

CEO Randell named EY entrepreneur of the year

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Joe Randell, CEO of Chorus Aviation Inc. of Dartmouth, is this year's EY Entrepreneur of the Year Atlantic winner.

"Joe has played a vital role shaping the landscape of the Canadian airline industry," Gina Kinsman, the initiative's program director, said in a news release Friday.

"He's navigated some turbulent times, but his strong management and entrepreneurial mindset has, and will continue, to guide him to success."

Randell's passion for the airline industry developed when he completed a research study for the startup of a new airline as part of his MBA, according to the release. That project laid the groundwork for the creation of regional carrier Air Nova, serving five destinations in Atlantic Canada with two aircraft.

The airline was bought by Air Canada in 1991, but Randell continued to grow the airline to 22 aircraft serving 19 destinations. Looking to expand further, he consolidated Air Nova and Air Alliance, and was subsequently tasked with the consolidation of the other major regional operators in Canada. The newly merged company launched its new brand, Jazz, in 2002.

By the end of 2005, he had made Jazz the country's second-largest airline by fleet size.

Today his company is Chorus Aviation, a corporation that owns Jazz Aviation, Voyageur Aviation and Chorus Aviation Capital. Together they provide a suite of regional aviation services to customers around the world. These include contracted flying operations, maintenance, repair and overhaul expertise, aircraft partings provisioning, airport operations and aircraft leasing.

Randell is also involved with Dalhousie University's faculty of engineering, partnering students with Jazz Aviation for research and development projects.

"Joe has seen it all, from startup, growth and restructuring to mergers, acquisitions and rebranding," said Kinsman.

As the Atlantic representative, Randell will compete with top entrepreneurs from the Pacific, Prairies, Ontario and Quebec regions for the honour of Canada's EY Entrepreneur of the Year, to be presented Nov. 30 in Toronto. In June, that winner will move to the world stage to compete with more than 50 representatives from other countries.

Source: Chronicle Herald <http://thechronicleherald.ca/business/1509514-ceo-randell-named-ey-entrepreneur-of-the-year>