



The Aerospace States Association

ASA's Response to Aviation Week Questions

Q. In the area of aerospace/defense/space what are the most important issues for you?

Aerospace is one of America's most important industries. Aerospace is an engine that defends our nation, drives our economy, and provides our workers with high paid jobs. The aerospace industry generated \$199 billion in sales for the U.S. economy in 2007. In an era when the United States is shouldering a massive trade deficit, the U.S. aerospace industry – the country's largest exporter of manufactured goods – provided a record trade surplus of \$60.4 billion in 2007. This trade balance was generated from \$97 billion in exports. Employment in the U.S. aerospace industry averaged 645,600 in 2007. These are highly paid jobs in nearly every state across the nation. The industry backlog in 2007 is nearly \$379 billion, fueling continued financial strength in the industry for years to come.

A. ASA has five top priorities for aerospace:

- Ensure the next generation of Americans are educated in STEM, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics;
 - The shortage of trained technical college graduates has reached a national crisis. The situation is aggravated in the aerospace/defense industry by security requirements that most defense work be done in the U.S. by American citizens.
 - America's aerospace workforce is aging. Almost 60 percent of the U.S. aerospace workforce was 45 or older in 2007. Many of these employees are eligible to retire, since workers in the aerospace industry often start their careers at a young age and stay with a company for decades.
 - Parents, Teachers, Education Leaders, Local School Boards, Governors, Lt Governors, Congress and the President need to encourage young people to study science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education.
- Implement the "Next Generation" air transportation system as soon as possible;
 - A safe, secure, and efficient air transportation system is essential to U.S. prosperity and competitiveness in the global economy.
 - Air traffic in the U.S. is forecast to increase dramatically over the next decade, with the number of annual passengers projected to break the billion mark by 2015.

- The solution, NextGen, is an all-encompassing transformation of the entire national air transportation system with economic, safety, environmental, security and efficiency gains.
- The president's FY2009 FAA budget request provides a major step forward in air transportation modernization, significantly increasing funds for development and implementation of NextGen. The increase will go largely to advanced satellite-based air traffic management technologies like Automatic Dependent Surveillance – Broadcast.
- Increase investment in NASA's aeronautics research especially in the areas of energy, environment, and to support NextGen aviation system implementation;
 - The aviation sector is responsible for only 2-3 percent of the total emission of gases that are believed to contribute to global warming. Studies show that modernization of the air traffic management system will improve fuel efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 10-15 percent.
 - Since aviation has no substitute fuels, development of alternative fuels is a key parameter in helping to reduce aviation emissions.
 - Recent local and regional European actions threaten the ability of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to establish global standards and practices that foster continued growth while reducing the impact of aviation on the environment. The US should be leading technology setting standards.
- Increase investment in Space Science;
 - NASA space science programs such as Voyager 1 and the Spitzer Space Telescope inspire the nation's youth to study science, technology, engineering and mathematics;
 - NASA funding for space science was projected to reach a level of \$5.960 billion in fiscal year 2007 and to increase to \$6.797 billion in fiscal year 2010;
 - The President's budget request for space science in fiscal year 2007 was \$5.330 billion and included a 15 percent reduction in science research, a 50 percent reduction in astrobiology research and the termination of several significant space science programs;
- Reform Export Control / ITAR processes and regulations.
 - The U.S. needs a predictable, efficient and transparent export control system that keeps sensitive technologies out of the wrong hands while facilitating trade and cooperation with our friends and allies.
 - The current U.S. export control system compromises our industry's ability to support the nation's security and economic interests, increases costs and risk in our programs and closes off sales and business opportunities with our partners and allies.

- Clear guidelines on commodity jurisdiction for commercial aircraft components and improved licensing options for the government's critical defense programs involving international participation are needed along with ratification of both the U.S.-UK and U.S.-Australia Defense Trade Cooperation Treaties

Q. What is the first thing as president I should do to address these issues?

- A. The President must understand that for America to maintain global leadership in Aerospace, Higher Education, and Research and Development we need; a trained workforce, program management, capital investment, and policies that ensures a level playing field. The next President and his administration must champion America's leadership role in Aerospace. To do this, the next President must take the following immediate actions:
- Request an action plan from the Interagency Aerospace Revitalization Task Force within 60 days that addresses STEM education and workforce issues.
 - Direct the Secretary of Transportation to invite industry to compete for a comprehensive integrated solution to achieve the objectives in the NEXTGEN plan. We need NEXTGEN this GEN!
 - Restore the NASA Aeronautics and Space Science budgets to FY 1998 levels and request an investment plan from NASA that highlights energy and environment research within 60 days. The goal should be 1% of the federal budget for NASA to keep the technology engine of America moving strong.
 - Request that DOS, DOC, DOD, DOT, and NASA form a joint committee to develop a legislative proposal that will unlock the power of U.S. industry to compete around the world, and U.S. Universities to attract the brightest and best students from around the world while simultaneously enhancing U.S. security interests.