

Robert L. Lichten Award Procedures (Revised June 2022)

1. Award Statement

The Robert L. Lichten Award was established to encourage Vertical Flight Society (VFS) members who have not previously presented the results of their work at a regional, national or international event to begin through presentations at local and regional VFS meetings. Candidates for the Lichten Award are proposed by Regional Vice Presidents to the Technical Director and are judged by a committee, which is formed by the Technical Director, and comprised of members of the VFS Technical Council to determine a winner.

VFS will furnish up to \$1,500 for travel to the Annual Forum (from anywhere in the world), plus hotel accommodations and Forum registration. In addition, Bell provides a \$500 stipend in memory of Robert L. Lichten. The first runner-up is given an opportunity to present at the Forum and receives complimentary registration.

The award was established in 1975 to honor the memory of Robert L. Lichten, an outstanding rotary-wing engineer and the Society's 22nd president. Robert Lichten was a skilled and dedicated worker who spent much of his career championing early tilt-wing and tiltrotor concepts until his unfortunate death in an automobile accident. Many who knew him called him the "Pioneer of Tilt Rotor Technology."

2. Objectives

- Encourage VFS members to begin making public the results of their work through presentations at the local level. There is no requirement for a written paper prior to the initial Lichten presentation to the chapter or region. *However, the winner of the regional competition will be required to write a paper and submit to VFS HQ for final judging by February 28.*
- Stimulate interest in VFS at the local and regional level.

3. Eligibility for the Regional Competition

- A. The competition is open to any individual who is a current member of VFS and has not previously competed in the Lichten competition.
- B. *There are no age limits or degree requirements in order to compete.*
- C. The contestant should participate in the chapter or region in which they are a member. Exceptions can be made for special circumstances, but these will be made at the discretion of the Technical Director and should be coordinated well in advance of the local and regional competitions.
- D. A single-authored presentation and subsequent paper is preferred, but co-authored presentations/papers may be eligible as long as the Lichten candidate has done the plurality of the work. *Refer to "F" below.*
- E. The Lichten contestant must not have previously presented at a national or international meeting of any technical association, *regardless of the industry and/or discipline and including student and/or university meetings conducted on a national or international level.*
 - i. Some examples of technical associations are but not limited to: AIAA, SAE, SAMPE, ASME, ERF, VFS Annual Forum or Technical Meeting.
 - a. Papers submitted to the upcoming current VFS Forum are eligible, provided they meet all the other eligibility requirements.
 - b. Papers submitted to a VFS Technical Meeting are eligible, *provided the meeting takes place after the current upcoming Forum*, and meet the all other eligibility requirements.
 - ii. Presentations at local chapter meetings or local civic organizations are exempt, *provided the presentation was at a local level only and not part of a larger dissemination, such as a competition or published electronic-based presentation.*
 - iii. Lichten presentations to the chapter/region should be new, unpublished work.
- F. Has not previously served as the principal author of a previously published paper at a national or international meeting of any technical association – *refer to "E" above.*

- i. The Principal author is defined as the individual who has performed the plurality of the effort (technical and writing) on a publication.
 - ii. Published shall be interpreted to mean either a paper and/or presentation at a meeting, forum, or conference of a technical society which was conducted at a national or international event level.
 - iii. Published also includes papers published in archival journals that may not have been presented at a conference.
 - iv. Individuals who have been co-authors of papers previously presented and/or published at a national or international meeting are eligible but it is required that they were not the principal author and did not make the presentation.
 - v. The topic of the Lichten paper may be a portion of a larger team effort, but the plurality of engineering effort within the Lichten topic and the writing of the Lichten paper must be done by the Lichten contestant.
- G. The regional Lichten winner must submit a written paper (due Feb. 28) for judging by the Lichten Award Selection Committee, which is chaired by the VFS Technical Director.
- H. Any questions regarding eligibility will be decided by the current VFS Technical Director. *Questions regarding eligibility or additional issues should be directed to the current VFS Technical Director and copy the Technical Programs Director at VFS headquarters.*

In addition:

- A. The technical presentation to the region/chapter should be at least 20 minutes in length.
- B. Individuals entering the Lichten competition must submit a signed copy of the "*Lichten Eligibility Statement*".
- C. The final winning regional papers must be **cleared by the author's organization or agency prior to forwarding to VFS HQ for review by the Lichten review committee**. It is the author's responsibility to determine and acquire the appropriate types and levels of clearances – internal and external – for the paper to be published and presented.
- D. No classified or otherwise restricted material may be used in conjunction with the Lichten paper or presentation.

4. Selection Process and Requirements for the Competition

The Region's candidate paper should be selected using the criteria outlined below. The Regional Vice President shall attest to this fact when submitting the nomination and also to the fact that the written text submitted for review fairly represents the material (and visuals) presented at the regional meeting or competition.

- Candidate papers for this award will be proposed by the VFS Regional Vice Presidents.
- Each region can submit one paper. **A Region's nomination of its candidate paper must be received at VFS headquarters no later than February 28 to be eligible for consideration.**
- Each region must conduct a selection process rigorous enough to produce candidates who will deliver oral presentations commensurate with the standards of the VFS Forum and who are willing to prepare a written paper on the same material, suitable for possible publication in the [*Journal of the American Helicopter Society*](#).
- Although the preferred approach is to conduct the competitions at a Regional meeting with all the participants present, this is not mandatory. Remote chapter locations and special circumstances (such as travel restrictions) may preclude such a forum. In these situations, the Regional Vice President may work out an alternative solution.
- The alternative solution must offer a real-time interactive venue with an audience.
- The Selection Committee will be the final arbitrator of the rules and their selection is final.

The current VFS Technical Director shall form and chair a Selection Committee composed of members of the Technical Council to select the best paper from the winning Regional papers.

- The Selection Committee should include at least one representative from each of the following: Government, Industry, and Academia.
- Consideration will be given to the originality, technical content, relevance of the contribution, and organization and clarity.
- Each member of the Selection Committee will rank the papers according to the "Individual Rating System" (see chart below). The papers will then be ranked in simple numerical order.
- The overall winner will be selected by numerical addition of each judge's ranking.

Reviewers should use the following table to assign numerical ratings.

- Any element that cannot be graded higher than a "C" should be zero.
- Ratings are to be integers only and the scale is linear between 1 and 5.
- Papers should be assessed to award high scores to those papers with truly outstanding factors as listed below:

Individual Ranking System

	<u>Rating</u>	<u>Weighting Factor</u>	<u>Max</u>
Originality/Creativity	0 to 5	6	30
Technical Content	0 to 5	6	30
Relevance of Contribution	0 to 5	4	20
<u>Organization and Clarity</u>	<u>0 to 5</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>20</u>
Total			100

5. Lichten Winner Information

The VFS will cover travel expenses of the winning author who will be invited to present his/her paper at the Forum which will include:

- Up to \$1,500 air fare for travel (U.S. or international).
- Complimentary Forum registration and hotel accommodation (excluding food).
- A \$500 honorarium from Bell Helicopter Textron, Inc. and a plaque.
- The paper should be submitted to the [Journal of the American Helicopter Society](#) for possible publication.
- The first runner-up is invited to present at the Forum and receives complimentary registration, along with a certificate.

6. Lichten Award Deadline Checklist

Regional/Chapter Deadlines:

- **August to early October:** Call for Chapter/Regional Presentations
- **October-November:** Abstracts Due for Chapter/Regional Competitions
- **November-December:** Chapter/Regional Competition(s) Held
- **February 28:** Regional Nomination(s) and Papers to VFS Headquarters
- **Early April:** VFS HQ announces Lichten results

NOTE: Since most participants in the Regional Competition will not have written their paper yet, it is advisable to hold the Regional Competition no later than early December. This allows time for the regional winner to write a paper for submission by February 28.

7. Regional Vice Presidents' Nomination Letter Checklist

- Select a candidate for nomination.
- In a nomination letter or email, attest that:
 - The candidate meets the eligibility criteria described in Section 3 (as evidenced by submittal of a signed Eligibility Statement).
 - The author was selected in accordance with the process stipulated in this document.
 - The written text submitted for consideration fairly represents the material and visual aids presented at the regional meeting.
- Nominations must be emailed to the Technical Programs Director at VFS Headquarters no later than February 28

VFS – the Vertical Flight Society

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Lichten Eligibility Statement

Individuals entering the competition for the VFS Lichten Award must meet **ALL seven (7)** of the following criteria to be eligible for the competition. **This form must be signed and submitted to your VFS Region to confirm eligibility and a copy sent to VFS HQ with your final written paper.**

<p>1. I am a current member of the Vertical Flight Society and have not previously competed in the competition.</p>
<p>2. I have never previously presented at a national or international meeting of <u>any</u> technical association, regardless of the industry or discipline and including student and/or university meetings conducted on a national or international level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examples of technical associations are but <u>not</u> limited to: VFS, AIAA, SAE, SAMPE, ASME, ERF. • Presentations at a local chapter meetings of a technical society, as well as presentations to local civic organizations, are exempt from this constraint <i>unless they are part of a larger competition or audience.</i>
<p>3. I have never served as the principal author, <i>defined as the sole author or individual who performed the plurality of the work that is the topic of my Lichten paper</i>, of a previously published paper at a national or international meeting of any technical association.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Published" shall be interpreted to mean either a paper and/or presentation at a meeting, forum or conference of any technical association which was conducted as a national or international event level. • An archival Journal of such organizations/associations.
<p>4. I am the principal author of the work documented in the presentation and paper being submitted.</p>
<p>5. This presentation and paper is new unpublished material.</p>
<p>6. The work performed has not been submitted for presentation consideration at a national or international meeting of any technical society, with the exception of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Papers submitted to a VFS technical meeting are eligible, <i>provided the meeting is held after the upcoming Forum closing date</i> and meet the aforementioned requirements. • Papers submitted for the current upcoming VFS Forum are also eligible provided they meet all of the aforementioned requirements.
<p>7. The paper and presentation has been cleared by my organization or agency prior to submission for publication and presentation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is the author's responsibility to determine and acquire the appropriate types and levels of clearances – internal and external – for the paper to be published and presented. • No classified or otherwise restricted material may be used in conjunction with the Lichten paper or presentation.

For questions or issues with respect to the above eligibility requirements, contact the VFS Technical Programs Director.

Entrant: My signature below confirms that I meet ALL seven (7) of the eligibility requirements described above.

Signature

Date

Printed or Typed Name

Phone

Email Address

Company or Organization

Chapters by Region & Past Lichten Award Winners

Chapters by Region [*Active Chapters]

US Northeast	Connecticut Valley, East New England*, Empire State, Stratford*
US Mideast	Philadelphia* and Erie
US Southeast	Aberdeen Proving Ground*, Cherry Point, Federal City*, Hampton Roads*, Patuxent River
US Southern	Atlanta*, Jake Fortner, Redstone/Huntsville*, South Florida*
US Midwest	Dayton and St. Louis*
US Southwest	Southwest*
US Western	Arizona*, Los Angeles, Pacific Northwest, San Francisco Bay Area*
Americas	Montreal/Ottawa Canada*
Asia/Australia	Australia*, Bangalore, Japan*, Korea*
Europe/Africa	Eastern Europe, Germany*, Italy, Poland, Turkey*, United Kingdom*

Past Lichten Award Recipients

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| 2022 – Timothy Schmidt, Sikorsky, a Lockheed Martin Co., Southern Region | 2008 – Yvonne T. Fuchs, NASA Langley, US Southeast Region |
| 2021 – Andrew Lavoie, Sikorsky, a Lockheed Martin Co., Northeast Region | 2007 – Jonathan Mitchell, Bell Helicopter, US Southwest Region |
| 2020 – Chloe Johnson, University of Texas at Austin, Southwest Region | 2006 – J. S. Wilson, NASA Ames, US Western Region |
| 2019 – Benjamin Leon, Georgia Institute of Technology, Southern Region | 2005 – Jonathan Garhart, Sikorsky Aircraft, US Northeast Region |
| 2018 – Alberto Rigo, Politecnico di Milano, Europe–Africa Region | 2004 – Jongmin Kim, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, US Mideast Region |
| 2017 – Carolyn Walther, Texas A&M University, US Southwest Region | 2003 – Cheng–Ho Tho, Bell Helicopter, US Southwest Region |
| 2016 – Carol Runco, Texas A&M University, US Southwest Region | 2002 – Geoffrey Jeram, Georgia Tech., US Southern Region |
| 2015 – Isaac R. Bundy, Sikorsky Aircraft, US Northeast Region | 2001 – Marc Gervais, University of Maryland, US Southeast Region |
| 2014 – Raymond Beale, Sikorsky Aircraft, US Northeast Region | 2000 – Craig P. Fuehne, Washington University, US Midwest Region |
| 2013 – Brent Pafford, University of Texas at Austin, US Southwest Region | 1999 – LCDR Robert L. King, Naval Postgraduate School, US Western Region |
| 2012 – Erez Eller, Sikorsky Aircraft, US Northeast Region | 1998 – Joseph F. Horn, Pennsylvania State Univ., US Mideast Region |
| 2011 – Gregory M. Neiswander, San Jose State University Research Associate/ U.S. Army Aeroflightdynamics Directorate, US Western Region | 1997 – Bryan S. Cotton, Sikorsky Aircraft, US Northeast Region |
| 2010 – Mohammad Ali Rafiee, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, US Mideast Region | 1996 – Andreas P.F. Bernhard, University of Maryland, US Southeast Region |
| 2009 – Laura Buck, Boeing Co., US Western Region | 1995 – Jeffrey Keller, Princeton University, US Mideast Region |
| | 1994 – Jeffrey T. Evernham, Boeing Defense & Space Group, Helicopter Division, US Mideast Region |

- 1993** – Carl Bauer, Boeing Defense & Space Group, Helicopter Division, US Mideast Region
- 1992** – Hieu T. Ngo, University of Maryland, US Southeast Region
- 1991** – Dale D. Davis., US Army Aerostructures Directorate/NASA Langley, US Southeast Region
- 1990** – Joshua Gordia, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, US Northeast Region
- 1989** – Earl P. Duque, US Army/NASA Ames Research Center, US Western Region
- 1988** – Brian Hamilton, McDonnell Douglas Helicopter Co., US Western Region
- 1987** – Dwayne Kimball, Bell Helicopter Textron, Inc., US Southwest Region
- 1986** – Barbara Townsend, NASA Ames Research Center, US Western Region
- 1985** – Michael S. Lewis, US Army/NASA Ames Research Center, US Western Region
- 1984** – Mark Davis, United Technologies Research Center, US Northeast Region
- 1983** – Todd R. Quackenbush, Continuum Dynamics, Inc., US Northeast Region
- 1982** – Raymond S. Hansen, NASA Ames Research Center, US Western Region
Jon P. Rogers, Washington University, US Midwest Region
- 1981** – Shyi–Yaung Chen, Washington University, US Midwest Region
- 1980** – Kenneth P. Leighton, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, US Northeast Region
- 1979** – Ivo Zvolanek
- 1978** – David P. Chappell, US Army Aviation Research & Dev. Command, US Southern Region
- 1977** – Dev Banerjee, Washington University, US Midwest Region
- 1976** – Thomas W. Sheehy, Sikorsky Aircraft, US Northeast Region