

Senan Houlihan

Founder and Chief Executive Officer
OBJEXIS AI

Senan Houlihan is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of OBJEXIS AI, the Canadian-owned, bootstrapped defence company building a sovereign ecosystem of uncrewed and counter-UAS systems, from targeting AI and avionics to aircraft, effectors and operator training. Having qualified across all five streams of Canada's Defence Drone Initiative, OBJEXIS holds one of the first procurement contracts awarded under the Initiative.

A 22-year veteran of the Canadian Armed Forces, Senan served as an infantry sniper and completed four tours in Afghanistan, receiving a Joint Task Force Commander's Commendation for professionalism and performance in the face of the enemy during Operation Medusa. He then joined Canadian special operations as a technical collection operator. That combination of combat experience and technical depth is the foundation of OBJEXIS.

He saw the shift early. In 2023 he conceived an autonomous counter-drone interceptor, which DND selected for funding under its IDEaS program in 2024, and he led that research through to its conclusion in 2025. He then founded OBJEXIS, designed its detection and targeting AI, and led the team to a podium finish among nineteen competitively selected firms at DND's IDEaS Counter-UAS Urban Sandbox. In 2026 he embedded with a Ukrainian infantry unit at the front to validate that work under combat conditions. He sees bringing those lessons home for Canada's benefit as a continuation of his service.

He argues that low-cost hardware, software, robotics and AI have returned attrition to the battlefield, and that forces will regain freedom of manoeuvre only by achieving air superiority at the tactical level, a shift in doctrine as much as in technology.