world, adapted for local relevance
- **Regional Operator Spotlights** to explore challenges and successes in diverse environments like East Timor, Indonesia, and Vietnam
- **Evening Networking Opportunities** with regional peers, subject matter experts, and international safety leaders

Registration \$US300 per person.

**Venue: Hyatt Regency Bali, Sanur, Indonesia**

Please email any questions about the event to [VAI-events@verticalavi.org](mailto:VAI-events@verticalavi.org).

For more information, contact the VAI Sales Team at [Sales@verticalavi.org](mailto:Sales@verticalavi.org) or +1 352 388 7031.