National Aeronautics Research and Development Policy

Advancing U.S. technological leadership

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) by December 30, 2006, that will guide federal aeronautics R&D activities through 2020.

With participation by all relevant federal departments and agencies, the Aeronautics Science and Technology (S&T) Subcommittee of National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) developed the *National Aeronautics R&D Policy*.

The *National Aeronautics Research and Development Policy* defines:

- 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
- Guidelines for the following Federal Government aeronautics R&D activities:
    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 infrastructure.

An accompanying Executive Order signed by President Bush supports the policy and establishes certain responsibilities for the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to ensure Policy implementation and review.

HOW THE POLICY WAS CREATED

Deliberations over the past year by the NSTC Aeronautics S&T Subcommittee, co-chaired by OSTP and NASA, reached consensus through a collaborative approach that included representatives from:

- Departments of Commerce, Defense, Energy, Homeland Security, State and Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, National Science Foundation, and U.S. International Trade Commission, and
- The Executive Office of the President (Office of Science and Technology Policy, Office of Management and Budget, Office of the Vice President, Domestic Policy Council, Council of Economic Advisors, and U.S. Trade Representative)

The NSTC solicited inputs from non-Federal stakeholders by holding outreach sessions over the course of three days with industry, academia, and the aviation user community. In addition, the NSTC considered several reports and documents on national aeronautics research and development needs.

HOW THE POLICY WILL BE USED

The policy stresses the need for coordination – both in the development and implementation of a national aeronautics R&D plan, and in the managing of critical national research, development, test, and evaluation infrastructure.

The Policy includes guidelines to the departments and agencies in their conduct of aeronautics R&D, and delineates the role of the Federal Government with respect to the private sector.

NEXT STEPS

National Aeronautics Research and Development Policy specifically calls for development of:

- A national aeronautics R&D plan that lays out national research priorities and objectives, roadmaps and timelines to achieve the identified objectives, and prescribes a biennial review; and
- An R&D infrastructure plan that will identify research, development, test, and evaluation (RDT&E) assets considered critical from a national perspective, and define an approach for constructing, maintaining, modifying, or terminating RDT&E assets

The NSTC will begin developing these two plans in January 2007.