

Zunum Aero Executive Bios

Ashish Kumar

Ashish Kumar is CEO of Zunum Aero. Inspired by the disruptive power of electric aircraft, he founded Zunum Aero following a long record of commercial leadership across Microsoft, Google, Dell, and McKinsey. His startup experience includes helping launch Aeroxchange, now the largest electronic marketplace for global aviation. Ashish holds a PhD in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering from Cornell University, and spent his early career as Professor of Engineering at Brown University, and as research fellow at Sandia National Laboratories. Whether hiking or sailing, he is excited to combine his love for the outdoors with his work on sustainable flight.

Matt Knapp

Matt Knapp is the Aero Chief Engineer at Zunum Aero. A certified flight instructor with a passion for all things aviation, he was building rockets and model airplanes at 5, and got a pilot's license at 17. Matt followed his interest to a BS and MS in Aerospace Engineering at MIT. Prior to founding Zunum Aero, he was Lead Designer for the Javelin high performance jet and Lead Aerodynamicist for Pioneer Rocketplane's spacecraft. He has also consulted across major aircraft OEMs, NASA and DARPA. Today, when he's not working, you might find him teaching others how to fly, or on a mountain peak admiring the effortless, silent flight of eagles.

Waleed Said

Waleed is the Chief Technology Officer of Power at Zunum Aero. With a history of technical leadership at United Technology Aerospace Systems in advanced electrical systems for a range of commercial and military aircraft, his experience spans motor drives, power conversion and distribution for both AC and high voltage DC, across development, production, delivery and field performance. Waleed led the development of power electronics and control systems for the Boeing 787 and the Lockheed Martin F35, two of the most electrified aircraft in the skies today, and has a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from Loughborough University. In his spare time, he strives to learn new things and runs, hikes or bikes on wooded trails.

Sandi Adam

Sandi Hwang Adam is Chief Marketer at Zunum Aero. A McKinsey-trained strategist, Sandi has held marketing leadership and advisory roles across high-growth companies, including ProFlowers, RedEnvelope, Global Analytics, Yieldify, Lyft and LOT Network. As a startup founder, she was recognized as one of Crain's Chicago Business 40 Under 40 Rising Stars in Business. Sandi has a BS in Composite Materials from Cornell University and an MBA from Duke University. When she's not at her desk, you can find Sandi hiking, biking or running along canyon trails, eagerly awaiting the dawn of quiet aircraft flying overhead.

Katie Otto

Katie Otto is the Chief of Finance at Zunum Aero. From early years in public accounting at Deloitte, Katie has held senior finance roles at a number of technology ventures in the Seattle area. Katie holds a BA from the University of Washington and is a Certified Public Accountant. Katie started her career as a Backcountry Wilderness Ranger in Mount Rainier National Park, and continues that thread by helping manage her family's non-profit Canopy Cat Rescue, hiking into the wilder sections of the Cascades. Her love of the outdoors and adventure in high places led her to Zunum Aero.