

"ESCT propulsion system integration: Review and Progress".

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The three major European Aircraft Manufacturers have agreed on a common configuration for the future Supersonic Transport Aircraft: the ESCT. The economic viability of such an aircraft requires ambitious aerodynamic performances. Owing to its large impact on aircraft performances, the aerodynamic design of the future supersonic transport aircraft propulsion system is of utmost importance. The use of efficient CFD methods proves to be very helpful and powerful in designing the whole propulsion system. Through this process, AEROSPATIALE MATRA AIRBUS has developed know-how on both the internal and external parts of the propulsion system.

Although the internal component of the propulsion system, i.e. the air intake, engine and nozzle have to be studied as a whole, the internal performance of a supersonic air intake is highly dependant on overall aircraft configuration. It requires special care in the trade off between internal performance and external drag. CFD tools, which are able to simulate intake operation characteristics, added to overall expertise on intake design, were used to define and test a supersonic air intake.

The external design of the nacelles and propulsion system integration results from careful analysis of the flow pattern on the wing's lower surface. A complete propulsion system has been obtained which minimises the total aircraft drag, while considering local flow conditions and the strong interactions of the nacelles. Experimental data are presented which confirm the overall design process.

The high level of information provided by modern CFD methods is a key point for both internal and external flow analysis, while the various levels of modelling provide an appropriate cost effective answer to each type of physical phenomenon. The level of performance achieved is encouraging for a second generation supersonic transport aircraft feasibility, and AEROSPATIALE MATRA AIRBUS is continuing its research effort on supersonic aircraft.



































