



# Summary: Proposal for an MIT Aviation Research Consortium

MIT Global Airline Industry Program

November 2004



**MIT**

# Outline – Full Presentation

- **MIT Global Airline Industry Program**
  - Multi-disciplinary research team
  - Research activities
  - Educational initiatives
  - Conferences and workshops
- **Proposed Aviation Research Consortium**
  - Member benefits and fees
  - Inputs and feedback solicited

# Aviation Research at MIT

- **Over 25 graduate student RAs involved**
  - As well as approximately 10 faculty researchers
- **Integrated research efforts supported by:**
  - Pilot funding from Sloan Foundation
  - Industry sponsors – airlines, manufacturers, airports, IT providers
  - Government grants and research funds
- **Plan is to maintain/expand activities**
  - In face of decreasing Sloan Foundation funding

# Major Strengths

- **Largest university center focused on aviation research and education**
  - Built on historical strength of MIT's flight transportation and airline industry programs
- **Unique interdisciplinary approach**
  - Collaboration between experts in engineering, systems analysis, economics and management
- **Independent center of objective and creative aviation research**
  - An “honest broker” on controversial policy, management and other issues

# Current Core Research Themes

- Major airline industry trends and forces
- Aviation safety and security
- Competition and industry structure
- Airline networks and operations
- Infrastructure capacity issues
- Labor and human resources

# Proposal for an MIT Aviation Research Consortium

**Consortium of major industry stakeholders to support research agenda**

- US \$40K annual membership fee
- Reduced annual fee for three-year commitment

**Consortium members will include:**

- Major international airlines, both legacy and LCC
- Aircraft manufacturers and suppliers
- Information technology providers
- Infrastructure and regulatory agencies

# Member Benefits

- **Annual meeting at MIT to review research activities**
- **Additional workshops/educational seminars**
- **On-site visits to discuss specific issues**
- **Access to research findings and reports**
- **Provide input to research agenda**
- **Recognition as supporting member**

# Research Benefits to Members

- **Contribution to forward-looking research agenda for the entire industry**
  - Development of new ideas during a critical period in airline industry evolution
  - Source of knowledge that can provide tangible value to planning and operations
- **Academic/industry partnership for strategic airline industry research**
  - MIT as an academic “home” for corporate partners

# Educational Benefits to Members

- **MIT graduate aviation programs produce highly rated, sought-after employees**
- **Industry internship programs**
  - Graduate students work for member companies during summers or leaves from MIT
- **Continuing education workshops**
  - Provide executives with state of the art concepts
  - Focused training for middle managers
  - Networking opportunities among stakeholders

# Summary

- **MIT Aviation Research Consortium**
  - Soliciting input and feedback from potential members
  - At this point, looking for launch members to help guide Consortium development and attract additional members

- **Discussions with potential members**

Star Alliance

Embraer

Lufthansa

Alaska Airlines

Delta Air Lines

Spirit Airlines