

BIO: KRAETTLI L. EPPERSON, CEO & CO-FOUNDER

Kraettli L. Epperson is the CEO and Co-Founder of Vigilant Aerospace Systems, which provides airspace management and autonomous collision avoidance software for unmanned aircraft based on a patent exclusively licensed from NASA. Mr. Epperson has a 20-year career as a serial entrepreneur and investor in technology startups in both the US and Europe. He is a frequent expert speaker at major UAS industry conferences such as InterDrone, XPONENTIAL, the UAS Summit & Expo, and more addressing topics such as unmanned aircraft detect-and-avoid, and UAS flight safety and airspace management systems for commercial operators, fleet managers, and unmanned airfields. Mr. Epperson is the co-author, with NASA Senior Research Engineer Ricardo Arteaga, of multiple industry research papers on autonomous systems and is an FAA certified Part 107 remote pilot.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE:

- **Technical project management including agile processes**
- **Online service design and management**
- **Software development including hands-on web and desktop application development**
- **Software architecture and user experience design**
- **Product strategy, design and management**
- **Technology licensing and license management**
- **Company and capital formation for early-stage technology commercialization**

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

- **Vigilant Aerospace Systems, Inc., CEO** – Detect-and-avoid and airspace management solutions for unmanned aircraft and autonomous systems
- **VentureSpur Accelerator and Tech Investment Fund, Managing Director** – Early-stage technology investment fund and venture accelerator
- **R7 Solutions, Managing Director and Founder** – Geospatial workflow systems for Fortune 1000 companies and public sector agencies
- **JumpPhase Ventures, Managing Director and Founder** – Early stage tech startup formation and management
- **Questia Media, Chief Technology Officer and Co-Founder** – World's largest academic digital library, acquired by CEngage Learning

PRESENTATIONS:

- Airspace Safety: Managing the Systems that Ensure Flight Safety in Droneport Environments
2018 UAS Tech Forum, Broken Arrow, OK – [Link](#)
- New Models for Integration of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) into the National Airspace (NAS)
2018 UAS Summit & Expo, Grand Forks, ND – [Link](#)
- How to Manage Integrated Airspaces: Real World Experiences Flying with NASA
2018 Drone Focus, Fargo, ND – [Link](#) [Video]

- Emerging Technology and Solutions for UAS Airspace Integration and Active Detect-and-Avoid to Enable Beyond Visual Line-of-Sight Flight
AUVSI XPONENTIAL 2018, Denver, CO – [Link](#)
- Commercializing Federal R&D: Secrets to Startup Success
2017 R&D 100 Conference, Orlando, FL – [Link](#) [Video]
- Safety Framework for Integration of UAS into the National Airspace
2017 UAS Business and Contracting Symposium, Oklahoma City, OK – [Link](#)
- Safer UAS Flights With NASA Tech
2017 UAS Summit & Expo, Grand Forks, ND – [Link](#)
- Panelist: The Future of Drone Sense-and-Avoid Technology
InterDrone 2017, Las Vegas, NV - [Link](#)
- FlightHorizon: Fully Autonomous Detect-and-Avoid for Unmanned Aircraft – Current Capabilities and Future Trends
AUVSI XPONENTIAL 2017, Dallas, TX - [Link](#)
- Panelist: The Future of Industry Innovation
UTM 2016, Syracuse, NY – [Link](#)
- Panelist: A NASA Researcher, a Commercialization Expert, and an Investor walk into a bar...
2016 UAS Tech Forum, Oklahoma City, OK - [Link](#)

PUBLICATIONS:

- μ ADS-B Flight Tests on Phantom 4 Unmanned Aircraft System
AIAA Infotech Aerospace Conference, AIAA SciTech Forum. Arteaga, Ricardo, et al. 2017. – [Link](#) [PDF]
- Detect-and-Avoid System with ADS-B Avionics for Unmanned Aerial Systems
Federal Laboratory Consortium National Meeting. 2017 April 25. Arteaga, Ricardo. – [Link](#) [PDF]
- Automatic Dependent Surveillance Broadcast: ADS-B Sense-and-Avoid System
NASA Armstrong Flight Research Center, Edwards, CA: Arteaga, Ricardo. 2016 June 13. – [Link](#) [PDF]
- Application of an ADS-B Sense and Avoid Algorithm
AIAA Flight Testing Conference, AIAA Aviation Forum. Arteaga, Cavalin, Dandachy and Kotcher. (AIAA 2016-3651): 2016 June 13. – [Link](#) [PDF]
- ADS-B Flight Tests on Ikhana Unmanned Aircraft System
Conference on Systems Engineering Research. Arteaga, Dandachy, Koshimoto, Kim and Strongrich; 2014. – [Link](#) [PDF]