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12th Annual A4A/SAE NDT "Better Way" Award

Purpose: The A4A/SAE Nondestructive Testing (NDT) "Better Way" award is an annual process established to recognize a government-industry team that has developed and applied a technology, technique, process, or policy that advances inspection or test of civil/commercial aircraft structure, aircraft components, or aircraft systems. Improvements will be assessed as a function of process sensitivity, reliability, and cost effectiveness.

Nature: The A4A/SAE NDT Better Way award is sponsored by Airlines for America (A4A) and SAE International (SAE). The award will be presented this year at the A4A NDT Forum (September 22-25, 2014) and shall consist of a plaque, and a letter of commendation for each team member. The letter of commendation will be read in a short ceremony at the Forum. Members of the winning team are also invited to an A4A/SAE sponsored dinner during the 2014 Forum in San Francisco.

Eligibility: Team eligibility includes both US government and private industry personnel. Employees of universities, national labs, and non-profit organizations are also eligible as supplemental recipients of this award. Membership in A4A or SAE is not required. Teams may have up to twelve members. The accomplishment may involve research, development, engineering, application, management, or policy, and must have occurred not more than 18 months prior to the NDT Forum. Awards Committee members are not eligible for the award.

Awards Committee: An Awards Committee consisting of two A4A member airline representatives and two SAE committee representatives will review the nominations and select the winner.

Nominations: A4A and SAE are currently soliciting nominations. Nominations may be submitted by anyone (including the awards committee members themselves) and do not need to adhere to any formal format. The nomination should include the names, affiliations, and contact information for all team members; the name and contact information of the nominator; and a brief (one page) description of the accomplishment.

The deadline for nominations is **June 16, 2014**. Nominations should be submitted electronically to the A4A point-of-contact Robert Ireland, rireland@airlines.org the SAE point-contact, Tim Harris, Timothy.J.Harris@boeing.com and the NDT Forum Chair Sam Tucker – United Airlines, sam.tucker@united.com

Evaluation of Nominations: Each nomination shall be evaluated against the following criteria:

- How does the new technology, technique, process, or policy result in more effective testing and inspection?
- How does the new technology, technique, process, or policy result in less expensive testing and inspection?
- What technical or non-technical obstacles did the team have to overcome?
- How is the new technology, technique, process, or policy novel or innovative?

The Awards Committee will make its decision by August 29, 2014. Decisions of the Awards Committee are final and require only the unanimous consent of the Awards Committee members.

Administration: A4A's Engineering and Maintenance Department and SAE are responsible for chartering, selecting, and maintaining the Awards Committee. The Awards Committee is responsible for qualifying nominations, selecting the winner, and organizing the presentation ceremony.