



Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee Task Notice

December 13, 2024

ACTION: Notice of a new task assignment for the Aviation Rulemaking Advisory Committee (ARAC) and solicitation of members.

SUMMARY: The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) assigned ARAC a new task to develop recommendations to enable the safe use of hydrogen in civil aviation. This notice informs the public of the new ARAC activity and solicits membership for the new Hydrogen Aviation Working Group (HAWG).

BACKGROUND: ARAC is governed by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C., Ch. 10). The FAA established ARAC to provide information, advice, and recommendations on aviation related issues that could result in rulemaking to the FAA Administrator, through the Associate Administrator of Aviation Safety.

Section 1019 of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024 (Public Law 118-63) directs the FAA and Department of Energy to conduct research and development activities relating to enabling the safe use of hydrogen in civil aviation, including the safe and efficient use and sourcing of hydrogen to propel commercial aircraft. The FAA seeks ARAC's input and recommendations on the research and development activities.

On December 12, 2024, the FAA assigned this task to ARAC, which ARAC designated to the Hydrogen Aviation Working group. Participants of the newly established HAWG will serve as members of the working group only, reporting to ARAC. The working group will provide advice and recommendations on the assigned tasks. ARAC must deliberate and discuss the report prior to voting on whether to submit the recommendation report to the FAA.

THE TASK: The HAWG will provide advice and recommendations to the ARAC on the most effective ways to enable the safe use of hydrogen in civil aviation. The working group should review any relevant materials to assist in achieving their objective. This includes reviewing certification regulations, guidance, and other requirements of the FAA to identify ways to certify hydrogen-powered aircraft safely and efficiently.

1. The HAWG will consider and develop recommendations on:
 - a. Public, economic, and noise benefits of the operation of commercial aircraft propelled by hydrogen and associated aerospace industry activity.
 - b. Operational differences between aircraft propelled by hydrogen and aircraft propelled with other types of fuels.
 - c. Barriers to the safe use of hydrogen as aviation fuel, identifying key hazards and risk mitigation measures.
 - d. Prioritization of research and development areas to address these barriers.

2. Develop a report containing findings and recommendations for the tasks explained above.
 - a. The recommendation report should document both majority and dissenting positions on the findings and the rationale for each position.
 - b. Any disagreements should be documented, including the rationale for each position and the reasons for the disagreement.

The working group may be reinstated to assist the ARAC by responding to the FAA's questions or concerns after the recommendation report has been submitted.

SCHEDULE: This tasking notice requires two recommendation reports:

- The initial recommendation report for the specific tasks must be submitted for review and presented to the ARAC no later than 12 months after the first working group meeting.
- After the initial recommendation report is submitted, the final report must be submitted to the FAA for review and acceptance no later than 3 months following official acceptance by the ARAC.

WORKING GROUP ACTIVITY: The working group must comply with the procedures adopted by the ARAC and as follows:

1. Conduct a review and analysis of the assigned tasks and any other related materials or documents.
2. Draft and submit a work plan for completion of the task, including the rationale supporting such a plan, for consideration by ARAC.
3. Provide a status report at each ARAC meeting.
4. Draft and submit the recommendation report based on the review and analysis of the assigned tasks.
5. Present the recommendation report at the ARAC meeting.
6. If the working group is reinstated to answer any questions the FAA has regarding the recommendation report, present the findings in response to the FAA's questions or concerns about the recommendation report at the ARAC meeting.

PARTICIPATION IN THE WORKING GROUP: The HAWG will be comprised of technical experts having an interest in the assigned task. A working group member doesn't have to be an ARAC member. The FAA would like a wide range of stakeholders, representing the aerospace industry, aviation suppliers, hydrogen producers, airlines, airport sponsors, fixed base operators, academia, and other stakeholders to ensure all aspects of the tasks are considered in development of the recommendations. The candidates should meet the following criteria:

- A. More than 10 years experience in senior technical or leadership positions within the aerospace industry, the broader aviation infrastructure ecosystem (e.g., airports, fuel distribution providers), hydrogen suppliers, relevant government agencies, or leading academic institutions.
- B. Experience with aviation, preferably hydrogen powered aircraft, hydrogen infrastructure, hydrogen used as feedstocks for alternative fuels, risks, and mitigations in the use of hydrogen, broader aviation planning.

Ability to work with federal employees of the Department of Transportation, Department of Energy (DOE), Department of Defense (DOD) or National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) without having a conflict of interests regarding any pending grants, loans or research projects.

The provisions of the August 13, 2014, Office of Management and Budget guidance, “Revised Guidance on Appointment of Lobbyists to Federal Advisory Committees, Boards, and Commissions” (79 FR 47482), continue the ban on registered lobbyists participating on Agency Boards and Commissions if participating in their “individual capacity.” The revised guidance now allows registered lobbyists to participate on Agency Boards and Commissions in a “representative capacity” for the “express purpose of providing a committee with the views of a nongovernmental entity, a recognizable group of persons or nongovernmental entities (an industry, sector, labor unions, or environmental groups, etc.) or state or local government.” (For further information see Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (LDA) as amended, 2 U.S.C 1603, 1604, and 1605.)

NOMINATION PROCESS: Candidates are required to submit, in full, the following materials to be considered for membership. Failure to submit the required information may disqualify a candidate from the review process.

1. A résumé or curriculum vitae, which must include relevant job experience and qualifications. The candidate must provide their full name and home address (no P.O. Box).
2. A brief biography, including professional and academic credentials.
3. A statement describing the candidate’s interest in the task and the expertise the candidate would bring to the working group. The statement must also identify the stakeholder group that the candidate would represent.

Nominations must be submitted electronically (by e-mail) to Dr. Catalin Fotache at Catalin.G.Fotache@faa.gov. The subject line should state “Hydrogen Aviation Working Group Nomination.” The FAA must receive all requests by **February 14, 2025, at 4:00pm Eastern Time**. The ARAC and the FAA will review the requests and advise you whether or not your request is approved.

At the FAA’s discretion, members may be appointed to serve on the working group who were not nominated in response to this notice. This ensures the appropriate balance of membership meets the Departmental needs.

Roles and Responsibilities

If a nominee is chosen for membership on the working group, they must actively participate in the working group, attend all meetings, and provide written comments when requested. The member must devote the resources necessary to support the working group in meeting any assigned deadlines. They must keep their management and those they may represent advised of working group activities and decisions to ensure the proposed technical solutions do not conflict with the position of those that they represent. Once the working group has begun deliberations,

members will not be added or substituted without the approval of the ARAC Chair, FAA, including the Designated Federal Officer and the Working Group Chair.

Confidential Information

All final work products submitted to the ARAC are public documents. Therefore, it should not contain any non-public proprietary, privileged, business, commercial, and other sensitive information (collectively, confidential information) that the working group members would not want to be publicly available. With respect to working groups, there may be instances where members will share commercial information within the working group for purposes of completing an assigned task. Members must not disclose to any third party, nor use for any purposes other than the assigned task, any and all confidential information disclosed to one party by the other party, without the prior written consent of the party whose confidential information is being disclosed. All parties must treat the confidential information of the disclosing party as it would treat its own confidential information, but in no event shall it use less than a reasonable degree of care. If any confidential information is shared with the FAA representative on a working and/or task group, it must be properly marked in accordance with the FAA Committee Manual.

The Secretary of Transportation determined the formation and use of the ARAC is necessary and in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the FAA by law. The ARAC meetings are open to the public. However, working group meetings are not, except to the extent individuals with an interest and expertise are selected to participate. The FAA will not publicly announce working group meetings.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Catalin Fotache, Chief Scientist and Technical Advisor, Federal Aviation Administration, Bradley Flight Standards District Office (FSDO), 1699 King Street, Suite 210, Enfield, Connecticut, 06082, Catalin.G.Fotache@faa.gov.