

CEAS Annual Report 2013

By David Marshall

CEAS has continued to develop its activities in 2013 under the four key themes identified over 2 years ago in a strategy review.

These were:

- Knowledge dissemination
- European links
- International relationships
- Education and young people

For Knowledge dissemination we had a successful and enjoyable biennial European Conference superbly organised and hosted by the Swedish Society of Aeronautics and Astronautics at Linköping for which we must record our most sincere thanks and congratulations. As noted below we may be able to move towards a situation where there is only one such Europe wide event in any year to the benefit of both our aerospace community and those who take the risk of organising such events.

Another part of our dissemination agenda are a growing series of Specialised conferences which are all becoming fixtures of importance to all who work in these fields. I was fortunate to be able to attend two of these;

Guidance Navigation and Control held at TU- Delft and Aeroacoustics in Berlin. In addition the International Forum on Aeroelasticity and Structural Dynamics was held in Bristol in June and the European Rotorcraft Forum was held in Moscow in September. A new technical committee was also launched at Linköping on aircraft design at the third symposium held on this topic in order to help promote this specialisation and support future events under the banner of CEAS.

Our Aeronautical and Space Journals increased their rates of publication over 2013 to create 7 issues between them. Besides maintaining this momentum, the task is now to achieve improved impact factors for papers that are published as the essential incentive for authors to offer their work. Another future challenge will be to satisfy the growing demand for open and free publication while keeping a viable business model.

Our own Bulletin continued to deliver a very high quality quarterly product which has become one of our major tools to demonstrate the value of CEAS. I want to congratulate and thank its Editor Jean-Pierre Sanfourche for continuing to make this possible.

Another tool for dissemination which has now become a major asset across our sector is the Conference Programming Management Information System jointly supported with the ASD. Uploading new events onto it has been streamlined and already a full calendar is evident for 2014 showing that it is widely used and recognised.

Our European links have been developed in 2013 particularly with European Commission Research planning and the conclusion of the E-CAERO contract. We joined the ACARE activity in the run up to the Horizon 2020 research agenda to be launched in 2014. I participated as a member of the Working Group that reviewed Infrastructure and Education which with the other four groups will now continue to monitor and advise as the programme is rolled out in the coming years. It is clearly open to us to participate in the other groups where we have something to contribute.

The E-CAERO contract ended this year and I must first record our gratitude to all in our community who have helped us fulfil our part of it. Particularly to Willy Kordulla and others at the DGLR who managed our participation and to Pierre Bescond who took a particular interest and part in seeking a positive outcome for CEAS from this effort. The overarching goal of the Commission for a single voice in Europe in respect of both conference organisation and paper publication remains and a new call to build on the

E-CAERO effort is now open. It will be an early task in 2014 for us to decide whether and how we might participate. However the previous programme has encouraged links to other organisations which can be developed whether or not as part of a newly funded contract. The real prize would appear to be a way forward with EUCASS which, if found, would meet a major part of the Commission goal. An initial meeting appears to hold promise and can also be built on in 2014.

Our link to ESA remains strong thanks to the efforts of Constantinos Stavrinidis and this is evident in both the strong space programmes injected into our Biennial conferences and the Space Journal. A goal in 2014 should be to make links to other European level organisations such as EASA, EuroControl and the EDA.

International relationships were not taken forward in 2013 but it could be a task for 2014 to revisit the most critical of these, that with the AIAA, to see what concrete goals could be agreed while at the same time reviewing current arrangements that might need changing.

A new relationship is planned for ratification at the start of 2014, an agreement to work with the Academy of Air and Space based in Toulouse.

The main thrust of this proposal is to bolster joint efforts at European issues by joint work and promotion in Brussels. Another strand to be worked is joint effort on the issues of young people and education.

Education and Young people has been given significant attention by both the efforts of the EUROAVIA President, Jacqueline Chindea, as a Trustee of CEAS and the dedication of an Education day at the Linköping conference. The outcome from this effort was a plea to CEAS to take a lead in the critical areas identified during this day, this included establishment of a special interest group looking at Education and Skills under the CEAS banner. The issues will be discussed at the first Trustees meeting in 2014.

We continued to honour individuals adjudged to have made a special contribution to European Aerospace with our Gold Medal. In March we recognised Professor Dr. Manfred Fuchs at a ceremony in Brussels and we plan a ceremony in Paris in January 2014 to present this award to M. Louis Gallois.

In final remarks on 2013 I must record very sincere thanks to Mercedes Oliver and her employer, Airbus Military, for her outstanding work as Director General and the support she has given me.

Sadly we will be saying “au revoir” to Francois Gayet who is stepping down as a Trustee for the AAAF. Francois has made a real contribution during his tenure and hopefully he can still be called on for advice.

I also want to thank all of the other Trustees for their support of me during this year and express sadness that events beyond my control are leading me to have to step down from the Board of Trustees. I have both greatly enjoyed the experience and continue to want to see CEAS prosper as the Voice across Europe of the Aerospace Learned Societies

David Marshall – President

December 2013