

DR. WASIM BHATTI

BEng (Hons) · MSc · PhD · Kauffman Global Scholar

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EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Technical executive who has spent two decades turning breakthrough science into technology that shapes industries — taking energy, aerospace and propulsion innovation from first principles through to commercial reality. Builds and inspires high-performing science and engineering organisations, then converts deep technical conviction into investable strategy, securing multi-million-pound funding and investment along the way. Combines a rare blend of doctoral-level authority — in fuel cells, batteries and electrified powertrains — with genuine boardroom fluency in commercial strategy, stakeholder management and investor pitching. Leads with clarity of purpose, building inclusive, accountable, high-trust teams that believe in what they are building — and go on to deliver it.

CORE EXPERTISE

- **Technical Leadership:** Fuel cells, batteries and battery materials, hydrogen systems, electrical powertrains, gas turbine engines, aerostructures, FEA and CAD/CAE, advanced manufacturing and materials, additive manufacture, surface analysis (SEM/EDS), digital image correlation, corrosion-resistant coatings.
- **Commercial Leadership:** Technology and business strategy, feasibility studies and competitor analysis, investor pitch decks and fundraising, commercial negotiation, stakeholder and C-suite management, R&D function build and industrialisation.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- Won the National Innovation Award 2026 for delivering Superdielectrics' first next-generation prototype battery.
- Co-developed and delivered the pitch that secured £3.6 million investment for Superdielectrics.
- Led the proposal that won £1.3 million in government funding to establish the UK Hydrogen Capability Network.
- Delivered the world's first commercially viable electric mini excavator at JCB.
- Led FlyZero's fuel cell and electrical powertrain team with next-generation zero emission aircraft design, roadmaps as lead/co-author of six national technical reports.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Independent Consultant

Oct 2025 – Present

Advising SMEs and start-ups on R&D, technology strategy and commercial strategy.

Key achievements

- Guided an early-stage start-up through its first commercial negotiation, resulting in a signed multi-year purchase agreement.

Head of Research & Development | Superdielectrics

Aug 2024 – Oct 2025

- Led a 26-strong R&D function (10 direct reports) developing next-generation battery and supercapacitor technologies.
- Set and implemented company-wide technical strategy; reported directly to the CEO as principal link between the commercial and technical organisations.
- Assumed R&D Director responsibilities following the incumbent's retirement.

Key achievements

- Delivered the company's first highly engineered next-generation prototype battery — National Innovation Award winner, 2026.
- Pivoted the function from research to development/delivery focus, industrialising the organisation and embedding NPI principles.
- Restructured and re-oriented the R&D function to support the new delivery model.
- Drove a step-change in cell performance and life and led next-generation cell design — including battery material development — to improve research consistency and repeatability.
- Developed two proprietary cell designs to resolve critical mechanical/chemistry challenges.
- Co-developed and delivered the investor pitch that secured £3.6 million in funding alongside the C-suite.

Head of Hydrogen | Aerospace Technology Institute

Apr 2023 – May 2024

- Consolidated hydrogen demand across the aerospace sector and built future demand projections.
- Developed and implemented a hydrogen supply strategy in partnership with OEMs.
- Directed technical input into test facility requirements, business models and skills development.

Key achievements

- Produced the sector's consolidated hydrogen demand outlook with forward projections.

Zero Carbon Strategy Manager | Aerospace Technology Institute

May 2022 – Mar 2023

- Led strategy development to implement key recommendations from the FlyZero project.
- Managed engagement with OEMs, government and institutional stakeholders.

Key achievements

- Partnered with BEIS and major OEMs to win £1.3 million in funding establishing the Hydrogen Capability Network – the foundation of UK aerospace hydrogen capability.
- Authored the full funding proposal: requirements, deliverables, team design, project plan, risk mitigation, counterfactual and financials.

Powertrain Lead, FlyZero Project | Aerospace Technology Institute

Mar 2021 – Mar 2022

- Led a team of technical specialists (4 direct reports) on the design and feasibility study of the FlyZero zero-emissions aircraft.
- Held accountability for core electrical technologies: fuel cells, batteries, electric machines, power electronics and HV systems.
- Evaluated state-of-the-art technology and built development roadmaps; identified enabling technologies for key technology bricks.
- Partnered with external development partners and stakeholders throughout.

Key achievements

- Designed a next-generation regional aircraft concept with fuel cell electric powertrain and narrow-body fuel cell auxiliary systems, with supporting technology roadmaps.

Head of R&D | Lib.energy

Mar 2020 – Apr 2021

- Advised on battery cell chemistry, performance and systems selection.
- Managed a technical team in Germany and a manufacturing team in Manila.
- Partnered with the leadership team to evaluate opportunities and shape product/technology strategy.

Key achievements

- Designed and tested a prototype off-highway battery electric system.

Electrification Strategy Lead | JCB Excavators

May 2017 – Dec 2019

- Led electrification strategy for JCB construction machinery, bridging technical and commercial teams.
- Advised on the technical direction of new products.
- Set medium- and long-term electrification, product and battery strategy; built strategic partner relationships for powertrain technologies.
- Scouted and evaluated current and future electrification technology providers.

Key achievements

- Delivered the world's first commercially viable electric mini excavator, leading the dedicated technical team.

PhD / Research Assistant | Loughborough University

Dec 2010 – Sep 2016

- Researched, designed, developed and tested a multifunctional structural fuel cell for aerospace applications.
- Managed a five-year R&D project on multifunctional structural hydrogen (PEM) fuel cells.
- Built five years of laboratory expertise: electrode assembly manufacture, coating systems, surface analysis, electromechanical loading systems and balance-of-plant, testing and analysis.
- Led 3D design and finite element analysis of the fuel cell structure under static and dynamic loads.
- Led cross-departmental problem-solving across a range of technical challenges.

Key achievements

- Designed, developed, manufactured and tested a unique structural fuel cell.

- Managed multiple new product development projects for major automotive and defence OEMs.

Key achievements

- Delivered “Goodwood 75” — design, development, manufacture and installation of a limited-edition Jaguar XK body kit, managing third-party installation at JLR.

PUBLICATIONS

- ATI FlyZero Fuel Cell Roadmap — Lead Author, March 2022
- ATI FlyZero Fuel Cell Roadmap Report — Lead Author, March 2022
- ATI FlyZero Fuel Cell Technical Report — Lead Author, March 2022
- ATI FlyZero Electrical Propulsion System Roadmap — Co-Author, March 2022
- ATI FlyZero Electrical Propulsion System Roadmap Report — Co-Author, March 2022
- ATI FlyZero Electrical Propulsion System Technical Report — Co-Author, March 2022

Full archive: *FlyZero Reports Archive* — *Aerospace Technology Institute* (ati.org.uk)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Harvard Business School / NCGE – Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation Scholarship (2006–2007)

One of sixteen candidates worldwide selected for this international Technology & Science Entrepreneurial Scholarship at Harvard University and the Kauffman Foundation, focused on applying business strategy and commercialisation models to maximise the impact of engineering and technology ventures.

- Innovation training · Commercialising science and technology · Investor due diligence · Enterprise organisation and management · Advancing innovation
- Negotiation skills and techniques · Intellectual property · Networking and mentoring · Building teams and social networks · Process and market analysis · Syntectics innovation training

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

PhD, Hydrogen Fuel Cells and Their Applications — Loughborough University, School of Aeronautical and Automotive Engineering (2010–2016)

- Thesis: mechanical integration of a hydrogen fuel cell for a multifunctional aerospace structure in a UAV wing.

MSc Engineering Project Management, Distinction — Coventry University, School of Engineering (2005–2006)

- Case-study based programme covering supply chain management, manufacturing strategy, product development, project planning and control, lean manufacturing, and Six Sigma.
- Awarded the University Prize for Best Engineering Project.

BEng (Hons) Aerospace Technology, 1st Class Honours — (2001–2005)

- Modules: aerospace applications, industry studies and technology; advanced manufacturing technology, processes and materials; CAD design (CATIA V5 R13).
- Awarded the Corus Prize for Best Advanced Joining Project.