

**Aeronautics and Astronautics
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The Honorable Michael P. Huerta
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Administrator Huerta:

Michael

On behalf of the REDAC I am pleased to transmit the attached informal report identifying emerging issues and opportunities identified by the REDAC subcommittees. This effort was undertaken, in addition to our normal tasking, in response to expressed interest of senior management to provide input on the strategic aspects of the agency's research portfolio.

During the fall meeting of the each subcommittee, the members devoted some time providing their perspective on emerging issues or opportunities and trying to identify high priority issues. The broad representation of the REDAC provides a diversity of technical and operational viewpoints. This informal brainstorming process has stimulated useful dialogue and strategic thinking at both the researcher level during subcommittee meetings and at the senior manager level during the full REDAC meeting.

While the specific issues identified by each subcommittee are noted in the attached report, several thematic areas were identified where there was strong consensus of the value of strategic research. These include:

- Integration of UAS in the NAS
- Validation and Verification of Increasingly Complex NAS Systems
- Human Factors of Increasingly Automated Systems
- Data Integrity and Cyber-Security
- Challenges and Opportunities of Big Data in the NAS
- General Aviation Safety

We hope that the set of identified issues will be useful as input to developing the research plans moving forward. However we note that this was only a brief issues identification process and do not consider it a formal or carefully vetted process. As such the REDAC does not expect a formal response but only hopes that this is the beginning of a continuing dialogue to help you and the agency anticipate future research needs.

The attached subcommittee reports also include some detailed findings regarding the current research program but no major findings or recommendations were identified.

The REDAC and its subcommittees appreciated the opportunity to engage in a more active way with the FAA research community. We stand ready to help in any way we can be effective including a deeper approach to specific issues or continuing to help identify emerging issues in the future.

Sincerely,



R. John Hansman
Chair, FAA Research, Engineering and Development Advisory Committee

Enclosure