



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Garmin Autoland to Receive the 2020 Robert J. Collier Trophy**

**Washington, DC, June 3, 2021** – The National Aeronautic Association (NAA) is pleased to announce that Garmin Autoland has been named as the recipient of the 2020 Robert J. Collier Trophy for “... designing, developing, and fielding Garmin Autoland – the world’s first certified autonomous system that activates during an emergency to safely control and land an aircraft without human intervention.”

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 dating back to 1911.

While rare, unfortunate pilot incapacitation accidents, and others like them, are almost always fatal. Garmin Autoland was born of a moral responsibility and obligation to improve and enhance the safety of the entire aviation industry.

In the event of an emergency, such as a pilot incapacitation, a passenger can activate Garmin Autoland to autonomously land the aircraft with a simple press of a dedicated button. Autoland can also initiate automatically if the system detects no pilot interaction. Once activated, the system calculates a flight path to the most suitable airport, while avoiding terrain and adverse

weather, initiates a stabilized approach to the runway and lands the aircraft – without pilot or passenger intervention. Garmin Autoland is designed to provide the pilot, passenger, and air traffic control with confidence and security that the aircraft will autonomously aviate, navigate, and communicate en route to a safe destination in the event of an emergency.

“Autoland began as a simple exploration to develop automation technology for general aviation aircraft,” said Cliff Pemble, Garmin president and CEO. “This exploration resulted in the first automated system that can safely fly and land an aircraft in an emergency without human intervention. It is a tremendous honor for Autoland to be recognized as one of the greatest achievements in aviation history. We owe this accomplishment to the many Garmin associates who dedicated themselves to creating this game-changing aviation safety technology.”

“The Garmin Autoland system marks a significant improvement in civil aviation,” affirmed NAA Chairman Jim Albaugh. “It’s ability to take over an airplane with a disabled pilot and land it safely will save many lives in the future. It’s a remarkable technical achievement and clearly merits the Collier Trophy.”

The Collier Trophy Selection Committee, comprised of 35 aviation and aerospace professionals, reviewed presentations from seven nominees and selected Garmin Autoland as the recipient on June 2.

Members of the Collier Trophy Selection Committee:

Jim Albaugh, Chairman, NAA

Thierry Betbeze, Dassault Falcon

James Bourke, International Aerobatic Club

Christopher Brunner, Raytheon Technologies

Pete Bunce, General Aviation Manufacturers  
Association

Leda Chong, Gulfstream

Gary Dunn, Aviation Partners

Roei Ganzarski, magniX

Patricia Gilbert, National Air Traffic

Controllers Association

Angela Gittens, Schiphol USA

Christopher Hart, Hart Solutions, LLC

Duane Hawkins, Spirit Aerosystems

Kathryn Hughes, National Aviation Hall of

Fame

Carl Johnson, Treasurer, NAA  
Tim Keating, The Boeing Company  
Leo Knaapen, Bombardier  
Charles Lyon, Northrop Grumman  
Samantha Magill, Vice-Chair, NAA  
Clay McConnell, Airbus  
Candace McGraw, Cincinnati/Northern  
Kentucky International Airport  
Mary Miller, Signature Aviation  
Mary Claire Murphy, Textron Aviation  
Mark Ofsthun, Honda Aircraft Company  
Ken Panos, Aerojet Rocketdyne

Eric Peterson, Aero Club of Northern CA  
Eric Pierce, Lockheed Martin  
Peter Prowitt, GE Aviation  
Darryl Roberson, Rolls-Royce North America  
Todd Simmons, Cirrus Aircraft  
Joan Sullivan Garrett, MedAire  
Brad Thress, FlightSafety International  
Read Van de Water, Safran USA  
Pam Williams, Organization of Black  
Aerospace Professionals  
Carl Wolf, Garmin International  
Clyde Woltman, Leonardo Company

The 2020 Collier Trophy will be formally presented on a date to be determined. For more information or to view a complete list of previous recipients of the Collier Trophy, please visit [www.naa.aero](http://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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