

Robert L. Lichten Award Procedures Updated September 2020

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 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 Helicopter Textron 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

- a) Encourage VFS members to begin making public the results of their work through presentations at the local level (with no requirement for a written paper prior to the initial presentation).
- b) Stimulate interest in VFS at the local and regional level.

3. Eligibility for the Regional Competition

The award is open to any individual who:

- a) is a current member of VFS,
 - b) has not previously presented a paper at a national or international meeting of a technical society (e.g., the VFS Annual Forum, AIAA conference, VFS Technical Meeting, European Rotorcraft Forum). Presentations at local chapter meetings of a technical society, as well as presentations to local civic organizations, are exempt from this constraint. Co-authors of papers previously presented at national or international meetings are eligible provided they were not the principal author and did not make the presentation. The "principal" author is the sole author or the individual who performed the plurality of the work being reported, not the order of names in the paper citation.
- and
- c) has not served as the principal author of a previously-published, co-authored technical paper. ["Published" shall be interpreted to mean included in the proceedings of a meeting, forum, or conference of a technical society or organization (e.g., VFS, AIAA, SAE, ASME, ERF) that was conducted as a national or international event or in an archival Journal of such organizations.]

In addition,

- The presentation must be new, unpublished material. Written papers are not required prior to the presentation. If the presenter is selected as the winner by the Region, a written paper must be composed for judging by the Lichten Award Selection Committee (a subset of the VFS Technical Council).

- The technical presentation should be at least 20 minutes in length.
- The paper and presentation must be **cleared by your organization or agency prior to submission for publication and presentation**. 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. And no classified or otherwise restricted material may be used in conjunction with the Lichten paper or presentation.
- A single-authored presentation and subsequent paper is preferred, but co-authored presentations/papers may be eligible as long as the presenter has done the plurality of the work.
- Non-VFS Forum papers are eligible provided the meeting is held after the last day of the VFS Forum during which the winner of the competition will be presented. Papers submitted for the current VFS Forum are also eligible provided they meet all of the aforementioned requirements.
- Individuals entering the Lichten competition must submit a filled-in copy of the "Lichten Eligibility Statement", which follows, to their VFS Regional Vice President.

Questions regarding eligibility or additional issues should be directed to the Technical Programs Director at VFS headquarters.

4. Selection Process and Requirements for the 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 (29 if a leap year) 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 that is 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 at the discretion of the Technical Director (e.g., the use of video conferences or individual presentations). The alternative solution must offer a real-time interactive venue with an audience.

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

The VFS Technical Director shall form and chair a Selection Committee composed of members of the Technical Council to select the best paper from those recommended by the Regions. The Selection Committee should include at least one representative from each of the following: Government, Industry, 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.

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

To provide consistency of scoring between members of the Selection Committee, the following guidance is given for assigning a numerical score:

Each "Rating" should be an integer. Reviewers should use the following table to assist them in assigning numerical ratings. Note that the scale is only intended to be linear between 1 and 5, not between 0 and 1. Any Element that could

not be graded higher than a “C” should be rated zero. The scale is designed to have an adequate number of scores available to make distinctions between the best of the best.

5. Support for the Winner

The VFS will cover the following expenses of the winning author who will be invited to present his/her paper at Forum 77 which will include:

- Up to \$1,500 for travel costs (U.S. or international).
- Complimentary Forum registration and hotel accommodation (excluding food).
- A \$500 honorarium from Bell Helicopter Textron, Inc. and a plaque.
- **Forum 77 will take place from May 11-13, 2021 in West Palm Beach, Florida***

*** With respect to the COVID-19 pandemic, VFS recognizes that an in-person Forum will be contingent on the state of affairs prior to May 2021. If an in-person Forum is not a safe and viable option, then the Lichten winner will still receive the \$500 honorarium, plaque and complimentary registration to attend and present at the virtual Forum event.**

Note: the winning Lichten paper should be submitted to the *Journal of the American Helicopter Society* Editor for possible publication.

5.1 Runner-up

The first runner-up of the Lichten competition is invited to present at the Forum and receives complimentary registration, along with a certificate.

6. Lichten Award Deadline Checklist

a) Regional Vice Presidents' Deadlines

Call for Presentations: September/October

Abstracts Due for Regional Competition: October/November

Regional Competition(s) Held: November/December

Regional Nomination(s) to VFS Headquarters: NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 28.

b) Nominations Forwarded to the Technical Programs Director at VFS headquarters by February 28.

c) Results from Technical Director to VFS HQ by March 15.

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 ample time for the regional winner to write a paper for submission by February 28 (29 if a leap year).

7. Regional Vice Presidents' Nomination Letter Checklist

a) Select a candidate for nomination.

b) In a nomination letter or email, attest that:

i. The candidate meets the eligibility criteria described in Section 3 (as evidenced by submittal of a signed Eligibility Statement).

ii. The author was selected in accordance with the process stipulated in this document.

iii. The written text submitted for consideration fairly represents the material and visual aids presented at the regional meeting.

c) Nominations must be accompanied by at least one copy of the paper. **Electronic submittal is preferred.**

d) Nominations must be emailed or mailed to VFS Headquarters no later than February 28 to:

VFS – the Vertical Flight Society
Julie M. Gibbs, Technical Programs Director
2700 Prosperity Ave., Suite 275
Fairfax, VA 22031 USA
Phone: 1-703-684-6777 x103
Email: jmgibbs@vtol.org

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.**

1. I am a current member of the Vertical Flight Society.
2. I have never previously presented a paper at a national or international meeting of a technical society (e.g., the VFS Annual Forum, AIAA conference, VFS Technical Meeting, European Rotorcraft Forum, presentations at a local chapter meetings of a technical society, as well as presentations to local civic organizations, are exempt from this constraint).
3. I have never served as the principal author of a technical paper which has been previously published and/or presented at a national or international meeting of a technical society. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A "principal" author is a sole author or (in the case of works with multiple authors) the individual of who performed the plurality of the work being reported. The order of names in the paper/presentation citation is not the governing criteria.• "Published" shall be interpreted to mean included in<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The proceedings of a meeting, forum, or conference of a technical society (e.g., VFS, AIAA, SAE, ASME, ERF) which was conducted as a national or international event (vice a local or regional event), or○ An archival Journal of such organizations.
4. I am the principal author of the work documented in the presentation and paper being submitted.
5. This presentation is new unpublished material.
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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Non-VFS Forum papers are eligible provided the meeting is held after the Forum closing date.○ Papers submitted for the current VFS Forum are also eligible provided they meet all of the aforementioned requirements.
7. The paper and presentation has been cleared by my organization or agency prior to submission for publication and presentation. <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

Active Chapters by Region

US Northeast	East New England, Empire State, Stratford
US Mideast	Philadelphia and Erie
US Southeast	Aberdeen, Federal City, Hampton Roads, Patuxent River
US Southern	Atlanta, Redstone/Huntsville, South Florida
US Midwest	Dayton and St. Louis
US Southwest	Southwest
US Western	Arizona, San Francisco Bay Area
Americas	Montreal/Ottawa Canada
Asia/Australia	Australia, Bangalore, Japan, Korea
Europe/Africa	Germany, Italy, Turkey, United Kingdom

Past Lichten Award Winners

- | | |
|--|---|
| 2020 – Chloe Johnson, University of Texas at Austin, Southwest Region | 2005 – Jonathan Garhart, Sikorsky Aircraft, US Northeast Region |
| 2019 – Benjamin Leon, Georgia Institute of Technology, Southern Region | 2004 – Jongmin Kim, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, US Mideast Region |
| 2018 – Alberto Rigo, Politecnico di Milano, Europe–Africa Region | 2003 – Cheng–Ho Tho, Bell Helicopter, US Southwest Region |
| 2017 – Carolyn Walther, Texas A&M University, US Southwest Region | 2002 – Geoffrey Jeram, Georgia Tech., US Southern Region |
| 2016 – Carol Runco, Texas A&M University, US Southwest Region | 2001 – Marc Gervais, University of Maryland, US Southeast Region |
| 2015 – Isaac R. Bundy, Sikorsky Aircraft, US Northeast Region | 2000 – Craig P. Fuehne, Washington University, US Midwest Region |
| 2014 – Raymond Beale, Sikorsky Aircraft, US Northeast Region | 1999 – LCDR Robert L. King, Naval Postgraduate School, US Western Region |
| 2013 – Brent Pafford, University of Texas at Austin, US Southwest Region | 1998 – Joseph F. Horn, Pennsylvania State Univ., US Mideast Region |
| 2012 – Erez Eller, Sikorsky Aircraft, US Northeast Region | 1997 – Bryan S. Cotton, Sikorsky Aircraft, US Northeast Region |
| 2011 – Gregory M. Neiswander, San Jose State University Research Associate/ U.S. Army Aeroflightdynamics Directorate, US Western Region | 1996 – Andreas P.F. Bernhard, University of Maryland, US Southeast Region |
| 2010 – Mohammad Ali Rafiee, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, US Mideast Region | 1995 – Jeffrey Keller, Princeton University, US Mideast Region |
| 2009 – Laura Buck, Boeing Co., US Western Region | 1994 – Jeffrey T. Evernham, Boeing Defense & Space Group, Helicopter Division, US Mideast Region |
| 2008 – Yvonne T. Fuchs, NASA Langley, US Southeast Region | 1993 – Carl Bauer, Boeing Defense & Space Group, Helicopter Division, US Mideast Region |
| 2007 – Jonathan Mitchell, Bell Helicopter, US Southwest Region | 1992 – Hieu T. Ngo, University of Maryland, US Southeast Region |
| 2006 – J. S. Wilson, NASA Ames, US Western 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