

NEXTOR Connects FAA with Industry, Academia



October 26, 2018

Where can the FAA leverage industry and academia to understand how to measure National Airspace System performance, determine where the bottlenecks are, help integrate new entrants like commercial space and unmanned aircraft systems into the NAS, or improve traffic flow management?

One place the FAA turns is NEXTOR, the National Center for Excellence in Aviation Operations Research. FAA's System Operations Services' Office of Performance Analysis hosted the NEXTOR Symposium on Oct. 26 to review research that NEXTOR has conducted for organizations in the FAA.

NEXTOR is a government-academic-industry alliance dedicated to aviation research and technology development to improve the operation of the NAS. NEXTOR research addresses the development of new system architectures, operational concepts, and related decision-support models and tools. The research has been incorporated into FAA systems in the past and has led to improved performances.

"This is another way System Operations Services and the ATO help take advantage of the creativity and innovation available by those as passionate as us about improving performance," said Dan Murphy, the director of Performance Analysis.

The NEXTOR Symposium covered topics such as how to integrate commercial space operations into the NAS, air traffic flow management response strategies, and scheduling buffers and passenger delays. Speakers participated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dartmouth, Purdue, George Mason University, Georgia Tech, and other NEXTOR-affiliated universities.

"We need to be forward-looking and forward-thinking, and academia and industry are valuable contributors as we look to the years ahead," said ATO Chief Operating Officer Teri Bristol. Collaborations like NEXTOR allow us to blend all of our expertise and find innovative ways of making our safe and efficient national airspace system even better."