

# Itasca MGA confirms John as new CEO

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Itasca MGA has named Gareth John as chief executive officer (CEO) and director, confirming Airfinance Journal exclusive report on his appointment .

John succeeds Kostya Zolotusky, who served as CEO of Itasca MGA at its founding.

Itasca also confirmed [Zolotusky's retirement from the business at the end of the month.](#)

John assumes this role in addition to his position at The Fidelis Partnership, having initially joined in April 2024 as head of Bespoke Economic Lines, and brings significant experience across investment banking in the aviation market. He previously served as the global head of aviation for Natixis, and as the head of transportation finance Americas at Deutsche Bank. Alongside his new role as CEO of Itasca MGA, John will continue to support The Fidelis Partnership's economic lines of business, including across portfolio credit, mortgage, and political risk insurance, as well as asset-backed finance.

John's appointments are subject to regulatory approval.

Rinku Patel, Group chief operating officer of The Fidelis Partnership and CEO of Pine Walk, commented: "We'd like to thank Kostya for his leadership of Itasca MGA, which has helped to further expand Pine Walk's distribution into the specialised aviation sector. We wish him all the best for a long, happy, and fulfilling retirement. I'm also delighted to welcome Gareth to the Pine Walk platform, where his deep industry experience and network will help to expand our overall reach, capabilities and capacity across commercial aviation financing."

Itasca MGA was created in 2023 by Pine Walk Capital, the specialist MGA platform and wholly owned subsidiary of The Fidelis Partnership, and global alternative investment manager Castlake. Itasca sits within the Pine Walk platform and specialises in underwriting, structuring and managing risk associated with secured commercial aviation financing on behalf of The Fidelis Partnership and Itasca Re, a Bermuda-licensed reinsurance company established by Castlake that specializes in insurance-backed financing solutions for buyers and owners of commercial aircraft assets.

Since its launch in 2017, Pine Walk Capital has established eight MGAs providing custom underwriting and operational and regulatory frameworks to support specialist and innovative underwriting offerings.

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