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### **Aurora Joins MIT on NASA Study for Subsonic Commercial Transports**

Manassas, VA, December 16, 2008 - Aurora Flight Sciences has been selected by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) to join in the project to produce a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) concept study for subsonic commercial transports entering service in the 2030-35 time period.

NASA is seeking to stimulate innovation and foster the pursuit of revolutionary conceptual designs for future aircraft. The demand for air travel will only increase but the numbers of airports will not, fuel costs are growing and concern about “going green” is real. The study will be an 18-month effort to develop a concept for a 737-class transport aircraft with 70% improvement in fuel efficiency, the ability to operate from 3000 foot runways, and significantly reduce noise and pollution emissions.

As an aerospace company engaged in the design, development, production and support of innovative aerospace vehicles Aurora Flight Sciences brings to the table excellence in aircraft component and sub-system technology as well as system integration. “Joining with MIT on this study is a very exciting expansion of Aurora’s portfolio into manned transport aircraft,” stated Joe Parrish, Vice President of the Research & Development Center in Cambridge, MA. “The completed study will define the technologies, research and development needed for the development of a subsonic aircraft that will change the face of aviation for years to come.”

#### **About Aurora Flight Sciences**

Aurora Flight Sciences designs and builds robotic aircraft and other advanced aerospace vehicles for scientific and military applications. Aurora is headquartered in Manassas, VA and operates production plants in Clarksburg, WV and Columbus, MS and a Research and Development Center in Cambridge, MA. To view recent press releases and more about Aurora please visit our web site at [www.aurora.aero](http://www.aurora.aero).