

Aerospace Research, Manufacturing and Training Converge at Williams Gateway



CERI Director Dr. Nancy Cooke (left) and former research assistant Janie DeJooode monitor a UAV simulation and record data from the participants. As an independent, not-for-profit research institute, CERI brings together leading scientists and practitioners from private industry, education and government to better understand how people will use emerging technologies.

The rapid advancement of technology used in unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) has outpaced research on how people will control and use these aircraft. The Cognitive Engineering Research Institute (CERI) at Williams Gateway Airport in Mesa, Arizona, is a leader in understanding how people will interact with this new technology.

Connecting People with UAVs

Gaining insights into the “command and control” systems used by military personnel was a vital first step for CERI to better understand how people will use UAVs. CERI applies this knowledge to help UAV manufacturers and the military better integrate users with unmanned systems for their safe and effective use. CERI also works with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Federal Aviation Administration on ways to safely integrate UAVs with piloted aircraft.

“We are excited to be involved at the inception of this new era for aviation,” said CERI Director Dr. Nancy Cooke. “Our goal is to convince the industry of the importance of considering human issues ranging from team coordination and situation awareness to remote control and ‘soda straw views’ early in the design of these systems. We know from experience that there are risks associated with neglecting the human element of these systems.”

CERI creates new business opportunities to collaborate on a variety of projects. For example, it works on UAV displays with Kutta Consulting, a high-tech firm in Greater Phoenix. For more, visit the CERI website at www.cerici.org.

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Williams Gateway (cont'd.)



In addition to CERI, research into simulation technology plays a vital role at Williams Gateway. On-site facilities include L-3 Communication (Link Simulation and Training), Lockheed Martin and ISTS (International Simulation and Training Systems).

Creating an Aerospace Center

Williams Gateway, a former military base, is developing as an international aerospace center. More than 20 aviation companies operate at this site including Boeing, Regional Airline Academy and Silver State Helicopters. There is high demand for the remaining 1,000 acres. In addition, plans call for Williams Gateway to serve up to 2 million passengers by 2025.

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