



From left to right: AIAA President Roger Simpson, NASA Langley Research Center Director Lesa Roe, National Institute of Aerospace Executive Director Robert Lindberg on their way to the "Meet & Greet" with state representatives. (Credit: Sean Smith)

## NASA AND INDUSTRY JOIN FORCES FOR VIRGINIA AERO-SPACE DAY

NASA leaders from NASA Langley Research Center and Wallops Flight Facility joined with aerospace industry representatives and members of professional organizations statewide at Aero-Space Day, 31 January, in Richmond, VA. These aerospace advocates met with General Assembly members to discuss the importance of aerospace to Virginia. In fiscal year 2006, NASA operations and aerospace industry in Virginia generated \$2.8 billion in revenue and created over 25,000 jobs nationwide, \$1.2 billion and 12,000 jobs in Virginia alone.

AIAA members participated in the event, including the meetings and the legislative reception held the evening before at the Library of Virginia. The Joint Commission on Technology & Science also hosted a "Meet & Greet" for the aerospace leaders to talk with state officials and their staff after the Aero-Space Day News Conference at the General Assembly.

During the morning, Langley's educational experts demonstrated NASA's distance-learning capability via an interactive videoconference with Chesterfield Elementary, one of four NASA Explorer Schools in Norfolk, and the Virginia Air and Space Center. The demo illustrated the values of technology to teachers, parents, students, and Virginians of every age.

NASA Langley Director Lesa Roe spoke at an Aero-Space Day News Conference, along with Virginia Secretary of Technology Aneesh Chopra and John Campbell, director, Wallops Flights Facility. Roe said, "We are here today to work with our elected officials to leverage Virginia's aerospace assets to position the Commonwealth as a strategic economic engine for the nation."

Roe explained, "In order to ensure the future of Virginia's high-tech stance, investment in the following areas is vital: in science, technology, engineering, and math education to ensure a strong workforce pipeline, in dollars for research, and in a strong advocacy group to promote Virginia's universities and aerospace industry."

During the Aero-Space Day events, NASA and industry leaders had an opportunity to talk with about 60 state officials, including the Secretary of Commerce and Trade, Secretary of Education, President of the Senate Pro Tempore, Speaker of the House, Chair of the Science Committee, and Members of the Education, Transportation, Appropriations, Finance and Science Committees. They also delivered packages to about 30 additional representatives and talked with many of their legislative assistants. The event culminated with Virginia's aerospace community being recognized by the House and Senate during the legislative session.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR SMALL BUSINESSES IN THE AEROSPACE PROFESSION: AN AIAA INITIATIVE

AIAA's Corporate Member Committee is initiating a new thrust oriented toward meeting the needs of small and entrepreneurial businesses working in aerospace focus areas. The initial activities organizational consist of panel discussions to be held at two upcoming AIAA meetings having a significant attendance from this entrepreneurial community. Chaired by Board of Directors director-at-large Dr. Bob Winn, these panel sessions will explore the opportunities for small businesses in the aerospace profession.

An overview of traditional and unique funding possibilities for small businesses will open the sessions, followed by short presentations from representatives from a large aerospace company and an aerospace-oriented government agency's small business office. In addition, small business owners will share "lessons learned" in small business contracting in both the commercial environment and the government contracting environment. A question-and-answer period will round out the sessions.

Asked about this initiative, Dr. Winn said, "I am really excited about this new AIAA initiative. Since my company, Engineering Systems Inc., in Colorado Springs, is a small business that is a new corporate member, I truly understand that the needs of these emerging enterprises are often very different than those of the legacy aerospace businesses. AIAA is trying now to meet the needs of both in the dynamic aerospace marketplace."

The two small business sessions are as follows:

### Session I: Monday, 7 May

1575-1745 hrs

In coordination with: AIAA Infotech@Aerospace 2007 Conference and Exhibit, 7-10 May 2007, Doubletree Hotel Sonoma Wine Country, Rohnert Park, CA

### Session II: Monday, 9 July

0930-1200 hrs

In coordination with: 43rd AIAA/ASME/SAE/ASEE Joint Propulsion Conference and Exhibit, 8-11 July 2007, Cincinnati Duke Energy Convention Center, Cincinnati, OH

If you represent a small aerospace business and are looking for ideas to expand and broaden your business base, please plan to join us.

For more information on these sessions and the AIAA Corporate Member Program, please visit [www.aiaa.org/corporatemembership](http://www.aiaa.org/corporatemembership).

### THE AIAA SUGGESTION PROGRAM

AIAA welcomes suggestions from members on how we can better serve you. All comments will be acknowledged. We will do our best to address issues that are important to our membership. Please send your comments to:



Catherine Downen  
VP Member Services  
AIAA  
1801 Alexander Bell Drive  
Suite 500  
Reston, VA 20191-4344

