

RESEARCH ENGINEERING AND DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (REDAC)

DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICIAL (DFO) TASK STATEMENT

ASSESSMENT OF FAA CYBER SECURITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Background

Increased cyber security for the Nation's critical infrastructure and for the aviation system in particular has been recognized as a high priority by current Presidential Executive Orders and congressional direction. The increased complexity and interconnectedness of the information systems that make up the aviation infrastructure raise the potential of added system vulnerabilities and requires increased efforts to discover, assess and implement methods to mitigate cyber threats. In its 2016 FAA Reauthorization Extension, Public Law 114-190, the Congress specified that:

"... the Administrator, in consultation with other agencies as appropriate, shall establish a cybersecurity research and development plan for the national airspace system, including –

- (1) Any proposal for research and development cooperation with international partners;*
- (2) An evaluation and determination of research and development needs to determine any cyber security risks of cabin communications and cabin information technology systems on board in the passenger domain; and*
- (3) Objectives, proposed tasks, milestones, and a 5-year budgetary profile.*

Accordingly, the FAA recently released the enclosed Cyber Security R&D Plan which reflects first order planning and coordination of research requirements with stakeholders across the agency. A REDAC assessment of the plan is being sought to record industry perspectives and to further refine and prioritize research requirements.

Tasking

The DFO requests the REDAC conduct a review of the enclosed plan and summarize its review findings and related recommendations at the Fall 2017 Full Committee meeting, with final assessment report provided to FAA no later than 60 days after the meeting. In conducting the requested review, the committee should:

- Seek input from a representative cross-section of relevant sub-committees
- Identify and address as appropriate other high-value research areas not specified in the plan
- Identify and address other research outputs the committee deems essential for the period of performance contemplated in the plan
- Identify and address opportunities to leverage similar on-going or planned industry-led research
- Identify opportunities to leverage on-going university-led research to address FAA requirements
- Present its review findings and recommendations to the DFO as a standalone report separate from the FY2019 research portfolio strategic guidance.