

Tampa Bay Business Journal - March 23, 2010
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TAMPA BAY Business Journal

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Tony Jannus Award goes to Jaan Albrecht

Tampa Bay Business Journal

The 2010 Tony Jannus Award was given to businessman and pilot Jaan Albrecht, chief executive officer of the **Star Alliance**, an international group consisting of 26 airlines.

Albrecht was chosen for the award by the **Tony Jannus Distinguished Aviation Society** for his contributions to the alliance since he became CEO in 2001, said a statement.

As a driving force behind the alliance, Albrecht was instrumental in contributing to the growth and integration of the group, the statement said.

As a member, the airlines are required to meet high industry standards for safety, customer service and technical infrastructure.

Alliance members employ more than 458,000 people and serve more than 600 million travelers through nearly 4,000 airplanes that fly to 175 countries.

Albrecht started his aviation career as a pilot at **Mexicana Airlines** in 1973. He moved up to senior management positions with the airline and eventually became vice president of the **International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations**. He later worked at **AeroPeru** and **Aeromexpress**.

Albrecht holds an architecture degree from The **Technical University of Mexico**, and he's fluent in English, Spanish and German.

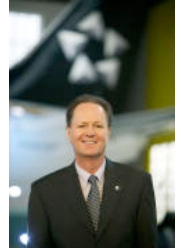
Previous Tony Jannus winners include Sir Richard Branson, Brigadier Gen. Charles Yeager, Donald W. Douglas, Capt. Edward Rickenbacker, Col. Frank Borman, Herb Kelleher, Joseph Leonard, Colleen Barrett and the 2008 honoree Larry Kellner of **Continental Airlines**.

The Tampa and St. Petersburg chambers of commerce established the Tony Jannus Distinguished Aviation Society in 1964.

Jannus, recognized by the **Smithsonian Institute** as founder of the first scheduled airline, started flights on New Year's Eve 1914. The single-engine Benoist flying boat flew roundtrips daily from St. Petersburg to Tampa.

The Star Alliance network was created in 1997 as the first global airline alliance with a worldwide reach.

Member airlines are Adria Airways, Air Canada, Air China, Air New Zealand, ANA, Asiana Airlines, Austrian, Blue1, bmi, Brussels Airlines, Continental Airlines, Croatia Airlines, EGYPTAIR, LOT Polish Airlines, Lufthansa, Scandinavian Airlines, Shanghai Airlines, Singapore Airlines, South African Airways, Spanair, SWISS, TAP Portugal, Turkish Airlines, THAI, United and US Airways. Announced future members are Aegean Airlines, Air India and TAM.



Jaan Albrecht

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