

GENERAL AVIATION FUTURE IN THE SILICONE VALLEY BY DAHER

News / Business aviation, Manufacturer



General Aviation future in the Silicone Valley. Sounds interesting? Then you have to find out in details about the hackathon even by Daher.

Daher launched an event that challenges innovators to develop computing capabilities, artificial intelligence processes and other software that could further improve its TBM family of turboprop-powered general aviation aircraft.

Called the “General Aviathon”, this event is the creation of Daher’s Silicon Valley-based innovation program – Armstrong by Daher – and is tailored for students (and potentially early-stage start-ups), with a primary focus on the greater San Francisco bay area of California.

“Armstrong by Daher is tasked with accelerating our parent company’s digital transformation, and there is no better way than harnessing Silicon Valley’s imagination and capability for a future transformation of the TBM aircraft,” explained Florent François, the Head of Digital Strategy at Daher, and one of two company executives overseeing the Armstrong by Daher innovation program.

The General Aviathon has two themes: advanced features and capabilities to make TBM aircraft more autonomous, intelligent and connected; and innovative standards to further refine the experience of piloting and using the TBM.

Cédric Eloy, Daher's Head of Innovation Strategy, said participants in the General Aviathon will benefit from the expertise of mentors, who will be available for tutoring on the TBM's operational and system aspects, while also providing insights into airplane's use from the pilot and passenger perspectives.

Examples of potential topics to be covered in the hackathon's advanced features and capabilities theme are: how can the TBM be improved with embedded artificial intelligence; what kind of vocal assistant could be relevant to its pilots; how the TBM can be given real-time computing capacity that is compatible with aviation standards; and which technologies would improve the aircraft's performance.

For the experience theme, possible areas of interest include new services to be offered with Daher's Me & My TBM cloud-based application, improvements in the customer experience (such as pre-flight and post-flight logistics), and enhancements to the TBM's comfort management.

During the hackathon process, competing teams will go through initial proposal and mid-term report phases, supported by webinars. After a final report, the number of teams will be reduced to undergo a test and presentation phase, followed by the second down-selection for a final "pitch contest" and determination of the winners – who will highlight their winning submission at the 2019 NBAA Business Aviation Convention & Exhibition in Las Vegas, Nevada during October.

Winners of the General Aviathon will receive a cash prize of \$5,000, with the potential to partner with Daher in deploying their solution if relevant and applicable.

12 JUNE 2019

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