



2014 Commercial Aviation Alternative Fuels Initiative[®] Biennial General Meeting (BGM), Jan 28-29

CAAIFI[®] 2014 BGM and Expo keeps the focus on commercialization for advancing operational use, development and deployment of sustainable alternative jet fuels

The CAAIFI 2014 BGM and Expo took place January 28-29, 2014 at the Washington Marriott in Washington, DC. The Meeting theme, “Takeoff Toward Commercialization,” reflects the current maturation of the alternative jet fuel industry toward pending commercial-scale production. The BGM is intended to: enable the periodic review of progress made by CAAIFI work groups and individuals; foster dialogue about challenges and strategies that spread across various work efforts; create networking opportunities for the furtherance of individual efforts; and provide a forum for general communications from leaders in the industry. As a result, the BGM included several keynote addresses and panel-style presentations and discussions which detailed real-world examples of how the industry is developing toward commercialization, as well as remaining challenges. CAAIFI’s four co-sponsors organized the meeting in cooperation with conference organizer Kallman Worldwide, Inc. Like the 2011 General Meeting, the 2014 gathering included an Expo with displays from a range of exhibitors including fuel producers, federal agencies, regional advocacy organizations, university researchers, and support service providers.

Meeting Highlights:

The 2014 BGM was well attended by professionals across government, industry, and academia, representing the variety of institutions that are eager to advance implementation of alternative aviation fuels.

CAAIFI was honored to host several high-level keynote speakers, including FAA Administrator Michael Huerta, Alaska Airlines Chief Executive Officer Brad Tilden, U.S. Assistant Secretary of the Navy Dennis McGinn, and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack. Fortuitously, the approval of the U.S. Farm Bill by the U.S. House of Representatives was announced hours before Secretary Vilsack delivered his moving keynote speech on Day 2 of the conference. The new Farm Bill, which was signed into law the following week, will enable funding of key programs that will likely be critical for the success of alternative aviation fuel supply development. Overall, the keynote speakers demonstrated their personal commitment to sustainable alternative jet fuels, as well as that of their respective organizations.

Discussion panel topics for the two days included Government Partners' Activities, Finance, Public-Private Partnerships, Local and State Initiatives, Airline Engagement and Partnerships, and International Initiatives. On day 1, following the morning's panels, the plenary session divided up into break-out sessions of the four CAAFI teams – Environment, Research & Development (R&D), Business, and Certification-Qualification (CQ) – for concurrent 3-hour breakout sessions. At this time, each team focused on its particular area of expertise, reviewing and discussing recent CAAFI activities and products, and developing a work plan for moving forward.

On Day 2, before delving into the panel discussions of the conference, the CAAFI team leaders delivered a report back to the plenary summarizing the various breakout session activities and outcomes. Each team identified a work plan to progress alternative aviation fuel deployment from the perspective of its particular team focus. Further information on the team sessions, such as highlights and next steps, can be found in the Fact Sheets from each breakout session.

Following the General Meeting, on January 30, a sub-group of CAAFI delegates, representing public-private partnership efforts in 15 different countries, met to discuss the potential of establishing a recurring global exchange forum for all interested alternative aviation fuel coalitions world-wide. The objective of such a “coalition of coalitions” would be the advancement of global alignment and collaboration on alternative jet fuel development and commercialization activities, including coordination on alternative jet fuel testing and qualification efforts, feedstock development, coordination on life cycle greenhouse gas analyses and other sustainability evaluations, and communication of success models leading to commercialization.

Outcomes & Next Steps:

In line with CAAFI's purpose, the meeting strengthened the alternative jet fuel community by providing attendees the opportunity to exchange knowledge, network with peers, and build partnerships. Through the discussions, work team efforts, and overall engagement at the meeting, CAAFI identified several key goals for the upcoming year, including:

- 1) Continuing to act as a key information sharing and network development “node” for the alternative aviation fuel industry
- 2) Fostering advancement of several new alternative fuel conversion pathway definitions for inclusion in the ASTM D7566
- 3) Increasing use of CAAFI “readiness tools”, including the Fuel Readiness Level, Feedstock Readiness Level, and Environmental Progression
- 4) Working closely with Federal Agencies to design and implement state and regional initiatives that foster development of the alternative aviation fuel supply chain
- 5) Improving global coordination on alternative jet fuel development, evaluation and deployment
 - a. Exploring opportunities for global exchange between alternative aviation fuel public-private partnerships around the world
 - b. Coordinating on fuels testing and certification through ASTM

- c. Facilitating the discussion surrounding universal GHG LCA key elements and concerns

Presentations, photographs, and further meeting details have been provided by conference organizer Kallman Worldwide, Inc. at <http://www.caafimeeting.com/>. CAAFI expects to uphold the tradition of the Biennial General Meeting and convene again in 2016.

CAAFI is sponsored by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration, Airlines for America (A4A), Aerospace Industries Association (AIA) and Airports Council International-North America (ACI-NA). Additional information on CAAFI can be found at our website: <http://www.caafi.org>.