

Stanford AIAA – AIDAA/Euroavia Milan Sister Section Project

29 March 2000

Summary of teleconference meeting between representatives Stanford AIAA Student Chapter, San Francisco Section AIAA, and AIDAA/Euroavia Milan Chapter

Participants:

Howard Hamilton, Chairman, Stanford AIAA Student Chapter

Stephanie Sours, member of Sister Section committee, Stanford AIAA Student Chapter

Franco Marchese, Sister Section Working Group Chair, AIDAA/Euroavia Milan

Federico Suria, President, Euroavia Milan chapter

Matt Jardin, Vice-Chairman, San Francisco Section AIAA

The meeting started at about 8:40am (17:40 in Italy).

Howard opened the meeting by presenting a summary of his experience at the Aerospace Science Meeting and Exhibit at Reno in January. The Reno conference is one of the largest AIAA conferences, attracting over 1,500 presenters from all disciplines in aerospace engineering. Of particular interest at the conference was a paper presentation that discussed the formation of an International Master's of Science Program in aerospace engineering by a consortium of three American and five European universities. The program would allow a participant to take classes and perform research at an overseas university as part of the Master's program. What was interesting about the program was that Stanford University and Politecnico di Milano were exchanging students as part of this program. Howard suggested that it might be worthwhile to become associated with this program as it might be a great way to get the sister section project going. Franco replied that one of the students in AIDAA/Euroavia is participating in this program and will be at Stanford next year, so it would help to make contact with him. The contact person at Stanford is Prof. Bruce Lusignan; he was unable to participate in this teleconference but we will try to keep him informed about the sister section project and find out if he is interested.

The next topic was the exchange of written materials between the groups. The Milan participants said that the types of written materials they would like are a summary of degrees and courses offered in the engineering departments (Aero/Astro department in particular), and a university prospectus. Matt suggested that since most of this information can be found on the Web, we should refer people to the appropriate web pages at Stanford via links at the Stanford AIAA site (<http://www.stanford.edu/group/aiaa>) and the AIDAA/Euroavia (<http://milano.euroavia.org>) site. The sister section page currently at the Stanford AIAA site is best suited for this purpose. Matt proposed a sister section page on the San Francisco AIAA page (<http://www.aiaa-sf.org>) and Franco suggested that there be a similar page translated into Italian on the AIDAA/Euroavia site. Pictures and biographies

of the people involved with the Sister Section project should be posted on the opposite web site. This should involve no more than a crosslink to the appropriate pages.

The third topic was about the opportunities for exchange between the two groups. It was agreed by all that there needs to be identification of those events that present an opportunity for a joint meeting (such as the Farnborough air show, Reno conference, Euroavia Congress) and then specific information provided to members who are interested (such as dates, times, meeting locations, travel and lodging suggestions). Matt informed us that he placed an ad in the latest newsletter of the San Francisco AIAA that sought a chairperson for the Sister Section committee, and received two responses. That was two more responses than he expected, so that it an encouraging sign.

Howard asked the Milan participants how they were able to secure sponsorships from companies. Franco replied that the local group prepared brochures that informed the company who the group was, what activities they did, and what the benefits to the company would be. They were then able to make a business pitch to a contact within the company, usually obtained from a professor in the department. Franco said that it was better to secure a small amount of money from many companies than a large amount of money from a few companies.

Finally, Federico suggested to the Stanford participants that they present a plan of what needs to be achieved in the sister section on a month-by-month basis. It is much easier for the Milan WG to organize their efforts if short-term goals are presented, instead of a broader goal such as "let's have a joint meeting at Reno". Howard agreed and said that the group at Stanford would work harder on formulating these short-term goals. Federico also suggested that the next teleconference be a webconference with webcams. Howard replied that he believed that someone at Stanford has that capability, but doesn't know whom. It is a good idea and it will be considered for the next meeting.

It was agreed by everyone that these teleconferences should take place every three months, provided that there is something to talk about. The meeting was terminated at about 9:25am (18:25 in Italy).