

**CESTAC Outbrief
FAA COE-CST Annual Research
Program Meeting
PRELIMINARY COMMENTS**

November 1, 2012

CESTAC Role

- Provide insight from industry on the FAA COE-CST research program
- CESTAC comments are an input to both FAA COE-CST leadership and to all researchers
- These comments are preliminary; we will refine and expand

CESTAC Review Process

- CESTAC members characterized projects based on presentations
- Characterization considered, for each project:
 - Relevance of the research area to industry
 - Likelihood of FAA regulation
 - Relevance of the planned research output
- Characterization also considered important research areas not captured in current program, if any
- Funding not addressed (insufficient information); we need to decide if that is important for next time

CESTAC Findings

- Generally, most projects were strongly relevant to industry
- Mix of alignment with FAA regulatory roles
- Project outputs varied in terms of usefulness

Highly Relevant Project Areas

- Medical research (medical conditions, database of physiological effects, EMI effects on devices)
- Spaceport operations
- Space traffic control and 4D modeling
- Debris characterization (rather than mitigation)
 - Public database and model of debris
 - Space situational awareness

Important – but of Uncertain Relevance to the COE

- Some project areas with benefits to students and industry may, however, not not be the best investment of COE research dollars
 - Market studies, studies on industry dynamics
 - Studies on student leadership and training (but student involvement is absolutely critical!)
- Some research areas don't appear to fit
 - Debris mitigation

Recommendations for the Future

- Add research on ground safety
- Vehicle technologies should address how they will improve safety
- Connect to existing community of experts – don't start from scratch. Make it a high priority to understand the existing state of the art
- Legal and policy issues are important; consider engaging the broad community

Thanks!

- Thank you researchers for the excellent presentations and commitment to the COE
- Thank you to the university for terrific hospitality