

**ESSENTIAL TURBINES IS LEVERAGING ITS LONGTIME EXPERTISE IN THE HELICOPTER ENGINE MARKET TO SUPPORT AN AMBITIOUS, EXECUTION-DRIVEN GLOBAL GROWTH PLAN — ONE GROUNDED IN CLIMBING TO PEQ PERFORMANCE.**

**BY LISA GORDON**

# FOCUSED ON **EVOLUTION** NOT **REINVENTION**

Back in September 2025, Gannon Gambeski, president and CEO of Essential Turbines Inc. (ETI), told *Vertical* that the company had the potential to more than double in size over the next five years.

Today, Gambeski still has expansion firmly in his sights, although the focus has shifted from intention to execution. Within its traditional scope of delivering Power, Expertise and Quality (PEQ) to its customer base, ETI is now rolling out measured growth across three categories: leadership, capability and geography.

“Our growth is about climbing to PEQ performance at every level of the business,” Gambeski said. “We are pacing expansion deliberately to protect what our customers rely on most: performance, reliability and turnaround.”

In April 2024, Swift Anchor Holdings (SAH) completed a strategic investment in ETI, sharpening

leadership alignment and operational focus in support of the company’s long-term growth strategy.

Rather than pursuing rapid, fragmented expansion, ETI is focused on building repeatable operating standards, investing first in leadership alignment, certifications, systems and talent before scaling capacity or geography. New locations and acquisitions are selected to complement existing engine capabilities, extend OEM alignment, and integrate teams with deep technical experience who share ETI’s quality-first culture.

“Strategic investment has enabled Essential Turbines to scale deliberately across multiple regions while maintaining consistency for operators,” Gambeski said. “Customers should experience the same clarity and consistency, regardless of location.”

Recent quality milestones in the

U.S. and continued capability development demonstrate that PEQ standards are consistent and transferable. As capacity grows, ETI is investing in people and infrastructure to support customer engagement and operational alignment.

### POWER THAT OPERATORS FEEL

While PEQ guides every operational decision at ETI, the “Power” component is increasingly validated by direct operator feedback. According to the company, one of North America’s largest medevac operators has returned additional business to ETI after pilots reported a noticeable improvement in engine performance following overhaul.

“The pilots commented that they could feel the difference almost immediately,” Gambeski said. “That feedback matters because it reflects

real-world operating conditions, not theoretical performance.”

This response reinforces ETI’s focus on disciplined build standards, technical decision-making, and a quality-first culture.

### EXPERTISE BUILT OVER DECADES

Experience remains the bedrock of Essential Turbines’ operation. Across its global footprint, ETI brings together hundreds of years of combined rotorcraft and engine-specific technical experience, spanning both shop-floor technicians and senior leadership.

In North America, ETI’s technical teams represent well over 170 years of hands-on experience, with senior management adding 200-plus years of industry expertise. Malta’s seasoned workforce has supported Rolls-Royce M250 and RR300 engines for decades.

That depth is being actively reinforced at the leadership level. Andy Preston now serves as managing director and vice president, European operations, bringing nearly four decades of aerospace and MRO leadership experience to the organization.

“Experience matters most when

you’re scaling,” said Alton Johnson, chief operating officer. “Systems and processes are important, but it’s seasoned people applying them consistently that protect quality and reliability as volumes and complexity increase.”

Alongside external leadership additions, ETI continues to emphasize internal development and promotion. One example is Joseph Frizzle, who began his career with the company directly out of airframe and powerplant (A&P) school as a line mechanic and has since progressed to become senior director and general manager of Canadian operations.

“We foster an environment where people can grow, cross-train and advance,” Gambeski said. “That continuity strengthens our culture and our technical consistency.”

### SCALING WITH INTENT: ARIZONA AND MALTA

In Arizona, Essential Turbines’ new Mesa facility represents a step-change in execution capability. The site, three times the size of the previous footprint, is purpose-built for MRO operations, with enhanced

tooling, improved workflows, and capacity to support increased volumes.

Over the past year, ETI has tripled its Arizona staff, growing into a multi-disciplinary operation spanning mechanics, materials, supply chain, customer service and dedicated shop leadership. Hiring continues to facilitate future growth.

The Mesa facility is expected to open in early Q2 2026, ready to support expanded customer demand and future product integration.

“This investment is about readiness,” Gambeski said. “It allows us to scale responsibly while protecting quality and turnaround as volumes increase.”

Beyond geographic expansion, ETI is actively pursuing alignment with airframe and engine manufacturers to support future capability growth. While specific programs remain confidential, discussions are underway that would broaden ETI’s service offerings and enhance customer support across multiple platforms.

“Our goal is to align with OEMs in a way that strengthens outcomes for operators,” Gambeski said. “We’re being intentional about how and when we expand.”

ETI’s Malta operation, previously AeroMaritime Mediterranean Ltd., anchors the company’s European and African presence. The facility brings decades of MRO experience, full AMROC capability, and a highly tenured workforce into ETI’s global network.

### EXECUTION OVER HEADLINES

Together, ETI’s facilities demonstrate how PEQ enables geographic expansion while maintaining a unified operating standard. For customers, operational consistency across regions reduces risk as fleets become more highly utilized. Predictable turnaround and performance remain central considerations, and ETI’s PEQ-driven model ensures that an expanded footprint translates into stronger outcomes.

Rather than reinventing its approach, Essential Turbines is scaling what already works — applying proven expertise, disciplined processes and aligned leadership at a larger scale. Recent operational milestones across Arizona, Malta and North America suggest that the company’s focus on execution over headlines is positioning ETI for sustainable, long-term growth. ▶



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