

# BERMUDA BUSINESS REVIEW





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# A principled approach to advance aircraft support

By Thomas Dunstan

The aviation industry continues to evolve rapidly, shaped by changing regulations, emerging technologies, global market shifts and growing demand for operational flexibility.

In this environment, selecting the right aircraft registry has become an increasingly strategic decision for owners, operators and financiers alike. Key considerations now extend beyond safety and compliance to include legal

certainty, tax efficiency, asset protection, global recognition and the quality of regulatory support.

Against this backdrop, Bermuda has established itself as one of the world's

most respected and trusted aviation jurisdictions. Through the work of the Bermuda Civil Aviation Authority (BCAA) and the Bermuda Aircraft Registry, Bermuda offers a globally recognised framework that combines regulatory



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Safety, integrity, credibility, and transparency remain central to the BCAA's operating philosophy. These principles guide every aspect of the organisation's work, from inspections and certification to international collaboration and stakeholder engagement. This consistent approach has helped position the Registry as a preferred registry for operators seeking both operational confidence and regulatory stability.

The jurisdiction itself also offers significant advantages. Bermuda operates under English common law, with recourse available through the UK Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, providing strong legal clarity and predictability. Bermuda's tax-neutral environment further enhances its attractiveness for international aircraft ownership and leasing structures.

From a financing perspective, Bermuda is particularly well regarded among lenders and lessors. The Registry provides dedicated mortgage registers for both aircraft and aircraft engines, allowing financiers to secure priority interests and strengthen asset protection. Bermuda's implementation of the Cape Town Convention further reinforces the enforceability and security of aircraft financing arrangements within an internationally recognised framework.

excellence with commercial practicality.

The Registry accommodates a diverse range of private and commercial aircraft, including those operated under a Bermuda Air Operator Certificate (AOC) and through Article 83 bis Agreements under the Convention on International Civil Aviation. The Registry supports everything from business jets to widebody commercial aircraft, providing operators with flexibility across varying operational structures.

A key differentiator for Bermuda is its reputation for responsive, client-focused service. The BCAA has developed long-standing relationships with operators, lessors, financiers and aviation professionals around the world by prioritising efficiency, accessibility

and practical regulatory support. Unlike more bureaucratic jurisdictions, the BCAA is recognised for combining rigorous oversight with a collaborative and solutions-oriented approach.

The BCAA also maintains broad international certification acceptance, recognising Type Certificates issued by leading aviation authorities including the FAA, EASA, ANAC (Brazil) and Transport

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Canada. Aircraft transitioning into the Registry can typically do so efficiently and with minimal administrative complexity, while future export processes are similarly streamlined.

Operationally, the Registry delivers global reach and oversight capability. Airworthiness Inspectors are based in Bermuda, the United States and the United Kingdom and are supported by a worldwide network of Designated Airworthiness and Flight Operations Inspectors located across key international markets. Additional partnerships with organisations such as Bureau Veritas strengthen the BCAA’s inspection and oversight capabilities in regions including Europe and Asia.

This international presence reflects the highly interconnected nature of modern aviation. The BCAA works closely with foreign civil aviation authorities, international agencies and industry organisations to ensure alignment with evolving global standards and best practices. Participation in regulatory forums, conferences and industry summits also enables the BCAA to remain informed on emerging developments shaping the future of aviation.

As the industry continues to evolve, the BCAA remains focused on long-term growth, diversification and innovation. In recent years, the organisation has expanded its business development efforts into regions such as Asia-Pacific and the Middle East, recognising the importance of broadening its global footprint and building resilience across changing market conditions.

The BCAA is also committed to maintaining a proactive approach to regulatory advancement. By continuously monitoring new technologies and emerging operational models, the BCAA seeks to ensure its regulatory framework evolves alongside the industry while maintaining the highest standards of safety and oversight.

Looking ahead, sustainability and innovation will play an increasingly important role in the future of aviation. The BCAA recognises the need to support responsible industry growth while embracing advancements that improve efficiency and reduce environmental impact. Through continued collaboration, strategic development and a commitment to operational excellence, Bermuda is well-positioned to remain a leading

jurisdiction within the global aviation sector.

For aircraft owners, operators and financiers seeking a registry that offers regulatory credibility, legal certainty, commercial flexibility and world-class service, Bermuda continues to present a compelling and globally respected proposition.

### THOMAS DUNSTAN



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Thomas is a principled aviation leader renowned for his expertise and commitment to safety and innovation.

A Daniel Webster College graduate in Aviation Management and Flight Operations, he advanced through Bermuda’s aviation sector into the Department of Civil Aviation in 2006 and helped steer its transition to the BCAA, where he now serves as Director General. Under his leadership the BCAA has upheld regulatory excellence, strong customer service and proactive oversight, with a focus on engaging international developments, emerging technologies and global regulatory trends. His leadership approach focuses on balancing innovation and operational growth with the highest standards of aviation safety and compliance. A staunch advocate for professional development, Thomas champions passion, adaptability and safety among aspiring professionals, guiding the BCAA toward sustainable growth and operational excellence while preserving Bermuda’s respected aviation standards.