



**Aero Testing Alliance (ATA)  
a major step towards European integration  
of aerospace research facilities**

**End of April 2006 three national aerospace research organizations - the Dutch National Aerospace Laboratory (NLR), the German Aerospace Center (DLR) and the French Office National d'Études et de Recherches Aérospatiales (ONERA) - took a major step towards integration of the wind tunnel facilities of France, Germany and The Netherlands.**

By signing a co-operation agreement they enabled the foundation "German-Dutch Wind Tunnels" (DNW) - operating NLR and DLR wind tunnels – and ONERA to establish, at the same time, the European Economic Interest Grouping "Aero Testing Alliance" (ATA), having its seat in Noordoostpolder, The Netherlands.

The ultimate goal of this new, European co-operation is the integrated operation of wind tunnel facilities, intensively used by leading aerospace companies worldwide . As a first step DNW and ONERA will perform joint activities not only concerning technical co-operation, but also on marketing and acquisition of contracts for their wind tunnel services. Also, joint investments in equipment are foreseen.

Taking into account that all parties involved have a substantial track record in wind tunnel testing, the ATA co-operation will result in providing more effective wind tunnel services (in terms of quality, responsiveness and costs) to the aeronautical industry as well as to the research community.

Since 1988, DLR, NLR and ONERA have already co-operated as joint owners of the European Transonic Wind tunnel ETW, together with their UK-partner.

<p>ONERA is the leading French aerospace research organization, and a key partner in government and industry programs. It has some 2,000 employees and an annual business volume of 188 million euros.</p>	<p><i>Press contact:</i> <b>Dominique Huard</b> <a href="mailto:dominique.huard@onera.fr">dominique.huard@onera.fr</a> Tel: +33 (0)1 46 73 40 65 Fax: +33 (0)1 46 73 41 59</p>
<p>DLR is Germany's national research center for aeronautics and space and national Space Agency. Its extensive research and development work is integrated into national and international cooperative ventures. Approximately 5 100 people work for DLR; it has 31 institutes and facilities at eight locations."</p>	<p><i>Press contacts:</i> <b>Suzanne Reif</b> <a href="mailto:suzanne.reif@dlr.de">suzanne.reif@dlr.de</a> Tel: +49 2203 601-4663 Fax: +49 2203 601-2013 <b>Hans-Leo Richter</b> <a href="mailto:hans-leo.richter@dlr.de">hans-leo.richter@dlr.de</a> Tel: +49 2203 601-2425 Fax: +49 2203 601-3249</p>
<p>The National Aerospace Laboratory NLR is the central institute for aerospace research in the Netherlands. NLR works under national and international contracts in projects concerning aircraft development, aircraft operations, air traffic management and space technology. NLR employs a staff of about 750.</p>	<p><i>Press contact:</i> <b>Frank Vos</b> <a href="mailto:dfvos@nlr.nl">dfvos@nlr.nl</a> Tel: +31 (0) 20 511 31 33 Fax: +31 (0) 20 511 32 10</p>