Bimal Aponso
Chief Scientist Technical Advisor for Dynamic Systems

Bimal Aponso is the FAA's Chief Scientist and Technical Advisor (CSTA) for Dynamic Systems. He has more than 35 years of experience in modeling and simulation of dynamic systems, vehicle stability and control, and aircraft handling qualities.

Mr. Aponso came to the FAA from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). He most recently served as Chief of the Aeronautics Projects Office at NASA's Ames Research Center where he transformed the organization to better support Aeronautics projects by developing the SmartMobility@Ames flight test capability, the Secure Airspace Technology research group, and a cohesive and efficient System Engineering group. For the Agency, he provided independent technical oversight of flight dynamics, handling qualities, and GNC for the NASA X-59 Low-Boom Flight Demonstrator aircraft and served as Center Representative for the Agency's Capability Leadership and Technical Discipline Teams for Flight Mechanics. In this position, he quantified resources and technical capability in Flight Mechanics at the Center and helped assess the agency's future needs in the area. He also collaborated with the FAA in planning and setting the requirements for the NASA Airspace Technology Demonstration 2 project (ATD-2) that developed technologies for the "Rollin' to the Runway" capability.

Mr. Aponso held several positions at NASA including the Associate Division Chief for Aeronautics in the Intelligent Systems Division, the Airspace High-Density Operations Branch Chief, and the Aerospace Simulation Research and Development Branch Chief where he managed all NASA Ames Research Center's flight and air-traffic control/management simulation assets, and led the development and simulation of a variety of actual and conceptual aerospace vehicles and systems.

Earlier in his career, Mr. Aponso worked for more than two decades for Systems Technology, Inc. where he researched and developed flight control systems for several military aircraft including the USAF C-17. He developed a comprehensive rotor model for the CH-53E helicopter to resolve significant dynamic issues, dynamic criteria for several fixed- and rotary-wing military specifications, and simulation models of a variety of dynamic systems. He also led the company's development and marketing of low-cost driving and parachute maneuvering simulators.

Mr. Aponso earned a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from The University of Manchester, UK, a M.S. in Aerospace Engineering from University of Maryland, and an MBA in International Business from the University of Southern California.