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PATRICK WADDICK OF CIRRUS AIRCRAFT TO RECEIVE 3RD ANNUAL DR. SAM B. WILLIAMS AVIATION TECHNOLOGY AWARD AT STAR-STUDED GALA

The President of Innovation & Operations is Recognized for the Revolutionary Single-Engine Vision Jet (SF50) and its Total Safety System

BEVERLY HILLS, CA (January 23, 2026)

The 23rd Annual Living Legends of Aviation Awards, often called the "Academy Awards of Aviation," will honor Patrick Waddick, President of Innovation and Operations for Cirrus Aircraft, with the 3rd Annual Dr. Sam B. Williams Aviation Technology Award. The prestigious gala, hosted by actor and "Official Ambassador of Aviation" John Travolta, is set for Friday, January 23, 2026, at the Beverly Hilton Hotel.

Mr. Waddick is being honored for his relentless pursuit of personal aviation innovation and the Collier Trophy winning Cirrus Vision Jet (SF50), the world's first FAA-certified single-engine personal jet. His decades of leadership, commitment to safety, and his team's customer-centric design philosophy culminated in an aircraft that not only created a new category of air travel but integrated groundbreaking life-saving technology.

The event is anticipated to draw some of the most influential figures in aerospace and entertainment, including Living Legends like Academy Award-winning actor Morgan Freeman, legendary musician Kenny G, and other global icons of flight.

The Dr. Sam B. Williams Aviation Technology Award, established in honor of Williams International founder Dr. Sam B. Williams, recognizes individuals who demonstrate an extraordinary impact on the industry through technological innovation and entrepreneurial spirit.

Patrick Waddick's award also acknowledges his team's success in developing a "Total Safety Solution" for the Vision Jet, which includes:

- Intuitive user interfaces leveraging advanced technology and seamless integration
- The Cirrus Airframe Parachute System (CAPS®): The signature whole-aircraft parachute system.
- Safe Return™ Emergency Autoland: A revolutionary feature that allows passengers to land the jet with a single button press in the event of pilot incapacitation.

Patrick Waddick shared that "it's been a privilege to lead such an outstanding team who have changed the world through their innovation. Legends like Dr. Williams and the Klapmeier brothers inspired us all to raise the bar, delivering better customer experience."

The Vision Jet is powered by the Williams FJ33 Turbofan engine, continuing the long-standing partnership between Williams International and Cirrus Aircraft.

Gregg Williams, Chairman and Chief Visioneering Officer of Williams International, stated, "Pat Waddick represents the absolute best of what this award stands for. He has been a driving force at Cirrus since the company's early days, providing the vision and stability to take the dream of the Vision Jet from concept to reality."

The Living Legends of Aviation Awards Gala benefits Kiddie Hawk Air Academy, a non-profit dedicated to inspiring young people to pursue careers in aviation and aerospace. The evening includes the induction of several new Living Legends and the presentation of a select number of prestigious industry awards. An exclusive group of 100 distinguished individuals, embodies the spirit of aviation through their contributions as entrepreneurs, innovators, and trailblazers.

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