Circulation Control in NASA's Vehicle Systems

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Specific to the application of any technology to a vehicle, such as circulation control, it is important to understand the process that NASA is using to set its direction in research and development. To see how circulation control fits into any given NASA program requires the reader to understand NASA's Vehicle Systems (VS) Program. The VS Program recently celebrated its first year of existence with an annual review—an opportunity to look back on accomplishments, solicit feedback, expand national advocacy and support for the program, and recognize key contributions. Since its formation last year, Vehicle Systems has coordinated seven existing entities in a streamlined aeronautics research effort. It invests in vehicle technologies to protect the environment, make air travel more accessible and affordable for Americans, enable exploration through new aerospace missions, and augment national security. This past year has seen a series of valuable partnerships with industry, academia, and government agencies to make crucial aeronautics advances and assure America's future in flight.

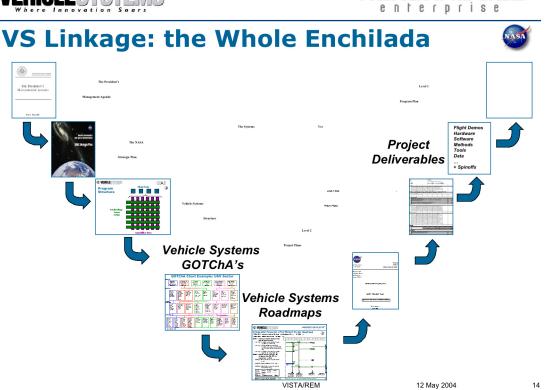
The Vehicle Systems Program is made up of seven core projects, including Efficient Aerodynamic Shapes and Integration (EASI) and Flight and Systems Demonstrations (FSD). In addition, an internal reorganization last year produced six vehicle sectors, managed by a group of NASA strategists—the Vehicle Integration, Strategy, and Technology Assessment (VISTA) Team. Vehicle sector managers provide near- and long-term planning for the projects in order to align aeronautics research with national and Agency priorities. Through technology integration and "roadmaps," which track VSP investments to minimize redundancy, VISTA synthesizes project activities to meet a set of common goals. The Project teams execute work for the program, and using Program resources, they are responsible for delivering technologies that meet the goals defined through the VISTA activities.

VS Projects cover a wide scope. From the Quiet Aircraft Technology (QAT) Project, which works to mitigate aircraft noise impacts on travelers and airport neighbors, to the Low Emissions Alternative Power (LEAP) Project, which develops energy-efficient alternative propulsion and power systems, the VSP promises a variety of applications for industry, the military, and civilians. Advances have already been made in the Autonomous Robust Avionics (AuRA) Project, among others. AuRA team leaders are creating on-board flight systems to reduce human interaction, with eventual plans for unmanned aerial vehicles and aircraft technology for unskilled operators. The Ultra Efficient Engine Technology (UEET) Project has also introduced innovative technologies. To combat global warming, UEET is developing combustors for gas turbine propulsion systems capable of reducing nitrogen oxide emissions by 70% at takeoff and landing.

The annual review recognized the hard work of a number of employees and outlined plans for even greater future successes. The Extreme Short Takeoff and Landing (ESTOL) and the Rotorcraft (RC) sectors will continue to direct project activities toward vertical or near-vertical takeoff and landing research and development. The Personal Air Vehicle (PAV) and Uninhabited Air Vehicle (UAV) sectors will encourage aeronautics innovations that eliminate the need for a professional pilot, including affordable aircraft for ordinary Americans. Finally, the Supersonic Aircraft (SSA) and Subsonic Transport (ST) sectors will work to maximize efficiency and strive for global reach.

With sector oversight now providing strategic direction, the VSP projects will move forward with their near-term focuses. Continual self-correction and program evolution will help yield valuable aeronautics advances. Much of the program's success this year was due to the advent of VISTA and the incorporation of sectors to coordinate project activities. By linking strategy and implementation, the VSP has established clear organizational goals for its active projects—guidelines that will operate throughout the year to ensure that next year's annual review is equally outstanding.





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The Vehicle systems program has a number of revolutionary projects leading the Aerospace industry into an exciting future. Circulation control concepts may play a role in several of these projects. The projects discussed below are likely candidates where circulation control may have the largest impact in the near term.

ITAS (Integrated Tailored Aero Structures) Project

The primary focus of the ITAS project is to develop ultra-light smart materials and structures, aerodynamic concepts, and light weight subsystems to increase vehicle efficiency, leading to high-altitude long-endurance vehicles, planetary aircraft, advanced vertical and short takeoff and landing vehicles and beyond.

This project is divided into five areas: Actively Tailored High-Lift Systems, Highly-Loaded Lightweight Structures, Adaptive Ultra-Lightweight Airframe Systems, Planetary Flight Vehicles, and Multifunctional Structures Foundation Technologies.

An example of a sub-project in the Actively Tailored High-Lift Systems area is the Integrated Wing Concepts for ESTOL. The challenge in this area is to increase the circulation of the low speed powered high lift system by 50% to generate more lift on takeoff while decreasing the drag to maintain efficient cruise. Figure 1 illustrates the set of capabilities for a notional ESTOL vehicle. Nominally one can achieve many of these capabilities, but the challenge for ESTOL is to meet all of the capabilities at the same time. Figures 2 and 3 are examples of GOTChA and roadmaps related to ESTOL.

| Required Capability | SOA | 5-Years | 15-Years |
|--|----------------------------------|---|---|
| Balanced Field Length T/O & Landing Speed Turn Radius in Terminal Area Cruise Mach Range Payload Noise Footprint W/I Airport Terminal Ops | 0.60 1,000 nm 90 PAX No | 2,000 ft 65 kts 1/2 nm 0.70 1,400 nm 90 PAX Yes * CAT IIIA | 2,000 ft 50 kts 1/4 nm 0.80 1,400 nm 90 PAX Yes * CAT IIIC |

Figure 1. Targeted ESTOL Notional Vehicle Capabilities.



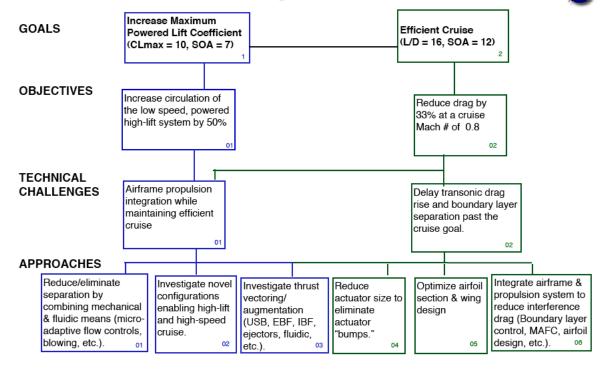


Figure 2. Example of GOTChA chart for ESTOL (living document that updates regularly).

Integrated Powered Lift/Efficient Cruise Roadmap



GOAL ES1: Increase Maximum Powered-Lift Coefficient (CL_{max} = 10, SOA = 7)

GOAL ES2: Efficient Cruise (L/D = 16, SOA = 12)

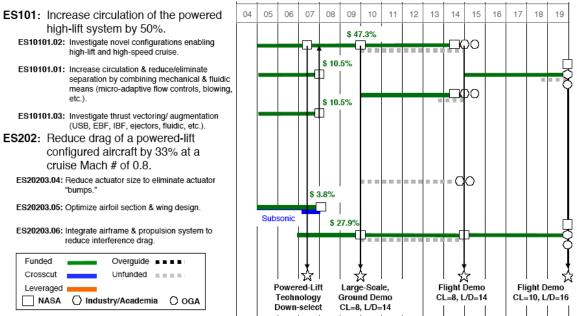


Figure 3. Example of a portion of the roadmap for ESTOL (living document).

Other sub-projects within the Actively Tailored High-Lift Systems area include morphing leading edges for the subsonic transport and investigations into the Aero-Propulsion-Servo-Elastic technology. In the Highly-Loaded Lightweight Structures area, sub-projects are enabling technology to reduce the fuselage structural weight of the Blended Wing Body aircraft to a range competitive with conventional air transports.

A subproject in the Adaptive Ultra-Lightweight Airframe Systems area is investigating weight reduction for High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) vehicles to improve endurance payload, launch and recovery, performance under adverse flight conditions and durability.

In the Planetary Flight Vehicle area a number of sub-projects are focused on establishing a mature baseline vehicle for Mars exploration for a potential 2011 mission. These sub-projects will establish aerodynamic performance, demonstrate flight controls, evaluate propeller and other new vehicle concepts, including VTOL and mother ship concepts.

Examples of sub-projects in the Multifunctional Structures Foundation Technologies area are Bio-inspired Nanostructured Materials Development and Adaptive Aero Structures. Both of these sub-projects, using adaptive structures and micro-flow concepts, will significantly reduce vehicle weight to improve community access and enable new missions.

EASI (Efficient Aerodynamic shapes and Integration) Project

The primary focus of the EASI project is to improve aerodynamic efficiency, structures, materials technologies, and design tools and methodologies to reduce fuel burn and minimize environmental impact and enable new vehicle concepts and capabilities for public mobility and new science missions.

This project is divided into 4 areas: Configuration and Component Aerodynamic Technology, Aerodynamics for Heavy Lift Rotorcraft, Variable Fidelity Conceptual Design Tool, and Computational Methods for Flight Performance Prediction.

One of the sub-projects under Configuration and Component Aerodynamic Technology is the Blended Wing Body Flight Dynamics and Control effort. One of the near-term tests uses a 5% dynamically scaled free-flight model to characterize 1-g departures. A free-flight test in a NASA Full Scale Wind Tunnel will be conducted to assess envelope protection schemes, assess asymmetric thrust control limits, assess center engine thrust vectoring control and assess 1g-departure onset control. Other contemplated tests include high Reynolds number transonic stability and control characterization. Another subproject on Advanced Wing Technology will be developing and testing a closed loop adaptive bump to minimize transonic wave drag.

A sub-project under Variable Fidelity Conceptual Design Tool is a "Conceptual Design Shop" which advances concept design state-of-the-art. This will enable NASA to design and assess unconventional atmospheric vehicle concepts and advanced technologies to meet NASA's aeronautics goals. The "Conceptual Design Shop" will incorporate variable fidelity analysis tools and methods, quantify uncertainty, and create a knowledge database for NASA.

One of the sub-projects under Computational Methods for Flight Performance Prediction is COMSAC (computational methods for stability and control). This effort will benchmark, validate and develop computational tools for the prediction and analysis of stability, controllability and flight dynamics of advanced aircraft. This will potentially lead to large reductions in test requirements in Stability and Control. Other sub-projects in this area are investigating 3-D Physics-based mesh adaptation technology and physics-based transition prediction for subsonic vehicles. Both of these latter efforts will support improved design techniques for the future.

A sub-project under Aerodynamics for Heavy Lift Rotorcraft is Large Lightweight Rotor Concepts. This effort will focus on identifying large, fast, long-range VTOL transports to revolutionize air transport.





enterprise



Future Vehicle Capabilities & the Potential Contribution of Circulation Control

NASA Circulation Control Workshop Hampton, VA 16 March 2004



Synopsis



- Drivers for the "new" Program
- Semantics and Planning Constructs
- Program Structure
- So What?
- Future Vehicle Capabilities
 - History and Development
 - Status and Description
- Circulation Control as a Potential Solution
- Relation to Sectors and Capabilities
- Summary
 - Next Steps
 - Points of Contact

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- Greater emphasis on science and engineering education and training
- Government investment in R&D will continue to take a backseat to that of industry
- New policies set by Congress, the Clinton and the Bush Administrations demand maximizing ROI through greater efficiency, accountability, and success of the U.S. science & technology portfolio and Agency programs



Recent Report Language Directed at OAT/NASA*

- "...continue to pursue actions and reforms directed at reducing institutional costs, including management restructuring, facility consolidation, procurement reform, and convergence with defense and commercial sector systems.."
- ".... should invest in the types of research and innovative technology in which United States commercial providers do not invest, while avoiding competition with the activities in which United States commercial providers do invest."
- "NASA and the Department of Defense should cooperate more effectively in leveraging the mutual capabilities of these agencies....."
- "To achieve the public goal of price reduction and innovation through competition.."
- "...must articulate a comprehensive agenda and strategy through an agency performance plan for each of NASA's primary centers that identifies a linkage between resources and activities in a way that guarantees an advanced technology strategy that will ensure the preeminence of NASA in the area of space transportation, ... and aerospace technology, including aeronautical research and technology."

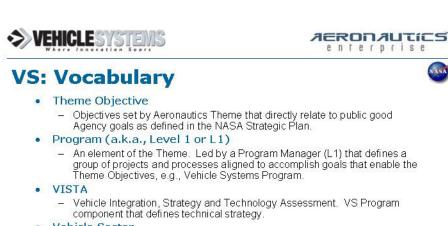
* Compiled from Authorization and Appropriations bills, fiscal years 1999 through 2003



- Defensible (to funders)
- Integrated (across program)
- Simplified (understandable)
- Focused (on goals)
- Innovative (technologically)

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Linked (to product users)



- Vehicle Sector
 - An element of VISTA. Led by a Vehicle Sector Manager (VSM) that defines the capabilities and priorities for a class of aircraft, then relates impact of associated work to the Theme Objectives. VSM's define the what and when of VS research.
- Capability Set
 - Definition of the capabilities desired for future aircraft and how it relates to public good

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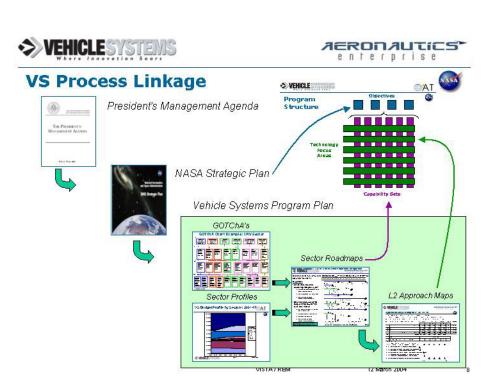
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VS: Vocabulary, continued

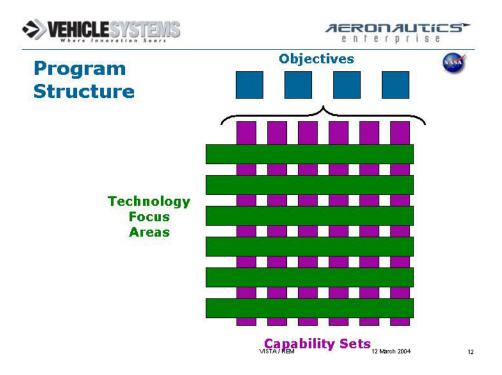
- GOTChA Chart
 - Chart that relates Program <u>G</u>oals, <u>O</u>bjectives, <u>T</u>echnical <u>Ch</u>allenges and <u>Approaches in a top-down decomposition</u>
- Roadmap
 - A depiction of the work required to achieve the Goals from the GOTChA chart. Includes related resources and projects that will execute the work.
- Technology Focus Area (a.k.a., Technology Foci)
 - Theme construct that describes enduring areas of research related to aeronautics. Functionally represented over a period of time by a project with start/end dates and deliverables.
- Project (a.k.a., Level 2 or L2)
 - An element of a Program. Led by a Project Manager (L2) that defines a group of activities (approaches to work) that deliver technologies that achieve the Objectives required to achieve the Goals required by a Vehicle Sector to reach a capability set. L2's define the who and how of VS research.
- Approach Map
 - A depiction of the work required to complete the Objectives that achieve the Objectives and Goals from the GOTChA chart. Includes related resources and specific activities required to complete the work.

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| | FTE, direct | 6.4 | 5.6 | 5.4 | 4.4 | 5.9 | 34 | Total |
| 74.5% | Funding, IH, \$K | 2,212 | 2,053 | 1,958 | 1,607 | 2,481 | 82 | 10,31 |
| 25.5% | Funding, OH, \$K | 968 | 767 | 722 | 593 | 489 | 8 5 | 3,529 |
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| 2.3 | Ultra-light weight vehicle technologies for HALE | 05 | 06 | 07 | 08 | 09 | 10 | |
| 2.3.2 | Competing lightweight airframe and subsystem concepts | <u> </u> | | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | | | |
| 2.3.2.1 2.3.2.2 | Develop and document competing structural concepts (including integrated subsystems) for FY09 & FY14 flights Complete bench test of selected concepts resulting in xx % reduction in empty weight fraction on scaled model for FYC flight test | | | | | | | |
| 2.3.2.3 | Complete bench test of selected concepts resulting in xx % reduction in empty weight fraction on scaled model for FY1 flight test | 1 | | | 2 | | | |
| 2.3.2.4 | Develop and document competing structural concepts (including integrated subsytems) for 15 year capability set | | | | | <u> </u> | | |
| 2.3.2.5 | Complete WT test of selected concept resulting in xx% reduction in empty weight fraction on scaled model FY14 flight test (over guideline) | | | | | | 2 | |







Aeronautics Theme Objectives for the Public Good



Protect the Environment

Protect local and global environmental quality by reducing aircraft noise and emissions.



Increase Mobility

Enable more people and goods to travel faster and farther with fewer delays



Explore New Aerospace Missions

Pioneer novel aerospace concepts and technologies to support science missions and terrestrial and space applications



Partnerships for National Security

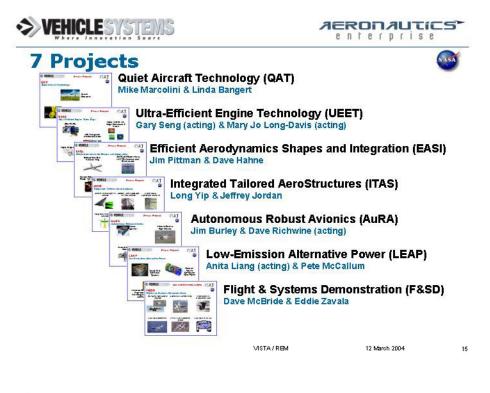
Enhance the Nation's security through aeronautical partnerships with DOD, DHS, and other U.S. or international government agencies

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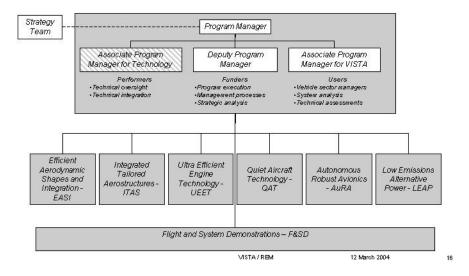
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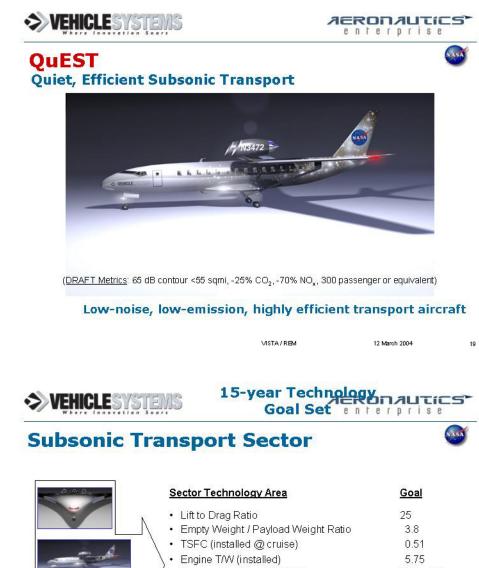


Vehicle Systems Organizational Chart





VISTA/REM



• TSFC (installed @ cruise)
 • Community Noise (EPNdB)
 • Community Noise (EPNdB)
 • Community Noise (EPNdB)
 • Noise Footprint (sqmi, 65 dBA single event)
 • Emissions (kg NO_x /LTO)

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HeVSTOL Heavy-Lift Vertical/Short Takeoff and Landing



120-passenger, 1200nm, V/STOL

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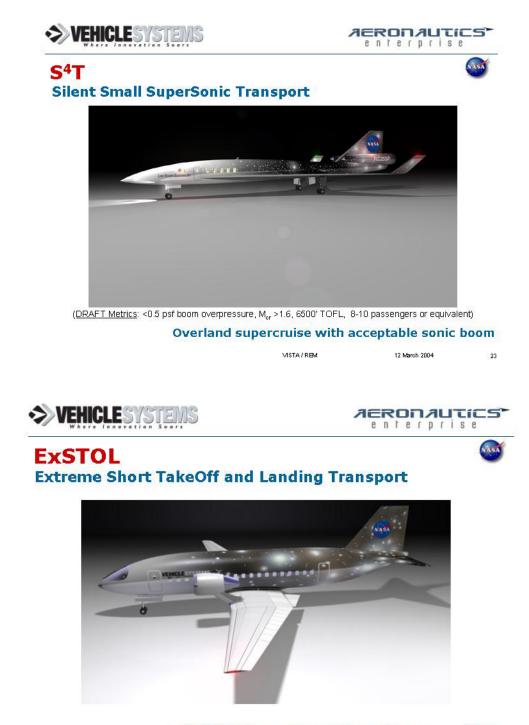


HALE ROA High Altitude Long Endurance Remotely Operated Aircraft



14-day endurance, 60-70K ft ops, 400 lb payload

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<2000' TOFL, M=0.8 cruise, quiet, $V_{mceo} \sim 50 kts$

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EQuiPT Easy-to-use, Quiet Personal Transportation



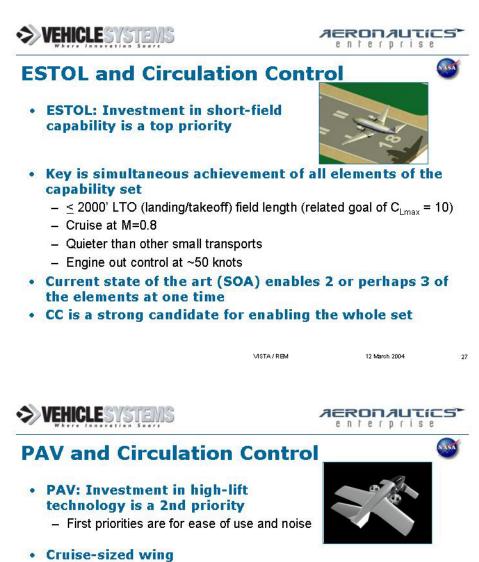
-30 dB vs. SOA, auto-like ease of use, \$75K

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Circulation Control as a Potential Solution for the Capability Sets

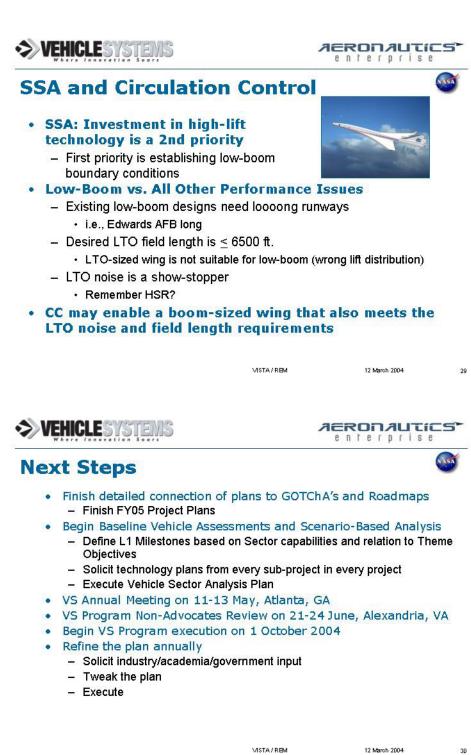
- Circulation control (CC) may be applicable to all of the Vehicle Sectors
 - ESTOL: Obvious connection (see following chart)
 - PAV: Strong connection (see 2nd chart following)
 - SSA: Not so obvious, but also strong (see 3rd chart following)
 - ST: May need CC to achieve noise goals
 - Rotorcraft: Use CC on rotors?
 - UAV: Possible use of CC in the far-term, depending on the mission requirements
- VISTA team will be working with technologists to define the potential contribution of CC and related technologies towards meeting the Program goals.

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- LTO wing size drives current general aviation aircraft
 - + Compromise between V_{stall} and V_{cruise}
- Optimum is cruise-sized wing with proper C_L (~3) for V_{stall} < 61knots
- V/STOL
 - CC may be enabling to this class of vehicle
 - CC Nacelle
- CC is a strong candidate for enabling PAV capabilities

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VEHICLESYSTEMS

Points of Contact

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Get

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Sectors & Capabilities: History

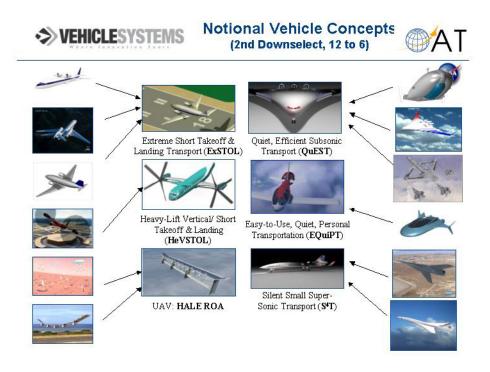


- Reno workshop, January 2003
- Industry/Academia/Government teams brainstormed to come up with 31 vehicles and associated capability sets (1st chart following) and 178 technology challenges
- NASA VSM's distilled to 12 capability sets, 15 common tech challenges (2nd chart following)
- Roadmaps to capability sets
 - Phoenix workshop, April/May 2003
 - Industry/Academia/Government teams developed roadmaps from rough GOTChA charts for the 12 capability sets and 15 common tech challenges
- Today
 - 6 sectors and capability sets distilled from the Phoenix work and subsequent prioritization efforts (3rd chart following)

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Theme Objectives



Smog-free Minimize the contribution of air vehicles to the production of smog



Noise within airport boundaries Constrain objectionable noise to within

airport boundaries

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No impact on global climate Minimize the impact of air vehicles on global climate

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Air Vehicles for New Missions



Science platforms Develop innovative air vehicles for science missions in the earth's atmosphere and beyond



Hazardous environments Enable uninhabited air vehicles to fly in hazardous environments

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Superior Air Power



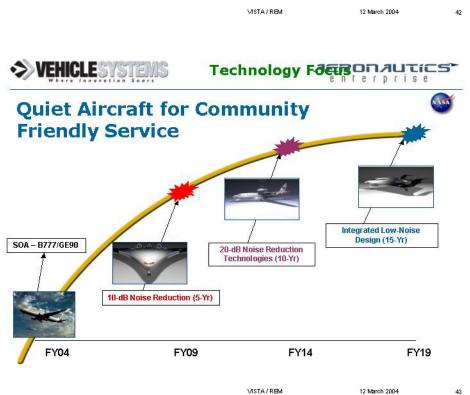
Technological superiority Cooperatively develop technologies that enable air superiority



Partners in freedom Support the development of advanced military aircraft MSTA/REM 12 March 2004



Projects



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HALE ROA Capabilities

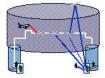
Earth Science Capability Demos



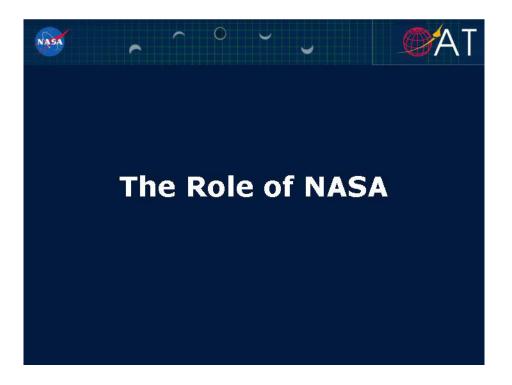
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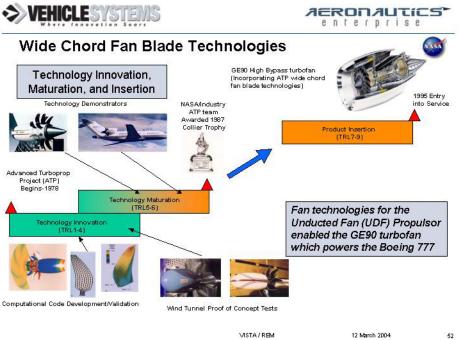
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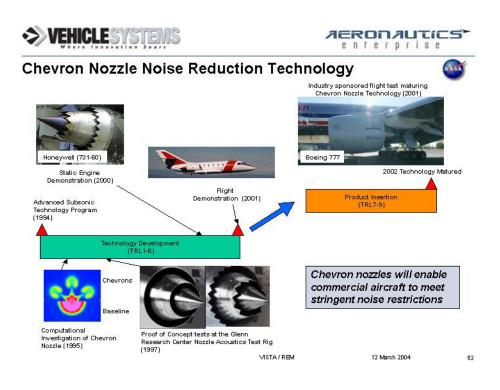
HALE ROA in the NAS



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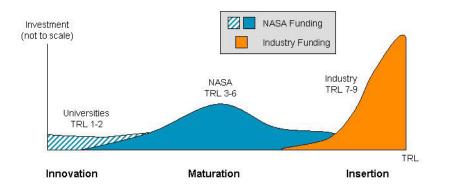








Innovation and Maturation



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