



Center of Excellence for Commercial Space Transportation

Background

In August 2009, the FAA Administrator signed a memo agreeing to the creation of a Center of Excellence for Commercial Space Transportation (COE CST) that would be supported at a minimum level of one million dollars per year for ten years. A public announcement was made in August 2010 that two of the proposing teams had been selected to be combined into a single center. The FAA entered into cooperative agreements with each of the COE CST member universities in September, 2010. Since then, the FAA has distributed 13.7 million dollars among the COE CST member universities to fund research tasks. Additionally, the member universities provided comprehensive geographical coverage representing the entire Commercial Space Transportation industry.

Combined, the member universities bring over 50 other government, industry and academic organizations together as research partners.

Like all FAA Centers of Excellence previously selected by FAA Administrators, this COE will encourage and facilitate the



collaboration of world class scientists and the leveraging of shared resources and capabilities to maximize the synergy amongst government entities, academic partners, and industry affiliates.

COE CST members universities will coordinate efforts to define and conduct research, disseminate results and engage in technology transfer for public purpose while they educate, train, and prepare the next generation of commercial space transportation professionals.

COE CST Member Universities

COE CST member universities are:

- Baylor College of Medicine
- Florida Institute of Technology
- Florida State University
- New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
- New Mexico State University
- Stanford University
- University of Central Florida
- University of Colorado at Boulder
- University of Florida
- University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston

Affiliate, Associate, and Partner Organizations

Many organizations have partnered with COE CST since 2010. Affiliate and Associate members contribute research to the center. McGill University (MU) joined the COE CST as the first Affiliate Member, hosted by FIT. Since then, many more Affiliate, Associate, and other partnering members joined the COE CST, including academic institutions companies, and the German aerospace research center (DLR).

COE CST YEAR 9 FACTS

Sponsor: Office of Commercial Space Transportation (AST)

Year Established: 2010

Active Tasks: 20

Principal Investigators: 22

Students: 34

Affiliate & Associated Members: 14

Publications: 24

Industry Partners: 36

Website: www.coe-cst.org



COE CST Research Areas

All COE CST research tasks fit within the four major research areas described in the "Research Roadmap Report." These include:

- Aerospace Access & Operations
- Aerospace Vehicles
- Human Operations & Spaceflight
- Industry Innovation

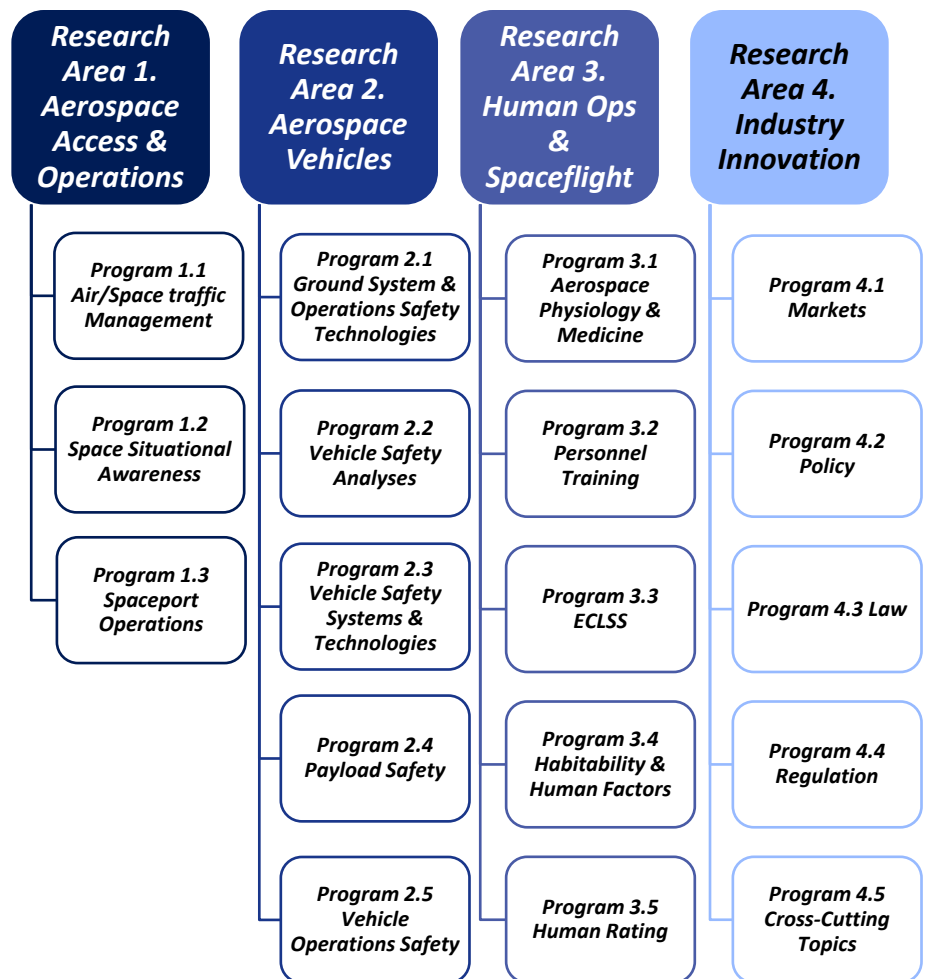
These research areas are subdivided into programs (shown in the figure at right), projects, task themes, and finally tasks. A listing and description of all the research tasks conducted in recent years is shown in the figure, and can be found in the Annual Report Executive Summary

For More Information

To learn more about the COE CST, the research tasks and the research road maps, contact the COE CST Program Manager, or download the following documents from the web, at www.coe-cst.org.

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The FAA has also established the following Center of Excellence:

- Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS)
<http://www.assureuas.org>
- Alternative Jet Fuels and Environment (AJFE)
<http://ascent.aero/>
- General Aviation Safety (GA)
<https://www.pegasas.aero/>
- Commercial Space Transportation (CST)
<http://www.coe-cst.org/>
- Joint Center for Advance Materials (JAMS)
<http://www.jams-coe.org/>
- Technical Training and Human Performance (TTHP)
<http://www.coetthp.org>