

# The IEEE Engineering Milestone “First Search and Rescue Using Satellite Technology, 1982”

By the IEEE Ottawa Section

The dedication ceremony to commemorate the “First Search and Rescue Using Satellite Location Technology, 1982” was held at the Canada Space and Aviation Museum in Ottawa on 9 September 2019. Bronze plaques, in both English and French, were unveiled by the chief guest, Dr. Robert Thirsk, and IEEE President José M.F. Moura in the presence of IEEE Canada President Dr. Maike Luiken. The event was attended by more than 50 guests, including representatives from the National Search and Rescue Secretariat, Canadian Armed Forces, National Research Council, and Department of National Defense.

The citation on the plaque is as follows:

## First Search and Rescue Using Satellite Location Technology, 1982

On 9 September 1982 an aircraft crashed in the mountains of British Columbia. A Canadian ground station in Ottawa located the aircraft using the COSPAS-SARSAT satellite system. Search and rescue teams were dispatched and all on board were rescued. Since the first incident, many tens of thousands of lives have been saved around the world using this technology. ■

## Première recherche et sauvetage utilisant la technologie de localisation par satellite, 1982

Le 9 septembre 1982, un avion s'est écrasé dans les montagnes de la Colombie Britannique. Une station terrestre canadienne à Ottawa a localisé l'aéronef au moyen du système satellite COSPAS-SARSAT. Des équipes de recherche et sauvetage ont été dépêchées et ont secourus tous les gens à bord. Depuis l'incident, cette technologie a permis de sauver plusieurs dizaines de milliers de vies partout dans le monde. ■



(From left): Dr. Robert Thirsk, Dr. Michael A. Stott, Dr. Maike Luiken, Dr. Winnie N. Ye, Dr. José Moura, Dr. Branislav Djokic, and Mr. Ajit Pardasani at the dedication ceremony.