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Newport News, VA – January 11, 2010 – NASA Selects AeroTech Research to Develop a Real-Time Wake Encounter Reporting System for Aircraft

AeroTech Research (U.S.A.), Inc., today announced that it had been selected for the award of a NASA contract to develop a system which will detect and transmit reports of wake encounters from an aircraft to other aircraft and air traffic controllers thereby significantly increasing safety of operations around airports.

The system will be readily implemented on any modern commercial airliner to make these encounter reports in real-time.

All aircraft in flight leave behind them a pair of strongly spinning wakes from their wing tips. If following aircraft encounter these wakes, it can lead to a loss of control. Therefore, for flight safety, aircraft are separated in distance based on specific FAA rules. If the spacing is too large, the capacity of the airport and the overall national airspace system is adversely affected -- too small and safety may be reduced.

The goal of this 2-year NASA Phase II Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) program is to develop a real-time system to detect and report when aircraft encounter wakes, so as to maintain safe operations, while maximizing the arrival and departure rates. "This will allow flight crews and air traffic controllers to have better information on whether the separation between aircraft is too small," said Mr. Bill Buck, AeroTech's Principal Investigator.

"This SBIR program leverages AeroTech's previous expertise in turbulence and wind shear detection and reporting for aircraft. We believe this system will provide important information for efficient airport operations," said Dr. Paul Robinson, President and CEO of AeroTech Research.

About AeroTech Research

AeroTech Research has been a leader in the field of atmospheric hazard detection and avoidance since 1994. AeroTech's mature technologies detect and report wind shear and turbulence hazards. Its real-time turbulence reporting system, TAPS, is currently deployed on over 180 commercial aircraft, and is currently being marketed by a leading weather provider. AeroTech's proprietary technologies are protected by patents and patents pending.

For further information or questions regarding the above press release, please contact Dr. Paul A. Robinson, CEO at (757) 723-1300 x201 or PaulRobinson@atr-usa.com.