



Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOUR *\$25,000 HOMELAND SECURITY AWARDS*

February 7, 2010, Auburn, New York - The Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation, a Federal government agency, is now accepting Nominations for **four 2010 \$25,000 Homeland Security Awards** to be presented by the Foundation and AgustaWestland North America, Inc., a Finmeccanica company, one of the largest helicopter manufacturers in the world.



The United States and the world have moved into a new era which necessitates tighter and more vigilant security in all areas. The Foundation and AgustaWestland are doing their part by awarding **four \$25,000 Homeland Security Awards** to American individuals or companies who are making measurable and constructive contributions related to basic or advanced research in the area of homeland security which will result in significant and positive benefits to society.

The mission of the awards is to promote and encourage “cutting edge” innovation in the vast arena of homeland security, including but not limited to the detection, prevention, or response to threats to the United States. A *\$25,000 Homeland Security Award* will be presented in each of the following four fields:

- 1) ***Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Chemical and Explosive Attacks*** - Including utilities (air, water, telephone), aviation, business vulnerabilities, sensors, and lack of situational awareness.
- 2) ***Border and Transportation Security*** - Airport security, trucks, rail, and containers authorization, certification and tracking.
- 3) ***Cyber Security and Information Sharing*** - Cyber security, vertical and horizontal (Federal, State and private) communications, ways to encourage information sharing, privacy issues, and criminal and terrorist watch lists.
- 4) ***Emergency Response to Natural and Man-made Disasters*** - Interoperability, emergency command centers, mobile devices (PDAs, cell phones, pagers, Internet.)

All nominations are accepted online at: www.ccolumbusfoundationawards.org. Please visit the above website for information on the competition rules, regulations and past recipients. The deadline for 2010 Nominations is **May 7, 2010**. You may nominate yourself and/or another worthy candidate. Any questions related to the competition may be directed to Judi Shellenberger at: judithmscolumbus@cs.com or (315) 258-0090.

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The **Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation** is an independent Federal government agency established by Congress in 1992 to “encourage and support research, study and labor designed to produce new discoveries in all fields of endeavor for the benefit of mankind.” The Foundation has created ***Frontiers of Discovery–Work in Progress and Discover the Future*** programs that honor “cutting edge” innovations; innovative ideas of America’s youth; and educators. Other programs sponsored by the Foundation include: ***Life Sciences Awards*** and ***Agriscience Awards***-- please visit: www.ccolumbusfoundationawards.org. The ***Christopher Columbus Awards*** are designed exclusively for middle school students--please visit: www.christophercolumbusawards.com. For more information, please visit: www.columbusfdn.org or contact Judi Shellenberger at: (315) 258-0090 or email: judithmscolumbus@cs.com.

AgustaWestland North America (AWNA) is the American subsidiary of AgustaWestland, a Finmeccanica company. AWNA is responsible for the Company’s U.S government programs and provides strategic guidance and support to AgustaWestland’s other North American businesses and operations. AgustaWestland’s contributions to the U.S. aerospace industry dates back decades, including pioneering work with Bell Helicopter over 50 years ago and more recent successes like the company’s victory in winning the Marine One presidential helicopter program with its US101 helicopter, in partnership with Lockheed Martin and Bell. From its work in support of U.S. Army aviation assets during the first Gulf war, to its highly touted Homeland Security airborne use of force program in the Coast Guard known as Helicopter Interdiction Tactical Squadron (HITRON), AgustaWestland North America is committed to providing state-of-the-art vertical lift technology and support to our armed forces and other U.S. government customers such as the Department of Homeland Security. In addition, through the company’s facility in Philadelphia, PA, AgustaWestland manufactures and supports its helicopters, which are in operation all across America, from commercial operators to medevac, and law enforcement organizations as varied as the New Mexico State Police and the New York City and Phoenix Police.

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