



ICAO Topic Update #1

Aviation Emissions

The world of technology moves quickly, and this has not excluded the fast paced field of aviation propulsion. Major aircraft manufacturers are increasingly turning toward cleaner, more efficient power plants to propel their designs into a greener 21st century.

Another area that has seen significant development is the international community's carbon credit strategy. These developments have been both positive and negative but ultimately should help lead us toward a feasible system of airline emission accountability.

With global oil resources on the decline, biofuels have been gaining more attention as an approach to reducing aviation's carbon footprint. These fuels require extensive engineering, either with aircraft engines (to accept the different type of fuel) or with the fuel itself (to be compatible with a wide range of aircraft propulsion systems).

News Briefs

26 countries join to protest EU's aircraft carbon emission norms

Not all of the latest attention on carbon credits has been positive. Member nations in the European Union are challenging the norms' efficacy and practicality.

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2011-10-03/news/30238352_1_emission-trading-eu-carbon-dioxide

Airlines May Use CO₂ Windfall to Replace Aircraft, EU Says

Airlines in certain regions have been granted free carbon credits, but some are passing along the artificial expense to consumers and keeping the surplus for aircraft.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-09-26/airlines-may-use-carbon-permit-windfall-to-replace-aircraft-eu-says.html>

NASA Awards \$1.3 Million to Winner of Electric Airplane Contest

Exciting news on the forefront of new aircraft technology as NASA promotes development of electric vehicles via significant financial incentives.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/science-technology/NASA-Awards-13-Million-to-Winner-of-Electric-Airplane-Contest-131011588.html>



Aeromexico plane to use biofuel on Costa Rica flight

The use of Biofuels is on the rise, and helping to reduce carbon emissions in aviation.

<http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/money/2011/09/27/aeromexico-plane-to-use-biofuel-on-costa-rica-flight/#ixzz1ZsQuXsrj>

Civil Space Aviation

Exciting progress continues in the field of civil space aviation, though in some cases this progress has been slower than expected. We can take this stagnation as an opportunity to crank the gears of bureaucracy and develop necessary regulation for the civil space aviation industry.

Following the end of the shuttle program, NASA has increased its use of private contractors to launch its crews and supplies into space. This has created an even greater incentive for private entities to develop their interstellar capabilities.

News Briefs

Companies Pursue Space Tourism, But Progress Lagging

The pipe dream of space tourism has proven to be a more daunting challenge than previously thought.

<http://www.ibtimes.com/articles/224926/20111004/companies-space-race-progress-lagging.htm>

SpaceX Unveils Plan for World's First Fully Reusable Rocket

This is an example of a promising private entity pushing the limits of non-governmental space exploration.

<http://www.space.com/13140-spacex-private-reusable-rocket-elon-musk.html>

Space tourism creeps closer to reality

A story that jumps off of one potential future private astronaut's decision to cancel his ticket to space.

<http://www.usatoday.com/tech/science/space/story/2011-10-04/vrigin-galactic-space-travel/50654620/1>