



# AIRPORT/COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE

San Francisco International Airport and  
Local Governments in San Mateo County

**Item #5**

March 25, 2009

**TO:** Roundtable Representatives, Alternates, and Interested Persons

**FROM:** David F. Carbone, Roundtable Coordinator *DFC*

**SUBJECT:** **Agenda Item No. 5 for April 1, 2009: Overview of New FAA Web Site: NoiseQuest**

## BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

NoiseQuest, a new web site launched in early March 2009, was created to serve as an educational and informational resource regarding aviation noise. The website address is [www.noisequest.psu.edu](http://www.noisequest.psu.edu). The site was developed as part of the current research efforts of PARTNER – the Partnership for AiR Transportation Noise and Emissions Reduction – an FAA/NASA/Transport Canada – sponsored FAA Center of Excellence (see attachments). The Roundtable is a member of the PARTNER Advisory Board. The information provided below was derived from the attached press releases and website review.

The site is designed to help improve the public's understanding of aviation noise, provide a forum to discuss aviation noise issues, and foster better relations between airports and their surrounding communities. The website was developed at Penn State University's Applied Research Laboratory. Penn State is one of several universities that are part of the PARTNER research program. The following list includes some of the topics that are addressed in the website:

- Aviation noise sources
- What to do about noise
- Land use planning
- Reducing noise in homes
- Guidance for homebuyers
- On-going aviation noise mitigation research

Information contained in the site was derived from government documents, news articles, research journals, and current aviation practices. The site will be expanded in the future to include additional outreach information and downloadable handouts.

Attachments:

- Penn State Press Release, dated March 2, 2009
- PARTNER Press Release, dated March 11, 2009
- Screen shot of the NoiseQuest web site Home Page
- Information Sheet about PARTNER

RoundtablememoNoiseQuestWebSite0309.doc

## AIRPORT/COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE

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## AIRCRAFT NOISE ABATEMENT OFFICE

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## ***New Web site offers resources to better understand aviation noise***

Monday, March 2, 2009

University Park, Pa. -- For residents, community leaders and airport officials grappling with aviation noise, a new Web site developed through Penn State and sponsored by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) offers a new resource in dealing with the issue.

The site, [www.noisequest.psu.edu](http://www.noisequest.psu.edu) [1], includes educational content, a community forum that provides users an opportunity to participate in a moderated discussion on the Wyle Noise Bulletin and links to airport noise sites, environmental information and other educational resources. NoiseQuest visitors can also find how noise is measured, sources of aviation noise, effects of noise and other related topics.

All of the site's information is based on government documents, news articles, research journals and current aviation practices.

Kathleen Hodgdon, a senior research assistant at Penn State's Applied Research Laboratory who led the site development team, said NoiseQuest is designed to improve the public's understanding of aviation noise, provide a forum to discuss aviation noise issues, and foster better relations between airports and their surrounding communities.

David Carbone, transportation systems coordinator/airport environs planning in San Mateo County, Calif., said NoiseQuest offers users a single place to obtain information about aircraft noise. "I look forward to the site continuing to grow and expand so it can serve as a useful repository for the most current information on a complex topic."

Raquel Girvin, manager of the FAA's Office of Environment and Energy Noise Division, added, "Beyond providing answers to questions regarding aircraft noise, NoiseQuest offers an opportunity for the public to interact with other aviation stakeholders regarding their noise concerns."

Hodgdon said that the Web site would be expanded over the next year to include



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## ***New Web site offers resources to better understand aviation noise***

additional outreach information and downloadable handouts.

NoiseQuest was created by the Partnership for AiR Transportation and Emissions Reduction (PARTNER) Center of Excellence, which is sponsored by the FAA, NASA and Transport Canada.

Led by Ian Waitz, head of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's aeronautics and astronautics department, PARTNER brings together academia, industry and government to identify solutions for existing and anticipated aircraft noise and emissions-related problems.

The site's development team comprised of academics, community organizations, airport noise representatives, aviation industry consultants and government representatives.

NoiseQuest team members included Penn State, Purdue University, the Washington Airports Authority, the Palisades Citizens Association and aviation noise-consulting firms Harris Miller Miller & Hanson Inc. and Wyle Laboratories. Laurette Fisher of the FAA Office of Environment and Energy managed the project.

In addition to Hodgdon, Penn State's contribution includes Maurie Kelly, director of informatics at the Penn State Institutes of Energy and the Environment and Anthony Atchley, chair of the Graduate Program in Acoustics and principal investigator for the University's portion of the PARTNER research efforts.

Links:

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[1] <http://www.noisequest.psu.edu>

Contact

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The Partnership for AiR Transportation Noise and Emissions Reduction  
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March 11, 2009

### **New Web site offers aviation noise info, resources**

Community members, civic leaders, homebuyers, and others concerned about aviation noise have a new Web site to help them understand noise sources and effects, explore options for dealing with noise, and access noise-related resources. NoiseQuest <http://www.noisequest.psu.edu> includes information about:

- aviation noise sources
- what to do about noise
- land use planning
- reducing noise in homes
- guidance for homebuyers
- ongoing research
- ... and more

NoiseQuest is sponsored by the Federal Aviation Administration's Office of Environment and Energy to improve public understanding of aviation noise, provide a forum for noise issues, and foster better relations between airports and surrounding communities.

Site information is derived from government documents, news articles, research journals, and current aviation practices. The site will be expanded over the next year to include additional outreach information and downloadable handouts.

The site was developed by Penn State University and the Partnership for AiR Transportation Noise and Emissions Reduction <http://www.partner.aero>, a nine-university aviation noise and emissions research consortium headquartered at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Also involved in the project were Purdue University, Washington Airports Authority, Palisades Citizens Association and aviation noise-consulting firms Harris Miller Miller & Hanson and Wyle Laboratories.

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# NOISE QUEST

Aviation Noise Information & Resources.



- > About NoiseQuest
- > What Can I Learn About Airports?
- > Noise Basics and Metrics
- > Sources of Aviation Noise
- > Sources of Non-Aviation Noise
- > What does Noise Affect?
- > What to do About Noise?
- > Land Use Planning
- > Community Tools
- > Community Forum
- > Ongoing Research Efforts
- > Supplemental Metrics
- > Glossary of Terms
- > Related Links

### Mission Statement

The NoiseQuest team developed this website to provide educational information on aviation noise. To learn more about NoiseQuest see: About NoiseQuest

Home Search Print Team Section



## ABOUT PARTNER

PARTNER — the Partnership for Air Transportation Noise and Emissions Reduction — is a leading aviation cooperative research organization, and an FAA/NASA/Transport Canada-sponsored Center of Excellence. PARTNER fosters breakthrough technological, operational, policy, and workforce advances for the betterment of mobility, economy, national security, and the environment. The organization's operational headquarters is at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Professor Ian Waitz, head of the MIT Aeronautics and Astronautics Department, is the director.

PARTNER comprises 10 collaborating universities, and approximately 50 advisory board members. One of PARTNER's greatest strengths is the advisory board's diversity and inclusiveness. Its members include aerospace manufacturers, airlines, airports, national, state and local government, professional and trade associations, non-governmental organizations and community groups. They have united as an international consortium to foster collaboration and consensus among some of the best minds in aviation, jointly advancing environmental performance, efficiency, safety and security.

As an incentive to collaboration, equal matches are required for federal dollars granted to PARTNER. The universities provide some of these matching funds, but most are obtained from the organizations represented on the advisory board. This collaborative process has fueled unique research efforts involving a wide spectrum of participants.

PARTNER research and activities have included:

- a landmark aviation and environment report to the U.S. Congress proposing a national vision statement, and recommended actions
- successfully testing alternate descent patterns as a no/low-cost means to reduce aircraft landing noise, fuel consumption, and pollutant emissions
- three significant measurement campaigns at U.S. airports to assess and understand the formation of particulate matter from aircraft
- collaborating with NASA and industry studying noise acceptability of supersonic flight over land
- examining land use, noise, and local development dynamics related to airport encroachment
- assessment of the human health and welfare risks of aviation noise, local air quality, and climate change impacts
- development of aircraft and air transportation system simulations to assess policies, technologies and operational options for enabling environmentally responsible air transportation growth
- examining the potential of different alternative fuels for aviation

### **PARTNER**

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