




NTS AVIATION SOLUTIONS

SAFE - COMPLIANT - EFFICIENT

# OUR TEAM





*As passionate ambassadors of the Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) community and zealous individuals who strive to harmonise the co-existence of RPAS and conventional aviation systems and equitable use of airspace and resources, **Sam Twala and Dale McErlean** co-founded NTSU AVIATION SOLUTIONS (PTY) LTD. An aviation company offering specialized services to the Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) industry and Civil Aviation Authorities.*

# OUR TEAM



## Mr. Sam Twala TECHNICAL MANAGER

### Educational background

Sam Twala obtained his Bachelor's degree in Electronic Engineering from the University of Pretoria, South Africa, in 2009. As a passionate individual about aviation and Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS), he enrolled for a Postgraduate Diploma in Aviation offered by Singapore Aviation Academy in conjunction with Massey University in 2014. With focus on Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) he graduated with merit as Master in Aviation from Massey University School Aviation in 2016.

### Professional Career and Experience

Sam began his professional career as an Engineer in Training in a high-tech military company. As a trainee, he gained experience in areas such as laser design, optical sensors and image processing, amongst others.

Sam joined the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) in 2011 as a certification engineer specialising in avionics. His responsibilities included evaluation and approval of design data for minor and major aircraft modifications, conducting type validation of foreign aircraft, initial approval of design organisations and renewal audits. Other duties included reviewing and amending regulations and technical standards. After two years in the certification engineering department, Sam joined the Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) department as a "UAS specialist". Amongst others, responsibilities included development of the regulations and technical standards for RPAS, known as Part 101 today.

Sam served as a special adviser to the South African member of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Unmanned Aircraft System Study Group (UASSG) from May 2013 to July 2014. He also served as the South African member of the Joint Authorities for Rulemaking of Unmanned Systems (JARUS) from April 2013 to February 2016. In addition, Sam served as the ICAO panel member of the Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems Panel (RPASP) since its inception in November 2014 until February 2016.

Sam left SACAA to join Air Traffic and Navigations Services (ATNS), where he worked as Senior Systems Engineer of Communications, Surveillance and Navigations (CNS) systems in the planning department from March 2016 until February 2018.

### Career Achievements

Sam Twala is a recipient of the European UVS International Catherine Fargeon award. This award, is presented to persons in recognition of their personal commitment & contribution to promoting the insertion of RPAS into non-segregated airspace and/or the general promotion of the future use of RPAS.



# Ms Dale McErlean

## OPERATIONS MANAGER

Dale McErlean, born with aviation in her blood, is the holder of a Frozen Airline Transport Pilot's License with 2000 hours on fixed-wing twin turbine aircraft.

## EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

Dale graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce degree, specializing in Aviation Management, from the University of Pretoria, in 2008. Dale was awarded the Allister Mackintosh Miller award for the 2007 best student for the BCom Aviation Management degree and was granted membership in the Golden Key International Honour Society.

## PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND EXPERIENCE

Dale worked as ground crew at Virgin Atlantic Airways, at OR Tambo International and Cape Town International airport for 5 years whilst completing her degree and pilots license. Her roles included flight controller, turn-around co-ordinator and training new employees.

Pursuing her dream to fly, Dale left Virgin Atlantic to join a charter company based at OR Tambo where she enjoyed her flying career for 4 years. Dale flew the Cessna Caravan, King Air 200 and Beechcraft 1900. Dale was involved with the operation, fulfilling dispatch duties and training new dispatch agents as well as co-ordinating large group charter movements. In addition, Dale acted as Safety Manager.

Wanting to further her aviation career, Dale left full time flying and joined the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA) in 2014. Initially joining General Aviation, involved in Part 91 and Part 93, Dale then moved to Aerial Work where she was actively involved in the implementation of Part 101: Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems. Dale was responsible for the accreditation of RPAS operators and issuing of RPAS operators certificates. Dale participated in the ICAO RPAS Panel in the Operations Workgroup, the ICAO Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems Advisory Group and in the Operations Workgroup at Joint Authorities for Rulemaking of Unmanned Systems (JARUS).

During her time at SACAA, Dale completed several courses, including the ICAO endorsed Government Safety Inspector (Operations) course, the Exemplar Global Quality Management Systems and Lead Auditor Course and the FAA course for Surveillance of Service Providers (international). Dale has also obtained her IATA Diploma in Safety Management for Civil Aviation.

Dale's passion for aviation and the industry is evident in her daily work. She is incredibly excited to be involved in the aviation industry and the rapid development of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems, including the transparent integration thereof into the existing manned aviation system.



**GET IN TOUCH WITH US ON:**

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