

## **Pilot safety: innovation and passion at work in South Africa**

A clip titled '[The tech keeping planes in the sky](#)' which was posted by the BBC, gives an intriguing glimpse into the innovative thinking and collaborative efforts, which characterise African aerospace.

This clip features students at the [Belgium Campus](#) in Akasia, Pretoria, whose focus is making private flight safer by addressing one of the biggest causes of accidents: loss of control. Compared to commercial planes, private aircraft lack safety features and redundancies, including co-pilots, backup systems for navigation information and extra engines. [Read more](#)

David Toma is playing an important role in supporting the Belgium Campus management and students on the project. As a certification engineer, he has assisted Chairman Jan Rombouts to register the partially completed Velocity aircraft project with the CAA and get a build number.

David notes, "As you can see from the video, the plane is used as an innovation platform for the university. Whilst the aircraft is being built, I have given several presentations to Jan's students as background knowledge before they tackled such projects. We talk about basic aerodynamic and flight mechanics as well as systems."

David will also be responsible for applying for the Proving Flight Authority certificate once the build is complete in order to test fly the aircraft before it is issued with an Authority to fly.

"I am the assigned pilot for this flight testing phase for this aircraft as I have been involved with the project since it came into the country."

With his proven passion for both flying and youth development, David is enjoying every aspect of his involvement in the project.