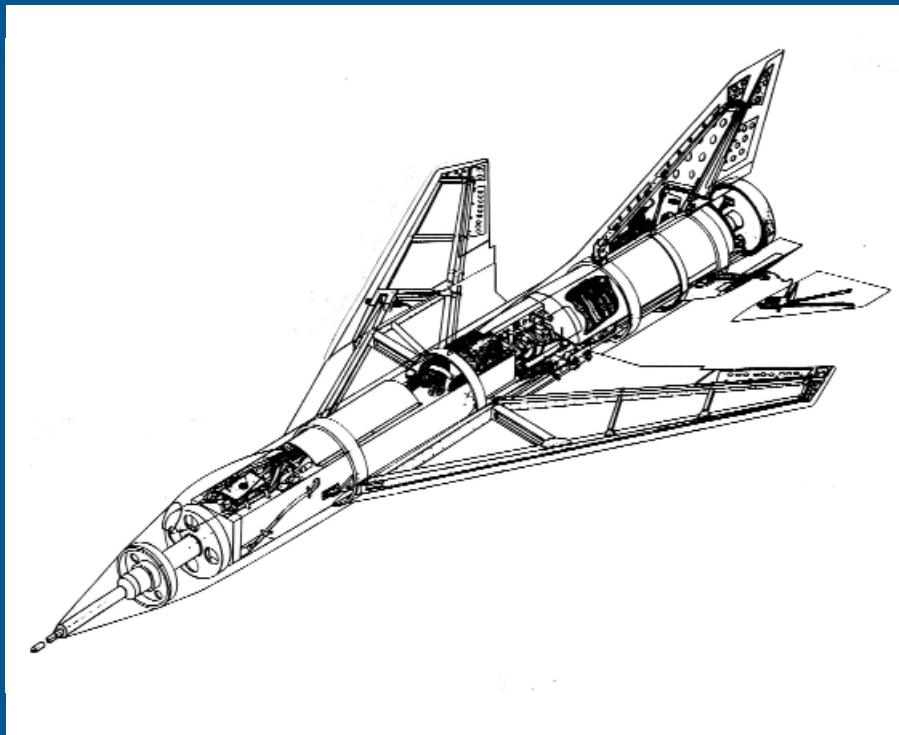




# *The* **AERONAUTICAL JOURNAL**



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# The AERONAUTICAL JOURNAL

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*Front cover: Diagram of a DSM structure.*



# RAeS Aerospace Aerodynamics Conference (14-15 September 2004)

In coming months *The Aeronautical Journal* will be publishing papers first presented at the 2004 Aerospace Aerodynamics Conference held at The Royal Aeronautical Society's Mayfair headquarters.

Michael J. de C. Henshaw gives an overview of the Conference.

The 2004 Aerospace Aerodynamics Conference took place amid an atmosphere of speculation about the status and role of UK aerodynamics, engendered in part by current discussions about aerodynamics networks. It was appropriate, therefore, that the first session featured papers that described large-scale collaborative ventures. Brian Timmins (ARA)<sup>(1)</sup> described the formation of the European Windtunnel Association; an EU-funded network of excellence that will share expertise and capabilities to strengthen the European research area through cost reduction, faster implementation of new technologies and better informed industrial end-users. Continuing the theme of collaborative windtunnel activity, Wolfgang Burgsmüller (ETW<sup>(2)</sup>) presented a summary of the first ten years of operation of the European Transonic Windtunnel, demonstrating its importance with respect to design knowledge at flight Reynolds numbers and outlining future plans for improved measurement techniques, aeroelastic effects and engine simulation. The third paper invited for the first session focused on a different sort of network; Neil McDougall (Cranfield University) described the FLAVIIR<sup>(3)</sup> project, jointly sponsored by BAE Systems and the EPSRC, in which ten UK universities collaborate on an interdisciplinary research programme into UAV technologies. The main aerodynamic content is associated with flow control technologies.

Two sessions were devoted to presentations from the aerodynamic DARPs<sup>(4)</sup>, PUMA<sup>(5)</sup> (unsteady aerodynamics) and MSTTAR<sup>(6)</sup> (turbulence and transition). These collaborations are industrially-led academic research programmes sponsored by DTI, EPSRC, MoD and industry. The presentations covered both the academic research highlights and the industry exploitation activities.

The RAeS and AIAA operate an exchange of 'best in conference' papers which afforded two sessions of very interesting papers from the 42nd Aerospace Sciences conference. Kevin Jones (NPS<sup>(7)</sup>, Monterey) conducted perhaps the first flight test in the lecture theatre itself, demonstrating the exceptionally good control capabilities of a flapping-wing propelled MAV at the end of his presentation. His paper gives a good overview of the contending approaches to MAV flight and describes the use of COTS (Commercial off the shelf) components (including cell-phone batteries, motors and voltage converters) to build the vehicle which completed several circuits of the lecture theatre without significantly threatening any of the audience!

As usual, the conference featured a mixture of experimental and CFD research papers. Edward Tinoco (Boeing) analysed the impact of CFD on the overall aeroplane development process. He concluded that its benefit has been restricted mainly to high-speed cruise design, with little application to the majority of the aerodynamic development effort (high lift, certification, stability and control). The paper considered the combined role of CFD and wind tunnel and identified the key factors, associated with timeliness, technical and cultural challenges, that prevent extension of use of CFD in product development, despite significant increases in its applicability across the flight envelope.

Many of the conference papers were of an applied nature, addressing such diverse issues as improved wind-tunnel measurements and analysis, aeroelastic analysis techniques, and fire zone ventilation in turbofans. The themes of collaborative research across the industry-academic boundary and of the realisation of research outputs as practical engineering tools were well represented at the conference and are surely a strength of the meeting. Under the chairmanship of Norman Wood (Manchester University) the delegates considered the question of how the conference might be improved in future years and attract larger audiences. The importance of attracting international participation while, at the same time, providing an opportunity to showcase UK aerodynamics was emphasised, as was promotion of the conference to senior and influential members of the UK aerodynamics community. Next year's conference will be held in Bremen, Germany, in collaboration with CEAS (Confederation of European Aerospace Societies); this will hopefully provide an opportunity to address these challenges.

**Michael J. de C. Henshaw**  
BAE Systems

<sup>(1)</sup>Aircraft Research Association

<sup>(2)</sup>European Transonic Windtunnel

<sup>(3)</sup>FLapless Air Vehicle Integrated Industry Research

<sup>(4)</sup>Defence and Aerospace Research Partnership

<sup>(5)</sup>Partnership in Unsteady Methods for Aerodynamics

<sup>(6)</sup>Modelling and Simulation of Turbulence and Transition for Aerospace

<sup>(7)</sup>Naval Postgraduate School