Memorandum of Understanding
Between
The National Aeronautics and Space Administration
and
The Department of Defense
for
A National Partnership for Aeronautical Testing

I. Introduction

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Department of Defense (DoD) (herein referred to as the "parties") to charter the National Partnership for Aeronautical Testing (NPAT).

II. Purpose

The purpose of the NPAT is to expand cooperation between the two parties and to facilitate the parties' establishment of an integrated national strategy for the management of their respective aeronautical test facilities. All aeronautical test facilities owned or operated by the parties shall be considered within the purview of the NPAT. For the purposes of this MOU, aeronautical test facilities are facilities used for testing of vehicles (e.g., aircraft, missiles, or space vehicles) or for related scientific and engineering studies of the flow of gas around or through objects. Aeronautical test facilities include wind tunnels, propulsion test facilities, simulation facilities, and open-air ranges.

This MOU replaces the National Aeronautical Test Alliance (NATA) Interagency Agreement and addresses areas beyond the wind tunnel and air breathing propulsion facilities (defined in the original NATA agreement) to include all aeronautical test facilities owned or operated by the parties. Finally, a new DoD organization, the Defense Test Resource Management Center (TRMC), with DoD-wide responsibilities for test facilities and resources, is designated as the DoD principal representative.

III. Background

In early 1998, NASA and DoD established a National Wind Tunnel Alliance (NWTA) and an Air Breathing Propulsion Test Facilities Alliance (ABPTFA) to identify, study, and implement measures to strengthen the national infrastructure of aerodynamic and air breathing propulsion test facilities that support NASA and DoD missions, as well as the commercial aeronautical industry. NASA and DoD subsequently determined that the NWTA and ABPTFA approaches should be expanded to address broader areas. To that end, a NATA Interagency Agreement was developed and signed by the parties in May 2000 and assigned a life of five years. That Interagency Agreement was extended in April 2005 for an additional five years.

The longstanding relationship between the parties in the areas of aeronautical activities continues today. In August 2006, NASA and the Department of the Air Force signed the Partnership to Achieve Goals in Aeronautics Research, an MOU supporting common goals in aeronautics research. The NPAT is an extension of the parties' relationship and supports common goals in aeronautical testing.

IV. Terms

A. The parties agree to establish and support the NPAT through an NPAT Council, as outlined in this MOU. The objective of the NPAT Council is to provide a forum for the parties to consult on the integration of the management of aeronautical test facilities owned or operated by the parties, taking into account military, civilian, academic, and commercial aerospace interests, to the extent permitted by law. The NPAT Council shall serve as a forum for coordinating NASA and DoD policy and plans, pertaining to aeronautical test facilities and the associated workforce, and making recommendations, as appropriate, relevant to the use and management of such facilities to NASA and DoD management. Each party agrees that it shall actively participate in the NPAT on matters pertaining to such Government-owned test facilities.

B. The parties further agree to provide the necessary resources to support the objectives of the NPAT, consistent with applicable law. Such resources may include, but not be limited to, personnel, equipment, and supplies.

C. The parties shall individually retain their respective, exclusive responsibilities and authority, direction, and control over the following:

1. Real and tangible property, including equipment, located within their respective installations.
2. Oversight of NPAT activities.
3. Funding for their participation on the NPAT, consistent with applicable law.

V. NPAT Council

The parties will establish an NPAT Council to implement this MOU. The NPAT Council will consist of representatives from the two parties and will be cochaired by the parties' representatives. The NASA representative shall be the NASA Associate Administrator for the Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate or designee. The DoD representative shall be the DoD Director, Test Resource Management Center or designee.

In addition to the representatives of the two parties, the Council will also include the following members:

- The Deputy Associate Administrator, NASA Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate or designee.

- The Director, NASA Fundamental Aeronautics Research Program or designee.
- The Director, NASA Aeronautics Test Program or designee.
- The Director, NASA Shared Capabilities Assets Program or designee.
- The Director of Defense Research and Engineering or designee.
- The Secretary of the Army or designee.
- The Secretary of the Navy or designee.
- The Secretary of the Air Force or designee.

VI. Functions

The NPAT Council will conduct studies, address issues, and develop approaches and strategies to improve cooperation and to implement the terms of this agreement, consistent with applicable law. The Council may establish working groups to address specific areas of interest.

The NPAT Council will meet semiannually or as agreed. The Council cochairs will establish a mutually acceptable agenda for each Council meeting. The Council meetings will be held in mutually acceptable locations.

Topics of mutual interest that the Council might address include:

- Partnering approaches for the management of specific aeronautical test facilities.
- Planned improvements, alterations, or operational changes to aeronautical test facilities.
- Initiatives to promote and preserve the specialized workforce associated with aeronautical test facilities.

VII. Organization and Funding

The parties agree that this MOU does not establish any new organizational entities within NASA or DoD. The parties shall each provide support to the NPAT from within their own agencies and shall fund their own participation in the NPAT activities. The requirements of this MOU are subject to the availability of appropriated funds. No provision in this MOU shall be construed as a commitment to provide resources in violation of the Anti-Deficiency Act, 31 U.S.C. 1341 et. seq., or any other applicable statute or regulation.

VIII. Modifications and Termination

This MOU may be modified by written agreement of the parties signed below or their designees. Modifications become effective upon the latest date of signature of the agreeing parties. This MOU may be terminated by either party upon 60 days written advance notice to the other party.

IX. Effective Date

This MOU becomes effective on the date it is signed by both parties and will supersede the NASA-DoD Interagency Agreement on the National Aeronautical Test Alliance dated May 12, 2000, and extended on April 4, 2005.

X. Execution

For the National Aeronautics and Space Administration:

Date: 16 Jan 2007

Michael D. Griffin
Administrator

For the Department of Defense:

Date: 23 January 2007

Kenneth J. Krieg
Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics