



Aurora's D8 Ultra-Efficient Commercial Aircraft Design

Aurora D8 takes next step towards X-Plane

Manassas, VA, September 13, 2016 – Aurora Flight Sciences has been awarded a six-month \$2.9M contract from NASA for continued development of the company's D8 aircraft, an ultra-efficient subsonic commercial airliner. The contract is provided to begin the process of defining X-Plane requirements and associated research needed to enable the D8 aircraft.

The D8 is a commercial aircraft concept that enables substantial efficiency improvements within the next decade; by entry into service the D8 will be over 50% more fuel-efficient than current best-in-class aircraft while simultaneously reducing airline operating costs.

The D8 evolved from Aurora's work on the NASA N+3 Program. In 2009, a combined Aurora, MIT and Pratt & Whitney team was awarded a contract to study technologies and designs for transport-class aircraft that could enter service during the 2030s.

Aurora's design – named the D8 after its chief designer Mark Drela – reconfigures the classic tube-and-wing aircraft in order to make extensive use of Boundary Layer Ingestion (BLI), high bypass ratio engines, and composite materials. The D8 benefits are enabled by modern composite manufacturing technologies and a propulsion system that leverages BLI. In addition, the design offers significant noise and emissions reductions. "Best of all, though, is the twin-aisle design and quiet interior that we are sure passengers will love" said Aurora CEO John Langford.

In 2015, the FAA selected the D8 for design development under its Continuous Lower Energy, Emissions and Noise Program (CLEEN II). In the CLEEN II program, Aurora will design, fabricate and test the unique structural features of the D8 fuselage in order to demonstrate the aircraft's substantial weight savings and manufacturability. The structural test articles fabricated under this program will be at the same scale as the planned X-Plane, thereby serving as part of a building-block approach for a flight demonstrator.

In its FY2017 budget, NASA announced the New Aviation Horizons program. In this new program, NASA intends to flight test a series of X-planes capable of demonstrating significant reductions in fuel consumption, community noise impacts, and air quality impacts. The award announced today will help mature the D8 as a possible X-plane candidate that supports NASA's Ultra Efficient Subsonic Transport Thrust and accomplishes Mid- and Far-Term Community Goals

For more information on Aurora's D8 design, visit www.aurora.aero/D8.

Media Contact:

Shelly Simi
Director of Corporate Communications & Public Relations
simi.shelly@aurora.aero
Office: 703.530.1963
Mobile: 571.379.0071

About Aurora Flight Sciences:

Aurora Flight Sciences is an innovative technology company which strives to create smarter aircraft through the development of versatile and intuitive autonomous systems. Operating at the intersection of technology and robotic aviation, Aurora leverages the power of autonomy to make manned and unmanned flight safer and more efficient. Headquartered in Manassas, Virginia, Aurora operates production plants in Bridgeport, West Virginia and Columbus, Mississippi, has Research and Development Centers in Cambridge, Massachusetts, Dayton, Ohio and Mountain View, California, and a European office, Aurora Swiss Aerospace, located in Lucerne, Switzerland. To view recent press releases and more about Aurora please visit our website at www.aurora.aero.

Aurora Press Release APR334

Aurora Flight Sciences Corporation		www.aurora.aero	
9950 Wakeman Drive Manassas, VA 20110-2702 703-369-3633 • Fax 703-369-4514	3000 East Benedum Industrial Drive Bridgeport, WV 26330-9683 304-842-8100 • Fax 304-842-8116	90 Broadway, Suite 11 Cambridge, MA 02142-1110 617-500-4800 • Fax 617-500-4810	200 Aurora Way Columbus, MS 39701-9670 662-328-8227 • Fax 662-328-8971