

**PLENARY GUEST SPEAKER**



**PROFESSOR JAMES WANG**

DIRECTOR, eVTOL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION CENTRE  
NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

**BIOGRAPHY OF SPEAKER**

Prof James Wang has held several executive leadership positions, and has more than 30 years of experience in aerospace, helicopters, defense and high-tech industries. In 2018, he founded Vtolwerke LLC, a US consulting company that offers worldwide consulting services in aerospace technology strategy, marketing & business strategy, VTOL aircraft design and engineering. Prof Wang and Vtolwerke LLC now specialize in helping entrepreneurial eVTOL startups. Prof Wang is an internationally renowned expert in helicopter and eVTOL aircraft design. In 2018, he was invited to teach a graduate course on Multidiscipline Design at Stanford University. In 2019, he was sought by the Vertical Flight Society (VFS) to teach eVTOL design. He is a volunteer Mentor and Master of the Boeing sponsored GoFly Competition. Currently, Prof Wang is also a full professor, and the Director of the eVTOL Research and Innovation Center, at the prestigious Nanyang Technological University of Singapore.

He received his bachelor degrees in Aeronautical Engineering and in Electrical Engineering from M.I.T., and Masters and PhD in Aerospace Engineering from the University of Maryland Advanced Rotorcraft Center.

After completing his PhD, Prof Wang started his career at Sikorsky Aircraft, where he was known as one of the most energetic and prolific engineers and managers; he contributed greatly to the Comanche, Black Hawk, Naval Hawk, S-92, and the Variable Diameter Tiltrotor programs.

Prof Wang has the rare talent to combine technical knowledge with business thinking, and bringing people to collaborate to achieve a common goal. At Sikorsky Aircraft, Prof Wang transitioned from engineering to leading strategic business campaigns. His commitment and astute leadership led to the successful winning of two of the largest international helicopter sales contracts in history, each worth over one billion dollars. Prof Wang has a Master degree from the M.I.T. Sloan Business School, and an Executive Business Training Diploma from the London Imperial College Business School.

In 2007, Prof Wang joined AgustaWestland as the Vice President of Research & Development, reporting directly to the CEO. Prof Wang created a comprehensive technology roadmap and initiated many pioneering research. He established three University Research Centers in Europe and one Think Tank in Japan. In 2015, Prof Wang was promoted to Senior Vice President of Marketing, responsible for the global marketing strategy of all AgustaWestland helicopter products at Leonardo Helicopters. He served 7 years as a board member on the EU sponsored 2 billion Euros CleanSky programs.

Prof Wang was invited to teach courses and give lectures in US, Europe, Australia and Asia, and he has written over 40 technical papers. He holds seven patents and major international awards, including Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society, UTC Gold Mead Award, AHS Fellow, AHS Grover Bell Award, M.I.T. Luis de Florez Award, NASA Research Award, Italian National Innovation Grand Prize, and the coveted Royal Aeronautical Society Gold Team Award. In 2013, WIRED Magazine named Prof Wang “the Steve Jobs of Rotorcraft” for his ability to think “outside the box” and pushing the transportation technology boundaries by inventing and designing the AgustaWestland Project Zero, the world’s first all-electric VTOL technology demonstrator aircraft.