Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate
Integrated Systems Research Program (ISRP) and
UAS Integration in the NAS Project

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Director (Acting), Integrated Systems Research Program

Meeting of Experts on NASA's Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) Integration in the
National Airspace Systems (NAS) Project

Aeronautics and Space Engineering Board
National Research Council
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Enabling “Game Changing” concepts and technologies from advancing fundamental research ultimately to understand the feasibility of advanced systems.
NASA Aeronautics Portfolio in FY2010

**Fundamental Aeronautics Program**
Conduct cutting-edge research that will produce innovative concepts, tools, and technologies to enable revolutionary changes for vehicles that fly in all speed regimes.

**Aviation Safety Program**
Conduct cutting-edge research that will produce innovative concepts, tools, and technologies to improve the intrinsic safety attributes of current and future aircraft.

**Integrated Systems Research Program**
Conduct research at an integrated system-level on promising concepts and technologies and explore/assess/demonstrate the benefits in a relevant environment.

**Airspace Systems Program**
Directly address the fundamental ATM research needs for NextGen by developing revolutionary concepts, capabilities, and technologies that will enable significant increases in the capacity, efficiency and flexibility of the NAS.

**Aeronautics Test Program**
Preserve and promote the testing capabilities of one of the United States’ largest, most versatile and comprehensive set of flight and ground-based research facilities.
ISRP Goal and Characteristics

Integrated Systems Research Program (ISRP):
Research and technology (R&T) program that will conduct research at an integrated system-level on promising concepts and technologies and explore, assess, or demonstrate the benefits in a relevant environment

Criteria for selection of projects for Integrated Systems Research:
- Technology has attained enough maturity in the foundational research program that they merit more in-depth evaluation at an integrated system level in a relevant environment
- Technologies which systems analysis indicates have the most potential for contributing to the simultaneous attainment of goals
- Technologies identified through stakeholder input as having potential for simultaneous attainment of goals
- Research not being done by other government agencies and appropriate for NASA to conduct
- Budget augmentation
Program Goal:
Conduct research at an integrated system-level on promising concepts and technologies and explore, assess, or demonstrate the benefits in a relevant environment.

Environmentally Responsible Aviation (ERA) Project
Explore and assess new vehicle concepts and enabling technologies through system-level experimentation to simultaneously reduce fuel burn, noise, and emissions.

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Integration in the National Airspace System (NAS) Project
Contribute capabilities that reduce technical barriers related to the safety and operational challenges associated with enabling routine UAS access to the NAS.

Innovative Concepts for Green Aviation (ICGA) Project
Spur innovation by offering research opportunities to the broader aeronautics community through peer-reviewed proposals, with a focus on making aviation more eco-friendly. Establish incentive prizes similar to the Centennial Challenges and sponsor innovation demonstrations of selected technologies that show promise of reducing aviation’s impact on the environment.
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1/ FY 2009 shows the July Operating Plan including the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.
2/ FY 2010 shows the Consolidated Appropriation Act, 2010 (PL 111-117) without the Administrative transfers.
Rationale for UAS NAS Integration Project

- The need to fly UAS in the NAS is of increasing urgency to perform missions of vital importance to national security and defense, emergency management, and science (DOD, DHS, FEMA, NASA, DOC, NOAA)
- UAS are unable to routinely access the airspace system today
- No regulations for UAS exist – aviation regulations built upon condition of pilot being onboard vehicles
- Need technologies and procedures to enable seamless operation and integration of UAS in the NAS
D10 Safe operation of unmanned aerial vehicles in the national airspace for a variety of civil applications (e.g., farming, communications relays, border monitoring, power line and pipeline monitoring, and firefighting) will continue to increase. Flight operations of military UAVs in civil airspace is also expected to increase. To facilitate these operations, UAVs should be integrated into the air transportation system...

SEC. 1116. COOPERATIVE UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLE ACTIVITIES.

The Administrator, in cooperation with the Administrator of NOAA and in coordination with other agencies that have existing civil capabilities, shall continue to utilize the capabilities of unmanned aerial vehicles as appropriate in support of NASA and interagency cooperative missions. The Administrator may enter into cooperative agreements with universities with unmanned aerial vehicle programs and related assets to conduct collaborative research and development activities, including the development of appropriate applications of small unmanned aerial vehicle technologies and systems in remote areas.
Executive Branch Guidance

- Address operational and safety issues related to the integration of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) into the national airspace
- Coordinate efforts with other UAS stakeholders in the DoD, DHS and FAA to avoid duplication and accommodate all user requirements
NASA Contributions to UAS Integration in the NAS

- Concept of Operations (ConOps) and Technology Roadmaps to enable focus for research and technology investments
- Simulations and field trials of technology developments designed to achieve safe separation of UAS in NextGen traffic densities
- Validated design guidelines and prototypes to improve safety and reliability
- Agreements with partners and stakeholders to effectively transition matured technology and inform investment readiness and implementation decisions for measurable system benefits