PNAA Announces Aerospace Industry Excellence Awards

LYNNWOOD, WA – February 12, 2019 – Pacific Northwest Aerospace Alliance, presented four aerospace industry awards including Aerospace Company of the Year, Aerospace Executive of the Year, the Inspire Award, and its Chairwoman's Award during its 18th Annual Aerospace Conference in Lynnwood on February 12.

Industry Award winners included Mitsubishi Aircraft Corporation America, Inc., Dylan Aerospace, Daniele Cagnatel of AIM Aerospace and Roei Ganzarski of magniX.

Inspire Award: Mitsubishi Aircraft Corporation America, Inc. – Mitsubishi Regional Jet Team, Moses Lake, WA

Mitsubishi Aircraft Corporation's Regional Jet Team received PNAA's Inspire Award for 2018. This award is presented annually to businesses and individuals in the aerospace community that have shown exceptional creativity in working with schools to share the activities of manufacturing in an overall effort to cultivate interest and skills leading to aerospace careers.

PNAA Board Chairwoman Nikki Malcom presented the Inspire Award to Hitoshi "Hank" Iwasa, President of Mitsubishi Aircraft Corporation America, Inc and Head of Moses Lake Flight Test Center for the company's inspiring contributions to the community of Moses Lake, Washington and the future of aerospace by engaging students in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programs.

Mitsubishi Aircraft Corporation America, a solely owned subsidiary of Mitsubishi Aircraft Corporation in Japan, was established in Washington State to provide research, development, and sales and marketing support for the MRJ program. The company's goal was to deliver and type certify the MRJ, a family of 70-90 seat next-generation regional jets that offer top-class operational economy and outstanding cabin comfort.

Just eight months after the first flight test aircraft's arrival at the company testing facility in Moses Lake, Mitsubishi Aircraft launched its first educational STEM event with Reach for the Stars with STEM in 2017. Hosted by Big Bend Community College and the Port of Moses Lake, the Mitsubishi Aircraft-sponsored event welcomed 600 ninth grade students from the local high school to learn about STEM careers from aerospace professionals, including a retired NASA astronaut, and explore a Life Flight helicopter, firetrucks, and an MRJ flight test aircraft. In conjunction with the event,

two high school students won a fully sponsored week-long visit to advanced Space Camp in Huntsville, Alabama.

“Mitsubishi Aircraft Corporation America came to my attention as I was talking with educators.” said PNAA’s CEO Emeritus Melanie Jordan. “They enthusiastically mentioned the outreach and partnering that had occurred with Mitsubishi Aircraft Corporation America, students and the technical school. I am inspired to facilitate more STEM connections when I hear of great examples of outreach and experiential learning such as Mitsubishi Aircraft.”

Today, Mitsubishi Aircraft continues to work with local partners and Moses Lake schools to contribute to local STEM education and awareness of aviation career opportunities. The company has established four $2,500 scholarships at the local community college, three in aviation maintenance and one at the pilot school. The company’s flight test pilots and mechanics attend Moses Lake career events and job fairs to explain their trades and job opportunities in aviation to local students.

Aerospace Executive of the Year: Daniele Cagnatel, CEO, AIM Aerospace

Daniel Cagnatel, CEO of AIM Aerospace received the PNAA Executive of the Year Award for 2018. This award is presented annually to the aerospace executive that has made a significant contribution to the advancement of the Pacific Northwest Aerospace Industry.

Within months of becoming President and CEO of AIM Aerospace in 2017, Cagnatel, knew exactly where the company needed to go to make its mark in the industry. He announced that big changes were coming because the market around AIM Aerospace was changing at a record pace.

In the last year and a half, AIM Aerospace has acquired Quatro Composites, a supplier of highly engineered advanced composite structures, components and assemblies with sites located in both California and Iowa. Now supplying several leading aerospace platforms including Boeing, Gulfstream and Insitu as well as the medical and industrial markets, AIM Aerospace is poised for growth. Under Cagnatel’s leadership, their future includes new composite and thermoplastic market segments and the delivery of new generation complex products to meeting ever-increasing customer demand.

He has optimized AIM’s South Puget Sound facilities, collaborated with the State of Washington to invest in the company, brought additional innovation at their facilities and diversified their business not only geographically but with advanced capabilities in the fastest growing sector within the composite segment. From his first position at GKN, Cagnatel has a proven record of leadership for over 19 years.

“Daniele is a remarkable leader who is already proving to take AIM Aerospace to new heights, starting with the consolidation/optimization of its South Puget Sound facilities,” said PNAA Board Member Amandine Crabtree. “His leadership and vision make him an excellent choice for Aerospace Executive of the Year.”

Aerospace Company of the Year: Dylan Aerospace, Auburn, Washington

Dylan Aerospace, a leading provider of structural components, assemblies and kits to the aerospace, defense and technology industries, was awarded PNAA's Aerospace Company of the Year Award for 2018. This award is presented annually to the aerospace company located in the Pacific Northwest which exhibits exceptional organizational characteristics while continually maintaining a strong competitive posture, thus raising the industry standard for the Pacific Northwest.

The award was accepted by CEO and Founder Darrell A. Sutherland who started the company 20 years ago with a single 2-axis CNC turning center in a 1,000 sq. ft. leased garage.

The company fabricates, machines, finishes and integrates formed, close tolerance aluminum and specialty alloy components and sheet metal products primarily for large commercial, corporate, and military aircraft. They manufacture more than 5,000 products for integration into a variety of aircraft platforms manufactured by leading Original Equipment Manufacturers and Prime aerospace suppliers.

Despite its humble beginnings, Sutherland's vision for the company has always been great – to be a world-class manufacturer and supplier, leading the way in automation, training, and additive manufacturing.

Under his leadership and with his commitment to continuous improvement, Dylan Aerospace quickly grew to a fully automated 16,000 sq. ft. 5-axis CNC machining facility (running nearly 24 hours a day) and became a trusted L.T.A. Boeing Direct Tier I supplier, winning consecutive Boeing Supplier Excellence Awards.

In 2018, Dylan Aerospace acquired a building next door to expand to nearly 40,000 sq. ft. – more than doubling its facility and staff capacity. The new facility will enable Dylan Aerospace to continue expanding their manufacturing capabilities with new state-of-the-art 5-axis Universal Machining Centers, as well as broaden their secondary operations and house their growing proprietary-software division – all while bringing new Aerospace and high-tech jobs to the Pacific Northwest marketplace.

"Dylan Aerospace's commitment to continuous improvement and truly exponential results has been recognized both at home and around the globe. It is part of the reason they were chosen as PNAA's Company of the Year," said PNAA's Executive Deputy Director Fiona McKay. "But Dylan's most notable accomplishment is its continual investment in its team and staff training."

PNAA Chairwoman's Award: Roei Ganzarski, magniX

PNAA's Chairwoman, Nikki Malcom awarded this year's Chairwoman's Award to Roei Ganzarski. Ganzarski is CEO of magniX, a Seattle, Washington-based electric propulsion technology company which is poised to disrupt the aerospace & defense industry with advanced technology that will enable transportation capabilities and services never possible before. The Chairwoman's Award is presented to individuals, companies or organizations which have significantly

contributed to the support, growth and future of the aerospace industry, throughout the greater Pacific Northwest.

"Since the introduction of the jet engine in 1939 with the Heinkel, the aviation industry has been stagnant seeing little to no step change innovation – until now," Ganzanski says. "Today, we are on the cusp of a seismic shift with the promise of full electric flight which will have positive implications on operating costs, flight frequency, connectivity, noise, and the environment."

As the push for creative innovation continues to be part of strategic planning for suppliers across the globe, Ganzarski's unorthodox way of thinking is exactly what we need to help the industry continue its upward trajectory, said PNAA's Chairwoman Nikki Malcom. "I had the pleasure of meeting Roei at PNAA's first ever NExT event for new and expanding technologies. He spoke on multiple panels for the event and offered some great insight on how we have to change our thoughts and actions to move into this next phase of the industry. Roei is a veteran CEO, with over 20 years as an aviation executive. He has amazing foresight and is incredibly approachable. This is what inspired me to award him with the Chairwoman's award," Malcom said.

Ganzarski, a graduate of Wharton's Advanced Management Program, has led the magniX team through some exciting accomplishments over the last 12 months – completing over 1,000 hours of testing on electric motors turning aircraft propellers on magniX's Cessna Caravan iron bird. "Most recently we disconnected our iron bird system 'from the wall' and began full system testing on battery power only. We are excited about what we plan on doing in 2019." he said.

This all-electric propulsion system could replace turboprop engines on existing 6-20 seat planes such as the Cessna Caravan, Beechcraft King Air or Viking Twin Otter. Ganzarski says, "magniX's motor should cost roughly the same as the venerable Pratt & Whitney PT6 engines it would replace, while improving operating costs on the order of 40% to 60%. This technology could significantly improve the costs to fly regionally."

About PNAA:

Since 2001, Pacific Northwest Aerospace Alliance has been promoting the growth and success of the region's aerospace industry with dynamic events designed to inspire aerospace leaders, connect aerospace interests and educate policy makers. Today, with members throughout the northwest and around the globe, PNAA is dedicated to delivering the latest market intelligence to ensure our region's competitive edge. Our unwavering commitment to sharing bold ideas, innovative technologies and leading-edge processes has strengthened the industry and earned respect from the White House to the factory floor. Our members represent every segment of the aerospace industry and are responsible for designing, manufacturing and supplying parts and services that launch rockets, fly planes, and even land on Mars!

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