Blom Wins Boeing-Sponsored Engineering Student of the Year Award

Boeing [NYSE: BA] today announced that Agnes Blom, a Dutch doctoral student in aerospace engineering, has won the company-sponsored 2008 Engineering Student of the Year Award presented by aerospace publication Flight International. Blom, the first female recipient of the award, was recognized today during the 100th-anniversary celebration of Flight International at the Farnborough Airshow.

This year's competition attracted a record number of qualified entries from around the world, including Australia, India, Singapore, South Africa and the United Kingdom. Blom was recognized for her Ph.D. research in the development of advanced, fiber-steered, variable-stiffness composite laminates.

"Blom stood out as the clear winner on the basis of her approach to the work, demonstrated progress and the direct application of her research to many key areas within the aerospace industry," said Frank DeMattia, one of the three retired senior aerospace engineers who judged the competition.

Blom holds Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Aerospace Engineering from Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands' largest technical university, and expects to complete her Ph.D. at Delft by the end of 2009.

The second-place award was presented to Juan Mejia from the University of Illinois (United States) for his work in distributed control and coordination of autonomous vehicles. Four other contestants received honorable mentions -- Daniel Kwon from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; James Villarreal from Arizona State University; and Manu Sharma and Anirban Basu, both from the University of Illinois.

Boeing's sponsorship is one of its many efforts aimed at encouraging students to pursue careers in aerospace-related engineering fields.

"Boeing places a high value on helping to develop the engineering and technical skills required to grow and sustain our business. We are committed to doing our part to develop the engineering work force of tomorrow," said Charles Toups, Integrated Defense Systems vice president, Engineering and Mission Assurance. "The recognition and exposure that this award brings are meant to shine a light on students like Agnes and the contribution they are making to the future."

The worldwide competition, now in its third year, is open to any full- or part-time engineering student pursuing a recognized degree. The winning student's work must be judged as likely to impact the future of aerospace engineering in areas such as new or enhanced capabilities, systems, processes or tools; new levels of performance; and improved life cycle costs.

A unit of The Boeing Company, Boeing Integrated Defense Systems is one of the world's largest space and defense businesses specializing in innovative and capabilities-driven customer solutions. Headquartered in St. Louis, Boeing Integrated Defense Systems is a $32.1 billion business with 71,000 employees worldwide.

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