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Contact: Stephanie Griffith
703-416-4888 Ext 104, sgriffith@naa.aero

Automatic Ground Collision Avoidance System Team to Receive the 2018 Robert J. Collier Trophy

Washington, DC, April 5, 2019 – The National Aeronautic Association (NAA) is pleased to announce that the Automatic Ground Collision Avoidance System (Auto GCAS) Team has been named the recipient of the 2018 Robert J. Collier Trophy for “… successfully completing a rapid design, integration, and flight test of critical, lifesaving technology for the worldwide F-35 fleet.”

The Collier Trophy is awarded annually “…for the greatest achievement in aeronautics or astronautics in America, with respect to improving the performance, efficiency, and safety of air or space vehicles, the value of which has been thoroughly demonstrated by actual use during the preceding year.” The list of Collier recipients represents a timeline of air and space achievements, marking major events in the history of flight.

“I am so proud of the entire Auto GCAS Team and their commitment and dedication to saving lives through this revolutionary technology,” expressed Mark Wilkins, Senior Aviation Safety Analyst, Office of Secretary of Defense for Personnel Readiness and Safety. “We are truly honored to be recognized with such a prestigious award and deeply humbled considering the aviation greats who won previously.”
“I want to congratulate the Auto GCAS team on winning the 2018 Collier Trophy,” said Greg Principato, President and CEO, NAA. “The Collier Trophy was established more than a century ago to encourage the best minds in this country to continually find ways to advance and improve aviation. The Auto GCAS team, comprised of elements of the U.S. Air Force, to include the Air Force Research Laboratory, Lockheed Martin, the F-35 Joint Program Office, NASA, and the Defense Safety Oversight Council; is a sterling example of a project that brought together the best minds from many disciplines. The result is a game changing advance in safety that has already changed military aviation and can one day change the game for everyone.”

The Collier Trophy Selection Committee, comprised of 30 aviation and aerospace professionals, convened on April 4, 2019 to hear presentations from 11 nominees.

The Collier Trophy Selection Committee:

Richard Aboulafia, Teal Group  
Jim Albaugh, Chairman, NAA  
Brett Alexander, Blue Origin  
Ed Bolen, NBAA  
Chris Brunner, Pratt & Whitney  
George Carneal, Legal Counsel, NAA  
Leda Chong, Gulfstream Aerospace  
Greta Lundeberg, The Boeing Company  
Duane Hawkins, Spirit Aerosystems  
Ray Johns, FlightSafety International  
Carl Johnson, Treasurer, NAA  
Leo Knaapen, Bombardier  
Samantha Magill, AIAA  
Sandy Magnus, Executive Director Emeritus, AIAA  
Clay McConnell, Airbus  
Terry McVenes, RTCA  
Mary Miller, BBA Aviation  
Mary Claire Murphy, Textron  
Ken Panos, Aerojet Rocketdyne  
Eric Pierce, Lockheed Martin  
Donald Pointer, Dassault Falcon  
Peter Prowitt, GE Aviation  
Bill Readdy, Discovery Partners International  
Mark Rector, Honda Aircraft Company  
Skip Ringo, The Ringo Group  
Darryl Roberson, Rolls-Royce, North America  
Shelly Simi, NASAO  
Alyssa Ten Eyck, Embraer  
Read Van de Water, Safran USA  
Brian Wynne, AUVSI
The Collier Trophy will be formally presented at the Annual Robert J. Collier Trophy Dinner on June 13, 2019 in Washington D.C. For more information or to view a complete list of previous recipients of the Collier Trophy, please visit www.naa.aero.

The National Aeronautic Association is a non-profit, membership organization devoted to fostering America's aerospace leadership and promoting public understanding of the importance of aviation and space flight to the United States.

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