

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Adaptive Aerospace Group, Inc. addresses aircraft loss of control accidents

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Hampton, Virginia based Adaptive Aerospace Group, Inc. (AAG) today announced receipt of a Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) Phase I grant from NASA to perform new research intended to dramatically reduce the number one cause of fatal aircraft accidents. The work is focused on general aviation, which is essentially any non-scheduled aircraft flight, and represents the majority of aircraft and flight hours. The result is expected to be applicable to all flights. The winning proposal is titled “Development and Assessment of Loss of Control Prevention Techniques.” It was one of two aviation-safety-related SBIR grants awarded to AAG in June.

Company founder and president Keith Hoffler said, “We are excited to have this opportunity to improve the safety and sustainability of general aviation.” Hoffler pointed out that both the FAA and NTSB recognize loss-of-control as the leading cause of fatal aircraft accidents. One of the solutions to reducing such accidents is to warn the pilot prior to reaching an aerodynamic performance limit of the airplane. AAG has developed a solution to determine when the airplane is approaching the maximum amount of lift it can produce. This research task is focused on improving that solution and developing effective warning cues for the pilot through aural, visual, and haptic (vibratory) cueing methods. This work builds on research funded by both AAG and the FAA to develop the performance margin monitor, a technique known as derived Angle of Attack estimation.

Successful development and adoption of this technology, which is intended to have easy retrofit paths for existing aircraft and forward-fit paths on new aircraft, is expected to reduce the number of loss-of-control accidents. The result has great commercial potential because it is a significant improvement over current industry state of the practice and, once adopted, it will save lives.

Adaptive Aerospace Group, Inc. was founded in 2003 and performs research and development for aviation and space flight vehicle technologies including on-board electronics (avionics).

Website: <https://www.adaptiveaero.com>