

## AWAR Expands Board of Directors and Strengthens Professional Support Structure

*Organization Honors Retiring Director Kathleen Murphy and Announces Agreement with Association Management Partner*

August 25, 2021 – Advancing Women in Aviation Roundtable (“AWAR”) announced today it is expanding its Board of Directors with new members in Ireland and the United Arab Emirates, two key hubs of the global aviation industry. AWAR also announced it has hired an association management firm to provide administrative support and event planning services, enabling the board to prioritize its core mission and focus on strategic growth.

Newly elected Directors include Laura Cunningham, Partner, Aviation and Asset Finance Group at Arthur Cox; Fiona Scott, Head of Human Resources at CDB Aviation; and Sarah Pirzada Usmani, Managing Director and Head of Sustainable, Asset & Project Finance, UAE at First Abu Dhabi Bank. Cunningham and Scott are based in Dublin, Ireland and Pirzada Usmani is based in Dubai, UAE.

“We are delighted to welcome Laura, Fiona, and Sarah to the Board. They are all incredible leaders, proven diversity champions, and fantastic role models for women across the industry,” said Amelia Anderson, Co-founder and President of AWAR. “We’re confident that their passion, professional expertise, and diverse perspectives will benefit AWAR and all our stakeholders as we seek to grow and navigate today’s rapidly changing global landscape.”

The organization also announced the retirement of Kathleen Murphy, who was a founding Director of AWAR and served as Board Secretary. Murphy was a pioneer in aircraft leasing, joining CIT Aerospace in 1990. Upon CIT’s sale in 2017, she joined Avolon, where she served as Senior Vice President of Marketing until her retirement in 2021. Murphy continues to stay active in the sector, having joined Wings Capital Partners on a part-time basis as Senior Vice President of Marketing for North America. Upon her departure from the AWAR Board, Murphy was honored as an AWAR Lifetime Trailblazer.

“We owe a great debt of gratitude to Kathy for her tireless efforts and steady hand in growing AWAR,” said Dana Barta, AWAR Co-founder, adding, “Kathy was a strong early voice in the drive for diversity, and we have all gained from her wisdom, fearlessness, and strong leadership. We wish her much success in her post-retirement endeavors.”

Murphy’s role as Board Secretary is being assumed by Joey Johnsen, an AWAR Director since January 2020 and Chief Executive Officer of Zeevo Group, a finance, technology, and operations transformation advisory firm. “We are fortunate to have a very capable new Secretary in Joey Johnsen. Joey brings a wealth of experience, a sense of urgency, and a consultancy mindset that will help the Board steer AWAR’s growth going forward,” added Barta.

Concurrent with these changes, AWAR has entered into an agreement for full-service management, communications, and event planning support with Association Development Group, Inc. (“ADG”), a New York-based, woman-owned professional association management company.

“Having ADG’s administrative backing for our operations will be transformative. Once the migration to ADG is complete, the board can focus all its efforts on value-added work to drive strategic growth and deliver high-impact, outcome-driven events across the globe. That’s our core mission, and that’s what we intend to execute,” concluded Anderson.

### About AWAR

AWAR is an internationally recognized non-profit dedicated to promoting the development and advancement of women leaders in the aviation industry. To learn more about AWAR, please visit <https://www.awarglobal.com>.