



NASA SBIR 2008 Phase I Solicitation

A1.06 Technologies for Improved Design and Analysis of Flight Deck Automation

Lead Center: ARC

Information complexity in flight deck systems is increasing exponentially, and flight deck designers need tools to understand, manage, and estimate the performance and safety characteristics of these systems early in the design process - this is particularly true due to the multi-disciplinary nature of these systems. NASA seeks innovative design methods and tools for representing the complex human-automation interactions that will be part of future flight deck systems. In addition, NASA seeks tools and methods for estimating, measuring, and/or evaluating the performance of these designs throughout the lifecycle from preliminary design to operational use - with an emphasis on the early stages of conceptual design. Specific areas of interest include the following:

- Computational/modeling approaches to support determining appropriate human-automation function allocations with respect to safety and performance;
- Design tools and methods that improve the application of human-centered design principles to the design and certification of mixed human-automated systems;
- Tools and methods for modeling the complex information management systems required for future flight deck systems;
- Methods of data uncertainty estimation during the flight deck system design phase particularly as applied to predicting overall system integrity;
- Design and analysis methods or tools to better predict and assess human and system performance in relevant operational environments.

Proposals should describe novel design methods, metrics, and/or tools with high potential to serve the objectives of the System Design and Analysis element of NASA's Aviation Safety Integrated Intelligent Flight Deck program (<http://www.aeronautics.nasa.gov/avsafe/iifd/sda.htm>). Successful Phase 1 proposals should culminate in a final report that specifies, and a Phase 2 proposal that would realize, tools that improve the design process for human-automation systems in aviation, or improves the ability to assess effectiveness of such systems during the design phase. All proposals should discuss means for verification and validation of proposed methods and tools in operationally valid, or end-user, contexts.

