

Winners Announced for Aviation Week Network's Annual Laureate Awards

Award Honors Outstanding Achievements in Aviation, Aerospace & Defense and Winners will be Recognized on March 14 in Washington, DC



WASHINGTON, D.C., UNITED STATES,
November 13, 2023 /

EINPresswire.com/ -- Winners Announced for [Aviation Week Network's](#) Annual Laureate Awards

*Award Honors Outstanding Achievements in Aviation, Aerospace & Defense and
Winners will be Recognized on March 14 in Washington, DC*

Aviation Week Network announced today the winners of the 66th Annual Laureate Awards (#AWLAUR), honoring extraordinary achievements in the global aerospace arena. The Laureate Awards will take place on March 14, 2024 at the National Building Museum in Washington, DC. At that time a Grand Laureate in each of the five categories will be named from among the winners.

The award categories are Commercial Aviation, Defense, Space, Business Aviation, and MRO. In addition, Aviation Week Network will bestow the Award for Lifetime Achievement and the Pathfinders Award. Four cadets and midshipmen from U.S. military academies will be recognized as Tomorrow's Leaders, honoring young men and women who have chosen career paths in the armed forces.

"Since 1957, Aviation Week's editors have annually honored our industry's great achievements and its innovators," said Joe Anselmo, editorial director and editor-in-chief of Aviation Week & Space Technology magazine. "This year's Laureate Winners were selected by our editors after a rigorous screening of dozens of internal and external nominations. They exemplify the industry's relentless push to expand the boundaries of what is possible."

In addition to the Laureate Awards, Aviation Week Network will recognize the "20 Twenties" in partnership with Accenture. This program recognizes the accomplishments and drive of 20 science, technology, engineering and mathematics students in their 20s and currently enrolled in a master's degree or bachelor's degree program.

The Laureate Winners are:

COMMERCIAL AVIATION

BEA (Bureau d'Enquêtes et d'Analyses pour la sécurité de l'aviation civile)

French air accident investigation office BEA has identified trends confirming aircraft in the approach and landing phase remain vulnerable despite equipment sophistication. The bureau is improving its investigation methods with new sources of data, such as smartphones. BEA is also investing in the 3D analysis of large mechanical parts, a lesson learned from uncontained engine failures.

Rolls-Royce UltraFan

Rolls-Royce conducted the first run of its UltraFan geared turbofan demonstrator in April 2023 in the Testbed 80 facility in Derby, England. With a fan diameter of 140 in., the UltraFan is by physical size the largest jet engine ever run. The test also marked the first run of a new-centerline large-fan engine at Rolls since the Trent XWB-84 in 2010.

Universal Hydrogen

Universal Hydrogen's De Havilland Canada Dash 8-300 propulsion testbed became the largest hydrogen-electric-powered aircraft yet to fly in March 2023, taking off with one of its two turboprop engines replaced with a 1 megawatt-class fuel-cell powertrain in a key milestone for the startup's efforts to introduce zero-emission hydrogen propulsion beginning with regional aviation.

American Airlines HEAT

American Airlines' Hub Efficiency Analytics Tool (HEAT) is targeted at improving operational performance during severe weather or other events affecting flights. The tool uses data from various sources, weighs them and shifts departures and arrivals at hubs to minimize disruptions. The tool has prevented around 1,000 cancellations since it was introduced in 2022.

Güliz Öztürk, Pegasus Airlines, for leadership

Güliz Öztürk has led the remarkable comeback of Pegasus Airlines as CEO since 2022. Pegasus is one of the most profitable airlines globally, following a highly successful low-cost carrier model mainly from its biggest base at Istanbul Sabiha Gökçen airport. Öztürk has not only delivered strong financial results but is also a keen supporter of gender equality and diversity.

DEFENSE

Saab Gripen E

The Saab Gripen E entered service with the Brazilian Air Force in December 2022, marking a milestone in development of a next-generation version of the Swedish fighter. With Brazil's selection of the Gripen E/F in December 2013, the program became a joint development effort

with Brazilian industry joining Saab's supplier partners. The first series production Gripen E for Sweden was handed over in October 2023.

Nammo THOR-ER

In August 2023, the THOR-ER team from Norway and the U.S. twice test-fired a solid-fuel ramjet missile, demonstrating significant increases in effective range. The tests demonstrated new high-energy fuels, advanced air injection and throttling methods needed for future solid-fuel ramjet systems. The tests also highlighted international collaboration, involving the U.S. Naval Air Warfare Center, Norwegian Defense Research Establishment and Nammo.

Northrop Grumman B-21 Raider

The U.S. Air Force's B-21 Raider bomber flew for the first time on Nov. 10, 2023 – eight years after contract award and less than a year after its public rollout at Northrop Grumman's Plant 42 facility in Palmdale, California. The milestone opens the door for the company to begin low-rate initial production of the first new U.S. bomber in three decades.

Western missile integration for Ukraine

A challenge for the Ukrainian forces has been to erode the advantage of Russian's much larger air force and air defense systems. A team from the UK rapidly figured out how to launch MBDA Storm Shadow long-range cruise missiles from Ukrainian Sukhoi Su-24 aircraft, allowing Ukraine to hit military targets and supply lines deep inside Russian-held territory.

Eren Ozmen, Sierra Nevada Corp., for leadership

Eren Ozmen and her husband Fatih purchased Sierra Nevada Corp. (SNC) in 1994 and have turned it into a multi-billion force to be reckoned with in the defense industry. In 2023, SNC notched a win to provide the U.S. Army with airborne intelligence, reconnaissance, and surveillance services, putting in a strong position to win follow-on business.

SPACE

Firefly Aerospace and Millennium Space Systems – Victus Nox

In a three-part relay race, Millennium and Firefly coordinated to launch a satellite for the U.S. Space Force in an unprecedented demonstration of rapid response. Millennium had 60 hr. to transport the satellite to Vandenberg SFB, California, fuel it and install a payload adaptor for launch by Firefly's Alpha rocket 27 hr. later. A day and a half after that, the satellite was ready to begin a space domain awareness mission.

Indian Space Research Organization Chandrayaan-3

ISRO Chairman Sreedhara Somanath brought India's space program back from the loss of its Chandrayaan-2 lunar lander in 2019 to become the fourth nation to land a rover on the Moon, landing the farthest south of any mission so far. The mission confirmed the presence of water in that region of the Moon as well as the presence of sulfur near the lunar South Pole – all at a cost of \$75 million.

Lockheed Martin Osiris Rex

NASA's \$1 billion Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security-Regolith Explorer (Osiris-Rex) fulfilled its primary mission, collecting and delivering pristine samples from the primordial asteroid Bennu. Lockheed developed sample collection hardware which acted as a "reverse vacuum," blowing compressed nitrogen gas to stir up dust and dirt from the asteroid and collect it in a canister for return to Earth in September 2023.

SpaceX Starlink

In 2020, Elon Musk mused that his Starlink constellation of low-Earth-orbit communication satellites might bankrupt his otherwise successful launch company SpaceX. Three years later and with more than 5,000 satellites orbited, Starlink is providing commercial high-speed internet access globally. Though controversial, Starlink has been used by Ukraine in its war against Russia, and the U.S. has contracted to use its military Starshield service.

Mike Moses, Virgin Galactic, for leadership

Parlaying hard lessons from the space shuttle program, Mike Moses joined Virgin Galactic from NASA in 2011 to help the Richard Branson-backed startup create and operate a safe, reliable, commercially viable space transportation service suitable for nonprofessional astronauts. It took years longer than expected, but the company began commercial operations in June 2023. Moses has served as Virgin Galactic's president since 2016.

BUSINESS AVIATION

Dassault Aviation FalconWays

A small team of Dassault engineers and pilots, led by engineering manager Cyrille Grimald, developed a flight planning tool called FalconWays that allows pilots to optimize fuel consumption by selecting the most fuel-efficient route based on real-time weather data and performance data for each specific model of Falcon business jet. The team proposed the program through an in-house entrepreneurial initiative.

NBAA Sustainable Flight Department Accreditation

The association launched the Sustainable Flight Department Accreditation Program to support organizations in reducing their carbon footprint. The program has four accreditations--flight, ground support, operations, infrastructure. To date, it has awarded 44 accreditations to 25 businesses that have identified a net reduction of 125,266 metric tonnes of CO2 emissions. Beyond this, it nurtures a sustainable culture and has become the industry standard.

SmartSky Networks

SmartSky's 4G/5G air-to-ground connectivity network for business aviation became operational across the U.S. in 2022. In 2023, the company announced SmartSky LITE, the first streaming-level system available for smaller business aircraft such as the Pilatus PC-12. The 5G/LTE system is flying on five different types of light jet and turboprop.

GAMA Electric Propulsion and Innovation Committee (EPIC)

Established in 2015 by the General Aviation Manufacturers Association (GAMA), EPIC has successfully brought industry together to provide coordinated input to aviation regulators and standards developers on issues raised by new technologies including electric aircraft propulsion and simplified vehicle operation. In August 2023, GAMA submitted a robust industry-wide response to the FAA's proposed operating rules for the vertical-takeoff-and-landing vehicles.

Barrington Irving for leadership

Having previously been the youngest person to pilot an airplane around the world solo, Jamaican-American pilot Barrington Irving created the Flying Classroom to bring STEM learning to K-12 students. Now that classroom, part of the Barrington Irving Technical Training School, will also serve adults. The aviation technical training delivers job-ready skills that can help expand the workforce to a wider range of people.

MRO

AAR

AAR internally developed the Concourse digital platform to unify and streamline business operations across the company. Concourse provides a single place for employees and customers to interact and manage business, as well as centralizes future technology initiatives at AAR. In early 2023, it launched the Digital MRO application that digitizes the entire airframe MRO workflow, from task cards to inspections and final signoffs.

Delta TechOps

The Delta Engine Maintenance team reimagined engine operations coming out of COVID-19 when the airline MRO faced significant increases in engine and part repair turnaround times and the addition of three engine variants. The result: the APEX program's predictive and simulation capabilities have resulted in predictive part-level material scrapping, optimized engine production control, substantial improvements in material availability and eight-digit cost savings.

GE Aerospace

GE Aerospace's investments in new engine inspection technology is improving the efficiency, accuracy and quality of inspections. For example, its artificial intelligence-powered Advanced Blade Inspection Tool for on-wing inspections can reduce inspection time from hours to minutes and its Sensiworm uses untethered soft robotics technology to crawl through an engine to detect defects and corrosion.

Lufthansa Technik

To streamline workflows and enable data sharing across applications, Lufthansa Technik has created a technical operations ecosystem by bringing together flydocs maintenance archives and Aviatar data platform with Swiss-AS's AMOS engineering and maintenance system. Benefits

range from making application programming interfaces work seamlessly across systems to leveraging data across systems and creating additional predictive benefits.

SR Technics, Atlas Air and Kuehne+Nagel

In April 2023, the MRO, air cargo operator and logistics giant joined forces to create the Sustainable Engine Alliance, a partnership to manage global engine supply chains more sustainably. This includes the use of digital services for emissions transparency, avoidance of environmentally harmful materials, use of sustainable aviation fuels and engine stand management solutions.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Clay Lacy

Clay Lacy, often called Mr. Learjet, was instrumental in launching the business jet era. Clay began flying at age 12 on his grandmother's farm and joined United Airlines in 1952 at age 19. In 1969, he flew the first Learjet into Van Nuys Airport as a demonstrator for Pacific Learjet. Four years later, he founded Clay Lacy Aviation as the first jet charter and executive jet management company on the West Coast. He has flown more than 300 aircraft types and logged more than 50,000 flight hours. He also helped pioneer the Astrovision camera system used to film more than 2,000 projects including the original Top Gun.

Daniel S. Goldin

Dan Goldin is known as the longest-serving administrator of NASA, but his contributions to space go far beyond that. Launching his career in 1962 as a propulsion engineer at NASA Lewis Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio, Goldin went on to a 25-year career leading cutting-edge national security space projects at TRW (now Northrop Grumman). Appointed NASA administrator in 1992, Goldin re-energized the agency with his "faster, better, cheaper" mantra, oversaw the repair of the Hubble Space Telescope, landing of U.S. rovers on Mars, the redesign and construction of the International Space Station and forged an international partnership with Russia in the ashes of the Cold War. He also guided the initial design of the James Webb Space Telescope, rejecting early concepts as woefully insufficient.

PATHFINDER AWARD

Luis Carlos Affonso

Luis Carlos Affonso is the mastermind behind Embraer's success in commercial and business aviation. He joined the company more than 40 years ago, in January 1983, as an aeronautical engineer. Since then, he has led the launch and development of multiple all-new commercial and business aviation aircraft, including the ERJ-145, first generation Embraer 170/190 family and the E-Jet E2 family. He also led Embraer's diversification into executive jets. Later, as head of strategy, Affonso was behind the creation of EmbraerX, a unit dedicated to disruptive technology, and advanced air mobility (AAM) spin-off Eve.

ABOUT AVIATION WEEK NETWORK

Aviation Week Network is the largest multimedia information and services provider for the global aviation, aerospace, and defense industries, serving 1.7 million professionals around the world. Industry professionals rely on Aviation Week Network to help them understand the market, make decisions, predict trends, and connect with people and business opportunities. Customers include the world's leading aerospace manufacturers and suppliers, airlines, airports, business aviation operators, militaries, governments and other organizations that serve this worldwide marketplace. Aviation Week Network's portfolio delivers award-winning journalism, data, intelligence and analytical resources, world-class tradeshow and conferences, and results-driven marketing services and advertising. Our principle is helping our customers succeed.

Aviation Week Network is part of Informa Markets, a division of Informa PLC.

ABOUT INFORMA MARKETS

Informa Markets creates platforms for industries and specialist markets to trade, innovate and grow. Our portfolio is comprised of more than 550 international B2B events and brands in markets including Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals, Infrastructure, Construction & Real Estate, Fashion & Apparel, Hospitality, Food & Beverage, and Health & Nutrition, among others. We provide customers and partners around the globe with opportunities to engage, experience and do business through face-to-face exhibitions, specialist digital content and actionable data solutions. As the world's leading exhibitions organiser, we bring a diverse range of specialist markets to life, unlocking opportunities and helping them to thrive 365 days of the year. For more information, please visit www.informamarkets.com.

#

Elizabeth Grace

The Buzz Agency

+1 561-702-7471

Elizabeth@thebuzzagency.net

Visit us on social media:

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

[Instagram](#)

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/668182298>

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.

© 1995-2024 Newsmatics Inc. All Right Reserved.