

IFAR – International Forum for Aviation Research – Contribution to Research and Education on International Level

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Abstract

The future challenges of air transport motivated in 2010 the leading worldwide aviation research institutions to found IFAR - the International Forum for Aviation Research - which is working on a voluntary, non-binding basis. The primary purpose of IFAR is to connect research organisations worldwide, to enable the information exchange on aviation research activities between members, to facilitate opportunities for networking and creating partnerships and to coordinate views and make recommendations for use by its members. Climate change is currently one of the most relevant topic and was the initial motivation to set up IFAR. However, the focus of IFAR is on all non-competitive research and development topics related to global technical challenges such as those pertaining to emission, noise, security, safety and efficient operations, and steps to reduce the impact of aviation on climate and the environment. Against this background, IFAR aims at developing a regularly updated IFAR Framework Document outlining global research objectives and technological opportunities for use by its members. The results will be updated regularly at the website www.ifar.aero.

IFAR - as research representation - concentrates on the development of the technologies until Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 6. Further qualification and development is expected to be performed by industry. The new technologies do not need necessarily to be developed only within the aviation sector. They can also be transferred from other industrial sectors as automotive, space, energy, etc.. Alternative fuels, which might be needed for the future ATS to fulfil the long-term vision can be complementary developed in the energy research sector. Co-operation and research activities across branches and disciplines seem beneficial and mandatory.

IFAR develops also a concept for a data base which identifies ongoing PhD studies on aviation research worldwide and collects available funding opportunities in different countries. The data base aims to connect young researchers who work on similar topics in aviation. This may improve the co-operation on small level among single persons but it may also start new co-operations on future topics between larger organizations.

This paper presents the objectives and main activities of IFAR.