



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Sandy Johnson

Phone: 218.740.3667

Email: [Sandy@APEXgetsbusiness.com](mailto:Sandy@APEXgetsbusiness.com)

Website: [www.APEXgetsbusiness.com](http://www.APEXgetsbusiness.com)

### **Cirrus Aircraft Honored with APEX Summit Award**

**Duluth, Minnesota:** On January 15, the Area Partnership for Economic Expansion (APEX) recognized Cirrus Aircraft with the APEX Summit Award as a global innovator in aviation and an anchor of the region's aviation cluster. The APEX Summit Award recognizes businesses or individuals who have made a distinctive and profound economic impact.

"Since locating in our region in 1994, Cirrus Aircraft has been an essential part of our manufacturing sector," said Brian Hanson, APEX President and CEO. "Cirrus Aircraft is one of the region's largest employers and an anchor for the \$650 million annual impact that aviation has on our regional economy. We are honored to present the company with the APEX Summit Award and look forward to working with the Cirrus Aircraft team as the company continues to innovate and grow."

The APEX Summit Award was created shortly after APEX was formed in 2003. The award acknowledges individuals, businesses and organizations that have made a distinctive contribution to the people and economy of the APEX region. The APEX Summit Award is only granted when a worthy recipient demonstrates profound, breakthrough achievements and innovations and sustains a significant benefit to the regional economy.

The award was presented by Nancy Aronson Norr, Minnesota Power Director of Regional Development, and Past Chair of the APEX Board of Directors, to Dale Klapmeier, Cirrus Aircraft Co-Founder and CEO. "It's an honor to receive the APEX Summit Award on behalf of all of the dedicated employees at Cirrus Aircraft," stated Klapmeier. "We are proud to have been a catalyst for growth in the region's aviation industry."

Cirrus Aircraft began as a small aircraft design and manufacturing company in rural Wisconsin. In 1994, after outgrowing the available space at a local airport, the company relocated to Duluth, Minnesota, where the aviation industry was just beginning to thrive. After locating in Duluth, Cirrus Aircraft initiated a project to revolutionize the general aviation industry by developing a modern airplane with the comforts of a fine sports car, and more importantly, an innovative safety feature to protect the pilot and passengers—a parachute.



In 2017, Cirrus Aircraft completed construction of a state-of-the-art aircraft finishing center at their Duluth International Airport facility, which earned a 2017 Top Project award from *Finance and Commerce*. The aircraft finishing center was designed to meet the growing demand for Cirrus Aircraft's newest aircraft offering, the SF50 Vision Jet, which was awarded the 2017 Robert J. Collier Trophy for developing the world's first single engine Personal Jet and implementing the Cirrus Airframe Parachute System on the aircraft.

By 2003, Cirrus was rapidly becoming one of the top producers of piston powered personal aircraft, and as of April 2018, Cirrus had delivered over 7,000 units in 19 years of production. In 2018, Cirrus Aircraft, right here in Duluth MN, produced over ½ of all single-engine piston powered personal aircraft in the entire world.

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#### **About APEX**

The Area Partnership for Economic Expansion (APEX) is the private-sector-led business development engine for northeast Minnesota and northwest Wisconsin. APEX investor-members represent some of the most influential companies in the region, with a collaborative approach to promoting sustainable economic growth. APEX attraction, expansion and retention efforts focus in areas including aviation, manufacturing, professional services and next-generation forest products. Since 2003, through attraction, expansion and retention efforts, APEX has impacted over 4,300 jobs in the region, resulting in a regional payroll of over \$174.9 million and contributing to over \$24 million annually in state and local taxes.

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