

Coastal

Earlier this month Shafiul (“Shaf”) Syed assumed office as the Managing Director-Accountable Manager for Coastal Aviation. Shaf brings 27 years of aviation experience and 3 years offshore senior management experience to the organisation.

Before joining Coastal Aviation, Shaf has led major brand organisations through tough business and culture change, with his inspired & passionate leadership and commitment to safety, strategy and the customer as key success factors.



Most recently he has been operating as a Consultant, helping aviation companies with start-ups, turnaround and business growth around the world. Shaf comes to Coastal from having served as the interim-Chief Operating Officer for a company based in Morocco, flying throughout North-West Africa. He has also previously been the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for Aero Contractors of Nigeria Limited, a domestic and regional aviation company with around 70 helicopters & aeroplanes and the Managing Director for Atlantic Aviation, a CHC helicopter company operating in Nigeria.

Shaf started his aviation career, with 18 distinguished years at British Airways ~ starting off as an undergraduate engineer, Boeing 747-400 Line Maintenance engineer, Production Controller to BA Engineering’s Landing Gear overhaul facility, Operations Scheduler, Customer Services Manager through to Sales Manager and culminating as General Manager for BA’s entire operations in West Africa. Trophies include being awarded the “Silver Spanner” from amongst his intake of apprentice engineers, “Top Gun” Salesman of the year and Most Innovative Sales Team for the initiatives introduced across Africa. He then spent 3 years as Chief of Staff, managing all the support functions including HSSE, offshore contracting & procurement (especially helicopters & rigs) and commercial negotiations with the Egyptian government, to the largest overseas gas producing asset managed by BG Group (former upstream division of British Gas and now part of Shell), before joining Aero Contractors.

Shaf studied Air Transport Engineering at the City University (London, UK) and Business Administration at Henley Management College. Shaf is a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society (FRAeS).

Shaf is married and has four daughters, who are busy at university, college and school in the UK. They will be joining him in Tanzania, on their vacation. Hopefully they will enjoy Tanzania as much as Shaf is already.

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