

Blended Wing Body (BWB) Project Overview

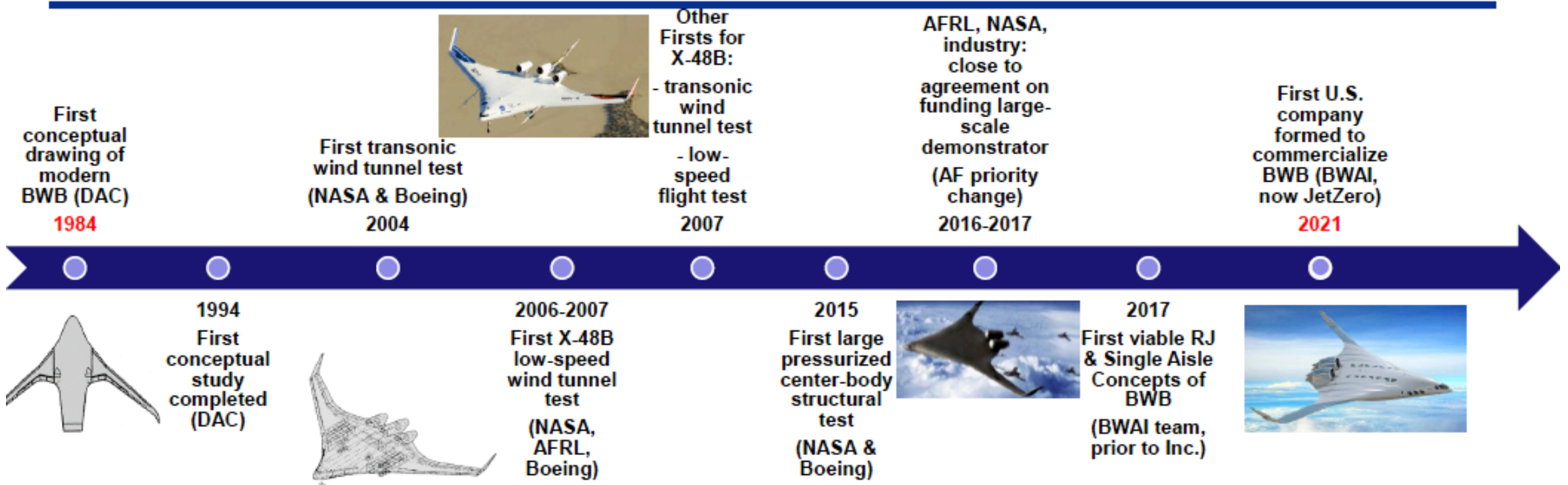
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March 12, 2024

SAE AeroTech

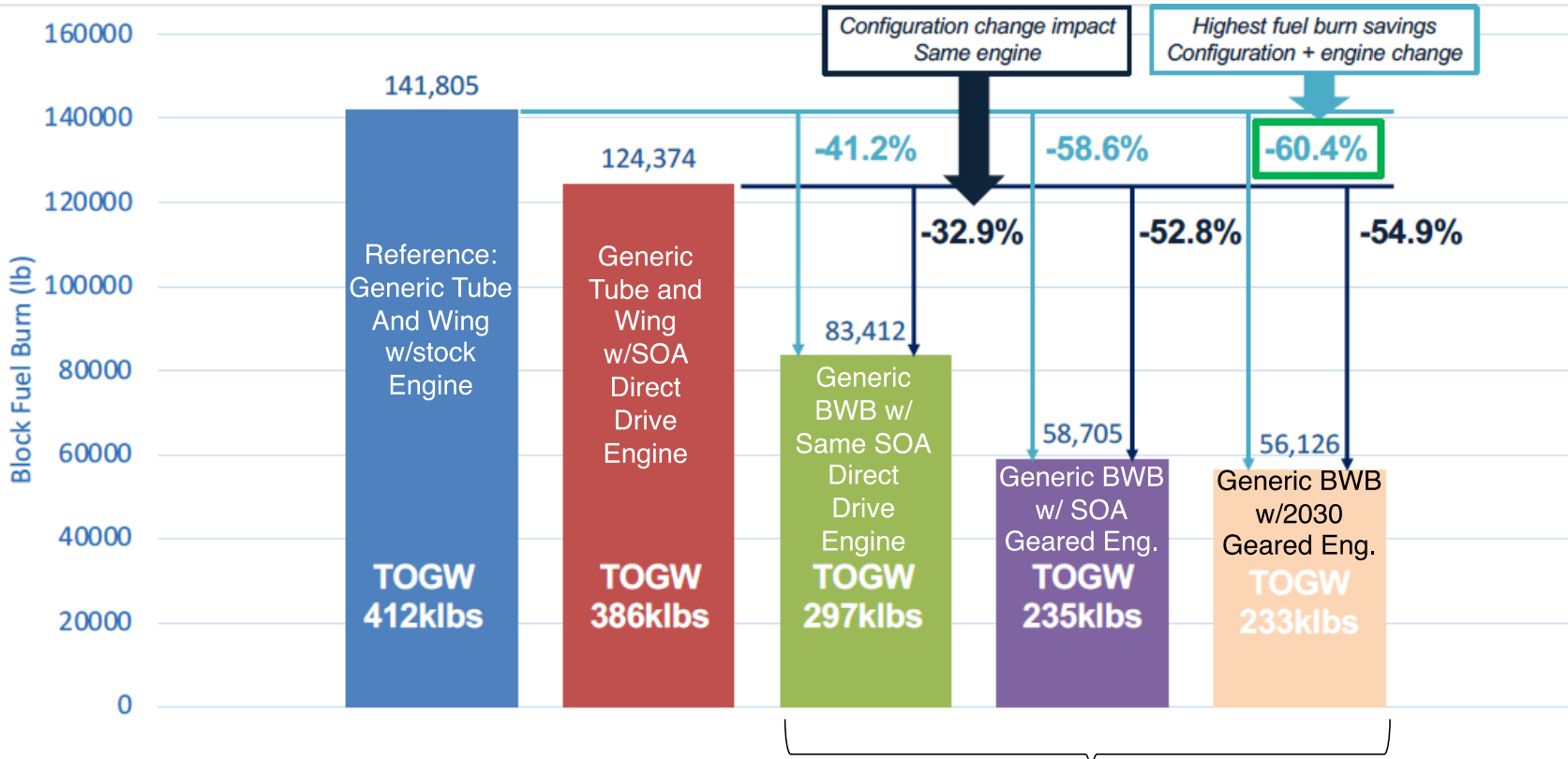
History of BWB Research and Development



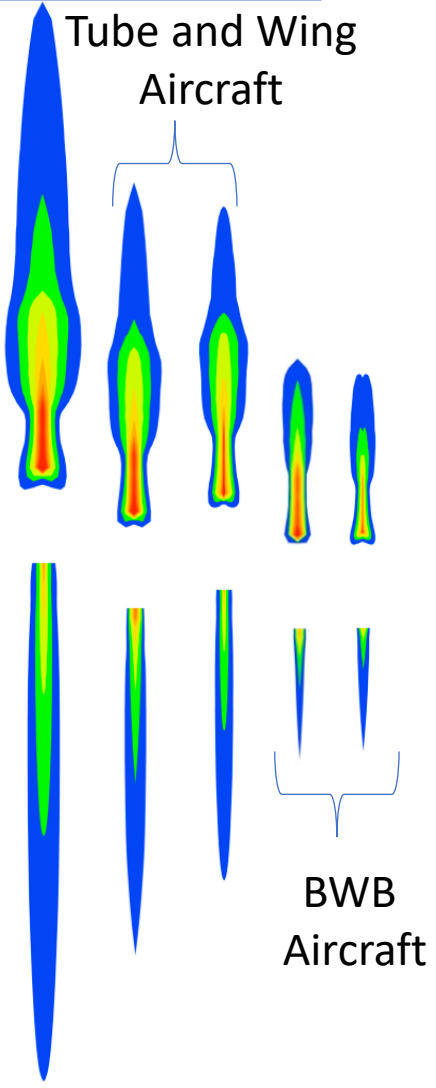
NASA has invested roughly \$500M to mature the modern BWB technology and demonstrate viability with proven benefits; AFRL has also invested \$10's of millions

Potential BWB Airliner Impacts

Small Twin Aisle Seat Class Mission Analysis – NASA/Georgia Tech (2022) Generic BWB versus Generic Tube and Wing



Damage Arresting Composites Technology Maturation Report (2022)
Independent Assessments of **Recent** BWB Commercialization Efforts



Noise Footprint

¹

Potential BWB Tanker/Airlift Impacts

- **Fuel-constrained wars will reward fuel efficiency → improved energy intensity**
 - Reduces sorties cancelled due to lack of fuel
 - Enables longer-range sorties → increases basing options
 - Basing further away reduces attrition rates
 - Reduces logistics requirements, or increases capability with same log requirements
- **Summary of BWB advantages (767-size class, tanker application):**
 - +30% aerodynamic efficiency over KC-46 (propulsion efficiency gains are additive)
 - +94% offload capability at 2,500nmi radius
 - +97% radius at 50,000 lbs offload
 - **Strat Air applications: increased volumetric efficiency improves cargo productivity (ton-miles per pound of fuel), a key metric in energy intensity of airlift operations**

Overarching Objectives of the BWB Project

Stimulate widespread adoption of BWB technology in commercial and military markets

Develop public/private partnership to enable rapid BWB technology adoption

Build and fly a full-scale BWB demonstrator by 2027

Flight demonstrate 30-percent aerodynamic efficiency gain over legacy Tube and Wing commercial and military products

Approach

Utilize a Commercial Solutions Offering-based agreement method

Defense Innovation Unit chosen as the agreement agent

Initial effort was monitored by a small gov't team representing key DoD and Air Force stakeholders

A bigger team was developed/deployed to lead the effort beyond conceptual design phase

Key milestones to date

Conducted under government contract

- Area of Interest developed and posted June – July 2022
- Robust set of responses received and evaluated Aug 2022
- Agreement development and concept design phase Sept – Apr 2023
- Evaluation and down selection May – Aug 2023

Conducted under public/private partnership

- Announcement and kickoff meeting at JetZero August 15, 2023
- System Requirements Review at JetZero January 28, 2024

Overview of project schedule beyond SRR

Time Now: 02/29/2024

BWB Flying Testbed Development Schedule / Cost Estimate to First Flight Readiness Review (B767/A330 - Capability Class)																
Description	CY2023				CY2024				CY2025				CY2026			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Air Vehicle Design	▲				▲				▲							
Airframe					—				—				—			
Avionics & Flight Controls	—				—				—				—			
Airframe Integration/Test					—				—				—			
Structural Analysis/Test					—				—				—			
Air Vehicle	—				—				—				▲			
Flight Simulator, Copper Bird, Iron Bird	—				—				—				—			
Ground Test					—				—				—			
Ground Loads Test													—			
Flight Test													▲			
Lifecycle Reviews	Kickoff / CoDR		Down - Select & KO		SRR		PDR		CDR		SIR		FFR			

- Deliverables
- Flying Testbed (FT) w/FAA Experimental Certificate
- Maintenance, Ops, & Safety Manuals for FT
- Technology Maturation Status & Plans
- FT Aerodynamic Performance Test Plan
- FT Mission System Upgrade & Demonstration Plan
- Manufacturing & Production Readiness Plan

Key technical demonstrations

- Design tools to enable rapid and accurate design iterations
- Outer mold line to enable high aerodynamic efficiency gains
- Landing gear system design / test to enable single deck design
- System of ground laboratories to enable rapid system design / test
- Cabin layout to enable dramatically improved customer experience and customer acceptance
- Parallel manufacturing and factory developments to enable rapid transition to low-rate production (by 2030)

BWB - A clear path to zero carbon emissions

Flight Demonstration Objectives

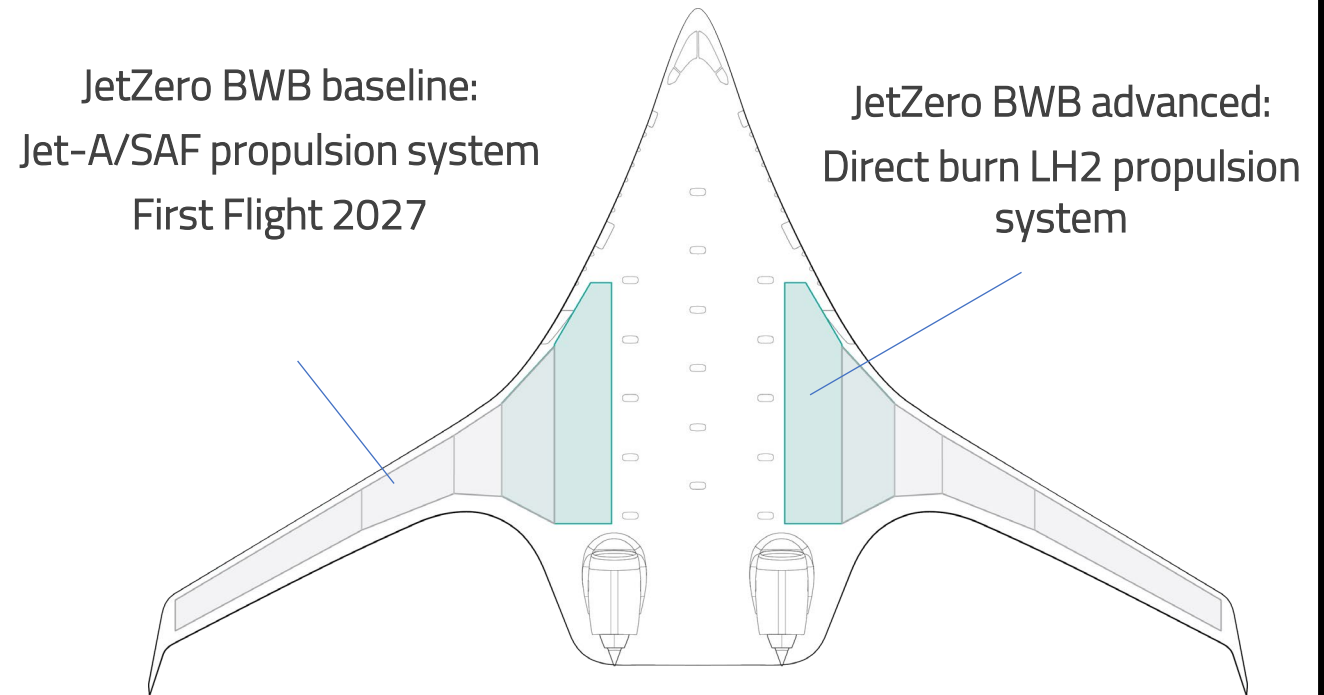
- Flight demonstrate full scale blended wing body
- Demonstrate COTS propulsion system integration with novel airframe configuration
- Measure and quantify aerodynamic efficiency gain over SOA tube and wing products

In parallel, mature production readiness

- Advance manufacturing processes

Relevance to Market

- Advance TRL/MRL/SRL a for family of passenger, cargo & tanker products
- Encourage additional innovations to enable zero carbon emissions for long range flight



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Questions



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