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**THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND AND KONKUK UNIVERSITY AND THE
PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY TAKE TOP HONORS IN THE 2008 25th
ANNUAL AHS/INDUSTRY STUDENT DESIGN COMPETITION**

ALEXANDRIA, VA – AHS Executive Director M. E. Rhett Flater announced that University of Maryland and Konkuk University came in first place in the 25th Student Design Competition graduate category and Georgia Institute of Technology captured second place honors. **Turkey's Middle East Technical University won the Best New Entrant honors.**

In the undergraduate category, The Pennsylvania State University won first-place and Georgia Institute of Technology came in second. Eurocopter was the sponsor of the 25th annual competition which rotates among AgustaWestland, Bell Helicopter Textron, Boeing, Sikorsky, and now Eurocopter.

The AHS Student Design Competition, which challenges students to design a vertical lift aircraft which meets specified requirements, provides a practical exercise for engineering students at accredited colleges and universities. The competition promotes student interest in vertical flight technology. The first- and second-place winning teams are awarded a cash stipend and the winning team is invited to the AHS Annual Forum and Technology Display to present the details of their proposal. Members of the teams receive one-day complimentary registration to the Forum, the vertical flight industry's principal professional technical event. This year, Eurocopter included a "New Entrant" category to stimulate interest in the competition.

Eurocopter challenged participants a multi-mission, short range, medium speed aircraft with innovative technologies to minimize energy consumption.

For those interested in more information about the AHS Student Design Competition please visit our web site at <http://www.vtol.org> The web site will also contain the Request for Proposal for the 2009 AHS Student Design Competition as well as the top winning entries from 2008.

AHS International – The Vertical Flight Society is a professional, technical society founded in 1943 that represents the interests of the worldwide vertical flight industry. AHS International, 217 N. Washington St., Alexandria, VA 22314; (703) 684-6777; Fax (703) 739-9279; e-mail: staff@vtol.org; web site: www.vtol.org.