Some airports are the noisiest places on the planet. The roar of aircraft taking-off and landing continues around the clock. The noise can be characterized as anything from a low rumble to an earsplitting shriek. Is all this noise the price we must pay for getting from point A to point B?

David H. Reed, The Boeing Company, will speak on "Aircraft Noise – Prospects for a Quieter Future" at a colloquium at 2 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 2, at NASA Langley's H.J.E. Reid Conference Center.

Media Briefing: A media briefing will be held at 1:15 p.m. at the H.J.E. Reid Conference Center, 14 Langley Blvd., NASA Langley Research Center. Members of the media who wish to attend should contact Kimberly W. Land at (757) 864-9885 or 344-8611 (mobile) to arrange for credentials.

Reed will review developments in noise-reduction technology along with advances in engine and airframe architecture that have enabled a steady improvement in community noise. He will also talk about recent technology developments and examine longer-horizon technology efforts to keep aircraft noise inside airport boundaries.

For the past 37 years, Reed has worked at The Boeing Company in noise engineering and acoustics technology organizations, providing noise engineering design support for all of Boeing's commercial jet products from 707-777. He led the development of Boeing's Low Speed Aeroacoustic wind tunnel and supervised the test-engineering group at Boeing's noise lab. Currently, he has responsibility for aeroacoustics, structural acoustics, and fluid mechanics technology development for Boeing commercial airplanes and for acoustics technology development at Phantom Works, Boeing's enterprise-wide research organization.

Reed has a bachelor's degree in physics from Oregon State University and a master's degree in aeronautics and astronautics from the University of Washington.