



'Improving Performance' is the theme of the 2017 Aviation New Zealand Conference to be held at the Distinction in Hamilton on 24 and 25 July', said Aviation NZ Chief Executive John Nicholson.

"Improving Performance,' be it improving safety, knowledge or saving money, is critically important for the future of the aviation industry in New Zealand. The conference will give attendees insights and understanding so that individually and collectively, performance can be improved.

An impressive range of speakers has been lined up. They include Graeme Harris (Director of Civil Aviation), Liz Wotherspoon (Icehouse), Neil Hygate and Steph Dillon (Ministry of Defence), Prof Philippa Gander (Sleep Wake Centre), Arden Jennings (Aviation Co-op), Capt Simon Nicholson and Capt Chris Mehlhopt (HIMS), Lesley Bird (NZ Police) and Martin Wouters (Manage Company).

Sue Moroney, Labour List MP from Hamilton will be providing a political perspective.

'Importantly' said Nicholson 'three kiwi companies which have developed world class technologies in New Zealand for the global market, will talk about what they've done and how they are succeeding internationally'. These companies are great role models.

The conference includes a two day trade show with 29 exhibitors and a gala awards dinner on 25 July when the industry will recognise its best and brightest.

Delegates and trade fair participants from Australia, Canada, the European Union and North America will be attending.

A joint Aviation NZ/MetService scholarship will allow two aviation trainees, Claire Reweti from Nelson Aviation College and Joshua Bywater from Massey University School of Aviation, to attend the conference and help progress their aviation careers.

The conference provides an opportunity for the leaders of today and tomorrow to spend time together, gain knowledge and improve decision making so that the industry achieves its growth potential.

For more information: <http://www.aia.org.nz/Conference.html>

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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.