Airbus Engineering unlimited performance inspired

Centre of Competence Flight Physics

Event / Department (optional)

Industry's Needs of Aviation Infrastructures

ACARE AirTN Meeting, 26th February 2013

Presented by Axel Flaig, SVP Airbus Flight Physics



Aviation Challenges

A350

Socio-economics & environment







Industry Challenges

Europe has set ambitious targets in terms of environmental impact reduction, increased innovation and competitiveness

Product Asymptote & Future Technologies

4350





Infrastructure in the Aviation Context

0350

Key Enablers



Complementary means: Wind tunnel testing, numerical simulation & Flight Tests



Wind Tunnel Testing: Projected Testing Effort

2500 Wind Tunnel Test Effort (Days) 2000 1500 Unconventional 1000 <u>Conventional</u> A350-XWB A380 500 0 2000 2007 2020 +2025 +Aircraft developments over time

Unconventional configurations with novel technologies will require significant wind tunnel test effort in concept validation





Requirements on Wind Tunnel Facilities

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Aerodynamics technology barrier





Engine simulation & Configuration

Counter Rotating Open Rotors (CROR): Engine Simulation



Configuration testing



The development of these concept simulators is only been possible through significant wind tunnel testing efforts



Advanced Measurements: Beyond the conventional





Non-intrusive advanced measurements and visualisation

Significant effort needed to ensure that capabilities are available for industrial exploitation, ready for the next generation of aircraft developments



Outlook on Future Infrastructure Developments

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Maintenance and upgrade needs



Due to the demanding drive for technology and configuration validation, there is huge pressure on facility owners to upgrade their capabilities



The current aircraft product panorama





Risks

No foreseen new aircraft developments in the near future = decreasing workload to key facilities



Next major development not foreseen until 2030: Potential financial risks on key facilities due to lack of revenues from testing volume



Airframers' view of the European Landscape



In 2011, Airbus took the initiative to set up a working group of the major European airframers to review and provide a recommendation on the future wind tunnel infrastructure needs



The current strategic infrastructures





Conclusions

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Conclusions

- Industrial Wind Tunnels are vital to support the European Aeronautics industry in future aircraft developments; they fulfil societal needs as expressed in the ACARE Vision 2020 and Flightpath 2050 ambitions
- No major developments are planned over the next decade; this creates a survival risk for the existing infrastructures due to reduced income from industry
- A joint European effort is required to set up a funding mechanism through research programmes to ensure the long term availability of such facilities with state-of-the-art capabilities





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