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Dear valued clients and partners,

In light of the new year celebrations, we wish to take a moment to provide some updates regarding the **EB-2 National Interest Waiver (NIW)** program, along with a few important developments on processing timelines and changes that may affect pilots.

As always, you will find the usual press review following these updates.

### **Over 200 EB-2 NIW Approvals – Success Continues!**

As shared in our previous newsletter, the momentum for approvals continues as we have successfully secured over **200 EB-2 NIW approvals** for our clients, with more anticipated on the horizon. To reiterate, the EB-2 program is not only for our skilled pilots (commercial, helicopter, private, and military), but also for aircraft maintenance engineers (AME)s in the aviation industry and skilled professionals in the science, technology, engineer, and math (STEM) fields as well. This expanded offering allows us to assist even more talented individuals in securing U.S. permanent residency.

Among our recent successes, we are particularly excited to report that several pilots have now secured positions with some of the most reputable companies in the U.S., including **Delta Airlines** and **UPS**. Their success stories highlight that the EB-2 NIW program offers not just a pathway to permanent residency but also an incredible opportunity to make an impact in your field while living and working in the U.S.

### **The Elephant in the Room**

Along with the continued success, we also wish to address the elephant in the room – the incoming Trump administration and whether this will affect immigration processes moving forward.

While we cannot predict the future, from the latest support President Trump has shown for H1B visa holders, it demonstrates to us that the new administration seems primarily concerned with asylum and illegal migrants rather than highly skilled legal applicants. His stance remains



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consistent on this matter from his first time in office and we anticipate that this stance will carry forward in his new administration.

### **Visa Bulletin Processing Times: A Matter of Patience**

As many of you know, the Visa Bulletin outlines the dates for when U.S. immigration authorities will process visa applications based on priority dates. While the good news is that we are seeing incremental advances, we wish to remind all that patience is key.

Once your priority date becomes current, we can submit a request to the National Visa Center (NVC) to expedite consular processing. While the approval of this request is not guaranteed, we have successfully submitted similar requests on behalf of clients in the past. Rest assured, we are closely monitoring updates to the Visa Bulletin and will keep you informed of any significant changes as soon as they occur.

### **New FAA Document Submission Requirement Starting January 6, 2025**

In addition to the updates on the EB-2 NIW program, we would like to inform all of an important regulatory change from the **Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)**. Starting **January 6, 2025**, all FAA-related documents—whether for new Airline Transport Pilot (ATP) applications or Class 1 medical exams—must now be sent to a U.S. service agent and a US address.

For those who require assistance with this process as they do not have an US address, please do not hesitate to reach out to [info@harveylawcorporation.com](mailto:info@harveylawcorporation.com) for more information.

### **A Final Word: Perseverance Pays Off**

As we continue through this immigration journey together, we sympathize that it can sometimes feel like a long race. Nevertheless, in any marathon, persistence and perseverance are the keys to success. As always, we remain available here to guide you through every stage, ensuring that your path to success is as smooth as possible.

Thank you for your continued trust and partnership. We look forward to supporting you in achieving your immigration goals in 2025 and beyond.

Warm regards,

**Jean-Francois Harvey**

Founder & Worldwide Managing Partner

## Press Review

1. Melvin Backman, '[The Airline Pilot Shortage Could Worsen As Hiring Pipeline Shrinks](#)', Quartz, 7 January 2025
  - Despite the surge of new commercial airline pilots after the COVID-19 pandemic, an industry-wide labor shortage will likely persist — and may even get worse.
  - The main signal suggesting a slowdown in the pipeline for new pilots is the number of certifications being granted by the Federal Aviation Administration.
2. Melvin Backman, '[Boeing Is About To Get 'Aggressive' In Building More 737 Max Planes](#)', Quartz, 20 December 2024
  - After a particularly difficult 2024, Boeing is looking to hit the ground running next year.
  - Aviation news site The Air Current reports that the planemaker is telling suppliers that it will be “aggressive” in hitting maximum production speed by summer.
3. Ryan Ewing, '[U.S. Pilot Hiring Sees July "Surge"](#)', Airline Geeks, 23 August 2024
  - Major U.S. airlines reported a modest overall increase in pilot hiring last month. Data from FAPA — Future and Active Pilot Advisors — shows 13 major U.S. carriers onboard 301 new aviators last month, up from 187 in June.
  - Leading the hiring pack were United, UPS, and Southwest. United hired the most pilots in July with 130 joining the airline's ranks.
4. '[A New Pilot Shortage Forecast for 2024-2042](#)', Aero Cadet, 29 July 2024
  - The aviation industry is still grappling with a significant and growing crisis: a global pilot shortage. This shortage has profound implications for airlines, passengers, and the broader economy.
  - North America: Around 226,000 new pilots will be needed here. The region's mature aviation market and the retirement of older pilots contribute to this need.
5. Michael Wildes, '[The Aviation Mechanic Shortage Is Worse Than You Might Think](#)', Flying, 27 December 2024

- A severe shortage of skilled workers, including mechanics and technicians, affects the entire aviation industry, and finding a quick fix anytime soon seems unlikely
  - For the 20-year period between 2022 and 2041, Boeing said the global industry needed to recruit, train, and hire 610,000 new maintenance technicians. The need existed before the pandemic, but a lot has changed with the social upheaval caused by COVID-19.
6. Kennedy Hayes, '[Aircraft Mechanic Programs Are Taking Off Across The US To Supply The Demand For Qualified Personnel](#)', Fox Business, 10 December 2024
    - Aviation mechanic technicians are being recruited to work at airports at an alarming rate. United Airlines said it's hired almost 900 aviation mechanics this year. American Airlines created more than 500 aviation maintenance jobs this fall.
    - Schools across the U.S. are starting new training programs to meet the demands of major airlines that are looking for qualified aircraft mechanics.
  7. '[American Invests In The Future Of Aviation Maintenance With New Jobs, Additional Work](#)', American Airlines, 9 September 2024
    - American Airlines today announced nearly 500 new aviation maintenance jobs and additional lines of heavy maintenance work at the carrier's maintenance bases in Charlotte, North Carolina; Pittsburgh; and Tulsa, Oklahoma.
    - The added headcount will allow the airline to perform additional heavy maintenance check work at these locations.
  8. Sophie Rosenthal and Allison Seymour, '[Aircraft Maintenance Students Graduate Into A Field That Needs Them](#)', WUSA9, 20 August 2024
    - With 1 in 3 current AMTs almost ready to retire, a nationwide shortage of these technicians exists making this a field full of opportunity.
    - While rewarding opportunities for recent graduates in many fields are becoming harder to come by, for the latest class of graduates from the Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics School for Aviation Maintenance (PIA), the job offers came flying in even before they finished their training.
  9. '[NCTC Adds New Aviation Maintenance Degree Program](#)', Deton Record-Chronicle, 16 October 2024
    - NCTC is the latest college to join forces with US Aviation Academy to fuel the North Texas and nationwide workforce with skilled workers.

- Right now, the aviation industry needs workers across the board, from pilots to maintenance technicians to commercial airline workers. But the industry is experiencing unprecedented growth in aviation mechanics, and the local partnership is expected to offer an affordable and accelerated path to good jobs for skilled mechanics who are well trained in safety standards and flexible enough to work in a field that predicts innovation.
10. Lexie Horvath, '[Pilot Shortage Looms As Faa Retirement Rule Leaves Gaps In Workforce](#)', News Channel 9, 14 October 2024
    - Federal Aviation Administration mandate requiring pilots to retire at 65 is contributing to a growing shortage of commercial pilots.
    - The shortage is expected to worsen, with potential cuts to flight routes.
    - The scarcity of pilots is attributed to several factors, including heightened minimum requirements for becoming an airline pilot and the lowered retirement age.
  11. '[The Federal Aviation Administration Boosts Pilot And Technician Training Through New Grants](#)', Travel and Tour World, 8 January 2025
    - The Aircraft Pilots Workforce Development Grants aim to inspire and educate students to become aircraft pilots or operators of unmanned aircraft systems.
    - Meanwhile, the Aviation Maintenance Technical Workers Workforce Development Grants focus on preparing individuals for careers as aviation maintenance technicians.
    - Both programs are essential to addressing the growing demand for skilled professionals in the aviation industry.
  12. '[Texarkana College Receives FAA Approval For New Aviation Maintenance Technician Program](#)', TXK Today, 5 November 2024
    - Texarkana College (TC) is excited to announce that the United States Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has certified its new Aviation Maintenance Technician training program which will begin in January 2025.
    - The curriculum is designed to prepare students to quickly enter the workforce and help meet the growing demand for highly skilled aircraft maintenance technicians in the aviation industry.
  13. Kathy Hagood, '[Southern Union Goes To Auburn To Train Aircraft Mechanics](#)', Business Alabama, 22 November 2024

- The aviation industry needs both technicians and pilots. Southern Union and Auburn plan to help fill that pipeline void.
  - The 2024 Boeing Technician Outlook projects there will be a need for 123,000 technicians for commercial carriers in North America over the 20 years ending 2042 and a demand for 716,000 technicians globally.
14. Elizabeth Jacobs, '[President Biden Directs Agencies To Fast Track Immigrant Visas For Foreign STEM Workers](#)', Center for Immigration Studies, 30 October 2024
- President Biden last week released a national security memorandum to Vice President and presidential candidate Kamala Harris and the heads of numerous national security-related federal agencies to address “harnessing artificial intelligence (AI) models and AI-enabled technologies in the United States Government, especially in the context of national security systems (NSS)”.
  - While the term “sensitive technologies” was undefined, the language used in the order was clear that the term will likely to be employed broadly to include many STEM occupations, even those not connected to AI. The memorandum elaborated that fast-tracking such immigrant visas, “shall assist with streamlined processing of highly skilled applicants in AI and other critical and emerging technologies”.
15. '[NSF Announces Funding Opportunity To Train And Expand The U.S. Workforce Across A Range Of Key Technologies](#)', U.S. National Science Foundation, 27 November 2024
- The NSF Experiential Learning in Emerging and Novel Technologies (NSF ExLENT) program aims to expand hands-on and practical learning opportunities for individuals interested in entering or gaining more experience in technology areas such as advanced manufacturing, microelectronics or biotechnology.
  - With awards of up to \$1 million over three years, the program will promote cross-sector partnerships between organizations in key technology areas and those with expertise in workforce development.
16. Lindsay McKenzie, '[US Still Leads World In R&D Spending But Faces 'Crisis' In STEM Workforce, NSF Board Argues](#)', AIP, 18 March 2024
- The National Science Foundation's biennial report on the state of U.S. science and engineering, published last week, found that the U.S. continues to spend more on R&D than any other country.

- NSF's governing board argues that the U.S. now faces an "accelerating STEM talent crisis," in part due to the longstanding underperformance of the U.S. pre-K-12 education system in comparison with many peer countries.

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