



## NASA SBIR 2015 Phase I Solicitation

### A3 Airspace Operations and Safety

Lead Center: HQ

The Airspace Operations and Safety Program (AOSP) seeks innovative and feasible concepts and technologies to enable significant increases in the capacity and efficiency of the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) while maintaining or improving safety and environmental acceptability. AOSP activities and projects will target system-wide operational benefits of high impact for NextGen both in the arenas of airspace operations and safety management. Projects will be formulated with near-term end dates or deliberative evaluation points consistent with the accomplishment of program-defined Technical Challenges. AOSP aligns with the ARMD Strategic Thrusts of Safe and Efficient Growth in Global Aviation, Enable Real-Time System-Wide Safety Assurance, and Enable Assured Machine Autonomy for Aviation. Distribution of work area across the AOSP project structure is described below.

AOSP is comprised of three projects: Airspace Technology Demonstrations (ATD), Shadow Mode Assessment Using Realistic Technologies for the National Airspace System (SMART-NAS) Test-Bed for Safe Trajectory-Based Operations, and Safe Autonomous Systems Operations (SASO). The three projects are formulated to make major contributions to operational needs of the future through the development and research of foundational concepts and technologies and their analysis, integration, and maturation in relevant, system-level environments. Each of the projects are, much like the airspace system itself, highly integrated and require attention to critical system integration and transition interfaces with the NAS. The Airspace Technology Demonstrations (ATD) Project will accelerate the maturation of concepts and technologies to higher levels of maturity for transition to stakeholders, including research supporting the existing ATD-1:

- Interval Management - Terminal Area Precision Scheduling and Spacing effort.
- Integrated Arrivals/Departures/ Surface Operations.
- Applied Traffic Flow Management.
- Technologies for Assuring Safe Aircraft Energy and Attitude State (TASEAS).

The SMART-NAS Testbed for Safe Trajectory Based Operations Project will deliver an evaluation capability, critical to the ATM community, allowing full NextGen and beyond-NextGen concepts to be assessed and developed. This simulation and modeling capability will include the ability to assess multiple parallel universes, accepts data feeds, allows for live/virtual/constructive- distributed environment, and enable integrated examinations of concepts, algorithms, technologies, and NAS architectures. The Safe Autonomous System Operations (SASO) Project will develop autonomous system concepts and technologies; conduct demonstrations, and transfer application specific matured technologies to increase affordability, efficiency, mobility of goods and passengers, safety, and scalability and mix of airspace operations.

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Proposals for this topic will develop innovative feasible concepts and technologies to enable significant increases in the capacity, efficiency, scalability and cost effectiveness of the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) while maintaining or improving safety and environmental acceptability.

## Subtopics

### **A3.01 Advanced Air Traffic Management Systems Concepts**

**Lead Center:** ARC

**Participating Center(s):** LaRC

This subtopic addresses user needs and performance capabilities, trajectory-based operations, and the optimal assignment of humans and automation to air transportation system functions, gate-to-gate concepts and technologies to increase capacity and throughput of the National Airspace System (NAS), and achieving high efficiency in using aircraft, airports, en route and terminal airspace resources, while accommodating an increasing variety of missions and vehicle types, including full integration of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) operations. Examples of concepts or technologies that are sought include:

- Develop verification and validation methods and capabilities to enable safe, end-to-end NextGen Trajectory-Based Operations (TBO) functionality and seamless UAS operations, as well as other future aviation system concepts and architectures.
- The development of performance requirements, functional allocation definitions, and other critical data for integrated, end-to-end NextGen TBO functionality, and seamless UAS operations, as well as other future aviation system concepts and architectures.
- Development of prognostic safety risk management solutions and concepts for emergent risks.
- Development of TBO concepts and enabling technology solutions that leverage revolutionary capabilities and that enable capacity, throughput, and efficiency gains within the various phases of gate-to-gate operations.
- Networked/cloud-based systems to increase system predictability and reduce total cost of National Airspace System operations.

It is envisioned that the outcome of these concepts and technologies will provide greater system-wide safety, predictability, and reliability through full NextGen (2025-2035 time frame) functionality.

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