

# Aeromechanics Design to the Max

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The AHS International “Technical Meeting on Aeromechanics Design for Vertical Lift” was held at the Holiday Inn Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco on Jan. 20-22, 2016. The event — sponsored by the AHS San Francisco Bay Area Chapter (SFBAC) — nearly sold out, as the number of attendees approached the maximum capacity of 200.

The plenary sessions focused on the theme of the conference: challenges and future directions in aeromechanics, and future vertical lift designs. The opening plenary session speakers included Frank Harris (retired), Tom Wood from Bell Helicopter and James Wang from AgustaWestland / Finmeccanica Helicopter Division.

The technical sessions encompassed computational fluid dynamics, design optimization, experimental techniques, comprehensive analysis and design framework. More than 50 presentations were given, with 49 available as proceedings papers, including nearly half with US government authors.

The conference was well attended by vertical lift professionals from academia, government and industry, both domestic and international, making it a very rewarding experience with excellent papers, engaging presentations and enriching discussions. The banquet dinner speaker was Roger Connor from the Smithsonian Institution.

The attendees ranged from young student researchers to senior government and industry leaders, truly bringing together this international vertical lift community. The conference provided a unique opportunity for aeromechanics and design experts to co-mingle, cross-pollinate and discover new ideas that closely connect these two research fields.

The other key SFBAC members organizing the event were Wayne Johnson, General Chair; Robert H. Stroub, Administrative Chair; Eduardo Solis, Production Chair; Meridith Segall, Production Assistant; Mark Fulton and Carl Russell, SFBAC Presidents; William Warmbrodt, SFBAC Liaison and the NASA interns who assisted the SFBAC during the meeting.



Nearly 200 people attended the technical conference, approaching the maximum capacity. The back half of the meeting room was just as packed as the front. (AHS photos)



The meeting was a great opportunity for engineers of all different experience levels to interact and learn from one another. Here, industry icon Frank Harris answers questions from a throng of young engineers.



Roger Connor from the National Air and Space Museum was the banquet speaker. He gave a revealing talk on “Helicopters in the City: The Strange Tale of Los Angeles Airways.”



The proceedings papers can be ordered from the AHS Online Store individually for \$15 each (\$30 for non-members) or all together on CD-ROM for \$105 (\$145 for non-members). Go to [www.vtol.org/aeromechanics](http://www.vtol.org/aeromechanics). Conference attendees received complementary CDs of the papers.