

# FAA REDAC Subcommittee on Environment & Energy

Findings and Recommendations

Summer/Fall 2017

## **FAA REDAC Subcommittee on Environment and Energy**

### **August 2017 Meeting**

#### **Findings and Recommendations**

The Environment and Energy (E&E) Subcommittee of the FAA Research, Engineering and Development Advisory Committee (REDAC) met in Washington, DC on August 1 – 2, 2017. Following is a summary on the outcome of this meeting. The recommendations offered are all for inclusion in the REDAC report.

#### **Finding (1):**

Members of the E&E Subcommittee are very aware of the budgetary constraints that exist within the Department of Transportation and the FAA. The Continuous Lower Energy, Emissions, and Noise (CLEEN) program, the Commercial Aviation Alternative Fuels Initiative (CAAFI) and the Aviation Sustainability Control (ASCENT) program are successful industry/FAA cost-share programs that leverage scarce FAA R&D funds that have accomplished significant advances and improvements for the industry.

#### **Recommendations (1):**

**The subcommittee recommends that the FAA continues to prioritize robust funding for the Public Private Partnership programs like CLEEN, CAAFI and ASCENT.**

#### **Findings (2):**

As has been highlighted in the past, there is serious concern over the number of vacancies that exist in the Office of Environment and Energy (AEE) and the increasing requests for answers. There are currently twelve (12) vacancies in AEE. In order for the dedicated employees within AEE to be able to properly manage the current portfolio, which we believe is well balanced, maintain the FAA's global leadership position in the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), address the growth of other areas of commercial transportation and the development of smart policy, there is a need for answers. The answers to the many questions require the ongoing need for research.

### **Recommendation (2):**

**In order to provide the research that is needed to properly address the increased tasking of the Office of Environment and Energy (AEE), the subcommittee recommends that the FAA commit the resources needed to hire additionally qualified individuals to be able to properly address portfolio needs. We would ask the FAA to not take away limited resources from current work in an effort to handle new work.**

### **Finding (3):**

During the subcommittee meeting, the FAA presented information that indicates that there has been a dramatic increase in the level of interest in supersonic aircraft under the current Administration. There is also potential growth in unmanned aerial systems and commercial space vehicles. There is a significant amount of research that needs to be done in order to understand the environmental impacts of these new entrants. Research is the key to establishing sound policy. The FAA/AEE should ensure that its research plans will address the noise, emissions and possible health impacts of these new entrants such that the FAA can make informed decisions in carrying out their responsibilities under various statutes.

### **Recommendation (3)**

**Based on increased interest in supersonic aircraft, the growth of unmanned aerial systems and the growth of commercial space vehicles, the subcommittee encourages the FAA to advance our understanding on the environmental impacts of these entrants.**

### **Finding (4)**

The subcommittee is very pleased with the work done by AEE on developing a non-volatile particulate matter (PM) emissions standard and in the development of the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction System for International Aviation (CORSIA). In regards to the CORSIA, it is important that proper credit be given for the use of alternative fuels. The subcommittee is also pleased with the efforts of the FAA along with NASA to conduct and align research activities to inform the development of noise and emission standards for supersonic aircraft. The subcommittee believes that United States leadership in the ICAO CAEP process continues to be an important priority.

### **Recommendation (4)**

**The subcommittee highly recommends that the FAA continue their commitment for all of the necessary programs to support continued U.S. leadership in ICAO CAEP. This includes the non-volatile PM emissions standard, CORSIA, alternative fuels and supersonic aircraft.**