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Aviation NZ is delighted to announce its Inaugural Women Leaders in Aviation Summit, to take place 20-21 October 2015 in Wellington. This initiative is the first major event in our Tomorrow's Leaders in Aviation series – where we bring together the aviation industry to work on how we collectively secure the next generation of talent – with diversity being a significant component of this.

“The New Zealand aviation industry is growing at over 5% per year but almost half the workforce is over 45 years old and less than 20% is under 29. 70-80% of the aviation workforce is European male by demographic – and we recognise that to grow our success and resilience as an industry – we need to widen our talent base”

said Aviation NZ Chief Executive Samantha Sharif.

“This event puts the spotlight on us to work collectively to secure the next generation of talent – and to see ourselves as part of the wider infrastructure, transport and technology sectors – to enhance the flexibility and career progression that we can offer in an aviation career.

We have overwhelming industry support for this initiative – and have secured a number of leading aviation professionals, both from within New Zealand and overseas to be part of our Summit. At the Summit we will also be launching our Women Leaders in Aviation Mentoring Programme – which will be awarded to one of the Summit participants”.

Keynote speakers include:

Hon Louise Upston – Minister for Women

Maureen Dougherty - Maureen Dougherty, Boeing President for Australia, NZ and South Pacific

Michelle Guthrie - Director Google APAC & Director Auckland Intl Airport

### **Challenges faced by aviation:**

- **How do we attract the talent to support future growth?**
- **How do we get more young people involved?**
- **How do we make the industry more attractive to women?**
- **How do we grow diversity?**

For further information please contact:

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### **Key facts about Aviation New Zealand**

Aviation New Zealand exists to lead, inspire and grow the New Zealand aviation industry. Aviation NZ is the industry body representing the aviation sector in NZ

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.

Aviation New Zealand has over 300 members and over 2000 on its database.

Members include UAV commercial operators, agricultural companies, air operators (fixed wing and rotary), aircraft designers and manufacturers, airports, aviation trainers, emergency and medical services companies, helicopter companies and component/parts manufacturers.