



TROPHIES AND AWARDS 2020

Electric aircraft pioneer among those recognised for excellence as the Honourable Company of Air Pilots celebrates the best of civil and military aviation with 2020 awards

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

28 August 2020

THE airline founder who turned his business into the first carbon neutral airline in North America has been recognised for his pioneering work creating an electric-powered commercial aircraft in record time.

Greg McDougall of Harbour Air – based in British Columbia, Canada – is among the recipients of the annual Trophies and Awards presented by the Honourable Company of Air Pilots. McDougall receives this year's Award of Honour for his leadership and determination in taking a dream to reality, committing to developing his own fleet of electric-powered aircraft to become a world leader in carbon zero operations.

A historic demonstration proved that a commercial DHC-2 de Havilland Beaver aircraft could be modified with a 750-horsepower all-electric motor within just 10 months. The feat marked out McDougall as one of aviation's great innovators at a time when environmental concerns are driving radical change amid the search for alternatives to fossil fuel-based propulsion.

The Trophies and Awards are among the industry's most prestigious because recipients are selected by their peers, who have decades of experience in military and civil aviation around the globe. The awards are traditionally presented at London's Guildhall on the last Thursday of October. However, this year the event has had to be postponed and is now planned to take place in mid-February next year.

Two recipients with an enduring connection to the CH-47 Chinook helicopter will also receive awards. Master Aircrew Tudor Haines, an exceptionally experienced crewman with more than 5,000 flying hours, has proven himself to be a pillar of the RAF Chinook Force. Having joined the force in 2000, he has flown around the world including in support of Special Forces operations. He has displayed unswerving commitment and provided immensely valuable service, inspiring a generation of aircrew by consistently setting an example of excellent and dedication to all.

Meanwhile, test pilot Ben Lewis is being recognised for his exceptional leadership of RAF Chinook upgrade programmes over the past 10 years, firstly as a Royal Navy Pilot and latterly as the Deputy Chief Test Pilot for aircraft-maker Boeing in the UK.

Also recognised this year is 32 (The Royal) Squadron RAF, which flies members of the Royal Family, Government Ministers and senior military leaders, and has done so for the past 50 years. Along with industry partners – BAE Systems, Serco and Sloane Helicopters – 32 Squadron have been nominated for their invaluable contribution to UK Government activity, most notably their support during the last year of EU withdrawal negotiations, whilst in parallel, having to operate their aircraft from RAF Benson while their home base of RAF Northolt had its runway resurfaced. During this deployment not a single task was lost.

The hotly anticipated Hanna Trophy – awarded in memory of legendary air display pilot and former Red Arrows leader Ray Hanna – this year goes to Air Marshal (Retired) Cliff Spink. One of the most recognisable and long-standing warbird pilots, Spink is best known for an enduring association with the Spitfire. A former senior Royal Air Force commander and fast jet pilot, Spink is believed to be the only living pilot to have flown all the airworthy marks of the iconic fighter before drawing the curtain on his display career in 2019.

Meanwhile, the Award for Aviation Journalism goes to Tim Robinson, editor of Aerospace International, the magazine of the Royal Aeronautical Society, for his outstanding contribution to covering the industry, including his prolific presence and wide following on social media.

For further information please contact the Honourable Company of Air Pilots at:

+44 (0)20 7404 4032 or pr1@airpilots.org

A full list of awards recipients is available at:

<https://www.airpilots.org/about-the-company/trophies-and-awards/>

A printable version of this press release can be found here:

<https://www.airpilots.org/press-pages/press-releases/>

Notes to editors:

1. The Honourable Company of Air Pilots 'The Air Pilots' was established as the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators in 1929. It is based in London but has an internationally based membership of professional and private pilots. The principal activities of the organisation are centred on developing action and activities to ensure that aircraft are piloted and navigated safely by aviators who are highly competent, self-reliant, dependable and respected.
2. The Air Pilots support the education and training of pilots from the initial instruction of young pilots to specialist training at the highest levels. Through its charitable activities, education and training, technical committees, aircrew selection, scholarships and sponsorships, advice and recognition of the achievements of fellow aviators worldwide, the Honourable Company keeps itself at the forefront of the aviation world.
3. The Air Pilots also provides expert, impartial input to regulators, government and media on areas including aviation and the environment, airport capacity in south east England, aircrew flight time limitations and the maintenance of piloting skills in increasingly automated aircraft. Air Pilots experts are also available to all media on request, to ensure accurate and fully informed reporting of any aviation events. If you need our assistance, please contact us on the number or e-mail addresses above.

ENDS