

## **SELÇUK BAYRAKTAR**

**Chairman and CTO, Baykar**

Selçuk Bayraktar is the architect of Türkiye's first indigenous UCAV systems, the Bayraktar TB3 UCAV—the world's first UAV to take off and land on a short-runway vessel—and the Bayraktar KIZILELMA, Türkiye's first unmanned fighter jet. Born in 1979 in Sarıyer, Istanbul, he graduated from Robert College before earning his bachelor's degree in Electronics and Communication Engineering from Istanbul Technical University (ITU). He went on to complete a master's degree in Electrical Engineering at the University of Pennsylvania (2002–2004) and a second master's degree at MIT. During his academic career, he contributed to pioneering research projects on unmanned aerial vehicles.

He has led the development of indigenous UCAV technologies at Baykar. Under his leadership, the Bayraktar TB2 UCAV has been exported to 36 countries and surpassed 1,250,000 flight hours. As of March 2026, he leads the development of the Bayraktar AKINCI UCAV—Türkiye's first strike UAV, exported to 16 countries—and the Bayraktar KIZILELMA, the nation's first unmanned fighter jet. He also directed the team that achieved the world's first-ever formation flights with unmanned fighter aircraft.

He has played a pioneering role in the defense industry through the Bayraktar TB3 UCAV—the world's first UAV to take off and land on a short-runway vessel—and the Bayraktar KIZILELMA Unmanned Fighter Aircraft program, both developed at Baykar. In the field of space technologies, he leads satellite, orbital transfer vehicle, and launch system projects through his venture, Fergani.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Bayraktar spearheaded the development of an indigenous ventilator. He serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the CANSAĞLIĞI Foundation (Canan Bayraktar Public Health Foundation), which supports projects in the healthcare sector, as well as the KÜME Foundation (Culture and Heritage Foundation). He also serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Turkish Technology Team Foundation (T3 Foundation), where he supports young talent and leads TEKNOFEST, one of the world's largest international technology events.

Bayraktar has been honored with numerous international awards and decorations, 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, he is the father of two children and holds a private pilot's license.