

Our Speaker



Hugo DE BLAUWE

Current Position & Organization

Founder and CEO of Inflight, Belgium

Educational & Professional Background

Hugo De Blauwe is the Founder and CEO of Inflight, a software platform that enables industrial clients to obtain and process drone data at scale. Prior to founding Inflight, he worked at McKinsey & Company, where he became a Project Manager in the Aerospace & Defence practice and led large transformation and operational improvement projects for global aerospace and industrial clients. Hugo holds an MBA from London Business School/Berkeley and a Master of Science in Aerospace Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology, where he conducted research on control systems for unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). His work focused on developing an autopilot system capable of maintaining control of UAVs under severe damage conditions. He also holds a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering from KU Leuven, where he graduated magna cum laude, and his thesis focused on the control system required for a fixed-wing UAV to hover

Key Achievements or Career Highlights

Founded and scaled Inflight into a global drone operations platform with a network of more than 3,000 drone pilots across 130+ countries. Raised €1M in external capital and built the company to a cash-flow positive position. Led complex transformation programs and operational improvement projects in aerospace and heavy industry while at McKinsey & Company. Conducted advanced UAV research during graduate studies, resulting in an AIAA research publication on resilient autopilot systems. Co-founded and led Humasol, a non-profit organization developing renewable energy solutions and supporting local organizations in developing countries

Hobbies & Personal Interests

Hugo has a strong personal passion for aviation. He holds a Private Pilot License issued by both the FAA (United States) and EASA (Europe), with more than 260 flight hours and an instrument rating. Beyond flying, he has a keen interest in aerospace technology, unmanned aviation, and the evolution of drones in commercial and industrial applications.

Motivation

Hugo is motivated by the intersection of aviation, advanced technology, and entrepreneurship. His academic and professional background in aerospace engineering and consulting led him to see the enormous potential of drones and aerial data to transform how industries operate. Through Inflight, he is driven to build scalable platforms that allow organizations to safely and efficiently capture and use aerial data for better decision-making. More broadly, he is motivated by building innovative companies, solving complex operational challenges, and enabling new technologies—such as drones and automation—to create tangible value in the real world.