



2nd European Stakeholder Conference brings leading international experts to Munich

Munich, July 21, 2010 – Last Friday, July 16, 2010, the 2nd European Stakeholder Conference of SWAFEA (Sustainable Way for Alternative Fuels and Energy for Aviation) has been successfully concluded. For two days, 120 scientists, experts in the field of alternative fuels, policy makers and representatives of stakeholder organizations and internationally renowned NGOs met in Munich to review and discuss problems, progress and perspectives of alternative fuels for aviation and to provide a networking platform for the exchange of knowledge.

Beginning in 2009, the European Commission's Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport has initiated the SWAFEA study to analyze the feasibility and impact of alternative fuels for aviation. Involving 20 partners* from research and industry under the lead of the French Aerospace Lab ONERA, the study aims to provide a broader view of the present knowledge regarding alternative fuels. The focus is mainly on biofuels, in order to see whether and how they could be used for aviation to help in overcoming the energy and environmental challenges the sector is presently facing. The goal is, based on the synthesis of cutting-edge research results and stakeholder requirements, to build a vision and a possible roadmap for biofuels deployment in order to provide policy makers with information and decision elements.

For this purpose, Bauhaus Luftfahrt – a German think tank dealing with the future of aviation – organized last week with the support of the SWAFEA team the Second Stakeholder Conference for invited experts from universities, research institutes, air framers, airlines, engine manufacturers, refineries and fuel suppliers as well as biomass producers. The program of the event consisted of two parts, (1) a general update on the state-of-the-art of alternative fuels for aviation with a focus on suitability, sustainability and availability of biofuels and (2) in-depth discussions on biomass production, the business case for alternative fuels, regulatory requirements for their introduction, indirect land-use change and potential benefits of other renewable energy carriers.

As a result of the conference, a common understanding and awareness of the key questions and the progress in science, technology and business of alternative fuels have been established across all disciplines and stakeholders. The intermediate results of the study have been critically assessed and will be complemented by further work to produce a final comparative analysis of different fuel options and the implementation of the most promising pathways. Thus, SWAFEA will eventually provide input for future policy measures as well as help defining future European research programmes and establishing international partnerships beyond Europe.

*Airbus, Air France, Altran, Bauhaus Luftfahrt, DLR, CERFACS, Concawe, EADS-IW, Embraer, Erdyn, IATA, IFP, INERIS, ONERA, Plant Research International, Rolls-Royce, Rolls-Royce Deutschland, Shell, SNECMA and the University of Sheffield

