

The Society's Honours, Medals, Awards and Prizes Description and Criteria

Version 1.4. Revised 21 February 2017, Approved by the Council 4 September 2017¹
*The global aerospace community's most prestigious and long-standing awards honouring
achievement, innovation and excellence*

The Society's Honours, Medals, Awards and Prizes recognise and celebrate contributions to the advancement of Aeronautical Art, Science and Engineering. Anyone can offer nominations for recognition. Any individual or team felt to merit recognition by the Society for their contribution can be nominated, subject only to the criteria detailed herein and guidance accompanying the Nomination Form.

Honours

Election to the Society's Honorary Grades is at the discretion of the Council, usually on the recommendation of the Society's Medals and Awards Committee. Other than in exceptional circumstances no more than 3 elections to Honorary Fellowship and 3 to Honorary Companionship are made in any given year. Elections to Honorary Fellowship and Honorary Companionship carry the benefits associated with these Honorary Grades and are marked in each case by the presentation of a scroll signed by the President.

Honorary Fellowship

The highest distinction for aerospace achievement: awarded for only the most exceptional contributions to the aerospace profession. This honour is conferred on those whose careers, leadership, inspiration and impact marks them out as among the most eminent, widely recognised and influential aerospace professionals of their generation.

Honorary Companionship

Awarded for rendering distinctive and notably meritorious service to the aerospace profession. This honour is conferred on those whose professional achievements may not be exclusively in aerospace, or may be in some way unconventional, but who have, nevertheless, made a distinctive and notably meritorious contribution to the aerospace profession.

Medals

The Society's Medals are conferred at the discretion of the Council, on the recommendation of the Society's Medals and Awards Committee. They are awarded for contributions to the advancement² of Aerospace Art, Science and Engineering.

Contributions are assessed as outstanding (Gold standard), major (Silver standard), or notable (Bronze standard). These assessments are, of necessity, made on a case-by-case basis on information provided in annual nomination forms and in the context of each annual competition. Key criteria include innovation, impact and excellence.

Only those contributions featuring the clearest possible evidence of the successful exploitation of new ideas, of international, multi-disciplinary and transformational impact on industry, the body of knowledge, the profession and society at large and of fitness-for-purpose and the highest standards of professionalism will qualify as outstanding. To be

¹ Version 1.3 was approved by Council on 4 September 2017. Version 1.4 was updated in October 2017 to take account of changes to the age ranges for the N E Rowe Medals that had been agreed by the Branches Committee in October 2016.

² A change, recognised or recognisable by the wider professional community as progressive and beneficial, that adds to, transforms, disrupts or otherwise modifies the body of knowledge, current thinking, conventional ways of doing business, technologies, products or services constituting contemporary aerospace art, science and engineering.

assessed as meeting the minimum (Bronze) standard for recognition a contribution will normally be characterised by clear evidence of significance in enabling, facilitating or otherwise supporting innovation and of impact at least at national or international programme/system level or across a recognised or recognisable professional discipline.

Unproven or incremental changes to existing components, systems, sub-systems, technologies, processes or business practices will not normally qualify as a contribution for recognition. While leadership and/or meritorious service in themselves do not qualify for recognition, they may do so when demonstrated to have had a particularly significant impact in advancing Aeronautical Art, Science or Engineering. Rank and status alone are not factors to be taken into account.

The Individual Gold Medal

Conferred for outstanding contributions to the advancement of Aerospace Art, Science and Engineering. No more than one Gold Medal is conferred in any given year.

The Individual Silver Medal

Conferred for major contributions to the advancement of Aerospace Art, Science and Engineering. In exceptional circumstances up to two Silver Medals may be conferred in a given year.

The Individual Bronze Medal

Conferred for notable contributions to the advancement of Aerospace Art, Science and Engineering. Up to three Bronze Medals may be conferred in a given year.

The Team³ Gold Medal

Conferred for outstanding contributions to the advancement of Aerospace Art, Science and Engineering. No more than one Team Gold Medal is conferred in any given year.

The Team Silver Medal

Conferred for major contributions to the advancement of Aerospace Art, Science and Engineering. In exceptional circumstances up to two Team Silver Medals may be conferred in a given year.

The Team Bronze Medal

Conferred for notable contributions to the advancement of Aerospace Art, Science and Engineering. Up to three Team Bronze Medals may be conferred in a given year.

³ Other than in exceptional circumstances, up to 12 individuals set up, organised and working together to deliver the specific contribution(s) for which an award is conferred. Companies, Agencies, Institutions, Universities, Colleges, Faculties, established military formations, Boards, Committees and other corporate bodies are not eligible.

Specialist Awards

The Society's Specialist Awards are conferred at the discretion of the Council, on the recommendation of the Medals and Awards Committee. Those eligible are individuals, or in exceptional circumstances small teams⁴, working in a formally recognised or otherwise well-established professional discipline, celebrating advances, innovation, excellence and/or exceptionally long or meritorious service that, while not necessarily limited to that discipline, may have had a particularly significant impact within it in advancing Aerospace Art, Science or Engineering not fully recognised or recognisable to the wider aerospace community.

These Awards cater for 'specialist' contributions including but not limited to those identified by or with Society Specialist Groups. No more than one award for a particular specialism is normally conferred in any given year.

Where an eligible nomination supported by a Society Specialist Group that champions one of the Named Awards listed below attracts recognition, the latter award will constitute the Specialist Award to be conferred.

For a Specialist Award to be conferred a contribution must be judged by the Medals and Awards Committee to reach at least Bronze medal equivalent standard. These Awards are otherwise not 'graded'.

Except in the case of a Specialist Award being conferred in the form of a NA that takes a different form, the conferring of a Specialist Award is marked by the presentation of a certificate signed by the President.

The Named Awards

R P Alston Medal – *Flight Test*

Flight Operations Medal – *Flight Operations*

Flight Simulation Medal – *Flight Simulation*

Roger Green Medal – *Human Factors*

Alan Marsh Medal – *Rotorcraft*

Geoffrey Pardoe Space Award – *Space*

Turnbuckle Award – *Airworthiness & Maintenance*

The Young Person's Awards

These awards recognise the achievement and promise of young people (under 30 years of age), usually in higher education, vocational training or employment, both individuals and teams.

The Achievement Award

Conferred on a young person or team for exceptional achievement or promise in aerospace. The award consists of a scroll signed by the President and the Young Persons' Achievement Award trophy.

The Achievement Commendations

⁴ Other than in exceptional circumstances, up to 6 individuals set up, organised and working together to deliver the specific contribution(s) for which an award is conferred. Otherwise as in footnote 2 above.

Conferred on young persons or teams for notable achievement or promise in aerospace. The awards consist of certificates signed by the President.

Alan Marsh Award

Conferred on a young person showing technical promise, where five hours of helicopter or fixed wing flying tuition will enhance their career. The award consists of a scroll and up to five hours or £1500 worth of flying training.

Herbert le Sueur Award

Conferred on a young person whose studies will be enhanced by attending a UK or European Conference with at least some content related to either helicopter or fixed-wing aircraft safety. The award comprises assistance towards attendance expenses to a limit of £500.

The N E Rowe Awards

Conferred each year for the for the best oral presentation on an aeronautical subject given before any Branch of the Society and in the National competition, plus accompanying written submission, by any young person. Awards are conferred in to two age group categories, the under-22 age group and the 22-29 age group⁵. Each award consists of a Medal and a monetary grant of £500.

The University Prizes

The University Prizes are awarded annually to the best aeronautical engineering graduate of the academic year on University or College courses accredited or otherwise recognised by the Royal Aeronautical Society (<http://aerosociety.com/About-Us/medalsawards/uniprizes> refers). Prize-winners are selected by the Faculties concerned. Each prize comprises a certificate accompanied by a cash sum of £100.

⁵ The age groups were updated by the Branches Committee in 2016

Written Paper Prizes

The Society awards prizes annually for the best papers published in the Aeronautical Journal during the previous calendar year. All such papers will have met the requirements specified in the Aeronautical Journal 'Instructions for Authors' (e.g. in relation to style), and will have been subject to peer review addressing matters of technical quality and contribution. While the relative merits of papers in these respects may therefore form part of their relative assessment for recognition in the form of a Written Paper Prize, the Medals and Awards Committee will also consider the extent to which papers appear most likely to engage the broadest possible international and multi-disciplinary community of professional interest and thus to exemplify 'the best' in terms of the effective and inspirational communication of advances in the 'body of knowledge' relating to aerospace art, science and engineering. The conferring of a Written Paper Prize is marked by the presentation of a certificate signed by the President.

The Gold Award

For the best published paper overall in terms of style, technical quality and contribution and the effective and inspirational communication of advances in the 'body of knowledge' relating to aerospace art, science and engineering.

No more than one Gold Award is conferred in any given year.

The Silver Award

For the published paper or papers worthy of commendation in terms of style, technical quality and contribution and the effective and inspirational communication of advances in the 'body of knowledge' relating to aerospace art, science and engineering. In exceptional circumstances up to two Silver Awards may be conferred in a given year.

The Bronze Award

For the published paper or papers worthy of note in terms of style, technical quality and contribution and the effective and inspirational communication of advances in the 'body of knowledge' relating to aerospace art, science and engineering. Up to three Bronze Awards may be conferred in a given year.

The Young Persons' Award

Conferred for the best published paper produced by a young person or a group of young people who are all under 30 years of age.

Other Awards

Sir Robert Hardingham Presidential Sword

For outstanding services to the Society over a period of time. Awarded annually at the discretion of the President.

The Presidential Award

Awarded at the discretion of the President.

The Kremer Prizes

Monetary awards, established in 1959 by the industrialist Henry Kremer, that are given to pioneers of human-powered flight. The competitions and awards are administered by the Human Powered Aircraft Specialist Group.

The Icarus Cup

The Icarus Cup and associated trophies and cash prizes are awarded for the best performing entrants in the annual Icarus Cup competition for Human-Powered Flight Aircraft. Administered by the Human Powered Aircraft Specialist Group.

The Churchill Medal

Conferred on an individual or a small team (the majority of whom are serving members of the armed forces or were serving at the time) for achievement in engineering and technical advancement in support of military operations during the period of April to March in a particular year. Administered by the Society in partnership with the Institution of Engineering and Technology, Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology, the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, Institution of Royal Engineers and Society of Operations Engineers.