

100 years of commercial flight are to be celebrated at the inaugural Aviation Leadership Summit in Wellington, 20 to 22 July 2014.

“The Summit theme ‘Celebrating 100 years of Aviation – the Future’ will provide an opportunity to reflect on achievements and look forward to what the next century will bring” said Samantha Sharif, Chief Executive of industry body Aviation New Zealand.

“The first commercial flight took place in Florida in January 1914,” Sharif explained. “We will recognise that but also recognise that New Zealand has been an innovator in aviation for over 100 years, back to the days of Richard Pearse, and will continue to be an innovator”.

Conrad Clifford, the IATA Regional Vice President for Asia Pacific will open the conference and speak on the future for aviation. In confirming his presence, Sharif expressed delight that Clifford, who has a diverse global aviation career spanning 30 years, and recently appointed to IATA, will come to New Zealand specifically for the Summit and to engage with our aviation leaders.

“Conor English, the outgoing Chief Executive of Federated Farmers of New Zealand, in one of his last tasks in that position, will provide insights into what makes an effective trade association”. Sharif pays tribute to the achievements of Federated Farmers under English’s leadership and explains “aviation can learn much from the way this organisation has performed”.

Graeme Harris, the Director of the Civil Aviation Authority will talk about the fundamental changes to the future operating environment for the New Zealand aviation industry at a legislative and operational level including the impact of remotely piloted aircraft systems.

“We can also learn a lot from what our companies are actually achieving and look forward to hearing from a number of them as to the reasons for their successes and the challenges they have overcome”, Sharif explained.

“Pacific Aerospace fresh from its successes in China, Way to Go Heliservices with its precision dropping equipment, and Airways New Zealand with a range of recent export successes are just a few examples of the companies that will be sharing their secrets” said Sharif.

“All aviation companies can influence and leverage what ‘The New Zealand brand’ stands for and this will be a key focus for the Summit” said Sharif.

For more info, contact:

Samantha Sharif
Chief Executive,
Aviation NZ
Tel 04 472 2707

Mob 021 889 856

BACKGROUND

Key facts about Aviation New Zealand

Aviation New Zealand (formerly the Aviation Industry Association of New Zealand 'AIA') exists to lead, inspire and grow the New Zealand aviation industry.

The AIA 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.

- Aviation New Zealand has over 600 members
- Members include agricultural companies, air operators (fixed wing and rotary), aircraft designers and manufacturers, airports, aviation trainers, emergency and medical services companies, helicopter companies and parts manufacturers.

Key facts about the Summit

Over 300 delegates from New Zealand, Australia, Asia/Pacific and North America are expected to attend the Leadership Summit. The Summit will also include a trade show (21 and 22 July), Gala Awards Dinner (21 July) and a careers expo (21 July).

The Summit replaces the former aviation conference week.

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.

4502 aircraft in New Zealand, one per thousand people, giving New Zealand one of the highest aircraft per capita ratios in the world.

Decades of policy innovation to support competition, safety and growth; 30m km² of safely managed airspace; and exports to over 80 countries on all continents.

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.