

Roberto “Rob” Sabatini is a Professor of Aerospace Engineering and Aviation in the School of Engineering (College of Science, Engineering and Health). He has 30 years of experience in aerospace, defence and transport systems design, testing and operations, acquired in progressively more responsible industrial and academic positions in Europe, United States and Australia. Professor Sabatini holds various academic qualifications, including a PhD in Aerospace/Avionics Systems (Cranfield University), a PhD in Geospatial Systems/Satellite Navigation (University of Nottingham), and an Advanced MEng in Astronautics/Space Engineering (La Sapienza University of Rome). Additionally, he holds the licenses of Private Pilot (fixed wing aircraft), Flight Test Engineer (military aircraft) and Remote Pilot (multi-rotor UAS). Currently, Professor Sabatini serves as Chair of the Cyber-Physical and Autonomous Systems Group, Deputy Director (Aerospace) of the Sir Lawrence Wackett Centre, and Director of the Autonomous and Intelligent Systems Laboratory, located in Bundoora East campus. Additionally, he contributes to the university governance activities as Chair of the RMIT Research Committee and Research Integrity Advisor, with an overall responsibility for providing academic leadership in research and research training at an institutional level.

Throughout his career, Professor Sabatini led to successful fruition numerous industrial and government-funded research programmes on aerospace, defence and intelligent transport/mobility systems, and he has authored or co-authored more than 250 peer-reviewed international publications and over 100 research reports. His teaching experience includes traditional and online courses (delivered both nationally and internationally) in Aircraft Systems, Avionics and Air Traffic Management Systems, Spaceflight Systems Design, Aerospace Navigation and Guidance Systems, Flight Dynamics and Simulation, Satellite Navigation Systems, Aerospace Systems and Software Engineering, Aerospace Communication and Surveillance Systems, Flight Test Techniques and Instrumentation, and Sustainable Aviation Technology. He received various national and international awards including: Scientist of the Year – Australian Defence Industry Awards (2019); Professorial Scholarship Award – Northrop Grumman Corporation (2017); Science Award – Sustainable Aviation Research Society (2016); Arch T. Colwell Merit Award – Society of Automotive Engineers (2015); Scientific Achievement Award – NATO Research & Technology Organization (2008).

Professor Sabatini is a Fellow and Executive Member of the Institution of Engineers Australia, Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS), Fellow of the Royal Institute of Navigation (RIN), Senior Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE), Senior Member of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), and Life Member of Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA). In addition to his primary duties at RMIT University and various adjunct/visiting appointments in the US, Europe, Asia and South Africa, Professor Sabatini is a Distinguished Lecturer of the IEEE Aerospace and Electronic Systems Society (AESS), Vice-Chair of the AESS Avionics Systems Panel (ASP), member of the NASA Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Traffic Management (UTM) Collaborative Testing Initiative, and Australian National Representative at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection (CAEP), Impact and Science Group (ISG). Currently, he also serves in as Editorial Board Member for Progress in Aerospace Sciences, Technical Editor for the IEEE Transactions on Aerospace and Electronic Systems, Associate Editor for Aerospace Science and Technology, and Associate Editor for the Journal of Navigation.