



PRESS RELEASE: AVIATION AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Aviation New Zealand is delighted to announce the winners of the 2016 Annual Aviation Industry Awards, which were presented at the Aviation Leadership Week Gala Awards Dinner in Wellington on 28 June.

“These annual awards recognise outstanding contributions to the aviation industry and are an important part of measuring and celebrating our success as an industry,” said Aviation NZ Chief Executive John Nicholson.

This year the awards went to:

Carol Thompson - individual award.

Carol has been instrumental in the development of a world class aviation company in New Zealand, Flight Interiors in Auckland. The company is well known for its innovation, design excellence, commitment to quality, and for its customer and supplier relationships. Much of the success is due to Carol’s commitment, her energy, drive and vision. Carol has also made a significant contribution over many years to the engineering division at Aviation NZ.

Pacific Aerospace Limited, Hamilton – company award.

Pacific Aerospace has been a key player in the development and growth of the aviation industry in New Zealand. The company is a significant exporter with a number of long term contracts in place. It is providing a range of value add services and entering into new relationships in markets to strengthen future prospects. The company designs and manufactures tough, reliable and easy to maintain aircraft that perform where others cannot.

Flightcell International – Richard Pearse Innovation Award

Flightcell International has developed the world’s first all-in-one solution for global voice, data, messaging and flight tracking. The product is smaller, lighter, smarter, easier to use and tougher than anything else available on the market. The technology is practical and relevant and is highly regarded internationally by many customers including military, law enforcement, air medical, Search and Rescue, agriculture, fire fighting, personal jets and regional airlines.

Significantly, the technology was developed and is manufactured in New Zealand.

Aviation New Zealand is a leading Aviation Industry Association in New Zealand which hosts an annual conference, trade show and gala awards dinner. This year’s event was held in Wellington between 25 and 29 June.

For more information
John Nicholson
Chief Executive
Aviation NZ
Tel 027 6009156

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 300 members and over 1300 on its database
- 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.

4639 aircraft in New Zealand, one per thousand people, give 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 100 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.

The focus on safety is shown through the Aviation NZ AIRCARE™ system and the recently announced Down to the Wire campaign.