

Charles (Chase) Ashton

AeroMechanical Engineer – AeroVironment, Inc.

Charles (Chase) Ashton graduated with a B.S. in Aerospace Engineering from Virginia Tech. After two internships, Chase joined AeroVironment full time in 2005. Since then, Chase has participated in the design & development of nearly every Small Production UAV AeroVironment has produced. At AeroVironment, this encompasses (but is not limited to) design, fabrication/prototyping, flight testing, and documentation. Chase is currently the airframe technical lead for the Puma AE Product Line, which has been his main focus since development in 2008. The Puma AE is an all environment (IP-68 Water Proof) Small UAV platform with a fully gimballed payload and a 3-6 hour endurance. As part of the Puma AE development, Chase also designed (and has a patent for) a passively water resistant pitot tube that allows the Puma (and other AV products) to continue flight operations into heavy rain and other high moisture environments. Chase is also the manager of the mechanical CAD database for the UAS division.