



## PRESS RELEASE 17 July 2014

### Aviation Leaders Assemble in Wellington for New Zealand's first Aviation Summit

Wellington - Aviation NZ announced that over 200 people are expected to attend its inaugural Aviation Leadership Summitevents, in Wellington New Zealand from 21-22 July 2014.

"Wellington will be the centre of NZ's aviation industry next week as its leaders and industry meet to discuss the most important aviation issues for New Zealand and the Asia Pacific Region, with a particular emphasis on domestic and export growth," said Samantha Sharif, Aviation NZ's CEO.

In particular, we are pleased to welcome Conrad Clifford as the new Vice President of IATA Asia Pacific for his first public address in New Zealand. The Asia Pacific region is experiencing significant economic growth and we will discuss first-hand the opportunities for NZ participation.

CEO Samantha Sharif says, "NZ's aviation industry has the potential to increase its economic contribution from \$11Bn to \$16Bn in the coming years and our annual leadership Summit is a key platform for dialogue on how we achieve this."

Aviation NZ's first Aviation Leadership Summit coincides with the global celebration of the first 100 years of scheduled commercial aviation. The commercial airline industry began with a flight across Tampa Bay, Florida on 1 January 1914.

The high-profile agenda features international and domestic industry leaders, including:

Conrad Clifford, Vice President of IATA Asia Pacific – 100 years of aviation – The Future: Aviation as a driver of economic and social development

Hon Dr Nick Smith, Minister of Conservation – Battle for the Birds, NZ's largest ever 1080 drop

Phil Twyford, Labour Spokesperson for Transport – Labour's Sustainable Transport Framework

Conor English, CEO Federated Farmers – Delivering on industry potential

Therese Walsh, CEO Cricket World Cup – NZ Inc approach to major events

Accredited media are invited to attend, but must be pre-registered.

#### **For more information, please contact:**

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#### **Notes for Editors:**

#### **BACKGROUND**

#### **Key facts about Aviation New Zealand**

Aviation New Zealand exists to lead, inspire and grow the New Zealand aviation industry.



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It was established in 1950 to encourage the safe growth of the aviation industry in New Zealand. In more recent years, it has also become involved in helping the international development of its members.

- Aviation New Zealand has over 600 members
- Members include agricultural companies, air operators (fixed wing and rotary), aircraft designers and manufacturers, airports, aviation trainers, emergency and medical services companies, helicopter companies and parts manufacturers.

### **Key facts about the Summit**

Over 200 delegates from New Zealand, Australia, Asia/Pacific and North America are expected to attend the Leadership Summit. The Summit will also include a trade show (21 and 22 July) and Gala Awards Dinner (21 July).

Aviation NZ is the voice of New Zealand aviation. The Aviation Summit brings together the CEOs and senior management of its 650+ members that represent the majority of NZ aviation. They will be joined by leaders from across the spectrum of industry stakeholders including governments, partners in the value chain and other international organizations.

### **Key facts about aviation in New Zealand**

An 'early adopter' in aviation terms – first international customer for Boeing; first pilot training school 1916; first airmail 1919; and quick appreciation of the suitability of aviation for agriculture, tourism and forestry.

4502 aircraft in New Zealand, one per thousand people, giving New Zealand one of the highest aircraft per capita ratios in the world.

Decades of policy innovation to support competition, safety and growth; 30m km<sup>2</sup> of safely managed airspace; and exports to over 80 countries on all continents.

Aircraft fit-outs, new aircraft (including UAVs), GPS track and tracing systems, high precision processes (for example bait and fire fighting), composites, titanium powders, and aviation industry business and operational systems are just some of the exciting technologies and practices developing in New Zealand which set the scene for growth in the next 100 years.