



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **WORLD AIRLINE ENTERTAINMENT ASSOCIATION (WAEA) CONGRATULATES FINALISTS OF AVION AWARDS FOR BEST SINGLE ACHIEVEMENT IN IFE AND BEST ACHIEVEMENT IN TECHNOLOGY**

*The WAEA recognizes excellence in inflight entertainment and communications (IFE&C) at the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference & Exhibition in Palm Springs, CA, USA*

McLEAN, VA, USA, 1 September, 2009—The World Airline Entertainment Association (WAEA) announced today finalists for the Avion Awards for Best Single Achievement in IFE and Best Achievement in Technology. Winners and runners-up will be announced at a ceremony during the 30<sup>th</sup> WAEA Conference & Exhibition in Palm Springs, California on 5 October 2009.

“Our members work hard to accomplish excellence and innovation for the overall inflight passenger experience,” says Christine Ringger, president of WAEA and IFE System Engineer and Project Manager for Swiss International Air Lines. “These two prestigious awards demonstrate how the WAEA provides a forum to propel our industry to the next level of IFE and communications.”

Any airline member of the WAEA was eligible to participate in the competition. Essays for the Best Single Achievement in IFE were evaluated by a panel of industry experts. The top five finalists will make oral presentations to a panel of industry on Sunday, 4 October 2009 to determine the winner, and runners-up.

The Best Achievement in Technology category was open to any WAEA member, airline or vendor. A jury of peers comprised of representatives from each part of the IFE community judged each essay submission based on innovation, sustainability, and technical benefit and improvement for the whole industry.

Winners and runners-up in each category will be announced during the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Avion Awards Ceremony on Monday, 5 October at 17:00. Winners and runners-up for the Avion Awards for Best in Region and Best Overall categories will also be announced where more than 60,000 passengers rated their IFE experience on 38 airlines via an online surveys administered by Skytrax, the leader in research to the world airline and air transport industry.

Finalists in each category listed alphabetically are:

#### Finalists for Best Single Achievement in IFE:

Air Canada  
Continental Airlines Inc.  
EL Al Israel Airlines Ltd.

Qantas Airways Ltd.  
Thomson Airways  
Virgin America

Finalists for Best Achievement in Technology:

Aircell LLC  
Delta Air Lines  
LiveTV, LLC  
Lumexis Corporation  
Panasonic Avionics Corporation

The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Avion Awards Ceremony will be held during WAEA's 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference & Exhibition, the IFE industry's premier event.

Delivering 30 years of innovation, the WAEA will also celebrate by honoring Lifetime Achievement and Outstanding Contribution awards during this special ceremony with video production sponsored by Post Modern Edit and SKYLINE IFE Ltd. All conference delegates and members of the press are invited to attend.

The WAEA 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference & Exhibition attracts hundreds of leaders, experts and buyers from airlines and airline-suppliers with a full day of focused education sessions and the most comprehensive display of inflight entertainment and communications products and services in the world. The industry event will take place 5-8 October 2009 at the Palm Springs Convention Center in Palm Springs, California, USA.

For the complete agenda, event information and to register, please visit [www.waea.org](http://www.waea.org).

**About WAEA**

Founded in 1979 as a non-profit organization, The WAEA is the official worldwide network representing nearly 400 airlines and airline suppliers committed to excellence in inflight entertainment and communications and the continual improvement of the airline passenger experience. For more information regarding the WAEA and the IFE and communications industry, please visit [www.waea.org](http://www.waea.org).

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