

Your AI Learning Has a Hidden Cost

It's not money. It's the work no one sees.

Swipe for insights →

THE DATA

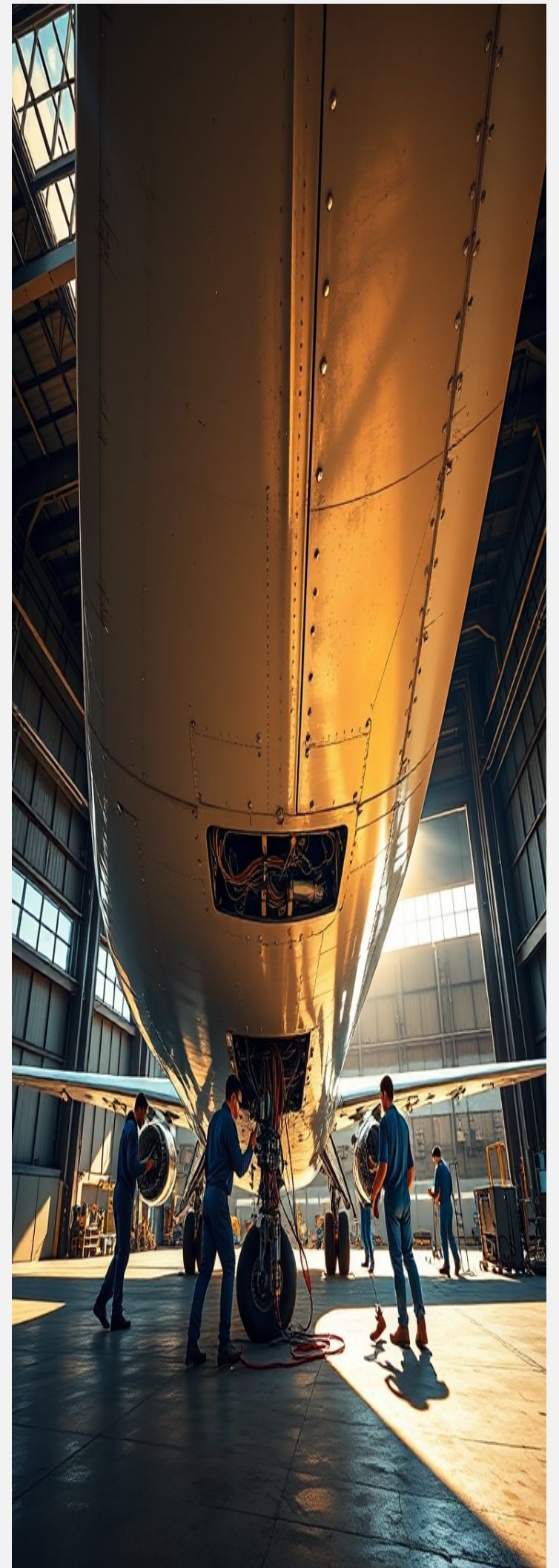
80

Roundtrip Flights

Craig Rowe made 80 roundtrip flights to Canada over seven years to oversee aircraft modifications.

This number isn't about travel—it's about the invisible labor behind high-visibility technical achievements. Rowe's flights were not part of a public course or open curriculum, but the foundational work that made advanced AI-enabled flight testing possible.

Source: MIT News • Published October 01, 2026
<https://news.mit.edu/2026/craig-rowe-soars-to-new-heights-1001>



01

Invisible labor fuels visible AI

This is the unspoken tax of AI advancement: the belief that open access to learning equals equal access to impact. But impact requires a foundation of uncelebrated effort—work that no algorithm can replicate, no course can teach, and no credential can certify.



02

The myth of the 'self-taught' AI expert

True AI mastery isn't built in isolation. It's built in ecosystems where failure is tolerated, expertise is passed down, and effort is recognized. The most valuable AI learning isn't free—it's embedded in real-world systems where failure has consequences, and success is measured in flight, not in views.

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