

RTCA DIGEST

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Committee Addresses Advances in Software Technology

A six-year effort by numerous industry volunteers to develop important information on software technology culminated in the completion of seven new documents that were approved during the December meeting of the RTCA Program Management Committee (PMC). In response to a 2005 request from the FAA, members of RTCA Special Committee (SC) 205, Software Considerations, have been working in conjunction with EUROCAE WG-71 to generate guidance for production of both airborne and ground-based CNS/ATM software. Jim Krodel, Pratt & Whitney, and Gerard Ladier, Aerospace Valley, provided skilled leadership as the Co-Chairs to the committee volunteers.

"The leadership of Jim and Gerard underscores the international collaboration needed to develop standards for aviation safety and operations," stated RTCA President Margaret Jenny. "Hundreds of participants from around the world donated thousands of hours to develop the seven documents that make



up the work product of the committee. Both Jim and Gerard proved adept leaders at forging difficult consensus on issues critical to the future of aviation."

The objectives of SC-205 were to promote safe implementation of aeronautical software, provide clear and consistent ties with the systems and safety processes, address emerging software trends and technologies, and develop a flexible approach that can change with technology advances.

See page 7 for details about these documents. They will be available soon on the RTCA Online Store. ■

RTCA Accomplishments Made Possible by Volunteers

Each fall, RTCA submits an annual report to the FAA summarizing its activities and accomplishments as a Federal advisory committee. Serving as a Federal advisory committee allows RTCA to convene private sector participants, thus facilitating the important public-private partnership so essential to the consensus-based model for modernization of our National Airspace System.

During FY2011, RTCA again reported broad participation and significant progress, as outlined in the accompanying chart. Throughout FY2011, RTCA managed numerous Federal advisory efforts: 1) the NextGen Advisory Committee (NAC), which was established in September 2010; 2) the Air

RTCA Federal Advisory Committee Accomplishments

	FY2011	FY2010
Total meetings	68	59
Total attendees	2,211	2,100
Unique organizations represented by attendees	375	327
Total documents published	17	6

Traffic Management Advisory Committee (ATMAC), which was sunset in October 2010; 3) the Program Management Committee (PMC), which provides important oversight for Special Committees; and 4) RTCA Special Committees (SCs), of which there were 20 operating during all or part of FY2011. The work of these committees resulted in the publication of 17 recommended performance standards or guidance documents that covered a range of issues

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