Akbar Sultan

Deputy Director, Airspace Operations and Safety Program, Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate, NASA

Mr. Sultan has 20 years of professional experience in Aerospace and Air Traffic Management Research and Development. He is currently the Deputy Director of the Airspace Operations and Safety Program at NASA's Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate, responsible for NASA's Air Traffic Management operations and safety research portfolio for NextGen and beyond. The program is responsible for research in the entire gate-to-gate domain in areas such as surface, terminal, en route, and oceanic operational domains for traditional and remotely piloted aircraft as well as future autonomous systems. In addition, the program is also responsible for aviation safety research in areas of aircraft state awareness, prevention of aircraft loss of control, verification and validation of complex systems, prognostic safety through data mining, and real time system wide safety assurance. He is the NASA co-lead for the NASA FAA Research Transition Teams. He is also responsible for the program's international collaboration and partnership activities. In addition, he is the NASA liaison to the US NextGen Interagency Planning Office. Prior to his assignment to NASA Headquarters, Mr. Sultan was on a detail assignment as a Project Manager in the Portfolio Management Division of the Joint Planning and Development Office (JPDO), where he lead the effort to define the NextGen Operational Improvements as well as defining NASA's contributions to the NextGen R&D Roadmap. Prior to his assignment to the JPDO, Mr. Sultan was at NASA Ames Research Center, in Moffett Field, CA, where he was the Software Configuration and Release Manager for the Center TRACON Automation System (CTAS), as well as the CTAS Software Verification and Validation Manager. He was responsible for gaining FAA certification for NASA prototype software operational use at field trials. Mr. Sultan received his Master of Science degree in Aerospace Engineering from the San Jose State University, California and his Bachelor of Science degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Aeronautical Science and Engineering from the University of California Davis in the United States.