



Environmentally Responsible Aviation Technical Overview

Presented by

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Contributors

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Meeting of Experts

Aeronautics and Space Engineering Board Meeting

National Research Council

Washington, DC

May 14-15, 2009



- Overview
 - Vision, Mission, Scope, Goals
 - Alternate Vehicle Concepts and Technologies
- Technical Approach
 - Project Framework/Schedule
 - Critical Technology Areas
- Concluding Remarks



ERA Project Framework

- Vision
 - ERA will expand the viable and well-informed trade space for vehicle design decisions enabling simultaneous realization of National noise, emissions, and performance goals
 - ERA will enable continued aviation growth while reducing or eliminating adverse effects on the environment
- Mission
 - Perform research to explore/assess the feasibility, benefits, interdependencies, and risks of vehicle concepts and enabling technologies identified as having potential to mitigate the impact of aviation on the environment
 - Transfer knowledge outward to the aeronautics community, and inward to NASA fundamental aeronautics projects
- Scope
 - N+2 vehicle concepts and enabling technologies
 - System/subsystem research in relevant environments



ERA Project Context

National Plan for Aeronautics R&D

- Mobility, Security/Defense, Safety, Energy & Environment
 - Enable growth in Mobility/Aviation/Transportation
 - Dual use with Security/Defense
 - Safety and Cost Effectiveness are pervasive factors
- Energy and Environment goals are central to ERA
 - Energy Diversity
 - use of alternative fuels, not creation of alternative fuels
 - Energy Efficiency
 - Environmental Impact
 - reduction of impacts, not reducing scientific uncertainties of impacts



Subsonic Fixed Wing System Level Metrics

.... technology for improving noise, emissions, & performance

CORNERS OF THE TRADE SPACE	N+1 (2015) ^{***} Generation Conventional Configurations relative to 1998 reference	N+2 (2020) ^{***} Generation Unconventional Configurations relative to 1998 reference	N+3 (2025) ^{***} Generation Advanced Aircraft Concepts relative to user-defined reference
Noise	-32 dB (cum below Stage 4)	-42 dB (cum below Stage 4)	-71dB (cum below Stage 4)
LTO NOx Emissions (below CAEP 6)	-60%	-75%	better than -75%
Performance: Aircraft Fuel Burn	-33% ^{**}	-40% ^{**}	better than -70%
Performance: Field Length	-33%	-50%	exploit metro-plex* concepts

^{***}Technology Readiness Level for key technologies = 4-6

^{**} Additional gains may be possible through operational improvements

* Concepts that enable optimal use of runways at multiple airports within the metropolitan area

Approach

- Enable Major Changes in Engine Cycle/Airframe Configurations
- Reduce Uncertainty in Multi-Disciplinary Design and Analysis Tools and Processes
- Develop/Test/ Analyze Advanced Multi-Discipline Based Concepts and Technologies



Alternate Configuration Concepts

Many ideas, but...

What combination of configuration and technology can meet the goals?

What is possible in the N+2 timeframe?



Airbus
Aviation Week 1/15/01



Boeing NRA
FAP Annual Mtg 10/08



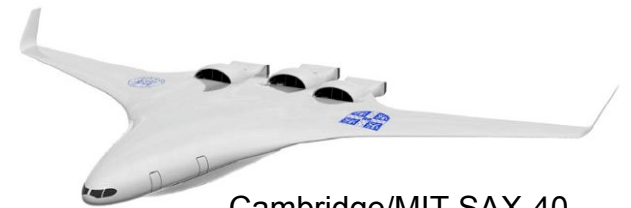
Boeing/MIT/UCI NRA
Aviation Week 2/2/09



Airbus
Aviation Week 1/15/01



NASA VSP
2003



Cambridge/MIT SAX-40
1/07



easyJet ecoJet
Reuters 6/14/07



NASA- M Moore
2009



RAeS Concept
Greener By Design, 2006



Underlying Technology

- Technology enablers - broadly applicable
 - less visible than configuration features
 - applicable to alternate and advanced conventional configurations
 - Noise: continuous mold lines, increasing ducted BPR
 - Emissions: low NOx combustion, reduced fuel burn technologies
 - Fuel Burn: lightweight structure, reduced drag, and reduced SFC

$$\text{Aircraft Range} = \frac{\text{Velocity}}{\text{TSFC}} \left(\frac{\text{Lift}}{\text{Drag}} \right) \ln \left(1 + \frac{W_{\text{fuel}}}{W_{\text{PL}} + W_{\text{O}}} \right)$$

• Engine Fuel Consumption • Aerodynamics • Empty Weight

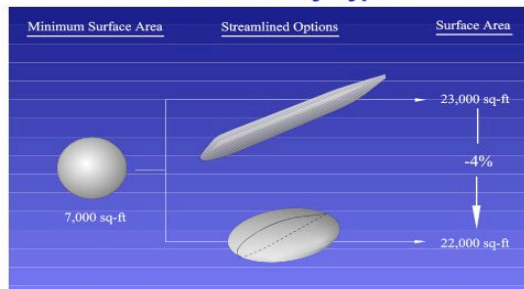


Alternate Configuration Concepts

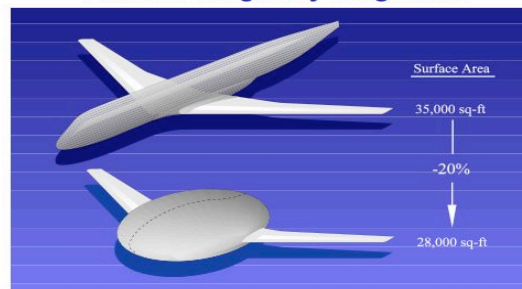
a case study to show what is possible

- Many ideas, but most concepts remain on paper
 - Hybrid Wing Body (HWB) concept has been explored in more detail
 - 1989 Origins: NASA Advanced Concepts Workshop challenges aeronautics community
 - 1990s System Concept Studies, Technology Challenges identified

Effect of Body Type



Effect of Wing/Body Integration



Effect of Engine Installation



Effect of Controls Integration



Benefits

- Greater fuel efficiency
- Reduced Environmental Impact
- Operational Flexibility

Challenges

- Noncylindrical pressure vessel
- Edge-of-the-envelope flight dynamics
- Propulsion-Airframe Integration (PAI)

33% wetted area reduction offers huge viscous drag reduction potential

Liebeck, AIAA-2002-0002



Alternate Configuration Concepts

a case study to show what is possible

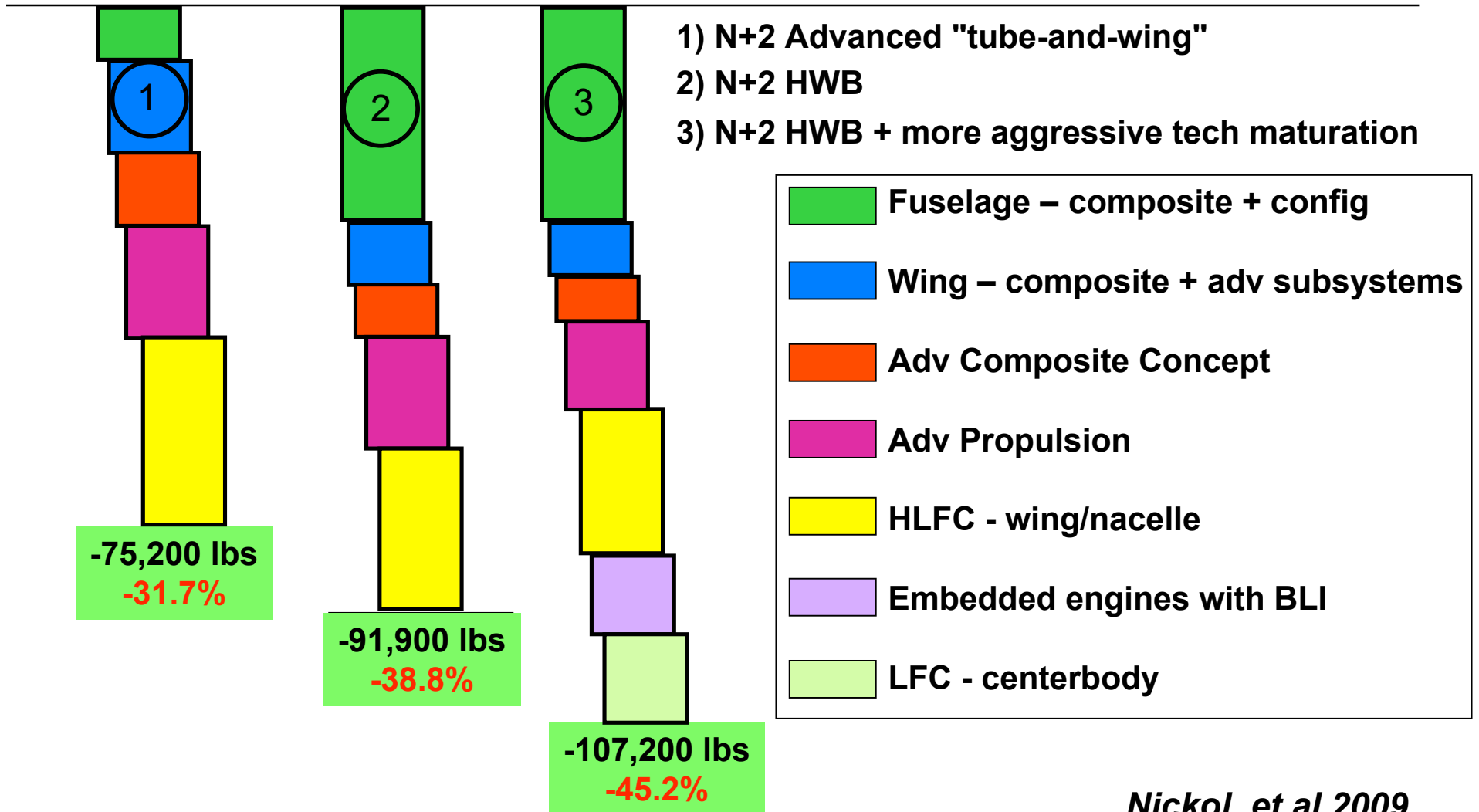
- Many ideas, but most concepts remain on paper
 - Hybrid Wing Body (HWB) concept has been explored with more detail
 - 2000s
Research addressing technology challenges, ongoing system studies
 - Provides a framework for advancement of broadly applicable technologies
 - Today
Continues to show potential of simultaneously meeting the N+2 goals



Potential Reduction in Fuel Consumption

Reference Fuel Burn = 237,100 lbs

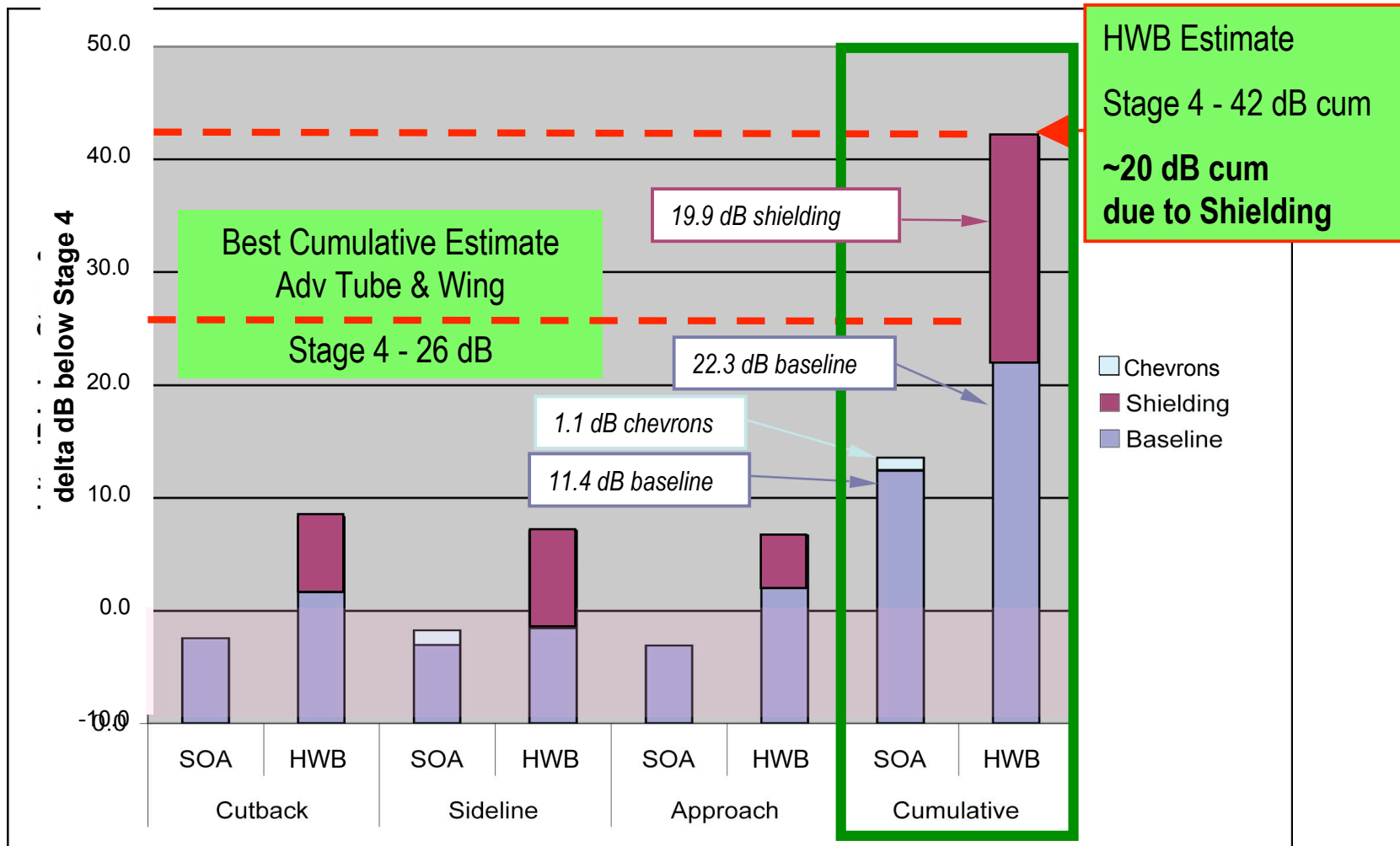
1997 Technology Large Twin Aisle Vehicle "777-200ER-like"





N+2 Potential Noise Reduction

Includes estimate of maximum propulsion noise shielding





Market Needs and Design Trades

A sweet spot for noise and fuel burn

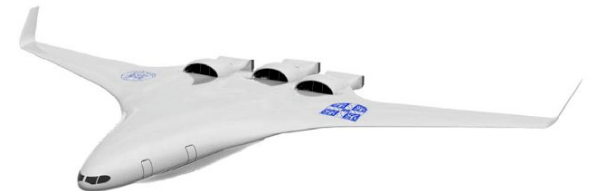


...but lower cruise speed may change technologies



...as might payload/range (vehicle size)

... or relative emphasis on noise & fuel burn



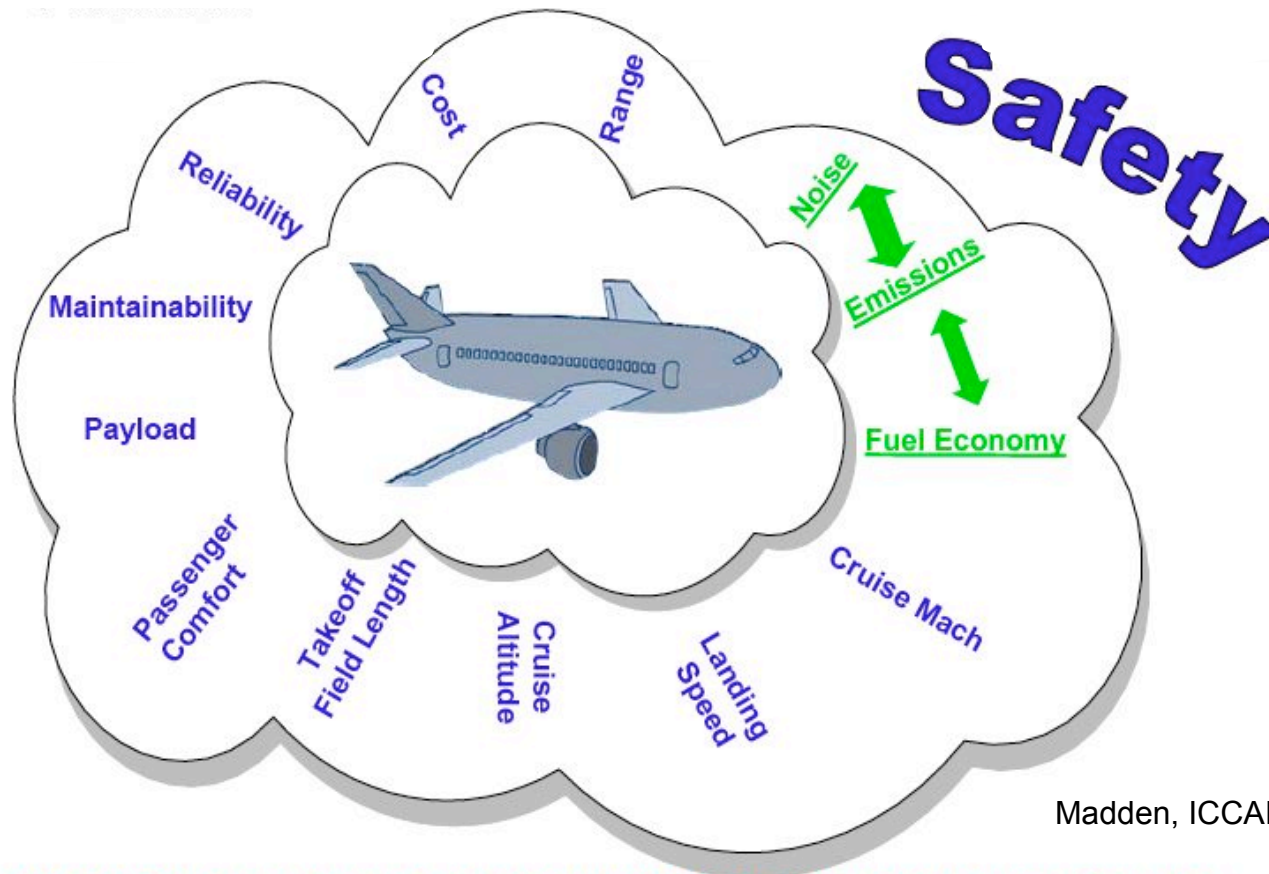
Market will ultimately determine outcome

...but concepts and technologies enable options



Design Trades and Dependencies

Our focus is Noise, Energy Efficiency, and Emissions
...but airplane design is a balance among many factors



Madden, ICCAIA Fuel Burn Workshop
March 2009



The Way Forward

- System research to bridge the gap between fundamental research (TRL 1-4) and product prototyping (TRL 7)
 - Identify vehicle concepts with the potential to simultaneously meet National goals for noise, emissions, and fuel burn in the N+2 timeframe
 - Understand the concept and technology feasibility/risk vs potential benefits
 - Understand the concept and technology trades and interdependencies at high fidelity in relevant environments
 - Determine safety implications of new technologies and configurations
- Technology investments guided by
 - matured in fundamental program and worthy of more in-depth evaluation at system level in relevant environment
 - systems analysis indicates most potential for contributing to simultaneous attainment of N+2 goals
 - identified through stakeholder input as having potential for contributing to simultaneous attainment of N+2 goals



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Research Focus Areas

1.0 Project Management

2.0 Airframe Technology

- 2.1 Lightweight Structures
- 2.2 Flight Dynamics and Control
- 2.3 Drag Reduction
- 2.4 Noise Reduction

3.0 Propulsion Technology

- 3.1 Combustor Technology
- 3.2 Propulsor Technology
- 3.3 Core Technology

4.0 Vehicle Systems Integration

- 4.1 Systems Analysis
- 4.2 Propulsion Airframe Integration
- 4.3 Propulsion Airframe Aeroacoustics
- 4.4 Advanced Vehicle Concepts

Natural Metrics

ML/D, Empty Weight, Airframe Noise

investigations where propulsion system is not 1st order effect

SFC, Engine Noise, Emission Index

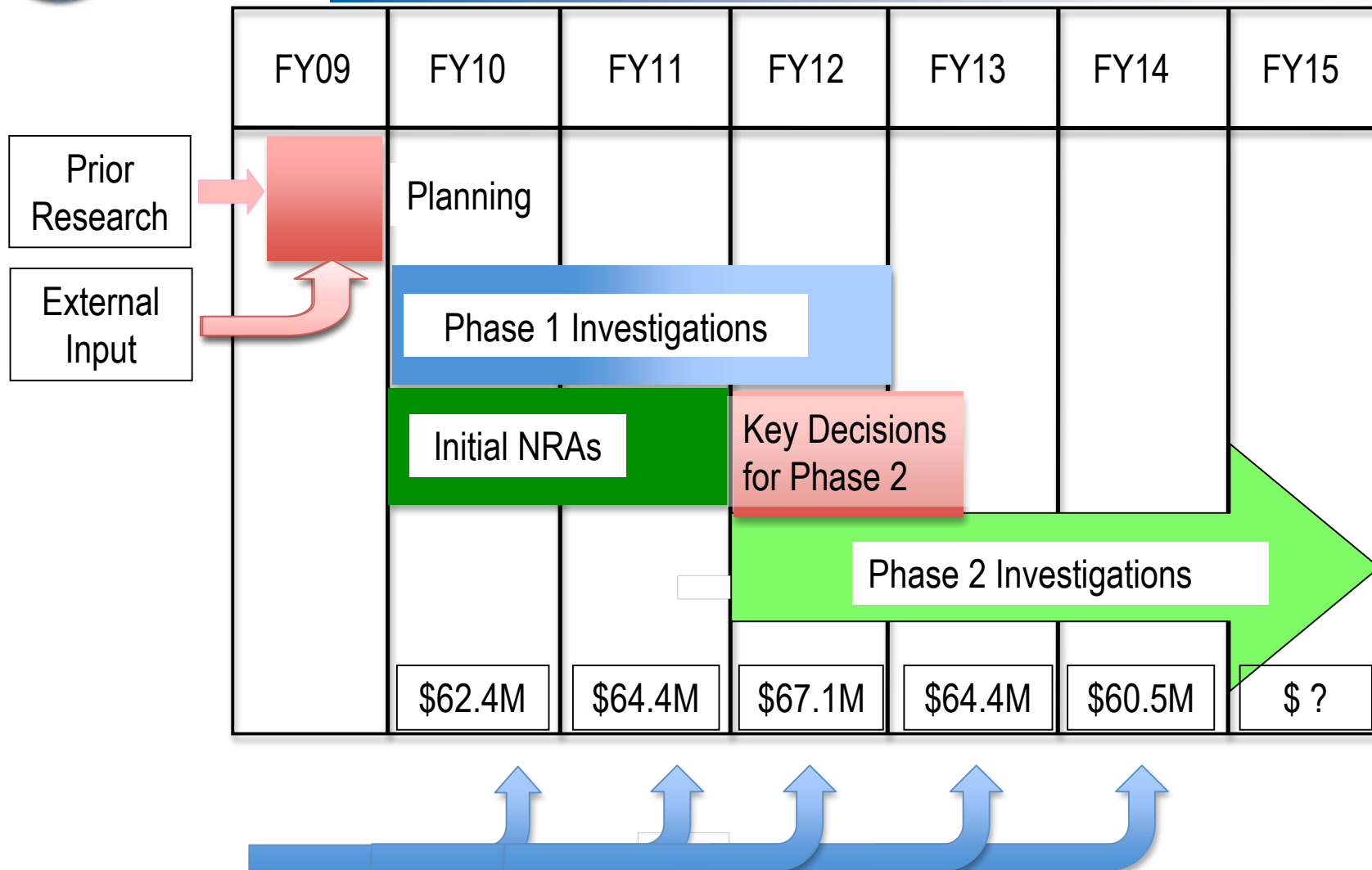
investigations where airframe system is not 1st order effect

ML/D, Weight, SFC, Emission Index, Noise

investigations where propulsion/airframe interaction is 1st order effect



ERA Project Flow



Technical input from Fundamental Programs, NRAs, Industry, Academia, Other Gov't Agencies



Initial NRA Topics Under Development

- Topic 1 - N+2 Advanced Vehicle Concepts
 - Concept development and technology roadmaps
 - Scope key system Investigations to inform Phase 2 decisions
- Topic 2 - Low NOx Combustors
 - Concept development and technology roadmaps
 - Initial flametube experiments
 - Inform Phase 2 decisions
- Topic 3 - Quick-Start System Research Investigations
 - Complementary to Phase 1 investigations
 - Early technical progress/results toward ERA goals
 - Inform Phase 2 decisions

Bidders Conference Prior to Solicitation



Phase 1 Investigations

- Scope
 - Concepts and technologies from fundamental projects ready for system experimentation
 - System integration and multidisciplinary risks/barriers
 - 2-3 years
- Critical Technology Focus
 - Stitched composite technology for low weight and damage tolerance
 - Laminar flow technology for drag reduction
 - Flight dynamics & control technology enabling alternate configurations
 - Combustor technology for low emissions
 - Propulsion technology and integration for SFC and noise reduction
 - Propulsion shielding for noise reduction
- Outcome
 - Selected concepts and technologies explored/assessed with respect to feasibility, benefits, interdependencies, and risks - uncover unexpected multidisciplinary interactions
 - New and/or refined ideas emerge
 - Detailed information to update systems studies, and for prioritization and selection of Phase 2 investigations



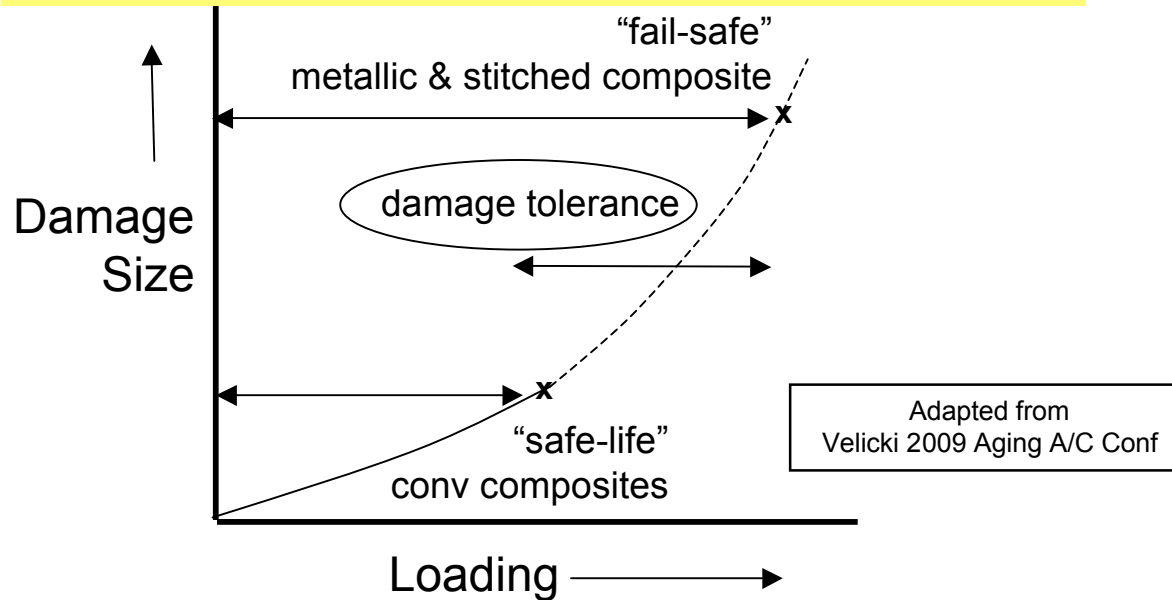
Phase 2 Investigations

- Key Decisions
 - FY12 timeframe plus/minus 1 year - not a specific point in time
- Scope
 - Similar to Phase 1, plus further exploration of Phase 1 concepts and technologies as appropriate
 - 3-4 years
- Technology Focus
 - Informed by Phase 1 progress/results, system studies, stakeholder input
 - Envision investigations which integrate results from Phase 1, NRAs, other sources
- Outcome
 - Selected concepts and technologies explored/assessed with respect to feasibility, benefits, interdependencies, and risks - trade space understood

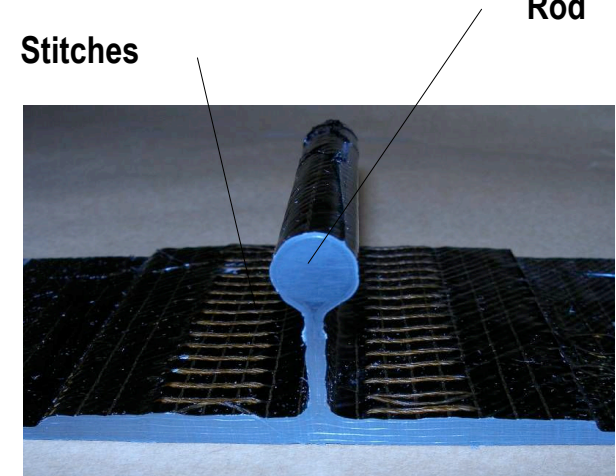


Stitched Composites - enabling weight reduction with load limits of metals

Damage Tolerance, Durability, Flexibility, Cabin Noise



Advanced Stitched Composite Concept



Pultruded Rod Stitched Efficient Unitized Structure
PRSEUS

- Can the same load limits as metal be applied to a lower weight composite concept?
- Can structural weight be reduced while meeting certification/safety requirements?
- Can cabin noise be acceptable with lightweight structure, particularly in the context of propulsion noise shielding?



Lightweight Structures

- **Objective**

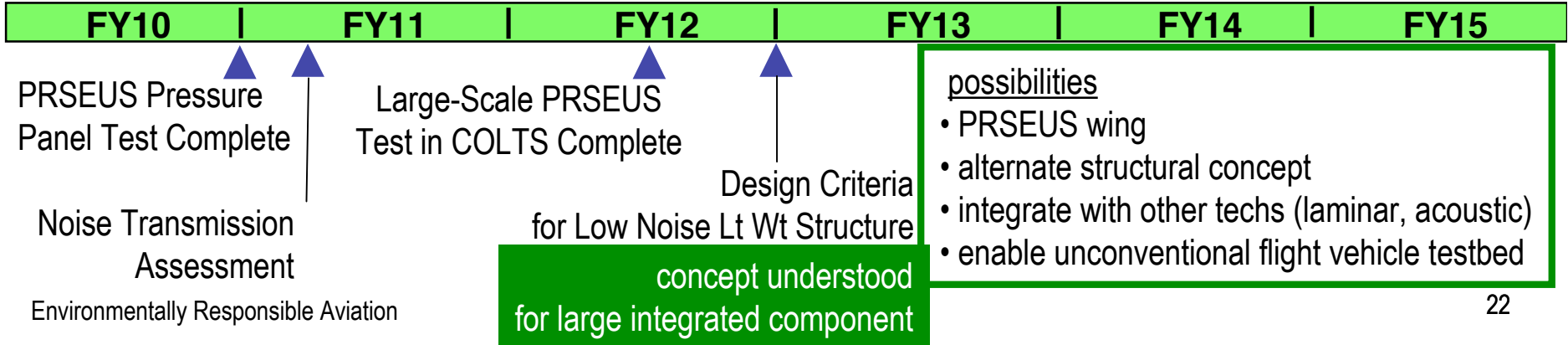
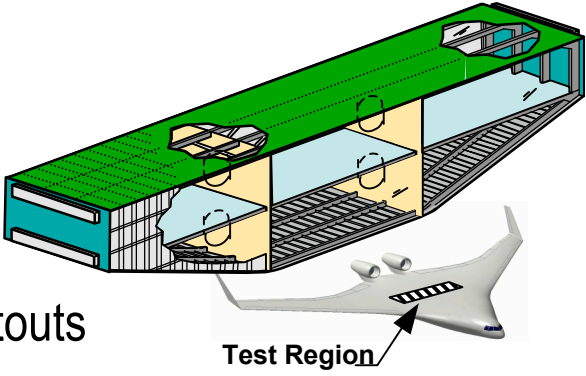
- Explore/validate/characterize/document new stitched composite structural concept under realistic loads

- **Approach**

- Building block experiments on sub components, joints, cutouts
- Explore repair/maintenance, NDE methods
- Large scale pressurized multi-bay fuselage section under combined load
- Incorporation of IVHM sensors in large scale COLTS test

- **Benefit**

- Validate damage-arresting characteristics under realistic loads. Expected 20% reduction in weight and cost of conventional composite structural concepts. Extensible to wings, etc.





Enabling

Flight Dynamics & Control

Flight Controls - enabling alternate vehicle concepts

Handling/Ride Quality, Safety of Flight

- ? Regulatory acceptance
- ? Market acceptance
- ? Performance benefit

Unconventional Vehicle Concepts
provide unique challenges



- Can alternative vehicle concepts meet Federal airworthiness requirements without negating performance/acoustic benefits?
- Can alternative vehicle concepts meet passenger ride quality expectations without negating performance/acoustic benefits?
- Can advanced controls enable performance and safety improvements beyond simply enabling a new vehicle concept?



Enabling

Flight Dynamics and Control

Objective

- Explore/assess dynamics and control design space for unconventional, flexible wing vehicle, w/ extensibility to other advanced aircraft designs

Approach

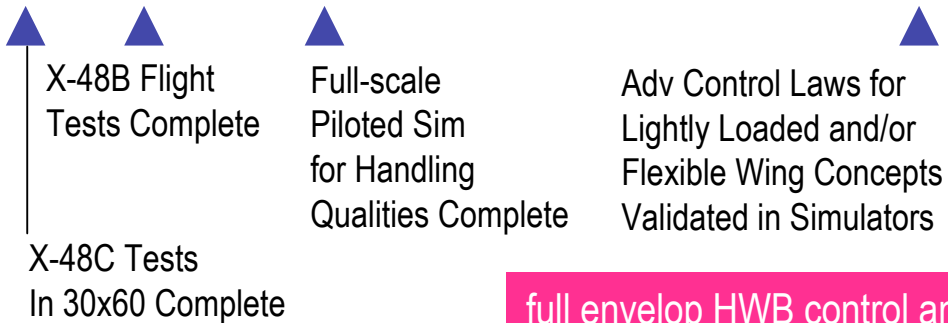
- Utilize extensive HWB database to develop full-scale piloted motion-based simulation for advanced HWB concept; establish control system design requirements and guidelines for HWB aircraft
- Complete X-48B flight test
- Explore/assess a broad range of handling, ride quality, control authority and allocation, gust load alleviation, upset recovery, aero-servoelastic control concepts/challenges



Piloted Sim

Benefit

- Advanced/adaptive control law technology for handling, ride quality, and safety of flight, extensible to a range of advanced vehicle concepts



- possibilities
- flight experiments with adaptive or intelligent controls
 - other control concepts in piloted simulation
 - enable investigation of lightweight, flexible structures
 - enable unconventional flight vehicle testbed

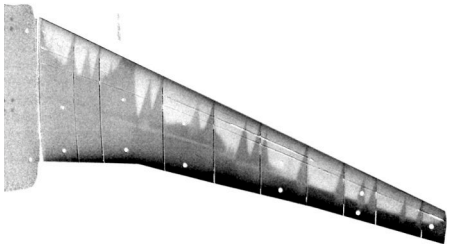
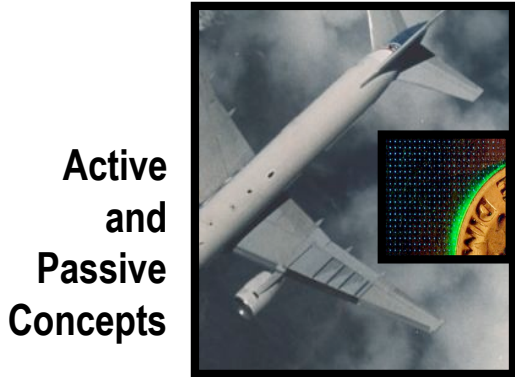
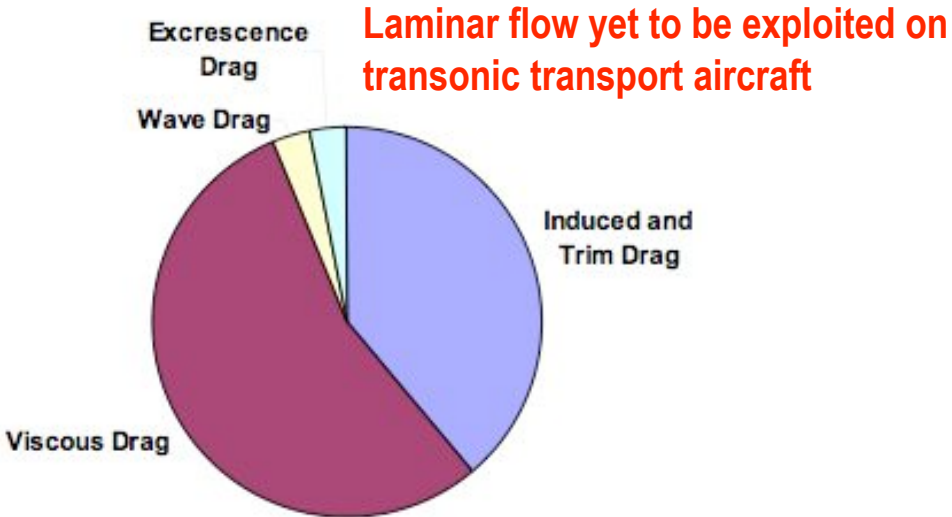
full envelop HWB control and dynamics understood;
advanced controls explored



Laminar Flow - breaking down technical barriers to practical laminar flow application

System integration trades, robustness, pre-flight assessment

Drag Breakdown (Typical)



- Aerodynamic/drag benefits are known, and depend on application (config, size, regions)

Challenges

- Integration trades for high-lift performance, and suction systems for HLFC in particular
- Robustness to contamination and structural/surface imperfection
- Ability ground test/assess across full flight envelop at relevant conditions prior to flight

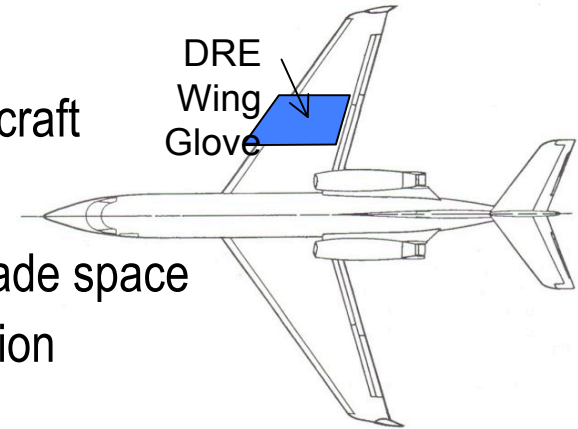


Objective

- Enable practical laminar flow application for transport aircraft

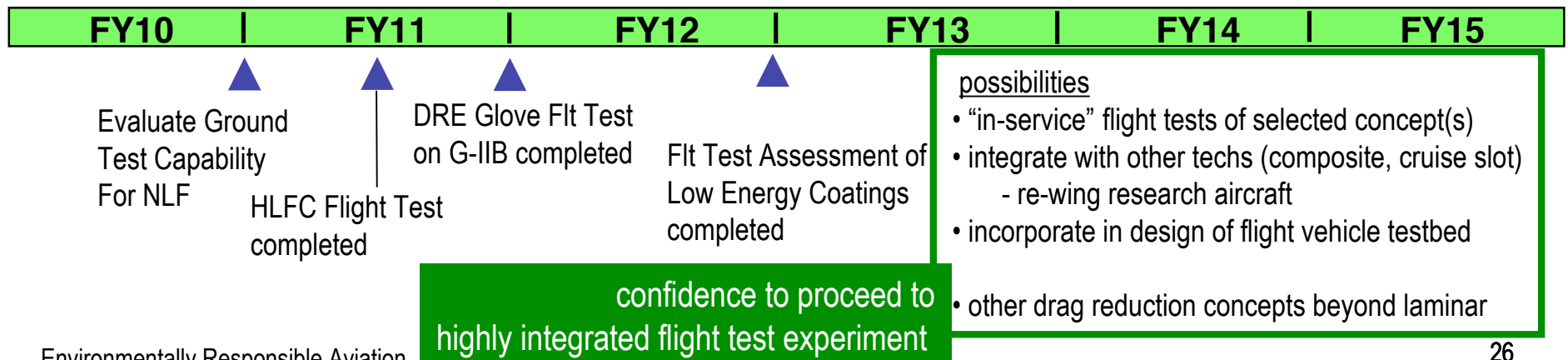
Approach

- Mature multiple approaches to laminar flow to enlarge trade space
- Address critical barriers to practical laminar flow application
- Explore synergy with other advanced technologies (e.g. composite structure, cruise slots, novel high lift systems, intelligent controls, etc.)



Benefit

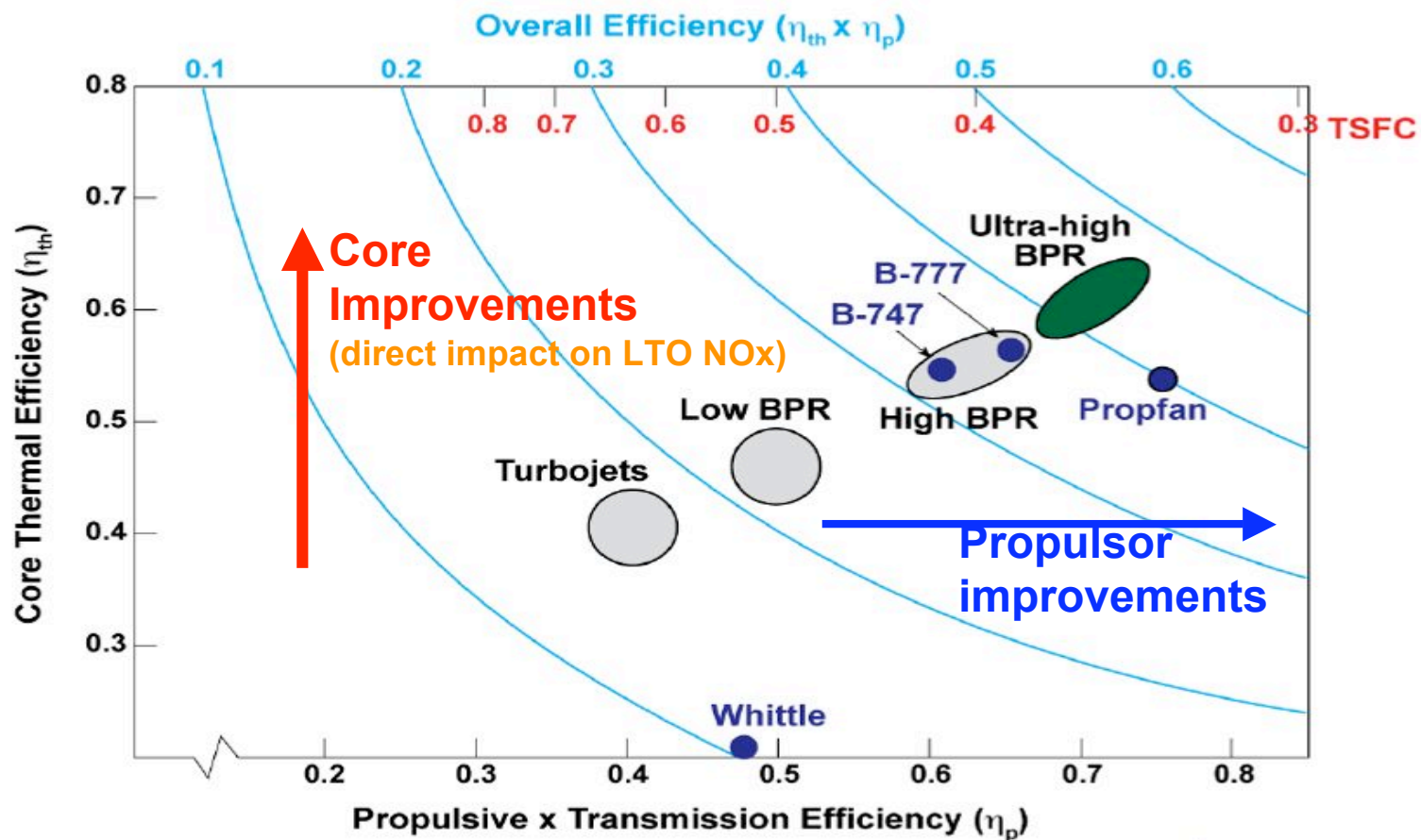
- Validated passive and active drag control technologies capable of enabling 5-15+ % reductions in fuel burn. Expanded design trade space with higher fidelity trade information. Expanded database (higher Rn) for validation of transition models.





Propulsion Systems

Propulsion system improvements require advances in propulsor and core technologies



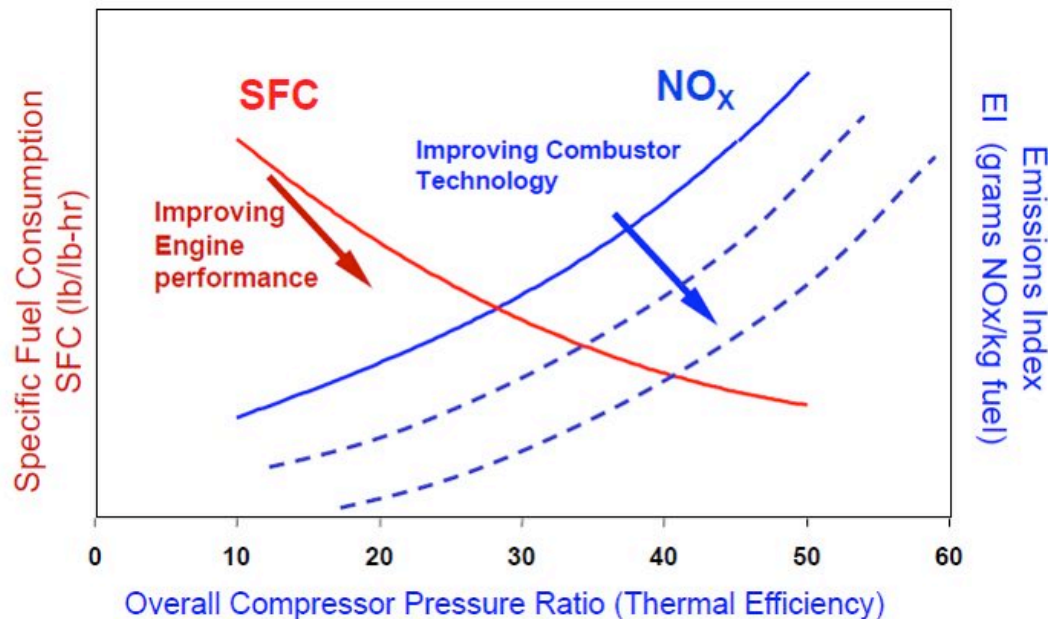
Alan Epstein
Pratt & Whitney Aircraft



Core/Combustor Technology

Low NOx combustor concepts for high OPR environment

Increase thermal efficiency without increasing NOx emissions



Injector Concepts

- Partial Pre-Mixed
- Lean Direct Multi-Injection

Enabling Technology

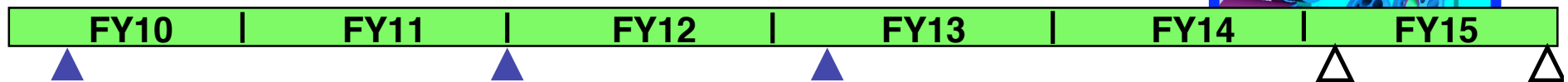
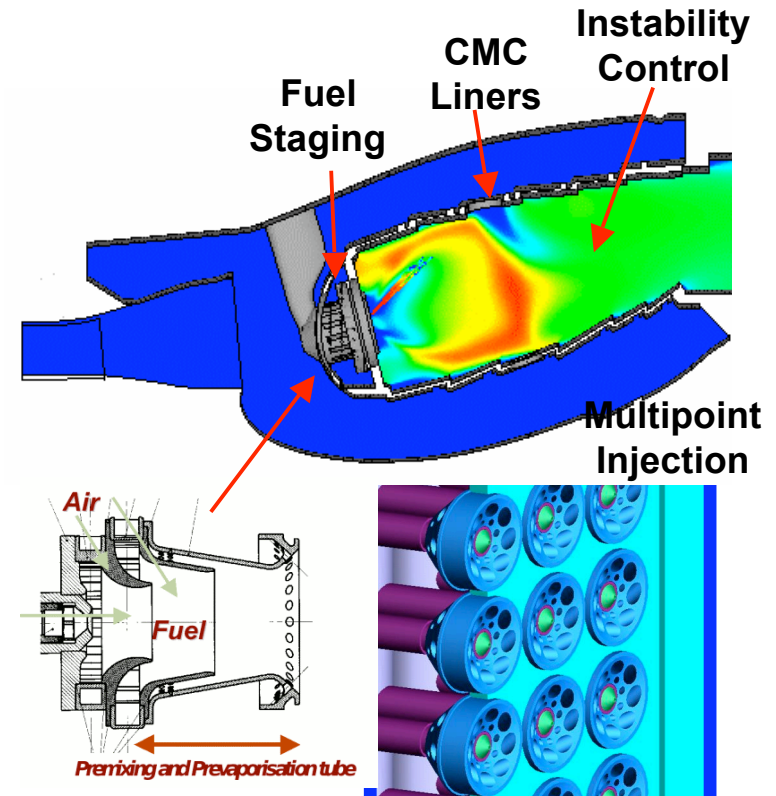
- lightweight CMC liners
- advanced instability controls

- Improved fuel-air mixing to minimize hot spots that create additional NOx
- Lightweight liners to handle higher temperatures associated with higher OPR
- Fuel Flexibility
- DoD HEETE Program is developing higher OPR compressor technology
.... ERA will focus on new combustor technology for reduced NOx formation



Combustor Technology

- **Objective**
 - Extend maturation of technologies for reducing LTO NOx. Concepts must ensure fuel flexibility.
- **Approach**
 - Pursue 3 concepts: Lean Partial-Mixed Combustor, Lean Direct Multi-Injection, TBD from NRA.
 - Flametube, sector, and annular combustor tests.
 - Select single concept for engine tests.
 - Assume 50% cost share with industry.
- **Benefit**
 - Technologies to reduce LTO NOx by 75% below CAEP/6.



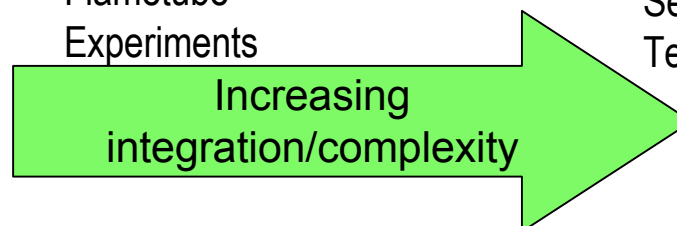
Initiate Low-NOx
Combustor Concept
Studies

Select Low-NOx
Combustor Concepts
(downselect 3 to 1)

Complete
Flametube
Experiments

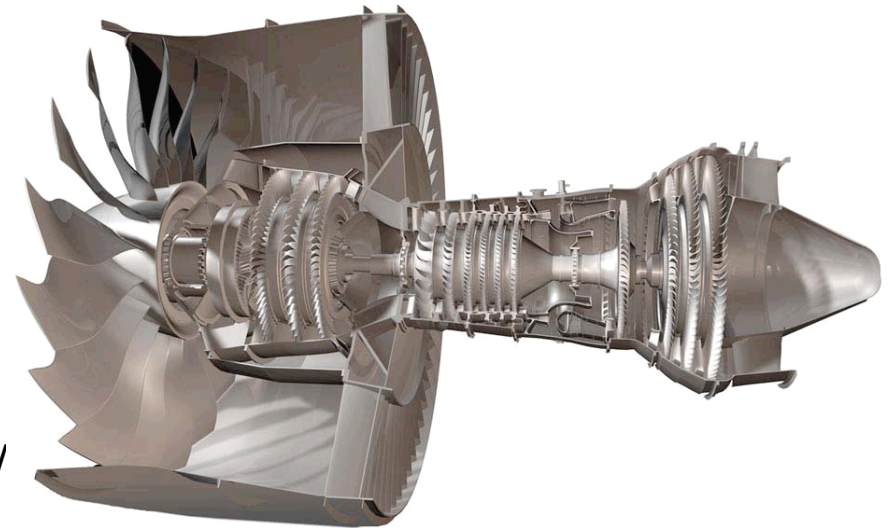
Complete
Sector
Tests

Complete
Annular
Combustor
Tests

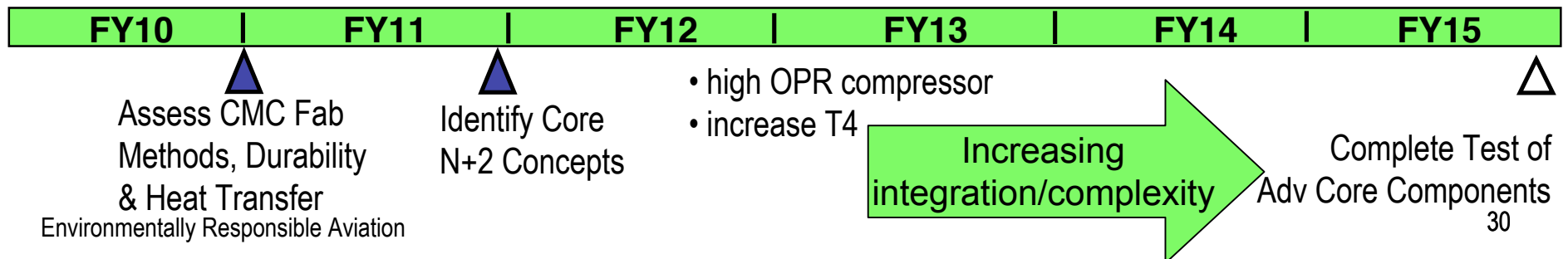




- **Objective**
 - Explore core architectures and develop key technologies needed for N+2 propulsion
- **Approach**
 - Use NRA to explore core engine concepts; specific technologies TBD but will integrate existing work on high OPR compressors from VAATE, turbine cooling work in SFW.
 - Pursue technologies like Ceramic Matrix Composite (CMC) materials that will benefit any gas turbine engine concept; early work assesses fabrication methods for cooled vanes and nozzles
- **Benefit**
 - Technologies to increase thermal efficiency that enable higher BPR propulsion (either turbofans, open rotors, or embedded engines)



Advanced Core for UHB Turbofan (P&W GTF)





Energy Efficiency

Noise Reduction

Propulsor Technology

Ultra high bypass ratio propulsor

Ducted v Unducted trade, noise v efficiency

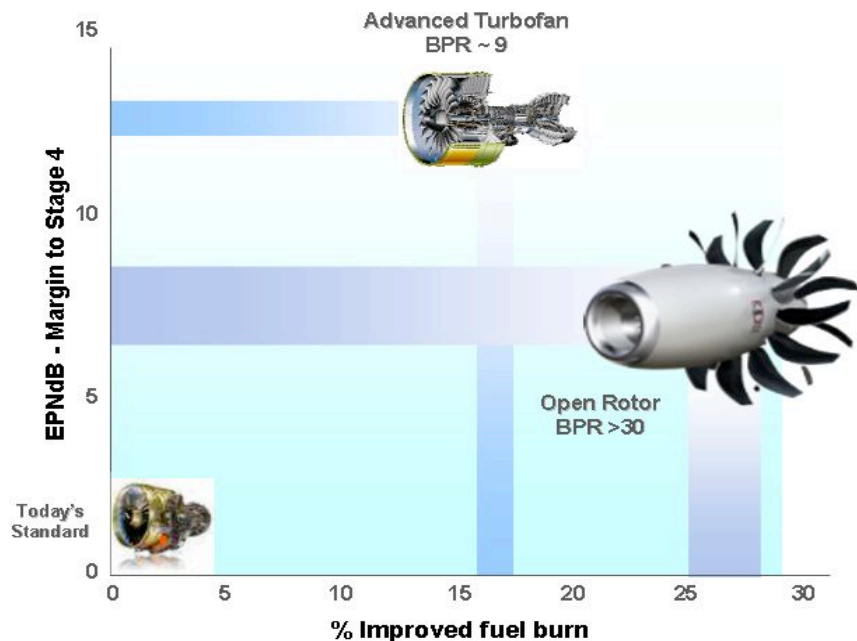
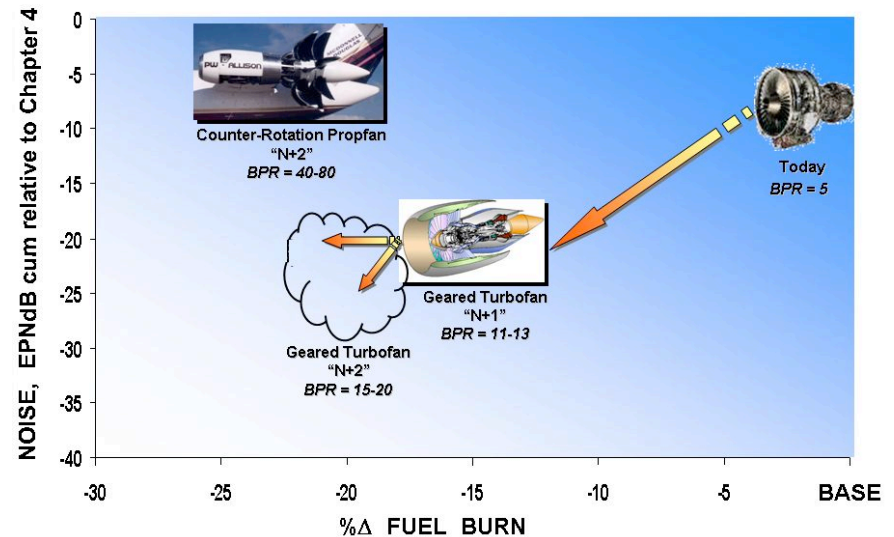
Concepts

- Ducted UHB
 - short inlets, laminar flow nacelles
 - SMA variable area nozzle
 - soft vane, over-the-rotor treatment
- Unducted UHB (Open Rotor)
 - increased rotor spacing, lower blade count
- Embedded for boundary layer ingestion
 - inlet flow control, distortion tolerant fan

Challenges

- Open Rotor - reduced noise while maintaining high propulsive efficiency
- Ducted UHB - nacelle weight & drag with increasing diameter

Environmentally Responsible Aviation





Energy Efficiency

Noise Reduction

Propulsor Technology

Objective

- Explore propulsor (bypass flowpath) configurations for N+2 vehicle concepts to expand and better define the trade space between performance and noise reduction.

Approach

- Investigate feasibility of higher BPR propulsion systems: UHB Turbofans, Open Rotors and TBD Advanced Propulsor identified from NRA.
- Evaluate UHB & Open Rotor for N+2; isolated and partially installed simulations in wind tunnel tests; Handoff to VSI for full installation experiments.

Benefit

- Propulsor concepts identified and validation data available for noise & performance trades.

UHB Turbofans



Open Rotor



FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15
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Select UHB & Open Rotor Concepts

Select Adv. Propulsor Concept For N+2

Complete UHB Turbofan Tests

Complete Isolated Open Rotor Tests

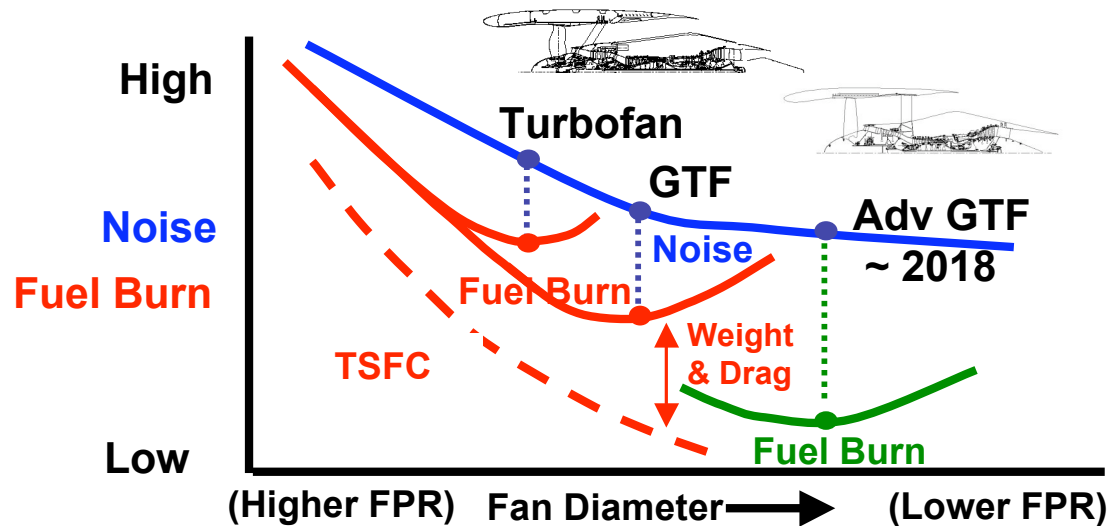
possibilities

- isolated and partially installed advanced propulsor ground tests similar to phase 1
- integrate with other techs (config, shielding)
- flight test propulsion concept
- incorporate in design of flight vehicle testbed



UHB Installation that minimizes or avoids performance penalties

Increased size of system may drive need for alternate configurations



Lord, Sepulveda, et al

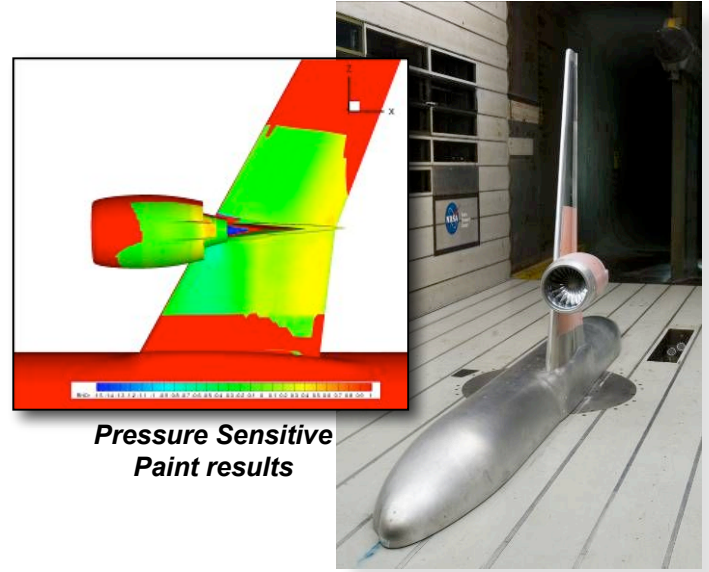
PAI Challenges Increase



- Increasingly large diameters present increasingly difficult installations for conventional low wing configurations, and may require alternate configurations/installations to take advantage of propulsive efficiency
 - significant vehicle level trade space to explore

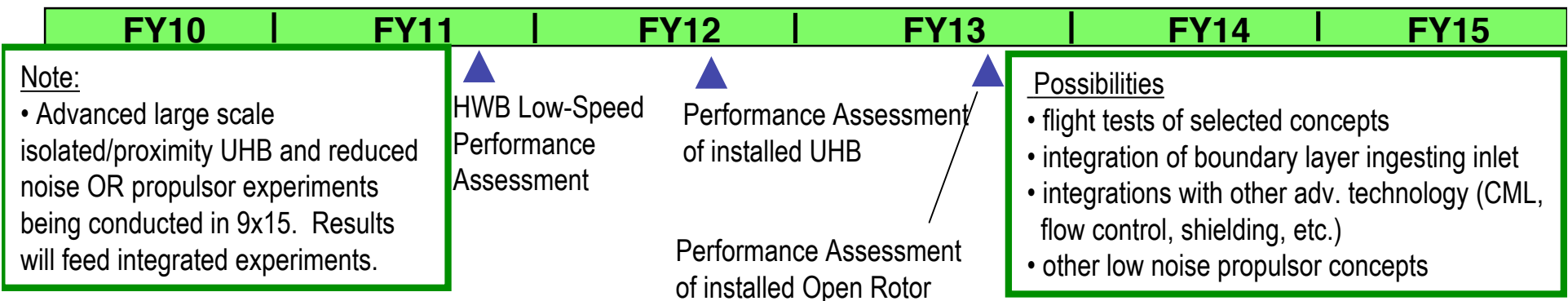


- **Objective**
 - Understand synergistic performance/efficiency coupling potential between advanced propulsor and airframe concepts
- **Approach**
 - Explore/assess (large-scale testing) performance benefits thru integration of advanced low noise/efficient open rotor and UHB propulsors
 - Quantify installed performance benefits of alternate engine airframe integrations (e.g. boundary layer ingestion)
- **Benefit**
 - Enlarged PAI design trade space with new open rotor and UHB propulsors (and integrations) with advanced N+2 airframes (15-25% fuel burn reduction)



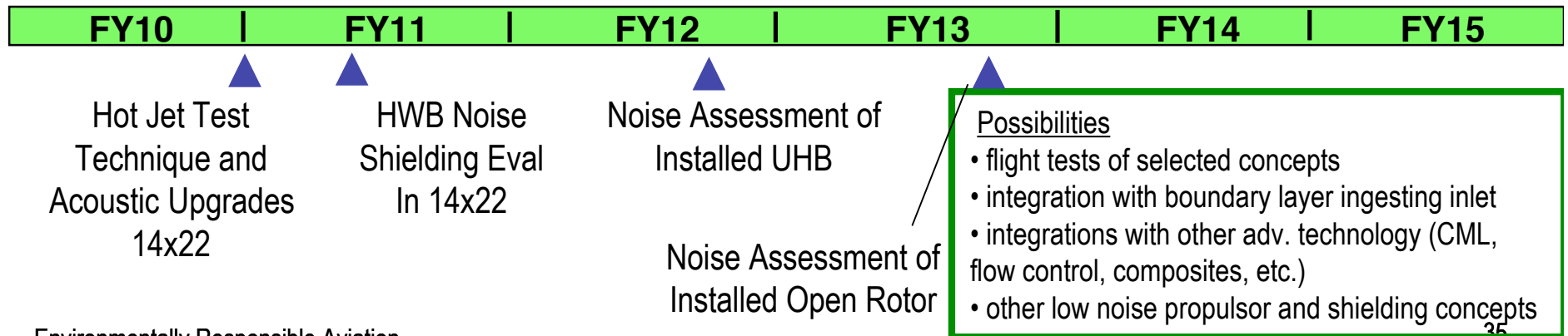
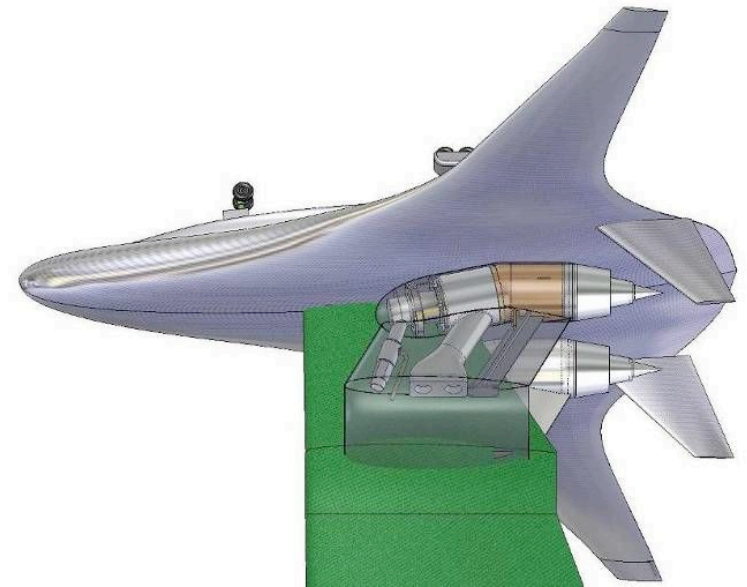
Pressure Sensitive Paint results

Powered half-span model test in Ames 11' wind tunnel





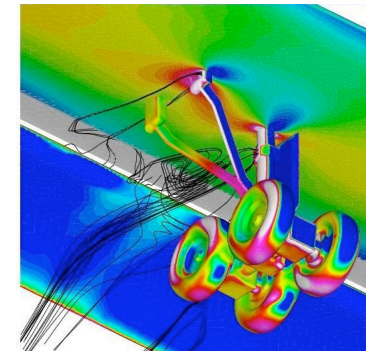
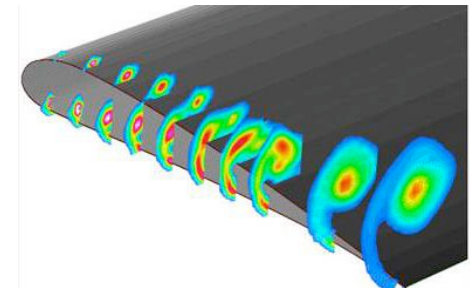
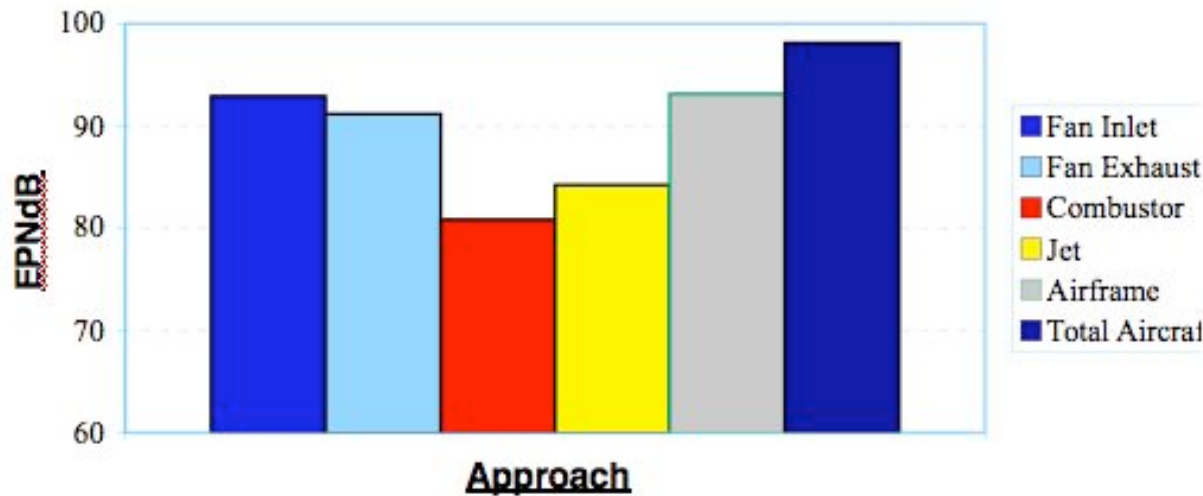
- **Objective**
 - Understand synergistic acoustic coupling potential between advanced propulsor and airframe concepts
- **Approach**
 - Explore/quantify (large-scale testing) airframe shielding benefits thru integration of advanced low noise/efficient open rotor and UHB propulsors
 - Quantify aeroacoustic benefits of alternate engine airframe integrations (e.g. boundary layer ingestion)
- **Benefit**
 - Enlarged PAA design trade space for new open rotor and UHB propulsors (and integrations) with advanced N+2 airframes (15-20 dB cum reduction to Stage 4)





Quiet flaps and landing gear without performance penalties

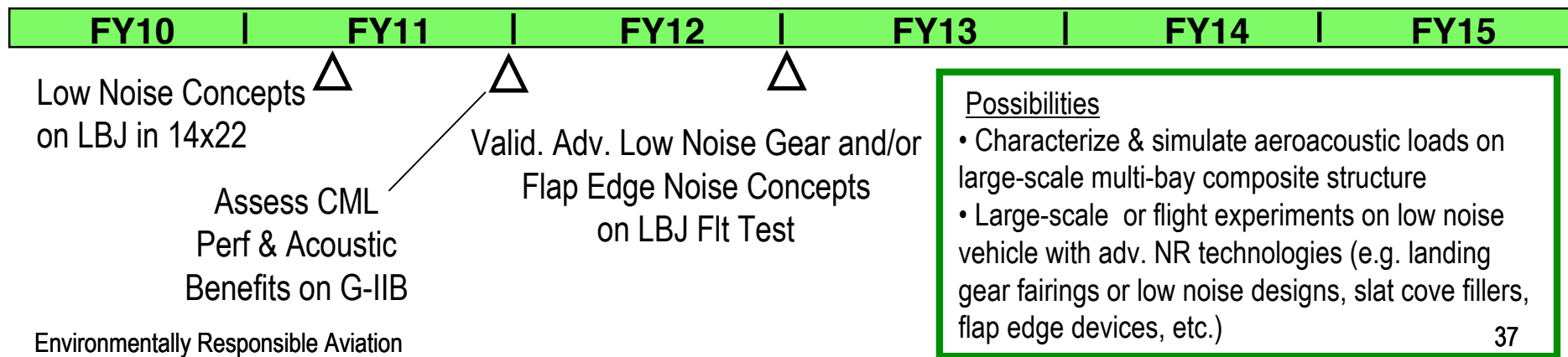
Low airframe noise technologies conflict with low drag/weight



- Landing gear designed for performance/weight, but generate much more noise
- High lift system gaps and exposed flap edges help performance, but generate noise
- Currently cannot accurately account for all aircraft sources, interactions with other components, and installation effects



- **Objective**
 - Understand/research synergistic coupling/multidisciplinary aspects of integrated adv. airframe noise reduction technologies
- **Approach**
 - Flight test of CML flap on NASA G-IIB aircraft
 - Wind tunnel and flight test campaign on large business jet (LBJ) targeting landing gear and flap edge noise as well as gear/flap interactions. Improved microphone array technology.
- **Benefit**
 - Quantified technologies for airframe noise reduction on the order of 5-10 dB cum; enlarged design trade space for adv. low noise configurations





Phase 2 Investigations - Revisited

- Key Decision Point(s) for Phase 2 in the FY12 timeframe
- Noted several times today the idea of an experimental vehicle testbed (XVT) as centralizing focus for integrated systems research on an unconventional configuration
- The XVT would (very) likely require a significant budget increase and/or significant cost sharing partnerships
- Initial NRA Topic 1 may inform us as to the possibilities



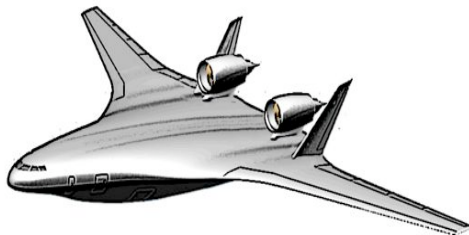
XVT - Experimental Vehicle Testbed

- Drivers for a (large) Flight Research Vehicle
 - Appropriate scale for aerodynamics validation
 - High Reynolds number to minimize scaling issues
 - High speed - compressibility effects
 - Geometric fidelity
 - Appropriate scale for acoustics flight test
 - Geometry fidelity
 - Physics of the noise sources require they be of the same type to scale properly
 - Scale required to understand noise attenuation and shielding
 - Appropriate scale for aero-elasticity and flight dynamics
 - Capability to assess advanced flight controls concepts

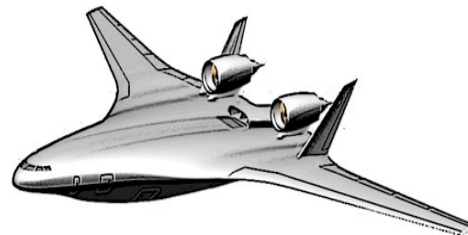


XVT - Experimental Vehicle Testbed

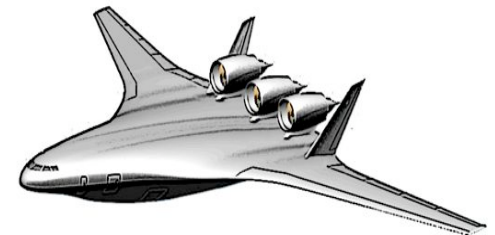
- Additional Benefit of a Flight Research Vehicle
 - Validate simultaneous progress toward N+2 goals through technology integration on a vehicle testbed
 - Gain understanding of technology interdependencies/interactions and hardware integration issues
 - Ability to validate multiple off-nominal data points through full envelope testing
 - Flight Reynolds number with real world effects
 - Produce and disseminate high quality data for technology characterization and design method validation
 - Collect actual flying qualities, passenger ride quality, and cabin noise data
 - Ability to operate in the National Air Space for integration Airspace/Operations projects
 - Testbed for future technology concepts including propulsion systems
- AN IDEA



Baseline Aircraft



Embedded Engine



Advanced Engine Technology



Concluding Remarks

- Explore/demonstrate the feasibility, benefits, and risks of vehicle concepts and enabling technologies identified to have potential to mitigate the impact of aviation on the environment
- Expand viable and well-informed trade space for vehicle design decisions enabling simultaneous realization of National noise, emissions, and performance goals; identify challenges for foundational research
- Alternative configurations w/ advanced technology will be needed to simultaneously achieve the N+2 goals; technologies will be broadly applicable and tradable
- Systems research in relevant environment