

# FOREWORD

This meeting recognizes the vital importance of the Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT) as a support element for the entire air carrier industry. The Aviation Maintenance Technician is our first line of defense as we strive to ensure maximum safety and efficiency for a growing air carrier fleet which includes new advanced-technology aircraft as well as a growing number of older aircraft. It is most important that we understand the aviation maintenance workforce and that we take all necessary steps to provide an adequate and fully qualified workforce in the coming years. Issues that affect technician productivity and workforce stability must be identified and addressed.

There is evidence that the contributions and importance of maintenance technicians are not appreciated by the general public and, interestingly, within the aviation industry itself as fully as they should be. For these and other reasons, a measure of workforce instability exists. Workers, both present and future, are being lost to other industries. However, this meeting attests to the commitment of the Federal Aviation Administration, airline operators, and aircraft manufacturers to increasing support for the aviation maintenance technician and for continuing improvement in the "image" of this segment of our industry.

We were fortunate in having a number of industry maintenance managers in attendance. Their expertise and insights were invaluable. Also, those professionals with skills in personnel and administrative sciences made important contributions. I would like to thank everyone who attended the meeting and especially those who gave presentations. Your efforts provide an essential input into a program dedicated to continuing improvement in aviation maintenance.

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