SELÇUK BAYRAKTAR
Chairman and Chief Technology Officer, BAYKAR

Selçuk Bayraktar is the architect of Türkiye's first indigenous UCAV systems as well as the Bayraktar TB3 UCAV—the world's first UAV to take off and land on a short-runway vessel—and the KIZILELMA, Türkiye's first unmanned fighter aircraft. He was born in 1979 in Sarıyer, Istanbul. After graduating from Robert College in 1997, he received his bachelor's degree in Electronics and Communication Engineering from Istanbul Technical University (ITU) before completing his first master's degree at UPenn (2002-2004) and his second master's degree at MIT. During his academic studies, he carried out groundbreaking projects on unmanned aerial vehicles.

At Baykar, he led the development of indigenous UCAV technologies which have been exported to 40 countries as of November 2026. The Bayraktar TB2 UCAV, developed under his leadership, surpassed 1,250,000 successful flight hours. He currently leads the Türkiye's first strike UAV project, the AKINCI UCAV and Türkiye's first unmanned fighter aircraft, KIZILELMA. Moreover, Selçuk Bayraktar directed the teams that successfully conducted the world's first-ever close-formation flights with unmanned fighter aircraft and the world's first-ever beyond-visual-range air-to-air engagement.

He played a pioneering role in the Turkish defense industry through the Bayraktar TB3 UCAV – which has been developed by Baykar and became the first to take off and land on a short-runway vessel – and the KIZILELMA Unmanned Fighter Aircraft. He also carries out space programs through his technology venture, Fergani, which works on orbital transfer vehicles and launch systems.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Bayraktar led the development of an indigenous intensive care ventilator in Türkiye. Today, he serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees at the CANSAĞLIĞI Foundation, which supports research projects in the field of healthcare, and the KÜME Foundation, which is active in arts and culture. Finally, he supports talented young people through the Turkish Technology Team (T3) Foundation, where he serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees, and leads TEKNOFEST, the world's largest international technology event.

Bayraktar has received various international awards and orders, including the Karabakh Medal of Azerbaijan, the Order of Merit of Ukraine, the National Order of Mali, and the Dank State Order of Kyrgyzstan.

Married to Sümeyye Erdoğan Bayraktar since 2016, he is the father of three children and holds a private pilot's license.