



Commercial Aviation Alternative Fuels Initiative

Supporting solutions for secure and sustainable aviation

11/9/07

Contacts:

Bill Litant, wlitant@mit.edu

Rich Altman, altrich@cox.net

Coalition establishes 2008 priorities to bring alternative aviation fuels closer to fruition

Commercial Aviation Alternative Fuels Initiative says priorities to include a single military-civilian fuel, compatibility with existing infrastructure and meeting environmental objectives

What: November 7-8, Washington D.C. annual conference and workshop of the Commercial Aviation Alternative Fuels Initiative (CAAFI) meeting.

Who: CAAFI - the international coalition of airlines, aircraft and equipment manufacturers, fuel suppliers, universities, NGOs and government agencies including the Departments of Defense, Energy, and NASA.

The meeting was organized and led by CAAFI and its Airline (ATA), Airport (ACI-NA), Manufacturer (AIA) and Federal Aviation Administration sponsors who facilitated panels and led four team workshops in R&D, Environment, Certification, and Business & Economic areas.

The meeting attracted a significant increase in energy supplier participation from CAAFI's 2006 organizational kickoff. Stakeholders from seventeen separate energy suppliers participated. More than two-thirds were bio-fuel companies – a four fold increase from that sector.

Eighteen representatives of internationally based manufacturers, airlines and energy suppliers were among those attending, presenting findings, and planning future steps. Representatives from the U.S., Europe, South Africa, South America and Canada were present. Approximately 130 participants attended in total.

Why

- To receive reports on recent developments and future trends in aviation alternative fuels. Plenary sessions included briefings from all sections of the supply chain from over twenty-five sponsors/stakeholders in each of the four disciplines.
- To set and agree on mutual priorities for the next stages of data development and communication needed in its four team areas.

Goal Highlights for Execution in 2008

CAAFI's teams developed over 40 recommendations for focusing their respective efforts and for interaction between disciplines to further the efforts of commercial aviation alternative fuels development and deployment.

Key developmental goals:

- Seek a single civil and military aviation fuel. Strengthen and align efforts (with Department of Defense) to seek a generic specification for all 50/50 blends of isoparaffinic (IPK) fuels including renewable/non-renewable blends that have the potential to reduce carbon footprint and to serve as a single fuel to serve both DoD and airline needs. Year-end 2008 completion of approvals by the ASTM (fuel standards organization) is targeted.
- Compile and analyze emissions data from flight, ground and combustor tests executed by CAAFI sponsors and stakeholders for the full range of alternative fuels.
- Establish Aviation as the leader among all transportation modes in understanding emissions by increasing the fidelity and breadth of recently completed "well to wake" environmental life cycle model.
- Conduct R&D to identify fuel-enabled aircraft design opportunities created by the characteristics of alternative fuels to reduce weight, fuel burn and particulate matter emissions.
- Identify technical solutions to constrained water supplies, recognizing that water supply is critical to the production of virtually all alternative fuels.

Key deployment goals:

- Seek to decrease the cost and increase alternative fuels production of new renewable/non-renewable fuel blends to serve aviation through technical research and evaluation of incentives.
- Target an interagency assessment by the Department of Energy, Department of Agriculture, FAA and the Air Force to establish rigorous business assessments of sustainable renewable fuels. This would be similar to studies already performed for other fuel types.
- Explore new demand side approaches intended to foster the development of production facilities
- Establish an Airport infrastructure data collection and analysis project through ACRP to inform and ease investment decisions for alternative aviation fuels suppliers.

About CAAFI

CAAFI's mission is to enhance energy security and environmental sustainability for aviation through development of alternative fuels. CAAFI is a forum that focuses the efforts of the U.S. commercial aviation supply chain to engage the emerging alternative fuels industry. It enables its diverse participants — representing all the leading stakeholders in the field of aviation — to build relationships, share and collect needed data, and motivate and direct research on aviation alternative fuels.

Contacts

Bill Litant
Communications Director
PARTNER Center of Excellence
wlitant@mit.edu

Richard Altman
CAAFI Executive Director
altrich@cox.net