

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST TO TERMINATE AIRWORTHINESS ASSURANCE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE  
AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**

**Action Requested:** Consider approval of the request by Iowa State University to terminate the Airworthiness Assurance Center of Excellence in the Institute for Physical Research and Technology.

**Executive Summary:** Federal funding for the Center was eliminated. This proposal was reviewed by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts and is recommended for approval. The proposed closure addresses the Board of Regents Strategic Plan Goal #8 "Iowa's public universities and special schools shall be increasingly efficient and productive."

**Background:**

- ◇ Description of center. The Airworthiness Assurance Center of Excellence (AACE) was established in 1997, within the Institute for Physical Research and Technology (IPRT) to provide solutions to nationwide safety problems.
- ◇ Rationale for proposed termination. The Center no longer receives federal funding streams; furthermore, the Center has not had a director since the departure of the interim director. Therefore, the Center is no longer financially sustainable.
- ◇ Description of transition following closure. No transition period is planned. AACE-related work can be absorbed into the portfolios of affiliated researchers or into the Center for Nondestructive Evaluation (CNDE).
- ◇ Administrative structure. The Center was led by an interim director who recently left ISU for a research position in the private sector. Administrative and business management support was provided by CNDE staff who will continue in their current roles within CNDE.
- ◇ Cost savings. Elimination of the Center is not expected to result in significant cost savings.
- ◇ Anticipated impact on units. No impact is anticipated on other units at ISU as a result of the proposed closure.
- ◇ Internal review. The proposal to close the Center has been shared with affiliated faculty as well as the Vice President for Research and Economic Development.
- ◇ Date of implementation. The proposed closure will become effective upon approval by the Board of Regents.