A Future with Hybrid Electric Propulsion Systems: A NASA Perspective

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Turbine Engine Technology Symposium
Strategic Visions Workshop
Dayton, OH
September 11, 2014
www.nasa.gov
Outline of Talk

• Future Challenges of Commercial Aviation

• The NASA Fixed Wing (FW) Project

• Why Hybrid Electric Propulsion?

• NASA Fixed Wing Perspective on Enabling Hybrid Electric Propulsion for Commercial Transport Aircraft

• NASA Fixed Wing Investments in Hybrid Electric Propulsion

• Concluding Remarks
Why is aviation so important?
The air transportation system is critical to U.S. economic vitality

$1.3$ TRILLION
TOTAL U.S. ECONOMIC ACTIVITY
(civil and general aviation, 2009)

$47.1$ BILLION
POSITIVE TRADE BALANCE
(civil aviation, 2011)

10.2 MILLION
DIRECT AND INDIRECT JOBS
(civil and general aviation, 2009)

5.2% OF TOTAL U.S. GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP)
(civil and general aviation, 2009)
What do emerging global trends reveal?

China and India are growing economically at unprecedented rates.

Asia-Pacific will have the largest middle class.

The world will be predominantly urban.

Revolutionary technology development and adoption are accelerating.

Source: National Intelligence Council
Why are these trends important?

They drive global demand for air travel…

They drive expanding competition for high-tech manufacturing…

They drive “leapfrog” adoption of new technology and infrastructure…

They drive resource use, costs, constraints, and impacts…

They drive need for alternative energy technologies…
How Do These Trends Affect Aviation?

Three mega-drivers emerge

Severe energy and climate issues create enormous affordability and sustainability challenges

Revolutions in automation, information and communication technologies enable opportunity for safety critical autonomous systems
The NASA Fixed Wing Project

Explore and Develop Technologies and Concepts for Improved Energy Efficiency and Environmental Compatibility for Sustained Growth of Commercial Aviation

- Early stage exploration and initial development of game-changing technologies and concepts for fixed wing vehicles and propulsion systems
- Commercial focus, but dual use with military
- Along with Environmentally Responsible Aviation (ERA) project focused on subsonic commercial transport vehicles
- Research vision guided by vehicle performance metrics developed for reducing noise, emissions, and fuel burn

Evolution of Subsonic Transports

1903  1930s  1950s  2000s

DC-3  B-707  B-787
Fixed Wing Project
Fundamental Aeronautics Program

N+3 Advanced Vehicle Concept Studies Summary

Advanced concept studies for commercial subsonic transport aircraft for 2030-35 Entry into Service (EIS)

Technology Trends:
• Tailored/multifunctional structures
• High aspect ratio/laminar/active structural control
• Highly integrated propulsion systems
• Ultra-high bypass ratio (20+ with small cores)
• Alternative fuels and emerging hybrid electric concepts
• Noise reduction by component, configuration, and operations improvements

Boeing, GE, GA Tech
NG, RR, Tufts, Sensis, Spirit
GE, Cessna, GA Tech
MIT, Aurora, P&W, Aerodyne
NASA, VA Tech, GT

Advances required on multiple fronts…
NASA Fixed Wing Project Research Themes
Based on Goal-Driven Advanced Concept Studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goals Metrics (N+3)</th>
<th>Noise</th>
<th>Emissions (LTO)</th>
<th>Emissions (cruise)</th>
<th>Energy Consumption</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stage 4 – 52 dB cum</td>
<td>CAEP6 – 80%</td>
<td>2005 best – 80%</td>
<td>2005 best – 60%</td>
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</table>

Goal-Driven Advanced Concepts (N+3)

1. Lighter-Weight Lower Drag Fuselage
2. Higher Aspect Ratio Optimal Wing
3. Quieter Low-Speed Performance
4. Cleaner, Compact Higher BPR Propulsion
5. Hybrid Gas-Electric Propulsion
6. Unconventional Propulsion Airframe Integration
7. Alternative Fuel Emissions

Research Themes with Investments in both Near-Term Tech Challenges and Long-Term (2030) Vision
Hybrid Electric Propulsion for Commercial Transports

- The hybrid-electric promise - cleaner, quieter, conserves energy, less atmospheric heat release, more reliable
- Gen N+3/N+4 advanced concept studies have identified promising aircraft and propulsion systems
- Electric-based propulsion systems for commercial aircraft will enable national environmental and fuel burn reduction goals to be met
- Industry roadmaps acknowledge shift toward electric technologies
- Recent successes in development of all-electric GA aircraft and UAVs
- Research horizon is long-term but with periodic spinoff of technologies for introduction in aircraft with more- and all-electric architectures
- NASA can help accelerate key technologies in collaboration with other Government agencies, industry, and academia
- Research aligned with new NASA Aeronautics strategic R&T thrusts
Benefits Estimated From Advanced Concept Studies

**Boeing SUGAR**  
(baseline Boeing 737, 2008 tech)  
- ~60% fuel burn reduction  
- ~53% energy use reduction  
- 77-87% reduction in NOx  
- 24-31 EPNdB cum noise reduction

**NASA N3-X**  
(baseline Boeing 777-200)  
- ~63% energy use reduction  
- ~90% NOx reduction  
- 32-64 EPNdB cum noise reduction
Possible Future Electric-Based Transport Aircraft

Concepts can use either non-cryogenic ambient temp or cryogenic superconducting technologies.
Boeing-GE “SUGAR-Volt” Hybrid Electric Propulsion

Advanced Composite Fan
1.35 PR, 89.4” fan
Advanced 3-D aero design
Sculpted features, low noise
Thin, durable edges

Ultra-high PR core compressor
59 OPR, 9 stages
Active clearance control

HPT
2-Stage
CMC nozzles + blades
Next-gen ceramic
Active purge control
Next-gen disk material

Variable core nozzle

Advanced nacelle
Slender OD
Unitized composite
Advanced acoustic features

Advanced combustor
Integrated thrust reverser/VFN
Highly variable fan nozzle

Advanced Motor & Gearbox
5500 HP power output
Advanced gear box

LPT
8-Stage
Highly Loaded Stages
CMC blades/vanes (weight)
ESAero ECO-150 and Dual-Use Split-Wing Turboelectric Configuration

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ECO-150 (3-3)</th>
<th>DU-Civil (2-3-2)</th>
<th>737-700 (3-3)</th>
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<tr>
<td>TOGW</td>
<td>139,700</td>
<td>142,400</td>
<td>154,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Propulsion Wt (“dry”)</td>
<td>28,350</td>
<td>27,820</td>
<td>10,430</td>
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<tr>
<td>Payload*</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>24,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuel*</td>
<td>28,900</td>
<td>28,900</td>
<td>46,612</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seat-Mile/Gal</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor hp/lb</td>
<td>2.46</td>
<td>Gen hp/lb</td>
<td>4.30</td>
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* At 3440 nm range

Fixed Wing Project
Fundamental Aeronautics Program
Many small fans give a large total fan area and very high effective bypass ratio by center-body wake. Electric power from generators distributed to multiple motor-driven propulsors. Large efficient engines with freestream inlets drive superconducting generators. Low velocity core exhaust reduces noise.
Hybrid Electric Propulsion (HEP) Systems for Aviation

What is needed?

- Conceptual designs of aircraft and propulsion systems
- Higher power density generators and motors
- Flight-weight power system architectures and simulations
- Higher energy density energy storage systems (non-NASA)
- Extensive ground and flight testing
NASA FW HEP Technology Roadmap

MW Size Motors

- **Today**
  - 4 hp/lb (6.6 kW/kg), partially superconducting

**Cryogenic, Superconducting**

- **2020**
  - 8 hp/lb (13.2 kW/kg)
- **2025**
  - 10 hp/lb (16.5 kW/kg)
- **2030**
  - 12 hp/lb (19.7 kW/kg)
- **2035**
  - 20 hp/lb (33.0 kW/kg)
  - 25 hp/lb (41.1 kW/kg)

**Non-Cryogenic**

Power Electronics

- 2X increase in power density
- 5X increase in power density
- 10X increase in power density

Power Transmission System

- 2X decrease in weight
- 5X decrease in weight
- 10X decrease in weight

Electric Propulsion-Aircraft Integration

- Perf. and control system verification in KW scale
- Perf. and control system verification in MW scale
- Subscale flight test

Distributed electric propulsion performance and control

Perf. and control system verification in KW scale

Subscale flight test
Technical Areas and Approaches

**Propulsion System Conceptual Design**
- Reference hybrid electric propulsion system(s) for component maturation established
- Key technologies identified

**High Power Density Motors and Generators**
- Superconducting and non-cryo technologies
- Explore conventional and non-conventional topologies
- Integrate novel thermal management
- Develop advanced component materials

**Flight-Weight Power System and Electronics**
- High power electric grid architecture, modeling and simulation tools
- High voltage power electronics, transmission, and protection
- Lightweight power transmission materials
- Control systems for distributed propulsion

**Integrated Subsystem Testing**
- Component interactions – validate performance and matching at steady-state and transient operation
- Validate control methodologies
- Validation experiments, system demos, flight tests
Recent Activities

Superconducting Motors
- Cryocoolers, superconducting wire, power management components, AC loss analysis and motor design
- AML, U of Houston, Creare, MTECH, Hypertech
- Fully superconducting subscale motor test in 2017

High Power Density, Non-cryogenic Motors
- Boeing SUGAR concept
- Initiating new NRA efforts leading to 1MW scale non-cryo motor test in 2019

Distributed Propulsion
- NASA N3-X, ESAero ES-150 concepts
- AirVolt and Hybrid AirVolt test stands

Power Management
- Propulsion Electric Grid Simulator
- RR, GE contracts for high-power electrical grid architecture, voltage, and components for turboelectric aircraft

Other Related NASA Activities
- GA-scale distributed electric propulsion concept validation leading to flight demo
- Electric-based propulsion for rotorcraft
- Design competitions targeting small electric aircraft
- Coordinating research activities across several OGAs – AF; Navy - NAVSEA, Electric Ships Office, NPS; Army; DOE-LLNL; NASA
The Way Forward

• Conceptual designs and trade studies for electric-based concepts
• Tech development and demonstration for N+3 MW class aircraft
• Development of core technologies, i.e., turbine coupled motors, propulsion integration modeling, power architectures, power electronics, thermal management, flight controls
• Multi-platform (turbo-, hybrid-, all-electric) technology testbeds
  – Fully superconducting motor
  – 8 hp/lb (2x SOA) non-cryogenic electric motors
  – 2x power density increase for power electronics
  – Performance and control system verification for distributed electric propulsion at kW scale
• Development of multi-scale modeling and simulation tools
• Focus on future large regional jets and single-aisle twin (Boeing 737-class) aircraft for greatest impact on fuel burn, noise and emissions