Georgia Institute of Technology Aerospace Systems Design Laboratory

Low Noise Subsonic Transport: Hybrid Wing Body

NASA University Design Challenge

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Abstract

This study recommends a hybrid wing body vehicle with two geared turbofan engines along with key technologies as a candidate for meeting NASA's mid-term goals. An Integrated Design Environment was used to perform multidisciplinary analysis and optimization. Design of experiments and response surface methodology were used to explore the design space of a hybrid wing body configuration and produce an optimized geometry. The optimized HWB alone reached a 44% reduction in fuel burn, a 76% reduction in LTO NOx, a 52 dB reduction in aircraft noise and a 60% reduction in cruise NOx. The TIES methodology is recommended to explore the benefits of 13 selected technologies and push the vehicle to meet the target metrics. This design is recommended to be introduced as a cargo vehicle to improve customers' perceptions of its reliability and safety before integration into the passenger aircraft market.