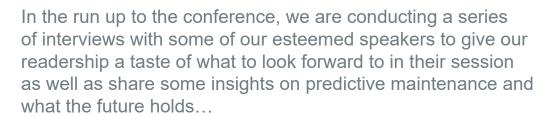# 60 Second interview: How machine learning can redefine the aviation industry with JetBlue Technology Ventures' Raj Singh

In the run up to the conference, we are conducting a series of interviews with some of our esteemed speakers to give our readership a taste of what to look forward to in their session as well as share some insights on predictive maintenance and what the future holds…

We put the spotlight on **Raj Sinngh, Managing Director at JetBlue Technology Ventures** who is our opening keynote address on Day 2 of the conference.

1. Please briefly introduce yourself and outline your role at Relational A.I
I am the VP of data science at Relational AI. I run a team of machine learning experts and data scientists that works on some cutting-edge problems. Our view to data science is completely radical.

2. In your view, what are some of the most exciting opportunities and benefits airlines are yet to unlock with predictive maintenance?
Aviation is a little bit behind in using data for increasing efficiencies. The most important thing is collecting and standardizing the data. Running Machine Learning models is fun, but it is useless if you do not have the right data. In addition, the data is heterogeneous; it can come from several sources. I think once we put everything in the same database, even simple business intelligence will reveal amazing insights. Keep in mind that the aviation ecosystem is closed and highly connected.

3. What can delegates look forward to in your session?
One of the problems in aviation is that sometimes data is not made them available to operators. I think technology offers incredible opportunities to solve them by collecting data from proxies. Open data, like open trade and open economies is the way to go. I will try to make a case about it.

4. In your opinion, what makes this event a 'must-attend' and what are you looking forward to at the conference?

AI is the new electricity. Does anybody want to stay in darkness?

5. Any game-changers in the fore-seeable future?

It is hard to predict. I would expect a breakthrough in the culture. 20 years ago, the low cost carriers were introduced in the market. Those days they have leveraged digital technologies to increase operational efficiencies. I believe this time we should expect AI-based carriers. I would be surprised if the current ones would be able to adjust to that wave immediately. In addition, I think it will be difficult to gain this know-how by acquiring high-tech startups. Since starting a new airline from scratch, I wouldn't be surprised if any of the big AI five (Amazon, Google, Microsoft, Facebook, Apple) acquire an airline and change the game the same way it happened with whole foods.

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