

# Leadership

Supernal is a smart mobility service provider on a mission to redefine how people move, connect and live.



## Dr. Jaiwon Shin

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, SUPERNAL**  
**PRESIDENT, HYUNDAI MOTOR GROUP**

As the head of Supernal, Dr. Jaiwon Shin is responsible for building the company's strategic and operational direction globally. His expertise in the revolutionary airframe, engine, aviation safety and air traffic management technologies allow Hyundai Motor Group to take the lead in the fast-growing advanced air mobility industry.

Before joining Hyundai Motor Group, Dr. Shin led the Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate at NASA, where he shaped the agency's aeronautics research and development strategy for 11 years. During his time at NASA, Dr. Shin oversaw a program to lead many new aeronautics research initiatives, such as supersonic X-plane, electrification of aircraft, UAS traffic management and urban air mobility.

Dr. Shin currently serves as an appointed member of the U.S. The Department of Transportation's Drone Advisory Committee, a cross-sector panel that advises the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on safety efforts to integrate unmanned aircraft systems into the national airspace system. He is also a fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics and a fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society of the United Kingdom.

Previously, Dr. Shin served as co-chair of the White House National Science and Technology Council's Aeronautics Science and Technology Subcommittee, which wrote the United States' first presidential policy for aeronautics research and development, and the USAF/NASA Executive Research Committee, which facilitated the highest level of coordination of common research needs between the United States Air Force and NASA Aeronautics.

Dr. Shin has been awarded the Presidential Rank Award twice (in 2008 and 2016), the highest accolade presented to public officials in the United States federal government. He is internationally recognized as a leader in the aviation research community and was elected to the Chair of the International Forum for Aviation Research (IFAR) for a two-year term in 2014.

Dr. Shin received his doctorate in mechanical engineering from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech). He holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Yonsei University in Korea and a master's degree in mechanical engineering from California State University and is a graduate of the Senior Executive Fellowship Program at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

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## Ben Diachun

### CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER, SUPERNAL

Ben Diachun is the Chief Technology Officer of Supernal where he leads the company's Engineering and R&D efforts in developing a family of electric air vehicles. Over the past twenty years, Ben has been building sustainable high-growth companies and revolutionary new aerospace vehicles.

Prior to joining Supernal, Diachun served as the Chief Executive Officer at Opener, a Larry Page backed aerospace startup in Silicon Valley building a new way to travel, and President of Scaled Composites in Mojave, California, building breakthrough experimental aircraft.

His past projects include building the around-the-world non-stop, non-refueled aircraft, Globalflyer; the first commercial manned spaceship, SpaceShipOne, and follow-on SpaceShipTwo; optionally piloted/unmanned air vehicle Firebird demonstrator; high-performance experimental jet Swift; Model 401 advanced research aircraft; world's largest composites airplane, Stratolaunch; and BlackFly, an electric personal air vehicle.

Since 2016, Diachun has served on the School of Aeronautics and Astronautics Industrial Advisory Council at Purdue University. He joined the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) Board of Directors in 2018.

Diachun has a master's of science degree in aeronautics and astronautics from Stanford University and a bachelor's of science degree in mechanical engineering from Purdue University. He earned certificates in technical management from the University of California, Los Angeles and financial management from the University of Virginia.

Diachun is a commercial pilot with instrument, multi-engine and seaplane ratings. He was part of the team that was awarded the Robert J. Collier Trophy in 2004 for the development of SpaceShipOne. He was also named in Aviation Week's 40 under Forty in 2014 and received the Outstanding Mechanical Engineer Award at Purdue University in 2019.