

eVTOL Vehicle-Agnostic Instrument Flight Procedures Test Plan

Test Abstract

NASA Advanced Air Mobility National Campaign is researching the utility of electric verticaltakeoff and land (eVTOL) advanced air mobility (AAM) instrument flight procedures. The result will be dynamic and tailored procedures that align to the following modus operandi: maximize *safety*, optimize *efficiency*, support *passenger comfort* and minimize *acoustic*s. This is achieved through dynamic airspace procedure design, which is a modular approach to create an airspace construct that customizes procedures to vehicle design and configuration, operation and environmental conditions. The test plan supports different eVTOL platforms and envisioned operations for flight test or simulation and may be leveraged by AAM aircraft manufacturers and operators for any given aircraft, location and operation.

Approved by:

JEFFREY LEIGH

Digitally signed by JEFFREY LEIGH Date: 2024.02.21 14:27:38 -06'00'

Jeff Leigh, National Campaign Chief Engineer

DIVYA BHADORIA

Digitally signed by DIVYA BHADORIA Date: 2024.01.25 11:15:43 -08'00'

Divya Bhadoria, National Campaign Subproject Manager

WAYNE RINGELBERG Digitally signed by WAYNE RINGELBERG Date: 2024.01.22 14:00:43-08'00'

Wayne Ringelberg, NASA Armstrong Chief Pilot

Revision History

Authors

David Zahn NASA Ames Research Center

Sarah Eggum Flight Research Aerospace, Simlabs III, NASA Ames Research Center

Andrew Guion Armstrong Flight Research Center

Contributors

Bernard "Dov" Adelstein, Ph.D. NASA Ames Research Center

Sean Clarke Armstrong Flight Research Center

Tim Bagnall Mosaic, Simlabs III, NASA Ames Research Center

Jerry Wilwerding Mosaic, Simlabs III, NASA Ames Research Center

Davien Patel Mosaic, Simlabs III, NASA Ames Research Center

Table of Contents

List of Tables

List of Figures

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

All aircraft in the National Airspace System (NAS) must currently fly under one of two sets of defined flight rules: Visual Flight Rules (VFR) or Instrument Flight Rules (IFR). VFR flight is not possible in instrument meteorological conditions (IMC). The IFR construct has additional benefits of safety and scalability compared to VFR. Generally, unless otherwise authorized, IFR aircraft must operate within Air Traffic Service (ATS) routes along airways or on routes along direct courses between navigational aids (NAVAIDS) or fixes. Instrument Flight Procedures (IFPs) are predetermined sets of maneuvers with specified protection from obstacles for safe operations and orderly traffic flow. IFPs offer benefits of standardization, obstacle clearance, noise abatement, and traffic separation. Different IFPs exist for different aircraft performance categories. Terminal IFPs are designed exclusively in accordance with very detailed standardized methods and Terminal Instrument Procedures (TERPS) criteria such as airport airspace, infrastructure, navigation facilities, obstacles, weather information and communications. Terminal IFPs are tailored to different airports with considerations for prevailing winds, geography, terrain, noise, obstacles and traffic flow. Neither IFPs nor IFP design/evaluation criteria currently exist for emerging electric Vertical Takeoff and Lift (eVTOL) aircraft, advanced air mobility (AAM), urban air mobility (UAM) operations or vertiports. The goal of this work is to support development of design criteria for UAM/AAM/eVTOL IFR-like procedures, similar to those found within the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) 8260 series orders.

Unmanned/remotely piloted aircraft cannot currently fully comply with all requirements of VFR nor IFR. Some expression of specialized regulatory relief is typically necessary. New flight rule constructs for unmanned aircraft system (UAS) and AAM are being researched under automated flight rules (AFR). The future regulatory landscape is unknown. However, the hypothesis that underpins this research activity is that numerous potential benefits will be realized if IFR-like structured constructs and standardized IFPs are applied to future AAM and eVTOL aircraft operations. IFR-like structures for AAM will not only enable flight in IMC but also provide better standardization, predictability, consistency, and levels of safety not guaranteed by VFR-like operations. IFR-like structures will enable greater capacity for higher volumes of aircraft operations. Currently, the FAA 8260 series orders prescribe specific standardized methods for designing and evaluating IFPs for fixed wing and helicopter aircraft; the goal for this research is to contribute toward development of equivalent IFP design and evaluation criteria for eVTOL aircraft conducting AAM operations. Additional intent is to help resolve open unknowns about how standardized IFPs for AAM/eVTOL aircraft operations should be designed for the emerging needs of AAM.

Many thousands of IFPs exist for legacy aircraft and typical operations. Current IFPs are inadequate for future AAM operations for several reasons. Instrument departures and arrivals to/from the ground do not exist for rotorcraft. Fixed wing IFPs require large volumes of airspace which would be incompatible with envisioned urban operations and airspace constraints. IFPs are currently very expensive to develop due to a high degree of manual evaluation required in the design process, and the current design process is not upwardly scalable for the anticipated number of vertiports.

1.2 Dynamic Airspace Procedure Design

Overview

The research will assesstailored procedures created through Dynamic Airspace Procedure Design (DAPD). Each category of performance (*safety, efficiency, passenger comfort* and *acoustics)* is applied to each IFP variation for each phase of flight (*departure, enroute, final approach, missed approach*) commensurate with *vehicle design, configuration, operation type* and *environmental conditions* (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Dynamic Airspace Procedure Design filters and parameters

Purpose

The purpose of the flight test plan is to evaluate and accommodate new and novel vehicle design and configurations with respect to precision departure and approach procedures. The emerging state space includes new lift mechanisms and propulsion systems for various flight configurations (Figure 2). The test plan supports different eVTOL platforms and envisioned operations for flight test or simulation and may be leveraged by AAM aircraft manufacturers and operators for any given aircraft, location and operation.

Figure 2. NASA AAM reference vehicles credit: NASA Revolutionary Vertical Lift Technology (RVLT)

Vehicle Design & Configuration

The procedures account for vehicle design variants from tilt rotors, ducted fans, wings, lift plus cruise or single-, double-, quad- or multi-rotors. Additionally, the vehicle configuration may be on-wing, thrustborne, or semi-thrust-borne.

Operation Type

Operation type drives the optimization applied to the procedures for the use case. A compensation-for-hire air taxi operation requires a ride quality filter applied to the terminal maneuvers. In contrast, a cargo or military operation necessitates the most efficient application based upon time and/or energy expended, respectively.

Environmental Conditions

It is critical to evaluate the performance planning characteristics associated with the environmental conditions for the time and location factors of the operation. These variables include field elevation, temperature, wind azimuth and velocity with respect to the gross weight of the vehicle.

Scalability Criteria

The candidate solutions under test need to be scalable for the commercial or military use case that envisions widespread high-density VTOL traffic. To scale adequately, the airspace architecture defined by the *departure, enroute, final approach* and *missed approach* flight segments are evaluated via four pillars: *safety, efficiency, passenger comfort* and *acoustics* (Table 1).

The measures of performance will help inform future AAM criteria, policy, and regulations to standardize airspace evaluation and procedure development and may help avoid overtaxing FAA resources. The research aims to lay out methods to evaluate novel IFP designs for precision approaches suited for eVTOL characteristics. Eventually, tests like these may contribute to validation of candidate instrument flight procedures, which integrate a precision approach with a descent and deceleration profile to a point in space on the ground, in contrast to current helicopter approaches which end at a visual descent point which still requires a visual or VFR transition to the ground. In the future, this research could be extended to explore a conservation of airspace model and coding construct that includes departure, enroute and approach coding with waypoint restrictions covering speed, altitude, navigation and battery requirements. This research recommends a balanced approach to weigh flight path profile tradeoffs between passenger comfort, efficiency, noise and urban airspace constraints to maximize public acceptance for a scalable AAM airspace architecture (Figure 3).

High									
Low		m							
Vehicle Configuration	Tiltduct	Tiltwing	Lift-plus-Cruise		Quadrotor		Side-by-Side		SMR
Propulsion System	DD TE	DD TE	DD TE	DD E	CS TS	CS _E	CS TS	CS _E	TS
Design gross weight (lb)	7089	6750	8190	8210	3740	6480	3470	4900	3740
(Prop)rotor diameter (ft)	7.08	7.33	10	10	18.4	26.2	21	29.8	34.5
Hover disk loading, T/A_R	30	20	13.1	13.1	3.5		5	3.5	
Aircraft hover figure of merit	0.76	0.7	0.63	0.74	0.69	0.7	0.69	0.68	0.62
Cruise airspeed, V_{br} (kt)	151	148	128	112	122	98	116	98	102
Block speed (kt)	115	117	101	91.7	105	87.1	97	82.6	77.4
$L/D_e = W V_{br}/P$	9.1	8.7	7.9	8.5	4.9	5.8	5.9	7.2	5.4
Cruise wing area (ft ²)	229	128	256	275	N/A	N/A	21.3	42.9	N/A
Energy burn (MJ)	3170	3280	4260	1110	2670	1070	2210	686	2550
Weight/lift power (lb/hp)	7.32	6.03	6.65	7.4	12.8	14	10.7	12.6	10.5
Weight/cruise power (lb/hp)	19.6	20.3	22.5	24.9	13.1	18.4	16.9	24.4	16.9

Figure 3. NASA AAM reference vehicles design parameters credit: NASA Revolutionary Vertical Lift Technology (RVLT)

1.3 Test Objectives Overview

The objectives and measures of the IFP test plan are partitioned into a structure of general test objectives (GTOs), specific test objectives (STOs) and measures of performance (MOPs) (Tables 3). These GTOs, STOs and MOPs have direct traceability to the former overarching subproject-level NC Objective #2 and can be summarized by the overall test activity objective (Table 2).

Table 2. High-level objectives

Table 3. Test objectives

2.0 Test and Evaluation

2.1 Test Approach

Test data should be collected across the available spectrum of aircraft automation, including operating the aircraft in both manually piloted and "autopilot" modes to the maximum extent possible. Testing should collect data from multiple pilots to characterize the Total System Error (TSE)/Flight Technical Error (FTE) scatter, skew and deviations with the best statistical strength possible. Candidate ARINC 424 coding should be uploaded into the eVTOL Flight Monitoring System (FMS) to include lateral and vertical guidance and waypoint restrictions. An in-depth knowledge of the vehicle operating limitations and flight envelope will be required to test tailored procedures to a specific aircraft design.

2.2 Test Objectives

GTO 1.0 Flight Profile Design Criteria

The primary test GTO (Table 4) is decomposed into three STOs. All STOs together will evaluate and inform the viability of the candidate AAM/eVTOL 'dynamic procedure design' IFP construct.

Table 4. GTO 1.0 objectives

Dynamic procedure design Overview

The candidate terminal airspace construct, termed 'dynamic procedure design,' can be easily adjusted, flexed, or retracted at time of design for a specific vertiport location and aircraft configuration to account for airspeed, obstacles and winds enabling on-demand departure and approach procedures. The departure and approach radius are defined by vehicle performance and the altitude will account for any controlling obstacle(s) as seen in Figure 4. The usable portion of the 'dynamic procedure design' upside-down cone may be easily limited to certain sectors (pie slices) of the cone, or certain sectors (pie slices) could be easily removed based on outcomes of a streamlined obstacle evaluation and airspace analysis process when the 'dynamic procedure design' is first designed for a given vertiport location.

Figure 4. Candidate 'dynamic procedure design' terminal airspace construct profile (top) and overhead (bottom)

STO 1.1 Vertiport Landing Area Dimensions and Obstacle Clearance Surfaces

This STO covers development of the novel dynamic procedure design IFP in Terminal Area Route Generation Evaluation and Traffic Simulation (TARGETS) with an appropriately tailored OE/AAA and data collection to help inform landing area dimension requirements to constitute two supporting MOPs (Table 5).

Background on TARGETS

The NAS consists of an inventory of approximately 20,000 approach, arrival, departure, and enroute IFPs. This inventory of conventional and Performance-based Navigation (PBN) procedures must be continuously evaluated as IFPs are added or canceled, navigational aids are implemented or discontinued, new obstacles are identified, airspace is redesigned, and regulations evolve. The TARGETS system is the FAA's enterprise solution for that mission. The TARGETS tool was developed by MITRE and sponsored by the FAA. It has capabilities for design, analysis, and operational assessment of air traffic procedures and airspace. TARGETS incorporates data visualization with design elements to enable procedure designers to run simulations. The data output is formatted to support operational, certification, and charting needs.

Construction in TARGETS

TARGETS is expected to be capable of creating the novel dynamic procedure design IFP, but several abnormal workarounds are expected to be required. TARGETS has been developed to enable procedure designers to create IFPs that meet current TERPS requirements for legacy aircraft and navigation methods. TARGETS essentially enables and enforces IFP design to adhere to current IFP design criteria, with which the novel candidate dynamic procedure design construct is not compatible. The procedures will be developed in FAA TARGETS Computeraided Design (CAD) software for MOP 1.1.01. There are three coding 'dynamic procedure design' rings: Initial approach fix (IAF) | holding ring (outer circle), transition ring for coding purposes and alignment (middle circle) and precision final approach fix (PFAF) | final approach ring (inner circle) (Figure 5). Construction for dynamic procedure design rings is derived from the horizontal distance of the vertipoint to PFAF which is consequent from the desired glidepath angle at a given speed and a resultant PFAF altitude. Dynamic procedure design rings maintain an equivalent level of safety for emerging eVTOL aircraft. Operation on the dynamic procedure design ring requires on airspeed by the holding ring. Additionally, the vehicle is 'at airspeed' by the holding ring and 'at altitude',' at airspeed' and 'at wings level' by the final approach ring.

Figure 5. TARGETS 'dynamic procedure design' construction

MOP 1.1.01: TARGETS and OE/AAA execution

MOP 1.1.01 is a precursor before coding the procedure in ARINC 424. MOP 1.1.01 describes development

of the dynamic procedure design IFP in the FAA's TARGETS application in conjunction with execution of an Obstruction Evaluation/ Airport Airspace Analysis (OE/AAA), which are the typical first steps required for any terminal IFP (Table 6). This MOP does not involve or require any aircraft original equipment manufacturer (OEM) simulator or flight testing. The FAA's AJV group will execute this MOP, with exit criteria for successful creation of the dynamic procedure design IFPs in TARGETS, with the IFPs properly designed/limited considering any obstacles and airspace limitations, all associated TARGETS process outputs, and a record of all TARGETS abnormal workflows/criteria violations.

Background on OE/AAA

After a new IFP is created in TARGETS, the system also enables an OE/AAA. Detailed obstacle clearance surface requirements exist for legacy aircraft and terminal IFPs but not for UAM/eVTOL. An Obstacle Evaluation Assessment Area (OEAA) is established from any landing surface outbound towards an approach path. This assessment area is used to evaluate terrain, vertical obstructions and airspace penetrations. Once the outer dimensions of the assessment area are established and vertical obstructions are populated within the evaluation plane, the vertical component will be evaluated against the minimum climb gradient required for a departure or against a rise over run obstacle clearance slope from the landing surface. Executing this process for the candidate dynamic procedure design IFP will enable an omni-directional evaluation, which would provide scalability and increased operational flexibility for UAM. Due to the inherent simplicity, repeatability, and versatile nature of the candidate dynamic procedure design IFP, vertiport evaluations and procedure development will be greatly streamlined in contrast to current fixed wing terminal IFPs, which are highly complex and highly variable/unique from one to another. The 'dynamic procedure design' provides standardization and a streamlined UAM IFP architecture versatility for any location. An eVTOL dynamic procedure design IFP would provide precision for instrument departures and arrivals to and from the ground, which does not currently exist for rotorcraft. Currently, instrument procedures are uniquely customized for each airport runway and individually tailored to the runway centerline using manually intensive evaluation criteria.

Table 6. TARGETS and OE/AAA test details

Background on related FAA guidance

In 2022 the FAA released Engineering Brief No. 105 "Vertiport Design," which was only scoped for VFR operations with a pilot on board and did not address IFR, "autonomy" or unmanned operations. The draft vertiport design engineering brief did provide related guidance for VFR vertiport approach, departure and transitional surfaces, which must be clear of penetrations unless an FAA aeronautical study determines the penetrations not to be hazards. These VFR surfaces are not valid for IFR operations. If these VFR surfaces were inappropriately applied to IFR, they would equate to RNP 0.04 (if the 95% TSE requirement was set to 250', with only 500' full left to right for approach and departure surfaces and 4000' horizontally from the FATO), which is not currently obtainable. For IFP testing, apply RNP 0.1 (95% TSE = 607.6') with 1215' for the full left to right final approach segment (FAS) entry surface width. RNP Authorization Required (AR) approaches support the lowest RNP value in initial, intermediate, final and missed approach segments. However, design criteria for RNP AR only supports RNP values down to 0.1. The intent of this research is to design and test a built-in descent and deceleration using the lowest possible current RNP criteria.

MOP 1.1.01 will measure if the dynamic procedure design can be successfully modeled in TARGETS in conjunction with an OE/AAA. The usable dynamic procedure design sectors and IFP obstacle clearance surfaces that result will be whatever they are, based on real world obstacles and airspace constraints for the vertiport locations where the dynamic procedure design is created. Analysis of the MOPs for TSE and Flight Technical Error (FTE) for departure, approach and missed approach will permit evaluating if the obstacle surfaces designed as part of this MOP were appropriate. Candidate anticipated obstacle clearance surfaces are envisioned to accommodate various glide paths for the aircraft or simulator eVTOL aircraft. A topdown view for one approach heading is shown in Figure 6.

Figure 6. Candidate NASA UAM representative vehicle (left) candidate RNP 0.1 landing surfaces diagram (right) (Note –candidate image not drawn to scale)

MOP 1.1.02 Characterize landing area scatter to partially validate TLOF, FATO & SA dimensions

The landing area should be assessed via eVTOL simulator or flight test. Both manual with flight-directed guidance and autopilot augmentation (maximizing automation available or fully coupled) with flightdirected guidance should be tested in MOP 1.1.02 (Table 7). Statistical analysis will be run against the landing area lateral scatter data to contribute toward potential appropriate TLOF, FATO and safety area dimensions for candidate AAM operations.

STO 1.2 – Coding & Instrument Approach Plate

The STO 1.2 is a precursor to simulator or flight test to assure that the novel candidate 'dynamic procedure design' instrument flight procedure (IFP) ARINC 424 coding is feasible for ingestion, readable, and potentially useful and efficient for the UAM use case. The 'dynamic procedure design' synthesizes all individual legs or a condensed short-haul flight into one lengthened ARINC 424 code sequence inclusive of all waypoints (Table 8). In the future, additional waypoint requirements that could relate to speed or energy reserve may be explored via STO 2.2 in this flight test plan.

Coding Overview

The activity is testing high-precision point in space operations with RNP 0.1 (1215.2 ft length) final approach segment to the vertipad safety area of 120 ft (RNP 0.019). The obstacle evaluation area (OEA) scaling is represented in Figure 5. Modern PBN navigation specifications rely on aircraft automation and flight guidance to maintain the flight path. New coding guidance within DO-236 may be required to govern advanced RNP targets needed for the safe and scalable future of AAM operations. The FAA is developing a candidate code that can be standardized and validated through existing FAA Flight Checkmechanisms.

Coding Background

Every segment of every IFR departure, enroute segment, arrival and approach is a specific type of leg. Each leg is coded using a two-letter identifier that is entered as code (ARINC 424 legs) in the navigation database, and IFPs are sequences of those legs. There are 23 ARINC 424 leg types that have been created to be digested and used by the FMS. The legs are also known as "path terminators" because they describe the path or action to be taken on that leg and show where that path will end so the next leg can begin. Flight plans are entered in the FMS by chaining procedures from the navigation database together.

RNP procedures require the repeatability and predictability of a specified ground track. The dynamic procedure design wheel will be built using a combination of legs. A Radius-to-Fix (RF) leg is defined as a constant radius circular path around a defined turn center that terminates at a fix. A Track-to- Fix (TF) leg is intercepted and acquired as the flight track to the following waypoint. TF legs are sometimes called 'point-to-point' legs for this reason. The procedures should be constructed using only DO-236 preferred leg types (TF, RF) because they are fixed and not subject to different executions.

Coding Assumptions

Tailored ARINC 424 coding with TF leg types on Final Approach and RF leg types for the intermediate and final approach alignment. The eVTOL vehicle FMS should be capable to ingest candidate UAM ARINC 424 coding (Figure 7) and display flight guidance on a pilot display with the same level of precision with the departure, route, and approach coding. Ingesting experimental coding can be challenging for some eVTOL OEMs, and opportunities to involve the navigation database vendor should be explored.

Figure 7. FAS Data ARINC 424 coding

Code Validation

The code and airspace constructs created in TARGETS by FAA AJV-A for STO 1.1 should be validated by FAA Flight Operations Flight Check using the Flight Inspection Airborne Processing Application (FIAPA) software desktop simulation by FAA AJF (Table 9). The initial files of the dynamic procedure design IFP procedures are intended to be compatible with initial envisioned eVTOL performance and operations.

Table 9. Coding design test details

Coding Ingestion

The validated code will then be ingested into the eVTOL FMS for test in simulator or flight test and verified via MOP 1.2.02 - MOP 1.2.06 (Table 10):

Table 10. Coding ingestion test details

Coding Feasibility

A comparison of the scalability for the new procedures vs. standard IFPs will be conducted for MOP 1.2.07 - MOP 1.2.08 (Table 11):

FAA TARGETS

The TARGETS system is an FAA tool to automate evaluation of fixed-wing procedures using existing criteria. TARGETS will not evaluate against rotorcraft procedures nor UAM/eVTOL procedures (criteria for which does not yet exist). The system connects to Instrument Flight Procedures Automation (IFPA): IFP fix, OE/AAA (40 NM range of obstructions), terrain manually loaded (Digital Terrain Elevation Data (DTED-1) (later will use DTED-2)), AIRNAV (NAVAIDS, airports), worst-case winds or historical 5-yr average. Next, aeronautical information specialists apply the procedure to standard instrument approach procedures (SIAP) database for approaches or apply the results from TARGETS work in a manual process. Finally, the prerequisites for ARINC 424 coding are compiled for the FAA coders. Evaluation areas can be manually bound within the CAD software tool to assess flat and sloped surfaces. For the UAM/eVTOL activity, the aeronautic information specialist manually created the procedure within TARGETS. In the future, TARGETS may be coded to automate this process once applicable criteria can be developed and approved.

UAM/eVTOL IFP Differences

Several IFP components designated for the activity are novel to existing criteria and operations (Table 12):

STO 1.3 – Instrument Flight Procedures

The purpose of this STO is to characterize the safety, efficiency, passenger comfort and noise signature of different candidate eVTOL/UAM instrument phase of flight profiles (Table 13). This STO will enable the identification of the relative strengths and weaknesses of the different candidate procedures, considering the four components of IFP scalability (safety, efficiency, passenger comfort and acoustics) (Table 14).

Table 13. STO 1.3 objectives

```
SPECIFIC TEST OBJECTIVE
```
٦

F

Departure Overview

The departure flight phases tested in this test will research three different departure profiles. Additional consideration will be needed for the aircraft pre-departure configuration utilizing a rolling, hover, or grounded vertical takeoff:

Airspeed over altitude – optimize horizontal axis over the vertical axis (gain airspeed (40-80 kts) in ground effect (IGE) under 20 ft. AGL over the runway before initiating climb)

Altitude over airspeed – optimize vertical component over the horizontal component (confined area departure; remain under 10 knots (kts) until reaching 50 ft. AGL)

Prescribed climb gradient and path point definition – test a precise climb gradient departing from vertipoint (maintain angle via vertical speed indicator (VSI) and airspeed)

All departure sequences will end in a terminating altitude while simultaneously entering holding. The 'dynamic procedure design' model includes rings of waypoints that galvanize the holding pattern, alignment and final rollout point for the vertiport airspace architecture. Figure 8 below provides an example of distance and time duration of each phase of flight and required information for the particular phase. Phase of flight limitation and subsequent projections can and will change based on environmental factors, and operations for each aircraft design and control scheme.

Figure 8. Sample eVTOL departure phases

Departure Assumptions

No engine out or downwash are considered for the simulator test. All departures will occur in nominal environmental conditionings. Given many eVTOL vehicles perform enroute as a fixed wing but perform as a rotary wing in the final approach, splitting the difference between the mandated 400ft/nautical mile climb gradient restraint for rotary wing and 200ft/nautical mile for fixed wing results in an assumed 300ft/nautical mile for these tests. Wind spirals as applied to a turn can be modeled in simulation or predicted for live flight and confirmed via flight conformance data. This applies to the lift-borne, thrust-born, and transition modes of the candidate vehicle in the departure sequence (Figure 9).

Assumed required obstacle clearance (ROC) based on UAM performance considerations to establish initial operation assessment area.

CG Termination Altitude
\n
$$
CG_{TEBM} = \frac{d_{primary}}{0.15_{ALT}} - \frac{Vport_{ELEV}}{1.2} + Vport_{ELEV}}
$$

Where:

OIS_{ALT} = Obstacle Identification Surface altitude (NASA UAM Assumption). d_{Primary} = Distance (ft) from primary area boundary to obstacle. Vport_{ELEV} = Vertiport Elevation

Altitude Achieved at Fix

$$
Alt_{fix} = (r + Aircraft_{soc}) \times e \left(\frac{CG \times D_{fix}}{r} \right) - r
$$

Where: D_{fix} = Distance (ft) between A to B.
Aircraft_{soc} = Aircraft start of climb altitude at field elevation. CG = Climb gradient non-standard (NASA UAM Assumption). $r = 20890537.$ $=$ Wind spiral = Reaction and Roll point $\overline{\bullet}$

Departure Test and Procedures

Departure test details are found in Table 15 and the test departure procedure sequence is found within Table 16.

Table 16. Example departure procedure sequence

Depending upon vehicle operating procedures, achieve desired flight path using flight path marker guidance or by managing speed and VSI.

Enroute Overview

The enroute structure will consist of a route or corridor bound together by precision navigational waypoints. The lateral dimensions of the route will be based on a reduced RNP of 0.1 (1215.2 ft width) and will be truncated to 8 -15 nautical miles to represent a UAM use case. Current lowest allowable enroute RNP is 0.3 NM. Shorter routes at lower altitude will also be required to minimize climb and descents with respect to obstacle evaluation and required vertical separation. The primary leg types will be Track-to-Fix to ensure the vehicle navigation system is traced to a ground reference point since operations will be at a lower altitude for future Air Traffic Management. Candidate UAM waypoint distances, RNP and vertical separation values are parallel to current day intermediate segments in length of route, RNP cross-track tolerance, and required obstacle clearance altitudes.

Enroute Assumptions

The aircraft will navigate out of the reserved vertiport holding pattern towards the approved route of flight and adhere to the waypoint airspeed, altitude and fly by/over restrictions per the coding and/or test card.

Enroute Test and Procedures

The enroute test details are found within Table 17 and the test departure procedure sequence is found within Table 18.

Table 17. Enroute test details

Final Approach Overview

Unique final approach segments will be executed with various combinations of:

Glidepath Angle Constant Rate of Deceleration Variable Rate of Deceleration

All final approach segments will begin with the aircraft in the holding pattern that will transition from a hold above the vertiport to a final rollout point (FROP) in optimum wind alignment, wings level, at assigned altitude and specified airspeed to begin the approach. The approach will consist of a fixed altitude and entry airspeed with a variable glidepath angle entry in 5° , 8° and 12° approach segments (Figure 8).

Different deceleration profiles should be explored. One deceleration profile could involve initiating the deceleration earlier at the precision final approach fix (PFAF) and maintaining a constant rate of deceleration from the entry airspeed to the touchdown culminating at zero airspeed.

Another type of final approach deceleration profile could involve a late deceleration profile with an established (variable) deceleration point at the bottom of the approach, with higher speeds being maintained potentially as long as possible, for example to maximize time on the wing.

Final Approach Assumptions

The vehicle will start out at the airspeed and altitude within the holding pattern boundaries on the ring associated with the glide path angle that is intended to be flown. No emergency procedures, crosswind, or off-nominal environmental conditions are currently included. Special attention will need to be given to the vehicle design and configuration in the final approach phases for the procedure. As depicted in the approach (Figure 10) below, the candidate vehicle variables in propulsion mechanism, flight control scheme and operating limitations will need to be addressed and assigned before a procedure is constructed.

Figure 10. Sample final approach phases

Final Approach Test and Procedures

Once a vehicle is selected for procedure validation in live flight or simulation an airspeed to angle approach constraint chart needs to be considered for the maximum descent and deceleration profiles given a specific approach angle as depicted in Figure 11 below. Given the example, the assigned airspeed and descent rate mission rules can be derived based on the automation or pilot conformance to the maneuver. Additional attention will be needed for the tradition "Height-Velocity" diagram (located on the left side of the figure below) that will outline duration times, descent rates, airspeeds, and thermal ranges that can aide in mission rule planning beyond the "vortex ring state" or single engine operation caution areas. Final approach test details are found in Table 18 and the final approach procedure sequence is within Table 19.

Figure 11. Example Final Approach Constraint Chart

Additional Final Approach Segment Considerations

Additional considerations and factors need to be evaluated when testing the suitability of a vehicle executing a descending/decelerating precision approach procedure. Important factors include assessing field of view of the landing site (given steeper approach path angles), power required, temperature limitations (given electric propulsion systems), and workload. Several factors may play into the suitability of the procedure assessment. These include controllability at different airspeed, nacelle and/or approach angle. Testing the tailwind abuse case is also paramount. The rule of thumb is 2 degrees steeper with calm winds or 15-20kt tailwind component. Figure 12 is a graphical depiction of developing incremental crosswind component limitation test points.

- 1. Determine maximum crosswind component with given sideslip (β).
- 2. Subtract 10% of control margin of crosswind angle.
- 3. Fly final approach segment at 90% maximum left/right margin.
- 4. Report field of view, controllability, power required, and workload.
- 5. Incrementally increase glide path angle, airspeed, nacelle angle $(α)$.
- 6. Repeat for opposite side.

Figure 12. Max Crosswind Component and Nacelle Angle

When compiling final approach segment data, it is important to consider the wholistic evaluation of the procedure. Given the example in Figure 13, the procedure was first flown in the simulator as highlighted by the green trendline. Secondly, it was manually (orange trendline) flown without use of any flight director, autopilot, or automation. This is to baseline the procedure for tailwind abuse case suitability and environmental assessment. Finally, the procedure was flown with automation which creates two trend lines: the commanded path (blue trendline) and the actual path (yellow trend). This analysis can show deviation in conformance within software coding or divergence from commanded path given an environmental impact. This lifecycle comparison will inform simulator, flight check validation, approach coding and/or automation tuning.

Figure 13. Example N_Z Descent Deceleration Compilation

Missed Approach Overview

Traditional approach procedures are conducted using one specified approach speed category $1.3x$ the $V_{\rm so}$ and missed approach maneuvers simplified to a one-axis climb out maintaining airspeed and azimuth. However, if constant rate decelerations or constant airspeed variable deceleration point approaches and urban operations with severe airspace constraints are introduced, the need to research and test multi-axis missed approach procedures that include a descending, decelerating or curved approach becomes necessary for the safe, scalable standardization of a UAM airspace architecture. This missed approach section involves exploring the impact of accelerating, climbing and changing course after decoupling from the glidepath as part of a missed approach sequence. The missed approach data will impact the required obstacle evaluation unique to a vertical lift and transition-capable aircraft, where lift-borne to thrust-born and back to lift-borne flight to climb up and away from the intended Point in Space (PinS) landing is possible. Evaluation will include the distance of height loss from the decoupling point, as well as the distance of the flat surface length required for the aircraft to return to lift-borne flight after transitioning to thrust-born flight in a descent and deceleration while on a 5 \degree , 8 \degree or 12 \degree glidepaths (Figures 14 & 15).

Figure 14. Two-Axis Missed Approach

Figure 15. Three-Axis Missed Approach

Missed Approach Assumptions

Assumptions may include the aircraft is on-course and on-glidepath at the nominal airspeed before conducting the missed approach sequence. This sequence will include a missed approach or decoupling point, transition area or flat surface length, and climb gradient to a holding entry waypoint that is free from terrain, obstacles, traffic or airspace penetrations.

Missed Approach Test and Procedures

Missed approach test details are found in Table 21 and the test missed sequence is found within Table 22.

1.6.016 Autopilot Delayed (60 kts) Decel 8° Execute Coordinated Turn
1.6.017 Manual FAF (45 kts) Decel 12° Maintain On-course Heading
1.6.018 Manual Delayed (45 kts) Decel 12° Maintain On-course Heading
1.6.019 Autopilot FAF (45 kts) Decel 12° Maintain On-course Heading
1.6.020 Autopilot Delayed (45 kts) Decel 12° Maintain On-course Heading
1.6.021 Manual FAF (45 kts) Decel 12° Execute Coordinated Turn
1.6.022 Manual Delayed (45 kts) Decel Approach 12° Execute Coordinated Turn
1.6.023 Autopilot FAF (45 kts) Decel Approach 12° Execute Coordinated Turn
1.6.024 Autopilot Delayed (45 kts) Decel Approach 12° Execute Coordinated Turn
1.6.025 Tailwind Manual FAF (45 kts) Decel 12° Maintain On-course Heading
1.6.026 Tailwind Manual Delayed (45 kts) Decel 12° Maintain On-course Heading
1.6.027 Tailwind Autopilot FAF (45 kts) Decel 12° Maintain On-course Heading
1.6.028 Tailwind Autopilot Delayed (45 kts) Decel 12° Maintain On-course Heading
1.6.029 Tailwind Manual FAF (45 kts) Decel 12° Execute Coordinated Turn
1.6.030 Tailwind Manual Delayed (45 kts) Decel 12° Execute Coordinated Turn
1.6.031 Tailwind Autopilot FAF (45 kts) Decel 12° Execute Coordinated Turn
1.6.032 Tailwind Autopilot Delayed (45 kts) Decel 12° Execute Coordinated Turn

Table 22. Example Missed Approach Procedure Sequence

References

[1] Leonard, C., NASA Systems Analysis and Concepts Directorate, URL: [https://sacd.larc.nasa.gov/uam-](https://sacd.larc.nasa.gov/uam-refs/) [refs/](https://sacd.larc.nasa.gov/uam-refs/) [30 September 2023]

[2]Zahn, D., Eggum, S., Guion, A., Naru, R. (June 23) "UAM Instrument Flight Procedure Design in the Joby Flight Simulator." Document ID 20230003478. Source: NTR[S](https://ntrs.nasa.gov/citations/19840015549) [https://ntrs.nasa.gov/citations/20230003478.](https://ntrs.nasa.gov/citations/19840015549)

[3] U.S Department of Transportation, FAA (2020). *United States Standard for Terminal Instrument Procedures (TERPS) 8260.3* https://www.faa.gov/documentlibrary/media/order/nd/8260_3.pdf

[4] U.S Department of Transportation, FAA (2022). *United States Standard for Performance Based Navigation (PBN) Instrument Procedure Design (PBN) 8260.58[.](https://www.faa.gov/documentlibrary/media/order/nd/8260_58.pdf)* https://www.faa.gov/documentlibrary/media/order/nd/8260_58.pdf

[5] U.S Department of Transportation, FAA (2005). *United States Standard for Required Navigation Performance (RNP) Approach Procedures with Special Aircraft and Aircrew Authorization Required (SAAAR) 8260.52.* https://www.faa.gov/documentlibrary/media/order/nd/8260_52.pdf

[6] Clarke, S., Redifer, M., Papathakis, K., Samuel, A. & Foster, T. (2017, May 02). *NASA Conference Paper, X-57 Power and Command System Design.* Document ID: 20170005797. Source: NTRS <https://ntrs.nasa.gov/citations/20170005797>

[7] Safety Code for Elevators and [Escalators](https://up.codes/viewer/illinois/asme-a17.1-2019) 2019 of Illinois >3 Hydraulic Elevators > 3.17 Car Safeties, Counterweight Safeties, Plunger Gripper, and Governors > 3.17.3 Plunger Gripper > 3.17.3.5 Deceleration. <https://up.codes/s/deceleration>

[8] NASA-STD-3001, Volume2, Revision C, *NASA Space Flight Human-System Standard Volume 2: Human Factors, Habitability, And Environmental Health*

[9] ISO 2631-1:1997 *Mechanical vibration and shock — Evaluation of human exposure to wholebody vibration — Part 1: General requirements*. <https://www.iso.org/standard/7612.html>

[10] Pascioni, K.A., Watts, M.E., Houston, M.L., Lind, A.H., Stephenson, J.H., & Bain, J.J. (2022, May 2). *NASA Conference Paper, Acoustic Flight Test of the Joby Aviation Advanced Air Mobility Prototype Vehicle* Document ID: 20220006729. Source: NTRS <https://ntrs.nasa.gov/citations/20220006729>

[11] Zahn, D. & Sharma, S. (2020). *NASA Conference Paper, Microplex: Integrated UAM Operations in a Multimodal Transportation System* PID 6535875. Source: AIAA

[12] Evaluation of Wide Area Augmentation System Helicopter Operations including Localizer Performance with Vertical Guidance (LPV) to a Point in Space (PinS) Approach, FAA, 2011

Appendix A – Procedure Automation Rating Criteria (PARM)

IFP Safety MOP 1.3.03 corresponds with Qualitative pilot assessment of procedure flyability, safety and design. For the metrics, NC designed the Procedure Automation Rating Matrix (PARM), a matrix to evaluate UAM instrument flight procedure design, flyability and interoperability of candidate departure, enroute, and approach architectures in live flight or simulation. The PARM is a multi-dimensional rating scale designed to provide direct feedback from test pilots and operators to airspace procedure designers developing airspace constructs for the integration and scalability of AAM operations in the NAS. The PARM is assessed using a hierarchical decision tree that guides the operator through a ten-point alphanumeric rating scale initiated either with or without the use of automation. For more information, reference *Procedure Automation Rating Matrix AAM Document Number: AAM-NC-112-001*.

Appendix B – Example Test Points & Requirements Matrix

Flight Segment 02

Flight Segment 03

Appendix C - Abbreviations, Acronyms & New Terms

New Terms

