

AVIATION INDUSTRY RECOGNISES ITS BEST AND BRIGHTEST

Aviation New Zealand is delighted to announce the winners of the 2017 Annual Aviation Awards which were presented at the Aviation Leadership Gala Awards Dinner in Hamilton on Tuesday 25 July.

These awards recognise outstanding contributions to the development of aviation in New Zealand and are an important part of celebrating our success as an industry,' said Aviation NZ Chief Executive John Nicholson.

This year's awards went to:

Individual Award, John Sinclair, Blenheim

John Sinclair has been instrumental in the development of the agriculture and rotary industries in New Zealand. He has over 40 years experience in the agricultural aviation industry. For 25 years he was the co-owner and managing director of Marlborough Helicopters. But he has also made a significant contribution to the wider aviation industry. This is reflected in his engagement with the NZ Agricultural Aviation Association (NZAAA) which he chaired, the Aviation Industry Association (now Aviation NZ) of which he was President, and, more recently, NZAAA and the NZ Helicopter Association of which he was Executive Officer. John has willingly given back his personal experience to help the broader industry develop.

Company Award, Advanced Flight, Auckland

Advanced Flight, established in 1998 is now one of the country's largest helicopter charter services with nine luxury high performance helicopters. It differentiates itself from the competition through the standard and variety of services it offers. The company operates from a heliport which has been recognised by the New Zealand Institute of Architects for its design excellence.

Customers receive 'individualised' services, whether they are going to some of New Zealand's most exclusive lodges, retreats or golf courses. The company's commitment to customer safety and comfort, combined with a desire to constantly exceed expectations, sets them apart and continues to drive and motivate them.

Richard Pearse Innovation Award, Aspeq, Wellington

Aspeq started in Wellington in 1992 when, as a newly established business, it took over responsibility for pilot examinations in New Zealand and provided services into the South Pacific. About 75% of the company's income now come from exports. It has formed a

relationship with the British Civil Aviation Authority (CAAi) which now sees it selling into a number of new markets where that authority is active.

While Aspeq started out with a paper based product, it is now a true 'soft' company delivering services through the internet, including online e-licensing. It has overcome the tyranny of distance. The company has offices in New Zealand, Australia and the UK, employs over 200 full and part-time staff and now delivers services to a number of regulatory authorities in a broad range of industries.

Aviation New Zealand is a leading aviation industry association which this year, held its annual conference in Hamilton on 24 and 25 July.

For more information:

John Nicholson

Chief Executive, Aviation NZ

Tel 027 600 9156

Key facts about Aviation New Zealand

Aviation New Zealand exists to lead, inspire and grow the New Zealand aviation industry.

It was established in 1950 to encourage the safe growth of the aviation industry in New Zealand. In more recent years, it has also become involved in helping the international development of its members.

- o Aviation New Zealand has over 260 members and over 1500 on its database
- o Members include agricultural companies, air operators (fixed wing and rotary), aircraft designers and manufacturers, the UAV industry, airports, aviation trainers, emergency and medical services companies, helicopter companies, and parts manufacturers.

Key facts about aviation in New Zealand

An 'early adopter' in aviation terms – first international customer for Boeing; first pilot training school 1916; first airmail 1919; and quick appreciation of the suitability of aviation for agriculture, tourism and forestry.

Over 4500 aircraft in New Zealand, one per thousand people, give New Zealand one of the highest aircraft per capita ratios in the world.

The industry

- exports to over 100 countries on all continents including Antarctica - we have proven success
- companies are highly regarded internationally for their quality, responsiveness and practicality – this makes us different to many of our competitors
- decades of policy innovation in New Zealand support competition, safety and growth -our local business environment is much better than that in many countries we do business with
- 30m km² of safely managed airspace - our systems and processes are scalable

Aircraft fit-outs, new aircraft (including UAVs), GPS track and tracing systems, high precision processes (for example bait and fire fighting), composites, titanium powders, and aviation industry business and operational systems are just some of the exciting technologies and practices developing in New Zealand which set the scene for growth in the next 100 years.