

## Dean Polley Bio

---

Dean Polley is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of SSASS Holdings, a South African technology company specialising in turnkey unmanned aerial systems (UAS), BVLOS operations, electronic conspicuity, advanced drone integration and remote aviation technologies across Africa.

With more than 30 years of experience in the Information Technology industry, Dean previously held senior roles at Compaq Computers, Hewlett Packard and Juniper Networks, including more than a decade working in the Middle East. He later transitioned his systems integration expertise into the unmanned aviation sector, founding Aerial Vision Africa in 2015, which was subsequently rebranded to SSASS Holdings in 2020.

Today, SSASS Holdings delivers advanced drone solutions spanning security and surveillance, mining, energy, infrastructure inspection, aerial mapping, humanitarian support and BVLOS operations. The company specialises in integrating aircraft, sensors, communications systems, ADS-B technologies, command-and-control platforms and aviation-grade operational workflows into complete operational ecosystems.

Dean is widely recognised as one of Africa's leading advocates for electronic conspicuity and the safe integration of unmanned aircraft into controlled and uncontrolled airspace. He led the deployment of Africa's first uAvionix FlightLine system at Lanseria International Airport in South Africa — a milestone project demonstrating cost-effective ADS-B-based situational awareness and UAS traffic integration capabilities for African aviation environments.

He is a former President of CUAASA (Commercial Unmanned Aircraft Association of Southern Africa), previously served on the Board of Directors of CAASA (Commercial Aviation Association of Southern Africa), and represented South Africa on the International RPAS Coordination Council for UVS International.

Dean has led or supported UAS deployments and training initiatives across Southern and East Africa, including humanitarian and conservation-focused projects in Botswana and Tanzania addressing human-elephant conflict mitigation through drone technology.

He has also undertaken numerous commercial UAS operations including aerial surveillance, mining security operations, infrastructure inspection, thermal solar inspections, BVLOS VTOL deployments, aerial mapping and industrial monitoring.

Dean co-authored the international best-selling books Drone Professional 2 and Drone Professional 3, contributing chapters on UTM, ADS-B integration and integrated aerial surveillance systems. He also co-authored the 2022 South African UTM Position Paper Perspective in collaboration with the African Institute for Entrepreneurship.

In 2023, Dean established a South African assembly and integration capability for long-range BVLOS VTOL unmanned aircraft systems, supporting the growing demand for locally integrated unmanned aviation solutions across Africa.

In 2025, Dean initiated the first dual DJI Dock deployment on a mine in South Africa for security and surveillance missions.