



Press Release

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AHS International Recognized for Excellence in Communications

Fairfax, VA — AHS International – *The Vertical Flight Technical Society* – today announces that its Executive Director, Mike Hirschberg, has been recognized for excellence in communications.

On January 8, 2015, the Helicopter Association International (HAI) announced the winners of its acclaimed Salute to Excellence Awards in nine categories. According to HAI, "The Salute to Excellence Awards recognize those who, through either a single act or a lifetime of service and dedication, exemplify the best of the helicopter industry." Hirschberg was the winner of the Lightspeed Aviation Excellence in Communications Award. The HAI press release states, in part:

Michael Hirschberg is the executive director of AHS International (formerly the American Helicopter Society) and editor of their publication, *Vertiflite*. He has written aircraft reviews, historical articles, profiles and commentaries.

In addition, Hirschberg, an aeronautical and mechanical engineer by training, has written numerous technical papers. In his role as executive director of AHS International (the world's oldest and largest vertical flight technical society), Hirschberg organizes all AHS technical conferences and Annual Forum, and publishes the Annual Forum Proceedings and the Journal of the AHS.

Through his work on AHS International publications, Michael Hirschberg is an important conduit for sharing vital information among the vertical lift industry's technical community.

Since 1997, Hirschberg has published more than 100 technical articles and papers, as well as three books, and has served as an editor of the Society's *Vertiflite* magazine since 1999.

"This is such an incredible honor for me and for AHS International to be recognized for the prestigious Excellence in Communications Award," says Hirschberg. "This is like winning

the Pulitzer Prize for the rotorcraft industry. Thank you to HAI and Lightspeed Aviation for sponsoring the award.”

Numerous past winners of the Excellence in Communications Award have written for or been employed by AHS International:

- Ken Swartz (2010)
- James T. McKenna (2009)
- Francis G. McGuire (1999)
- David S. Harvey (1998)
- M.E. (Rhett) Flater, former AHS Executive Director (1997)
- Dick Smith (1991)
- Joe Stein (1988)
- Elfan ap Rees (1986)
- L. Kim Smith, former AHS Deputy Director (1984)
- Daniel Manningham (1977)

The American Helicopter Society (AHS) International, a 501(c)(3) charitable educational organization, is the world's premier vertical flight technical society. Since its inception in 1943, AHS has been a major force in the advancement of vertical flight, providing global leadership for scientific, technical, educational and legislative initiatives that advance the state of the art.

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