

National Aeronautics Research and Development Policy and Plans

Advancing U.S. technological leadership in aeronautics

DESCRIPTION OF POLICY AND EXECUTIVE ORDER:

The NASA Authorization Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-155) called for the development of a national policy for aeronautics research and development (R&D) to guide federal aeronautics R&D activities through 2020. With participation by all relevant federal departments and agencies, the Aeronautics Science and Technology Subcommittee (ASTS) of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) developed the *National Aeronautics R&D Policy* that was published in December 2006. The *Policy* was endorsed by Executive Order 13419 - National Aeronautics Research and Development - that was signed by President Bush on December 20, 2006.

The *National Aeronautics Research and Development Policy* establishes:

- Principles upon which Federal Government aeronautics R&D will be based;
- An overarching goal and objectives;
- Roles and responsibilities of the departments and agencies conducting aeronautics R&D; as well as
- Specific guidelines for the following Federal Government aeronautics R&D activities regarding:
 1. Stable and long-term foundational research;
 2. Advanced aircraft systems development;
 3. Air transportation management systems; and
 4. National research, development, test and evaluation (RDT&E) infrastructure.

The Executive Order (EO) states that "Continued progress in aeronautics...is essential to America's economic success and the protection of America's security interests at home and around the globe." and establishes certain responsibilities for the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to ensure *Policy* implementation and a biennial review process.

Both the *Policy* and EO outline a number of implementation items for the Federal Government including:

- Creation of a National Aeronautics R&D Plan and a related Infrastructure Plan by December 2007; and
- Engagement with non-Federal stakeholders in support of government planning of aeronautics R&D.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS R&D AND RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE PLANS

The intent of the National Aeronautics R&D plan is to:

- Lay out national research priorities and objectives, roadmaps to achieve the identified objectives, and timelines;
- Identify significant aeronautics R&D gaps, if any, and/or unnecessary duplicative R&D efforts; and
- Identify multi-disciplinary, cross-cutting areas of aeronautics R&D that may warrant specific attention.

The intent of the related Infrastructure Plan is to:

- Determine RDT&E assets that are considered critical from a national perspective and define an approach for how to address these assets based on the needs of the broad user community;
- Address the development of cost and usage policies that facilitate interagency cooperation and utilization in the management of these RDT&E assets, as well as appropriate access by non-federal users; and,
- Improve the coordination of RDT&E needs among executive departments and agencies and across the broader user community.

DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE PLANS

The ASTS has established a website (www.ostp.gov/nstc/aeroplans) that will be used to communicate planned activities and to ensure robust outreach to obtain inputs from individuals in the non-Federal aeronautics community including academia, industry, and the aviation user community, consistent with appropriate guidelines. This website contains contact information, documents such as the *Policy* and EO, further details on the ASTS and the Plans, as well as information from the first public meeting. The first public meeting was held on April 24, 2007 at the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, DC to announce a call for white papers to provide initial inputs to the ASTS. In addition, this website will be used to post information on future meetings and other announcements.