

PRESS RELEASE 7 July 2015

Aviation New Zealand is delighted to announce the winners of the 2015 Annual Aviation Industry Awards, which were presented at the Aviation Leadership Week Gala Awards Dinner in Queenstown on 1 July.

“These annual awards recognise outstanding contributions to the aviation industry over the last 12 months and are an important part of measuring and celebrating our success as an industry” said Aviation NZ Chief Executive Samantha Sharif.

This year the awards went to:

David O’Reilly - individual award. David has made an exceptional contribution to Aviation NZ through his financial governance expertise in helping to develop a long-term sustainable financial and business model for Aviation NZ so that we can continue to grow NZ’s aviation industry.

Callaghan Innovation – company award. This award recognises Chris Thompson, Aviation Sector Manager, and Callaghan Innovation for the lead role they have played in creating UAVNZ (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles NZ) and uniting the commercial UAV sector as an integral part of Aviation NZ and the aviation industry.

The third award, the Richard Pearse Award recognises exceptional innovation in the aviation industry. This award is presented to Aeronet (Module) Ltd. Aeronet is a maintenance and operations software package which provides a simple way to track customers, aircraft and maintenance, and help companies comply with industry regulations.

Aviation NZ is the industry body representing the aviation sector in NZ.

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Notes for Editors:

## **BACKGROUND**

### **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.

- Aviation New Zealand has over 2000 members and stakeholders
- Members include agricultural companies, air operators (fixed wing and rotary), UAV industry, aircraft designers and manufacturers, 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.

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 km<sup>2</sup> 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.