



Dr. Sandra Bour Schaeffer

Head of Airbus Group Demonstrators, CEO of Airbus UpNext

Dr. Sandra Bour Schaeffer is the Head of Airbus Group Demonstrators and the CEO of Airbus UpNext. In these roles, Sandra helps shape the future of aerospace by using flying demonstrators to evaluate, mature and validate new technological breakthroughs in space, aviation, helicopters and urban air mobility.

Dr. Bour Schaeffer is highly focused on Airbus's efforts to both reinvent and accelerate aerospace research and prototype development to achieve proof of concepts at scale and speed. To achieve this she supports her team as they work with internal and external partners, identify and hire industry-leading talent, and boldly experiment to build the future of flight. Her passion for aerospace innovation is long-standing, having spent nearly two decades focused on flight test engineering, development and execution at Airbus.

In addition, Dr. Bour Schaeffer is an experienced fluid mechanics and aerodynamics engineer. She holds multiple degrees and licenses, including Flight Test Engineer License from EPNER, a PhD in fluid dynamics from ISAE SUPAERO, an engineering degree from ISAE ENSMA, as well as a private pilot license.

“In the midst of the biggest health and economic crisis our industry has ever faced, we are challenged to couple people’s passion for air travel with the necessary ecological transition towards zero emissions. What is important today is that this transition cannot happen with a single player. It relies on an ecosystem. It needs SME partners as well as our traditional partners. It needs regulatory bodies and it needs politicians. We all must strive together in order to achieve our ambition of climate neutrality. We can rise up to this challenge to scale renewable energy, innovating with new technologies for the sustainable future of the environment and the industry. The next years to come will be very exciting and we are sure that support, like that of the European Commission through initiatives like Clean Sky 2, contributing to the Green Deal, will continue to be essential on this journey.”

To find out more about Innovation at Airbus and Airbus UpNext, visit our website:

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