



New Visions

Insights on Air Mobility and Economic Growth

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INSATS Symposium Draws Attention throughout Indiana

By Amy Drefke

On May 12th, the Indiana SATS Consortium held two meetings at the Northeast Indiana Innovation Center. The first was a closed meeting of the Personal Air Transportation Alliance, also known as PATA. The second meeting was a symposium put together by INSATS to inform people throughout the state of our goals and also give an update as to what progress has been made in the aviation industry. Along with the two meetings, there was an exhibit at Smith Field with the National Consortium for Aviation Mobility, also known as NCAM, and Cirrus trailers.

The PATA meeting involved approximately 25 of that organization's membership from across the country. These members consist of people who are currently running air taxi companies, people who are involved in the building of the next generation of aircraft, and various consultants. Although they spent the majority of the day in a closed meeting, the PATA members did provide several presentations, sit in on a few INSATS speakers, and had a chance to mingle with the symposium attendees for lunch. PATA was impressed with the amount of support offered

by the community as well as the state of Indiana for starting an air taxi industry within Indiana.

The INSATS symposium was also a success. There were approximately 70 people in attendance to hear about the future of aviation within Indiana. Phenomenal speakers from both the industry and the state of Indiana captivated attention throughout the day. The speakers included Karl LaPan, from the Innovation center; Admiral Bob Dunn, from PATA; Jack Sheehan, from NCAM; David Kerr, from NGATS; Dr. Mark Keen, from Ivy Tech; Jim Keefer, from INDOT; Representative Randy Borrer; Dr. Morton Marcus; Mayor Graham Richard; Secretary of State Todd Rokita; Ken Ross, from North American Jet; Commissioner Tom Sharp; and a panel of air transportation specialists and potential business and industry consumers. Special guests included PATA, Sandy Munro and his wife Sue from the Michigan SATS lab, and Esther Dyson from Release 1.0. Governor Mitch Daniels regrettably could not attend, but sent a letter of support, which was read by Secretary Rokita. The captivating keynote address during lunch was given by Mayor Graham Richard. There were many discussions on how beneficial air

taxis would be for the state and how such an industry could be funded.

The event was also a chance to show how effective an on-demand type of air service could be and why they are needed. The morning of the meeting, Research Specialists from Purdue's Advanced Manufacturing Research Center, Dr. Shin and Dr. Schneider, were flown from Purdue to meet with a PATA member at the Innovation Center. In true SATS form, they were back at Purdue by noon in order to fulfill an obligation there. This is an example of how many people will travel one day.

Unfortunately, the symposium also exposed flaws in the current hub and spoke system of the aviation industry. As David Kerr from the Next Generation Air Transportation Service, also known as NGATS was flying to Fort Wayne from Washington, DC, the weather in the area became unfavorable and his connection from Chicago into Fort Wayne was cancelled. He ended up e-mailing his PowerPoint to INSATS and giving his presentation over a speaker phone because there were no flights from Chicago to Fort Wayne that would get him to the symposium in time. Theoretically, had there been an air taxi operator in the area, there would have been a plane waiting for him when he arrived in Chicago, flown him to Smith Field, which is closer to the

Innovation Center than Fort Wayne International Airport, and had him either back to Chicago in time to make his connection, or even possibly taken him all the way home to Washington, DC.

While these meetings were taking place at the Innovation Center, the EAA Chapter 2 was busy at Smith Field sponsoring the Next Generation Aircraft Expo. This two day event featured the NCAM and Cirrus trailers for people to walk through and get a hands-on feel of the future of aviation. In the NCAM trailer, one could fly the simulator and experience how pilots will fly and land without control towers in the near future. Meanwhile, in the Cirrus trailer, visitors could see the different products available and climb into the fuselage of a Cirrus plane to sit in the pilot's seat. Although heavy rain kept the next generation planes from making it to the event, there was a great turnout from visitors of all ages.

The Indiana SATS Consortium would like to thank everyone who came to any of these events. We greatly appreciate the support. It is because of the attendees, along with our other supporters that Indiana will have on-demand air taxi services before too long. INSATS is working hard to make Indiana the "Epicenter of Aeronautics Innovation."



Jim Keefer of INDOT addresses the Symposium attendees



Symposium guests listen intently to the speakers



Shahid Siddiq "Sid" looks on while visitors to the NASA/NCAM trailer try their hand at the flight simulator

INSATS Out and About

It has been a busy summer for the executive members of INSATS. The Fort Wayne Business Expo was held shortly after the INSATS symposium, so arrangements were made to keep the NCAM trailer in town so it could be used as part of the INSATS display there. It was a big hit amongst the people who ventured in and tried the flight simulator. Not long after that, Ralph, Bob, and Kim went to the business expo in Pokagon to share the SATS concept with the people who may travel via air taxis in the near future. In July, Bob, Kim, and Amy went to the ATAIN/IIN Conference on Aerospace and Space Science Technology at Taylor University in Upland. This was a great opportunity to see what else is happening within the state in the way of aerospace.

Not only have the members of INSATS been traveling, but they have also brought a

guest to the state. Karl Grundmann from NGATS came to Fort Wayne from Washington, DC and then traveled with the INSATS staff to Indianapolis in order to meet with local and state level officials to discuss what part Indiana will play in the future world of aerospace technology. Karl's visit also let the decision-makers of the state know that others are pursuing the same technology and what Indiana needs to do to remain at the forefront of innovation.

INSATS has also continued to find time to make presentations to smaller community groups. A lot of times it is in these small sessions where people first hear of and become interested in the work INSATS is doing. Although it's always nice to have a large audience, a small one can be just as effective to find future travelers or pilots for air taxis.

INSATS Welcomes Newest Officer

The Indiana SATS Consortium would like to welcome its newest executive officer, Andrew J. Welborn. He will be filling the office of secretary and legal advisor.

Drew's main concentration is in the area of corporate law, with emphasis on general business matters, mergers and acquisitions, and real estate. He is involved in Big Brothers-Big Sisters and the Vurpar Project. Drew is also a member of the Indiana State Bar Association. We are happy to have you, Drew.



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