

News Release

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IMAGES: High-resolution visuals can be downloaded here.

USAIG, Vertical Aviation International (VAI) and VLinc Team Up to Boost Access to VAI's Operational Risk and Resilience Accreditation Initiative

New York, NY (August 15, 2024)... USAIG, one of the world's leading aviation-specific insurance providers, has added support for ORRA participation to its portfolio of safety-enhancing services available to eligible policyholders through its Performance Vector program. Performance Vector is available to most USAIG policyholders that insure a turbine-powered aircraft or place multiple policies with USAIG.* Each eligible policy can select and receive one program option annually as a policy benefit to enhance organizational loss control and safety efforts.

The ORRA program, which replaced VAI's legacy Accreditation Program of Safety, is for helicopter operators seeking to transcend traditional risk management and elevate their ability to manage risks and improve operational processes. Adaptable to the demands of operators of differing size and scope, ORRA provides a robust, flexible framework that meets operators at any stage of SMS implementation and empowers a trajectory of advancement from there. VAI has partnered with VLinc Corporation to administer the ORRA Program.

Participating operators are incentivized and guided to achieve increasing degrees of operational risk and resilience functionality based on a comprehensive framework of ORRA Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs). A VLinc coach engages directly as a vital resource to keep progress on track, with accreditation and recognition earned upon reaching program milestones:

- Participant (virtual guided policy and procedural self-assessment)
- Bronze Level (virtual self-assessment with virtual VLinc validation)
- Silver Level (Implementation assessed as 'operational' through on-site VLinc validation)
- Gold Level (Implementation assessed as 'effective' through on-site VLinc validation)

A USAIG Performance Vector ORRA enrollment will typically provide up to \$2500 per policy year, which can fully or partially subsidize policyholders' ORRA program fees, depending on the organization's ORRA stage level and timing of expenses incurred. To maximize the impact, policyholders wishing to apply their USAIG benefit toward ORRA should ask their aviation insurance broker to affect a Performance Vector enrollment before incurring ORRA fees.

USAIG President and CEO John Brogan sees ORRA as the right way to advance operational risk management and safety in the helicopter industry. He notes, "It's undeniably tough to add fortifying operational policies and driving positive cultural change to the long list of challenges that confront helicopter operators, but ORRA's coach-assisted model provides a clear path to achieve those aims." Brogan added, "We've made this addition to Performance Vector because, frankly, I want to see as many of our helicopter-operating policyholders as possible achieve ORRA accreditation."

"To have USAIG—an expert in managing risk—see the value in our ORRA program is a testament to its ability to deliver measurable results to helicopter operators," says James Viola, VAI president and CEO. "We are excited to work with our ORRA partners, including USAIG and VLinc, a service-disabled veteran-owned small business, to help operators improve safety, save on costs, and increase their chances for business success."

USAIG continually upgrades its popular Performance Vector suite of safety programs to keep pace with changes and improvements in aviation safety protocols. For additional information about the program, please visit the "Safety" tab at www.usaig.com or email safety@usaig.com.

About USAIG

<u>United States Aircraft Insurance Group</u> (USAIG) provides a full spectrum of coverage options for owners, operators, manufacturers, and maintainers of corporate, private, and commercial aircraft. In 1928, our founders — World War I pilots and businessmen David Beebe and Reed Chambers — saw the need for an insurance company that truly understood aviation. We remain a world aviation insurance leader delivering innovative, custom-tailored insurance products and services, including Performance Vector safety programs and Performance Vector PLUS good experience returns. United States Aviation Underwriters, Inc. manages USAIG, maintaining the industry's largest network of underwriting and field claims offices. USAU's wholly owned subsidiary, Toronto-based Canadian Aviation Insurance Managers manages the Canadian Aircraft Insurance Group insurance pool. USAIG is a subsidiary of General Re Corporation, a Berkshire Hathaway company. Follow us on X (formerly Twitter), Facebook, LinkedIn & Instagram.

About VAI

<u>Vertical Aviation International</u> (VAI), formerly Helicopter Association International (HAI), is the world's leading membership association dedicated to the vertical aviation industry, which encompasses all aircraft capable of vertical or short takeoff and landing. Throughout its 75 years of fueling industry growth through connection, advocacy, safety, education, and support for its members' success, VAI has leveraged the power of vertical flight to strengthen communities worldwide. The association welcomes all facets of the vertical aviation industry, including manufacturers, operators, suppliers and vendors, pilots and maintenance technicians, and other aviation professionals.

About VLinc

VLinc is a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business founded in 2013 that's done significant work in requirements development and configuration management for major capability development projects as well as logistics systems analysis and engineering support on DHS acquisitions. Years of experience in government and non-government systems development, acquisition, maintenance management, and transformation support underscore the company's ability to lead large, medium, and small-scale efforts effectively and efficiently. The VLinc team leverages extensive aviation standardization program experience spanning the broad capabilities of VAI member organizations to deliver a high return on investment for ORRA participants.