

# Santa Barbara Airbus Receives 2015 Climate Leader Honors at CoolCalifornia Small Business Awards Program

*~Plus Installs 134 Solar Panels on Maintenance Facility's Roof*



**CAPTION: Bart Croes, Research Division Chief of California Air Resources Board presents Eric Onnen, CEO of Santa Barbara Airbus with the 2015 Climate Leader honor during the Cool California Small Business Awards Program in Sacramento on March 2, 2016. Inset: Award Close-up**

**Santa Barbara, California**— Santa Barbara Airbus was honored as a 2015 Climate Leader from the California Air Resources Board's CoolCalifornia Small Business Award Program during a ceremony in Sacramento on March 2, 2016. Eric Onnen, CEO of Santa Barbara Airbus, received the award from Bart Croes, Research Division Chief of California Air Resources Board. Since 2009, the CoolCalifornia Small Business Awards Program ([www.coolcalifornia.org](http://www.coolcalifornia.org)) has recognized leadership and innovation among small businesses that take action to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, promote climate-friendly practices and integrate sustainability throughout their operations. The award winners were scored by two-person teams comprised of staff from public agencies and private businesses. California Air Resources Board staff and leadership further reviewed scores, conducted site visits and performed environmental reviews to select the 2015 winners.

California Air Resources Board Chair Mary Nichols stated, "Small businesses throughout the State are showing that environmental protection, innovation, and profit go hand-in-hand."

According to Santa Barbara Airbus CEO Onnen, "We are so proud to have received this recognition from CoolCalifornia. As a transportation business, we have taken great strides to reduce our impact on the environment. At our facility we reduced energy consumption using automatic shut-off lighting systems. We reduced our water consumption through irrigation sensors and monitoring, replacing our water heater with a more efficient hybrid model, implementing water-efficient vehicle cleaning systems and installing a waterless urinal in our men's restroom. We actively recycle materials used in our office and our maintenance facility. We even compost what we are able to, and use that to help us grow our own vegetable garden. Also, we financially reward our employees who choose to carpool or use energy-efficient methods to travel to and from work."

According to Onnen, "In one of our biggest investments to reduce our carbon footprint, we are excited to announce that we made the leap to take advantage of the many benefits of solar energy. Late in 2015, we had Brighten Solar Company install 134 solar panels and four solar inverters on our maintenance facility roof. The

system is projected to generate 75% of our electric needs with a payback estimated to be within 5-7 years on the investment.”



**CAPTION: Santa Barbara Airbus has 134 solar panels installed on roof of the headquarters building at 750 Technology Drive in Goleta.** (Hi-res images available from [laura@mariahmarketing.com](mailto:laura@mariahmarketing.com))

Santa Barbara Airbus offers 16 scheduled trips daily between Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) with stops in Goleta, Santa Barbara and Carpinteria. The earliest bus departs Santa Barbara at 3:50 a.m. to arrive at LAX by 6:00 a.m. and the last pickup from LAX is at 10:00 p.m. The Airbus operates the same schedule every day except Christmas and Thanksgiving. On April 4, 1983, Eric Onnen and his wife Kelly along with their partner Mark Klopstein inaugurated their transportation service from Santa Barbara County to Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). The company began with two, 10-passenger vans running five trips to/from SB/LAX from Monday-Saturday.

Currently, Santa Barbara Airbus has a fleet of 22 motor coaches (47- 56 passengers) and three mini-coaches (seating 21-23 passengers). Services not only include 16 daily trips to/from SB/LAX Shuttle Service (with information, routes and schedule publicly viewable and accessible via Google Maps); but also offers private Charter Bus Service, public Day Trips and Recreational Tours. Santa Barbara Airbus is located at 750 Technology Drive in Goleta. Santa Barbara Airbus employs approximately 60 people and completes over 1 million miles annually. Santa Barbara Airbus received the prestigious 2012 Operator of the Year Award by the California Business Association and has been a Santa Barbara County Certified Green Business since 2009; and has been nominated as Chamber of Commerce for the Santa Barbara Region 'Large Business of the Year' in 2013, 2014 and 2015. For complete information, visit [www.sbairbus.com](http://www.sbairbus.com)