NEWS RELEASE: WINNERS OF ANNUAL USC-STC AWARDS UNVEILED

(VANCOUVER): Canada's national industry association representing vehicles and technologies that innovate by air, land and sea, Unmanned Systems Canada / Systèmes Télécommandés Canada, is pleased to announce the 2018 winners of our annual Industry Awards.

The annual awards are meant to recognize outstanding contributions to the field, salute those who first pioneered this fast-growing sector, and also encourage the next generation by recognizing outstanding papers from students planning on entering the unmanned field.

"Our association has been blessed to have had involvement by some amazingly talented individuals," said USC-STC Chair Mark Aruja. "The recipients of these awards, as in previous years, demonstrate the breadth of that talent."

The **Student Papers Competition** recognizes excellence in student research related to unmanned vehicle systems. **Third place** was awarded to **Firas Khelifi** of Concordia University for his paper addressing the legal, ethical and safety issues of UAS flight operations. **Second place** went to University of Alberta's **Muhammad Rafique** for a paper on vision-based motion control. The **winning paper** went to **John O'Keefe** from Carleton University for his work on localization of a quadrotor using ultrasound.

The annual **Organizational Award** went to **CAVCOE** (formerly the Canadian Automated Vehicles Centre of Excellence). The not-for-profit Centre of Excellence is the country's only organization dedicating to advising public and private sector organizations on preparing for the arrival of automated vehicles of all kinds. Executive director Barrie Kirk received the award with prepared thanks delivery by video.

The **Mark Cuss Memorial Scholarship**, worth $2,500, is both a tribute to a truly outstanding individual – and is meant to assist an undergraduate student in the development of concepts related to unmanned vehicle technology. In a moving tribute, his former classmate and friend **John Mohlberg** named the winner: **Holly Fleming** of Lakehead University. Her paper focused on UAVs within Indigenous communities. Holly accepted via video.

Finally, the **Pip Rudkin Individual Achievement Award**, named for the former USC-STC chair who passed away in 2015, is meant to recognize an individual who shares some of the tremendous qualities that distinguished Pip: Leadership, mentorship, friendship and achievement. The 2018 winner is **Pierre Pepin**, known for his outstanding work that made the MicroPilot flight controller a globally known product.

USC-STC Congratulates all the winners – and looks forward to next year's competition in May, when university teams from across Canada will compete in a contest involving autonomous snow-plows. (Hopefully, the snow will be gone by then.)

ABOUT USC-STC: (USC-STC) is a Canadian-registered not-for-profit association founded in 2003 by a small group of entrepreneurs and visionaries who were committed to protecting and representing the interests of Canada's unmanned vehicle systems community. It has since grown far beyond its initial roots to include students, academia, industry and investors across the aerial, ground and marine unmanned sectors.

For further information or to arrange an interview, contact: uc18media@unmannedsystems.ca