Flight Safety Foundation presented the Honeywell Bendix Trophy for Aviation Safety and the Aviation Week & Space Technology Distinguished Service Award in London in mid-July, a few days before the opening of the Farnborough International Airshow. The awards were presented at a dinner co-hosted by the Foundation and Honeywell at the Churchill Cabinet War Rooms, attended by special guests of the hosts and members of the international aerospace news media. This presentation venue — immediately preceding a major air show — was an innovation that may become an annual tradition.

The Bendix Trophy was presented to NATS, the U.K. air navigation service provider, for its Mode S Radar Tools Project. The project developed two important new tools using Mode S technology to help air traffic controllers maintain separation of climbing and descending aircraft in high-traffic terminal control areas. NATS added pilot-selected flight levels to radar screen data blocks so that controllers can immediately see if an aircraft has been mistakenly programmed to fly at the wrong level and intervene much more quickly than when they had to wait to see aircraft actual altitude.

Another tool is a new vertical stack display showing the selected flight level of aircraft waiting for descent and landing clearances.

Dave Carbaugh, the Boeing chief pilot for flight operations safety, received the Distinguished Service Award for his lifetime achievements in aviation safety. His accomplishments include work to promote flight safety awareness, training, standard operating procedures and tools for pilots and maintenance technicians. A member of the IATA accident classification committee and various flight operations committees, Carbaugh briefs these committees on accidents, incidents and the lessons learned. He identifies issues that manufacturers and regulators must take into account, and has written numerous articles and contributed seminar presentations on subjects including tail strikes, in-flight upset recovery, wake turbulence and controlled flight into terrain.