

Tropic Ocean Airways Announces Leadership Transition

Tropic Ocean Airways today announced a leadership transition as Founder and CEO Rob Ceravolo steps down after 16 years at the helm to assume a new role.



Tropic Ocean Airways Logo

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/EINPresswire.com/ -- [Tropic Ocean](#)

[Airways](#) today announced a leadership transition as Founder and CEO Rob Ceravolo steps down after 16 years at the helm to assume a new role as Board Member and Strategic Advisor.

Founded by Ceravolo in 2009 in his garage while stationed at Naval Air Station Key West, Tropic Ocean Airways was born from his belief that seaplane travel could be reimaged — operated with the same precision, discipline, and professionalism found in military aviation. As a TOPGUN trained U.S. Navy fighter pilot, Ceravolo saw the potential to bring that level of safety and excellence to civilian air travel and create a company that could connect remote destinations directly by water.

That vision set the course for what would become one of the most respected private airlines and the largest commercial amphibious operator in the world.

Under Ceravolo's leadership, Tropic Ocean Airways has operated approximately 200,000 flights with an impeccable safety record, flown 650,000 guests across eight countries, and maintained a 97% customer satisfaction score. The airline has supported humanitarian missions that saved more than 1,000 lives and delivered over 300,000 pounds of aid across the Bahamas and the Caribbean.

"I've always believed that good leadership is about building something that lasts beyond you. After 16 years leading this company, Tropic is ready for me to step back from the CEO role and day-to-day operations," said Ceravolo. "This transition allows me to continue supporting the company strategically while ensuring what we've built continues to thrive. What began as an idea in a garage has become a team of 80 extraordinary people across eight departments — one team, one goal. I couldn't be prouder of what we've created together."

Effective immediately, Jason Schmidt, who has served as Tropic's Chief Financial Officer for nearly a decade, will assume the role of Chief Executive Officer, guiding the company through its next phase of growth. Kimo Buckon will continue in his role as President and Chief Operating Officer, overseeing daily operations and ensuring Tropic's continued focus on safety.

"Rob's entrepreneurial drive, innovation, and desire to challenge boundaries have shaped Tropic into what it is today," said Schmidt. "It's an honor to carry his vision forward with Kimo and the entire team as we continue to connect communities and create exceptional travel experiences."

Ceravolo emphasized that the company's core values — Safety Always, Guests at the Heart, Excellence in Every Step, Find a Way, One Team One Goal, and Enjoy the Journey — will continue to guide Tropic's mission.

"Those values are more than words on a wall," he said. "They're the heartbeat of this company and will continue to define Tropic long after any of us move on."

About Tropic Ocean Airways

Founded in 2009 by military aviators, Tropic Ocean Airways has grown into the world's largest amphibious airline. Operating a fleet of amphibious and wheeled late-model Cessna Grand Caravans across Florida, the Bahamas, and the Northeast, Tropic offers scheduled flights, private charters, yacht transfers, and curated experiences. With an ARGUS Gold safety certification, two-pilot crews, and a commitment to convenience, Tropic continues to redefine regional access for discerning travelers.

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