

2026 AUVSI Advanced Air Mobility Exposition

Roads in Motion: Uncrewed Air, Maritime Autonomy, and Regional Mobility Innovation

Day 1, Wednesday, September 23, 2026 (CNU)

7:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Registration / Coffee and Continental Breakfast
8:00 AM – 8:30 AM	Opening Remarks: Daniel Wolfe , President, AUVSI Hampton Roads, Chapter Welcome President William G. Kelly , President, Christopher Newport University, Host Welcome Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA) , Member, Senate Armed Services Committee, Federal Welcome (Video)
8:30 AM – 8:50 AM	Keynote: Connecting Hampton Roads and Wallops: Virginia’s Uncrewed Systems Future • The Honorable Shelly A. Simonds , Virginia House of Delegates, 70th District; Chair, Governor’s Aerospace Council (in-person)
8:50 AM – 9:10 AM	Keynote: Virginia’s Advanced Air Mobility Strategy • Scott Denny , Senior Program Manager, AAM, DOAV
9:10 AM – 10:05 AM	Panel 1: UAS at Work in Hampton Roads: Infrastructure, Inspection, and Operations Moderator: Dave Hinton , Senior Fellow, Cardinal Center for Autonomy and Energy CCALS • Justin Jones , Systems Manager & Lead Pilot for UAVs, W.M. Jordan • Zach Long , GIS Specialist-sUAS Pilot, GIS Department, City of Newport News
10:05 AM – 10:30 AM	Coffee Break
10:30 AM – 10:50 AM	• Keynote: From Concept to Operations: Regional Air Mobility in Hampton Roads Michelle Duquette , Director, Strategy & Government, Future Flight Global (FFG)
10:50 AM – 11:10 AM	Keynote: Regional Airspace Readiness: From Drone Operations to Scalable BVLOS • Pamela Gomez , Director, UAS Safety and Integration Division, Office of Advanced Aviation Technologies, FAA
11:10 AM – 12:05 PM	Panel 2: Preparing Virginia’s Airspace for Advanced UAS Operations Moderator: Hon. Karen Jackson , President and CEO, Apogee Strategic Partners, LLC; CCALS Senior Fellow • Mike DiCosola , Founder & CEO, Drone Industry Systems Corp (DISC), Vertiport Infrastructure Systems Corp (VISC) • Jason Taylor , Director, UAS Programs, Sentinel Robotic Solutions (SRS) • Brent Klavon , Chief Strategy Officer, ANRA Technologies (ANRA)
12:05 PM – 1:10 PM	Networking, Catered Lunch
1:10 PM – 1:30 PM	Keynote: Building Virginia’s Public Safety DFR Network • Chris Sadler , Director, VIPC Public Safety Innovation Center (PSIC)
1:30 PM -1:45 PM	Guest Speaker: JBLE Regional Counter-sUAS Coordination and Partnership • Maj. Andrea “Swiss” Bucher , c-sUAS Program Manager, 1st Fighter Wing, JBLE
1:45 PM – 2:40 PM	Panel 3: From Detection to Response: Regional DFR Coordination (Military and Civil) Moderator: Sgt. Tiara Suggs , Specialized Response Team Commander, James City County PD • Joseph Kendall , Deputy to the Chief Scientist, Air Combat Command (ACC) • Lt. Michael Sinclair , Cdr., Real-Time Crime Center, PM DFR, Newport News Police Department • Detective Bruce Pugh , UAS Coordinator, Norfolk Police Department • Investigator Joseph McCarthy , Norfolk Police Department
2:40 PM – 2:50 PM	Break
2:50 PM – 3:50 PM	Keynote: National AAM Infrastructure: The Vertical Mobility Economy and the \$16.6 Billion Infrastructure Gap • Michael J. Dyment , Managing Partner, NEXA Advisors
3:50 PM – 4:15 PM	Closing Comments (Day 1) • Daniel Wolfe , President, AUVSI Hampton Roads
4:15 PM – 6:00 PM	Evening Reception (Room: Torggler Center) • Network with Regional Representatives, Business leaders, & learn who’s who in HR

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Day 2, September 24, 2026 (CNU)

7:00 AM – 8:00 AM	Registration / Coffee and continental breakfast
8:00 AM – 8:30 AM	Opening Remarks: • Daniel Wolfe, President, AUVSI Hampton Roads
8:30 AM – 8:50 AM	Keynote: Commonwealth Leadership in Advanced Mobility, Maritime Innovation, Defense, and Workforce Growth • Congressman Robert C. “Bobby” Scott, U.S. Representative, Virginia’s 3rd Congressional District (in-person)
8:50 AM – 9:10 AM	Keynote: The Mobility Innovation Center: Expanding Hampton Roads’ Test, Training, & Innovation • Phillip Jones, Mayor of Newport News (in-person)
9:10 AM – 10:05 AM	Panel 5: Building the BVLOS Ecosystem in Hampton Roads Moderator: Chris Morello , Executive Director, Peninsula Airport Commission (PAC) • Lisa Peterson, VP, Business Development, AURA Network Systems (AURA) • Kyle Ellis, Deputy Director of Projects, Aeronautics Research, NASA Langley Research Center • Colin Fischer, Founder & CEO, NX Aviation
10:05 AM – 10:30 AM	Coffee Break
10:30 AM – 10:50 AM	Keynote: Hampton Roads Playbook - Positioning HR for National Excellence in Uncrewed Systems • Nancy Grden, President & CEO, Hampton Roads Executive Roundtable (HRER)
10:50 AM – 11:10 AM	Keynote: BVLOS Operations and Safe Airspace Integration • Jennifer D. Ambrose, Founder & Principal Attorney, Aviation Aerospace Law, PLLC
11:10 AM – 12:05 PM	Panel 6: NASA Langley Public - Private Partnerships and Air Domain Awareness Moderator: Lena Pascale , Regional Partnership Lead, Strategic Partnership Office, NASA Langley Research Center • Joseph Gasbarre, Director, Strategic Partnerships Office, NASA Langley Research Center • Kyle Ellis, Deputy Director of Projects, Aeronautics Research, NASA Langley Research Center • Jay Ely, Smart Center Technical Lead, NASA Langley Research Center
12:05 PM – 1:10 PM	Networking, Catered Lunch
1:10 PM – 1:30 PM	Keynote: The O.P.E.N. Advantage – Shared Challenges in UAS Management • Dr. John Matyjas, Chief Scientist, Air Combat Command
1:30 PM – 1:50 PM	Keynote: Maritime Innovation, Autonomy, and the Future of Mobility • Arik Snyder, Director of Information Technology, Port of Virginia
1:50 PM – 2:45 PM	Panel 7: Coastal Mobility and Maritime Transportation Moderator: Matt Smith , Director, Energy and Emerging Tech, Hampton Roads Alliance (HRA) • Jude Augustine, Co-Founder & CEO, Tidal Flight • Sam Riggs, Founder & CEO, Coastal Seaplanes • Will Fediw, Senior VP, Virginia Maritime Association
2:45 PM – 2:55 PM	Break
2:45 PM – 3:40 PM	Panel 8: UAS, AAM Workforce, and University Research Applications Moderator: : Whitney Lester , Vice President of Talent Development, Hampton Roads Workforce Council (HRWC) • Chris Carterr, Director, Virginia Space Grant Consortium (VSGC) • Julie Young, Director, eAviation & Drone Academy (eADA) • Dr. Anton Riedl, Associate Dean, School of Engineering & Computing, Christopher Newport University • Dr. Yiannis Papelis, Director, Virginia Modeling, Analysis & Simulation Center (VMASC), ODU
3:40 PM – 4:15 PM	Closing Comments (Day 2) • Daniel Wolfe, President, AUVSI Hampton Roads
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM	Cocktail Reception (requires Gala ticket) • Christopher Newport University (CNU), David Student Union (DSU)
7:00 PM – 10:00 PM	VASBA GALA Dinner (DSU Ballroom - CNU)