NIAR Hosts First JAMS Technical Meeting on Composite Research

The National Institute for Aviation Research (NIAR) hosted the FAA Joint Advanced Materials and Structures (JAMS) Center of Excellence and FAA Materials and Structures Branch technical meeting sponsored by MT Systems Corporation.

The meeting held earlier this week on the Wichita State University campus is the first of what will be an annual technical peer review of the research in progress for JAMS. It will also highlight related research from the FAA Materials and Structures Branch.

The purpose of this meeting is to gain feedback from industry, government and academia regarding the research, as well as to showcase the center's research in composites, advanced structures and crashworthiness.

The technical review consisted of presentations from the principle investigators in CECAAM and the Center of Excellence for Advanced Materials in Transport Aircraft Structures (AMTAS), the two groups that make up JAMS and the FAA Materials and Structures Branch. Professionals from the aviation community also made presentations.

The review will help JAMS and the FAA focus their research efforts appropriately to the needs of the aviation industry.

The objectives of this technical review are to:
- Review the research of the JAMS Center of Excellence and FAA Materials and Structures in composites, advanced structures and crashworthiness.
- Access current industry practice and compare that to the current research areas.
- Recommend additional research activities.

More than 20 commercial aviation organizations, 12 universities, and 10 representatives from the Federal Aviation Administration and other government agencies attended the meeting.

After the research reviews, representatives from industry provided feedback on the projects and results; the current FAA focused research areas; and additional industry research needs. Reviewers were impressed with the level of effort and the detail of research. A question and comment period for each individual project review provided immediate feedback and assessments to the researchers by the reviewers.

Research done through JAMS encompasses polymer composites, new materials, advanced processing techniques, advanced structural concepts, cabin safety and crashworthiness.

This will be an annual event for JAMS to assure the research addresses safety and certification needs of civil aviation in the area of advanced materials and structures. This interchange will provide a strong link between the ongoing FAA research run by JAMS and the Materials and Structures Branch and aviation safety needs.