

# TBCC Fan Stage Operability and Performance

Kenneth L. Suder

## **ABSTRACT**

NASA's Fundamental Aeronautics Program is investigating turbine-based propulsion systems for access to space because it provides the potential for aircraft-like, space-launch operations that may significantly reduce launch costs and improve safety. Studies performed under NASA's NGLT and the NASP High Speed Propulsion Assessment (HiSPA) program indicated a variable cycle turbofan/ramjet was the best configuration to satisfy access-to-space mission requirements because this configuration maximizes the engine thrust-to-weight ratio while minimizing frontal area. To this end, NASA and GE teamed to design a Mach 4 variable cycle turbofan/ramjet engine for access to space. To enable the wide operating range of a Mach 4+ variable cycle turbofan ramjet required the development of a unique fan stage design capable of multi-point operation to accommodate variations in bypass ratio (10X), fan speed (7X), inlet mass flow (3.5X), inlet pressure (8X), and inlet temperature (3X). The primary goal of the fan stage was to provide a high pressure ratio level with good efficiency at takeoff through the mid range of engine operation, while avoiding stall and losses at the higher flight Mach numbers, without the use of variable inlet guide vanes. Overall fan performance and operability therefore requires major consideration, as competing goals at different operating points and aeromechanical issues become major drivers in the design.

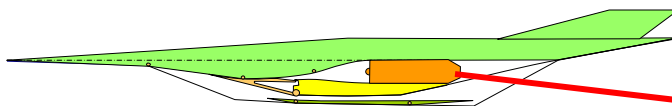
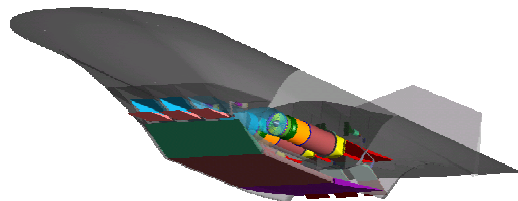
To mitigate risk of meeting the unique design requirements for the fan stage, NASA and GE teamed to design and build a 57% engine scaled fan stage to be tested in NASA's transonic compressor facility. The objectives of this test are to assess the aerodynamic and aero mechanic performance and operability characteristics of the fan stage over the entire range of engine operation including: 1) sea level static take-off, 2) transition over large swings in fan bypass ratio, 3) transition from turbofan to ramjet, and 4) fan windmilling operation at high Mach flight conditions. In addition, the fan stage design was validated by performing pre-test CFD analysis using both GE proprietary and NASA's APNASA codes.

Herein we will discuss 1) the fan stage design, 2) the experiment including the unique facility and instrumentation, and 3) the comparison of pre-test CFD analysis to initial aerodynamic test results for the baseline fan stage configuration. Measurements and pre-test analysis will be compared at 37%, 50%, 80%, 90%, and 100% of design speed to assess the ability of state-of-the-art design and analysis tools to meet the fan stage performance and operability requirements for turbine based propulsion for access to space.

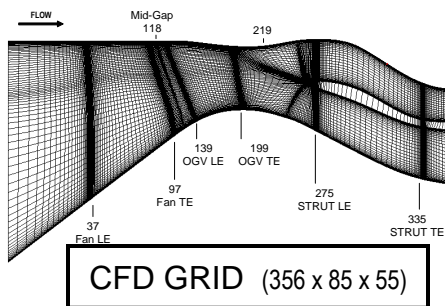
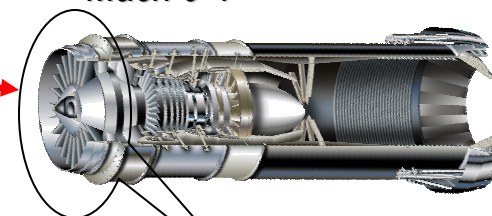


# TBCC Fan Stage Operability and Performance

*Hypersonic TBCC propulsion - Over /under Configuration*



*Turbine Based propulsion  
Mach 0-4+*



NASA Fundamental Aeronautics Program  
2007 Annual Meeting

October 31<sup>st</sup> 2007

Dr. Kenneth L. Suder

API Propulsion Technology Integration  
Hypersonics Project

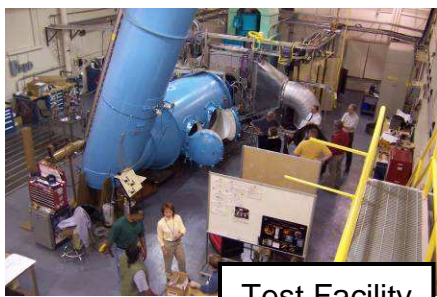
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Fan Rotor Blisk



Outlet Guide Vane



Test Facility



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- The TBCC Fan Stage Design and initial testing was a collaborative NASA / General Electric (GE) effort. The following have made major contributions to the work presented herein:

## Mechanical Design & Aeromechanics Analysis



- Mark Mielke, GE
- Doug Washburn, GE
- Scott Thorp, NASA
- John Jones, NASA Contractor
- Greg Lung, NASA Contractor

## Aerodynamic Design & Aerodynamics Analysis



- Peter Wood, GE
- Dave Clark, GE
- Hyoun-Woo Shin, GE
- Sue Prahst, NASA Contractor
- Aamir Shabbir, Univ of Toledo
- Ken Suder, NASA

## W8 Facility Installation & Operation

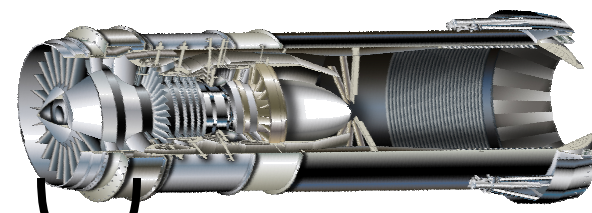
- Tom Jett, NASA
- Rick Brokopp, NASA
- Ashlie Flegel, NASA Contractor
- John Dearmon, NASA Contractor
- Helmi-Abulaban, NASA Contractor
- Bruce Wright, NASA



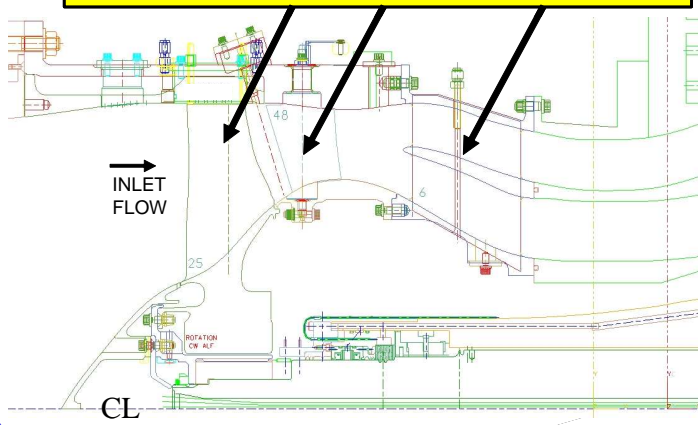
# TBCC Fan Stage Operability and Performance

NASA Mach 4+ Capable TBCC Engine Concept

- **Background**
  - ❖ Relevancy /Benefits of TBCC Propulsion
  - ❖ TBCC Fan Technology Challenges
  - ❖ Overview of NASA TBCC Plan
- **Objectives / Approach**
- **Fan Stage Design**
- **Test Facility / Instrumentation**
- **Results**
  - ❖ Aeromechanic Checkout
  - ❖ Overall Performance and Comparison w/ CFD
  - ❖ Sampling of Data
- **Summary / Concluding Remarks**



FAN STAGE = Rotor + OGV + Fan Frame Strut



Fan Rotor Blisk



Outlet Guide Vane





# TBCC Propulsion Benefits : Efficiency, Safety, Reliability

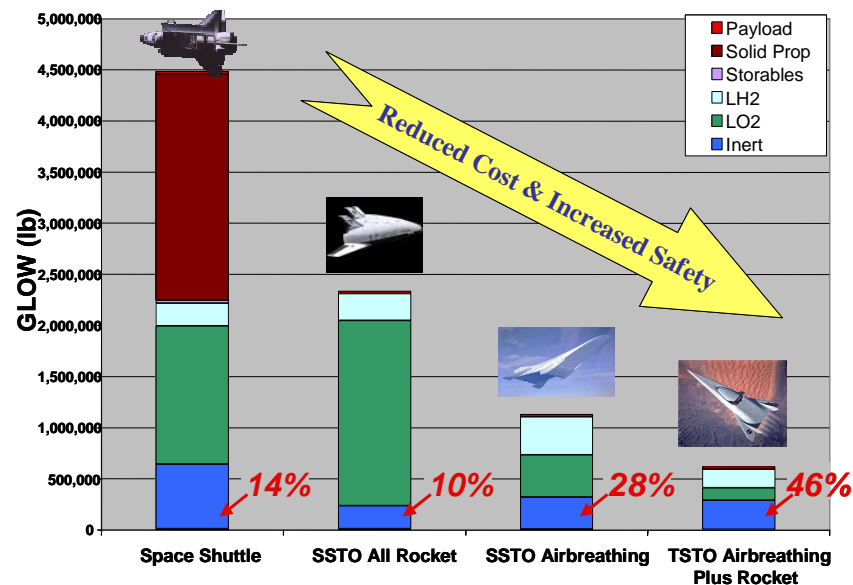
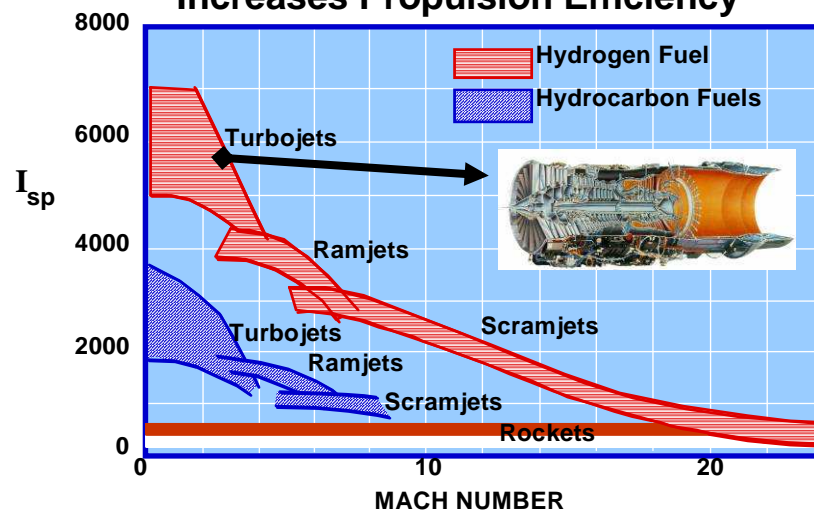
- High effective specific impulse,  $I_{eff}$
- Horizontal takeoff and landing enhances launch, flight and ground operability
  - ✓ Benign ascent abort/engine out
- Large structural mass fraction providing large margins
  - ✓ Design for life
  - ✓ Design for safety
- Reduced sensitivity to weight growth
  - ✓ Reduced design/development risk
  - ✓ Reduced user constraints
- High payload fraction

## TBCC BENEFITS:

- Quick Turn Around Time ( Aircraft Like Operations)
- Re- useable > 1000 missions
- Versatile Usage + Launch & Landing Sites
- Low Maintenance, High Durability, Performance Margin

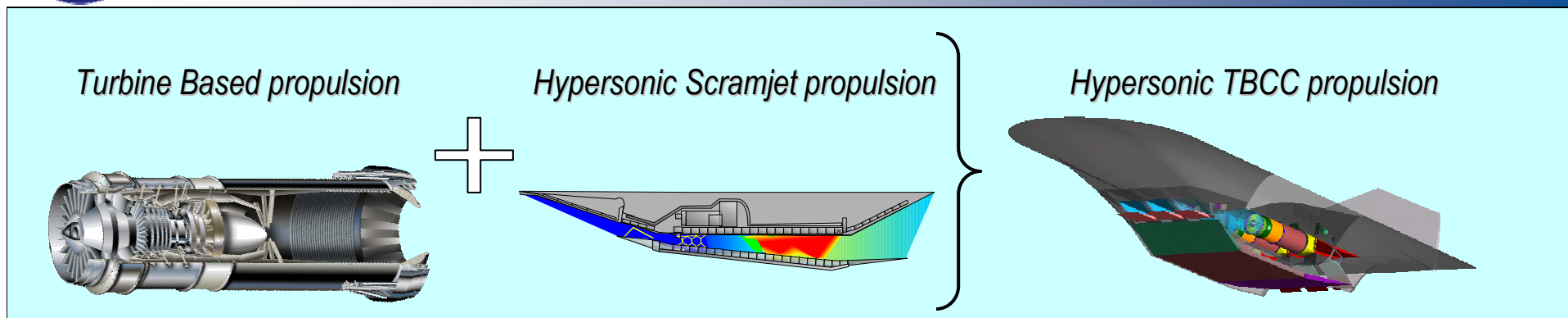
$$I_{SP} = \text{Thrust/Pound per second of propellant (fuel) flow rate}$$

## Airbreathing Propulsion Significantly Increases Propulsion Efficiency





## Two Enabling Technologies for Reusable Hypersonic Applications



### High Mach Turbine Tech Challenges:

- Increase Maximum Mach from 2+ → 4+
- Provide thrust margin over entire range ( $0 < M < 4+$ )
  - Light Weight High Temperature Materials
  - Thermal Management
  - High Temperature Bearings and Seals
  - Highly Loaded Turbomachinery
  - Propulsion/Airframe Integration
  - Cocooning and Relight

### Scramjet Tech Challenges:

- Reduce Scramjet Ignition Mach Speed ( $M5 \rightarrow M3$ )
- Provide transition speed margin ( $3 < M < 4$ )
  - Variable Geometry
  - Advanced Combustion Schemes
  - Light Weight High Temperature Materials
  - Thermal Management
  - High Temperature Seals
  - Propulsion/Airframe Integration

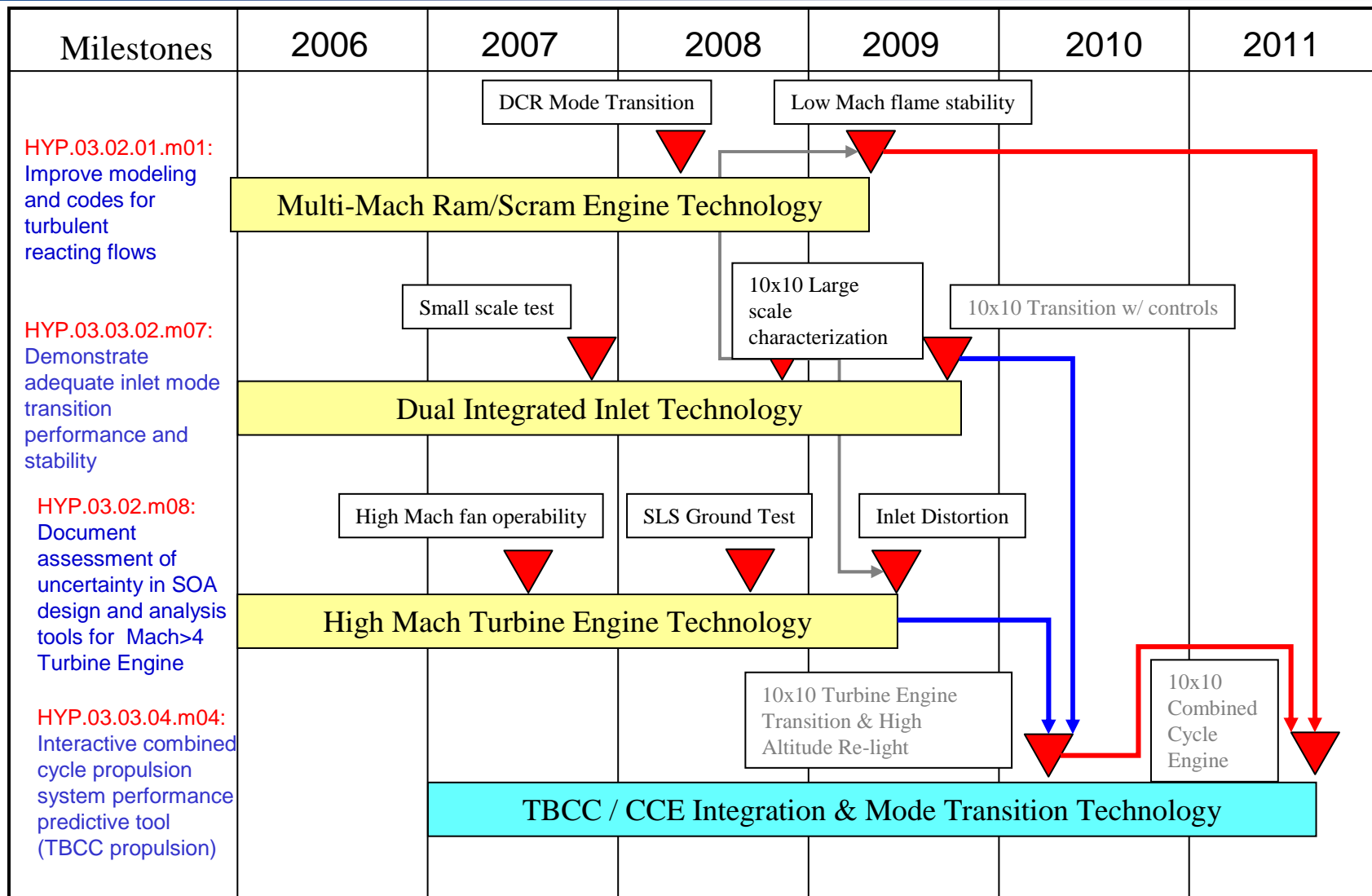
### Required TURBINE Improvements over SOA:

- |                                 |                                  |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ✓ 2-3X Thrust / Weight          | ✓ Increased Mach Capability      |
| ✓ 4-8X Durability – MTBO        | ✓ Improved Range                 |
| ✓ 20-25% Reduction in Fuel Burn | ✓ Conventional Fuel / Lubricants |



# Turbine Based Combined Cycle Engine (CCE)

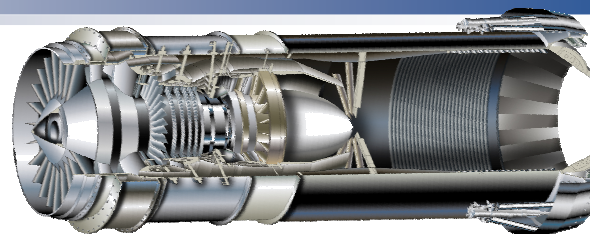
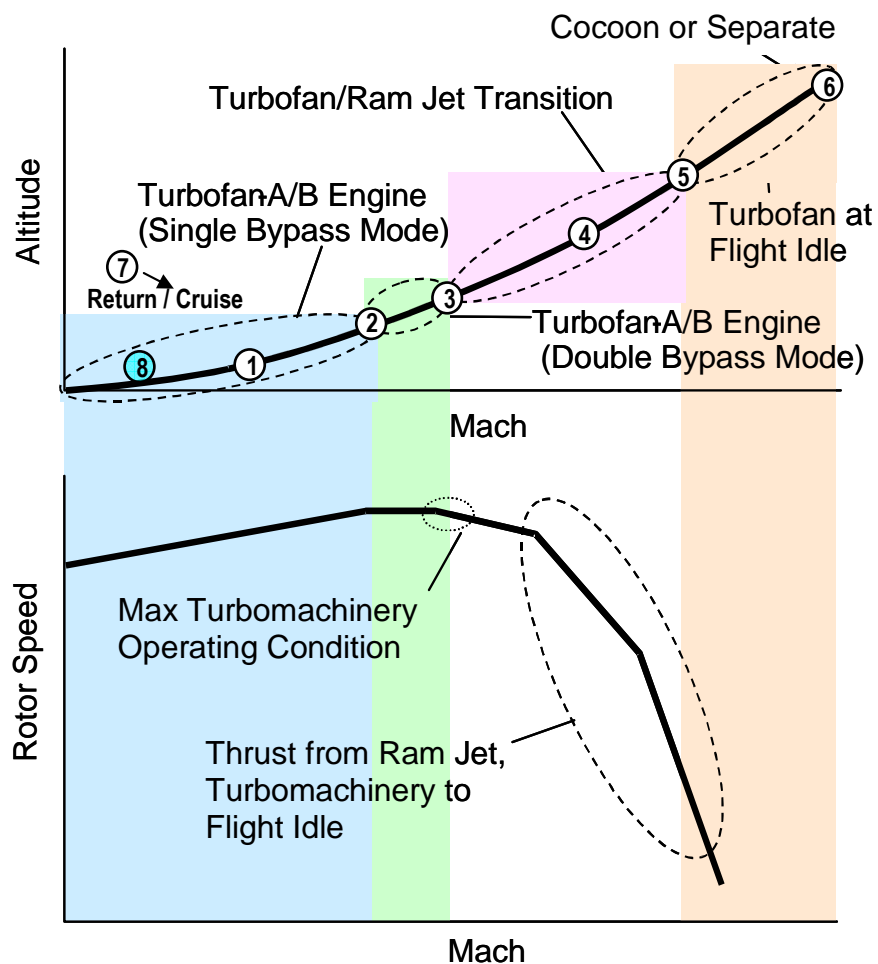
*FAP 2007-11 Propulsion Roadmap - Integrates In-House / OGA's / NRA's*



TBCC Fan Stage is Integral to CCE effort and is used to assess impact of TBCC inlet distortion on fan stage performance and operability.



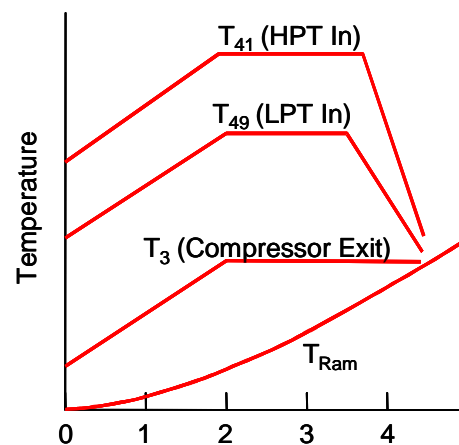
# Mach 4 + Capable Variable Cycle Engine Operation



Variable Cycle Engine maximizes thrust over broad operating range:

- Conventional turbojet at low BPR, low Mach
- Converts to Ram burner at high BPR, high Mach
- Enables Mach 4+ using existing materials

Notional Engine Temperatures



**High Mach Turbine Engines Challenges Augmented by Wider Operating Range and excess Temperatures relative to SOA Engines**



# TBCC Fan Stage Operability and Performance

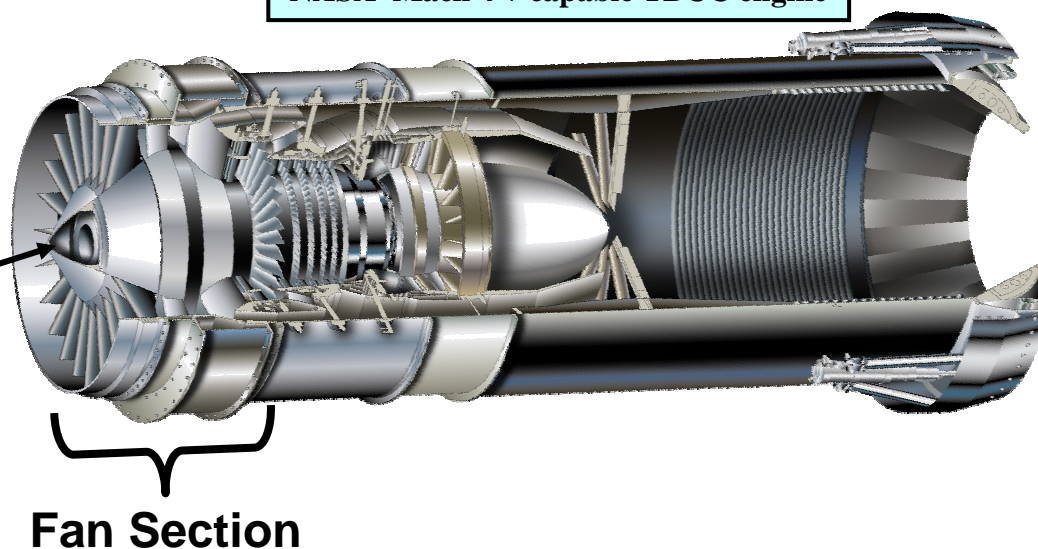
## Objective of Fan Stage Research:

Verify SOA design and analysis tools. Characterize a TBCC engine fan stage aerodynamic and aeromechanic performance and stability limits over a wide operating range including power-on and hypersonic-unique windmill operation.

### Fan Blink - *PR Exceeds SOA*



NASA Mach 4 + capable TBCC engine



**SOA Design & Analysis Tools used to Enable SLS to Mach 4 Range of Operation**  
*(10x variation in bypass ratio, full power to windmill operation, variations: 8x in rotor speed, 8x inlet pressure, 3x inlet temperature)*



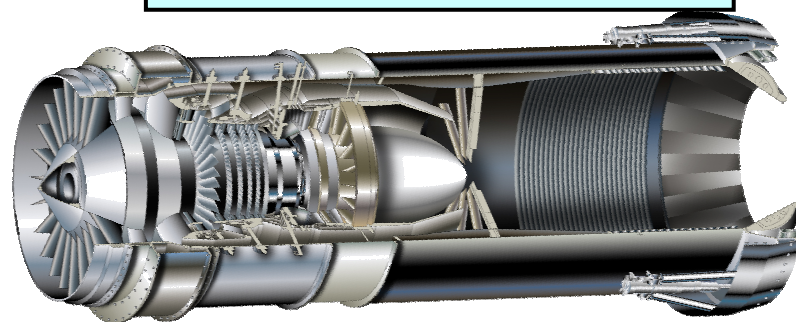


# TBCC Fan Stage Operability and Performance

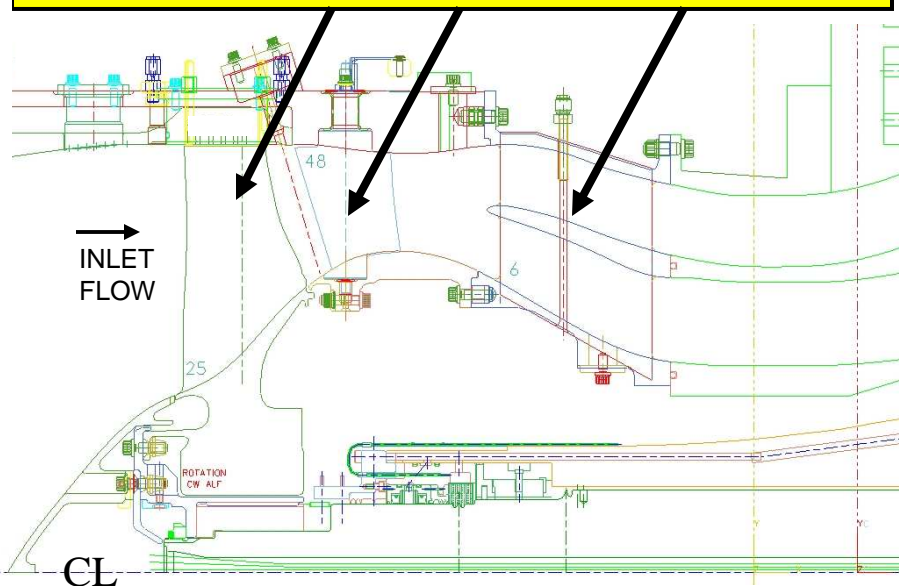
## Approach:

- Perform aerodynamic and aero-mechanical scaling of a relevant SOA Mach 4 turbine engine fan stage and incorporate facility interface hardware for sub-scale testing in the NASA high speed compressor facility.
- Predict performance and operability prior to test using SOA analysis tools.
- Map fan stage performance and measure stall line stability boundary over wide range of engine operation and compare to pre-test predictions.
- Measure Fan Aeromechanics: identify vibration and flutter boundaries that adversely impact engine operation. Assess ability of SOA tools to predict flutter.
- Investigate inlet / engine interactions by incorporating inlet distortions and quantify the SOA tool(s) and their ability to predict performance and operability (with distorted inlet inflow).
- Utilize test article to understand physics and improve models required to predict off-design performance and operability

NASA Mach 4 + capable TBCC Engine



FAN STAGE = Rotor + OGV + Fan Frame Strut





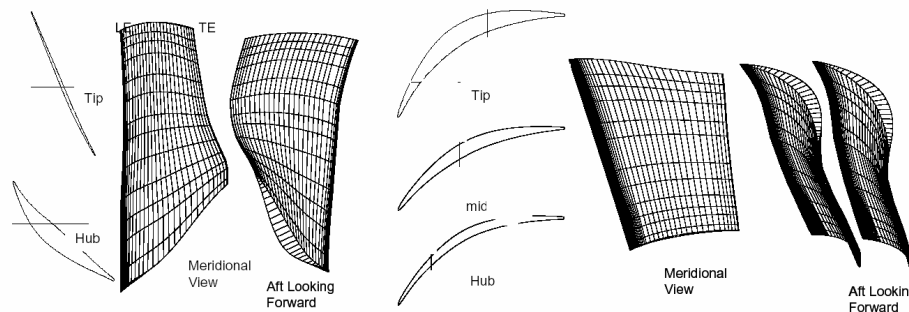
# Fan Stage Design

## Fan Stage Design Parameters

Fan Rotor Tip Speed	1660 ft/s
Fan Rotor Design Speed	17280 RPM
Radius Ratio at LE	0.43
Average Aspect Ratio	1.12
Average Solidity	2.2
Specific Flow	38.0
Design Flow Rate	85.2 lbm/s
Stage Pressure Ratio	2.47
Stage Adiabatic Efficiency	0.85
Stall Margin	20%

### Design Features:

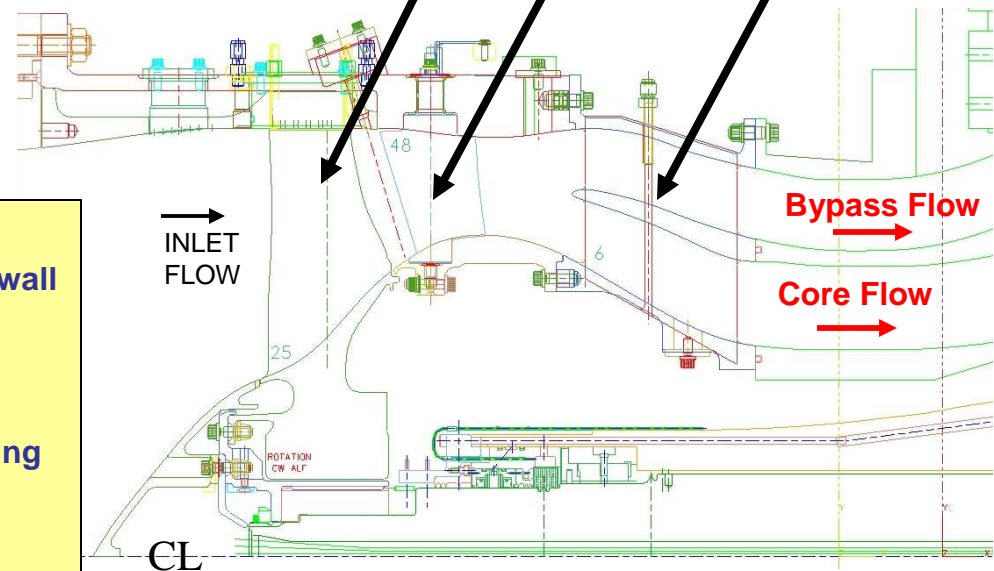
- Liner inserts to evaluate sensitivity to clearance, endwall flow control such as casing treatments.
- Independent throttle valves for bypass and core flow paths to assess sensitivity to bypass ratio.
- Capability to perform parametrics on 1) the OGV setting angle, 2) inlet boundary layer thickness, and 3) inlet distortion.
- Steady state conventional as well as high response instrumentation to assess ability of SOA tools to predict performance and operability.



a) Advanced technology forward swept fan

b) OGV bowed and leaned at the hub to turn air into the core.

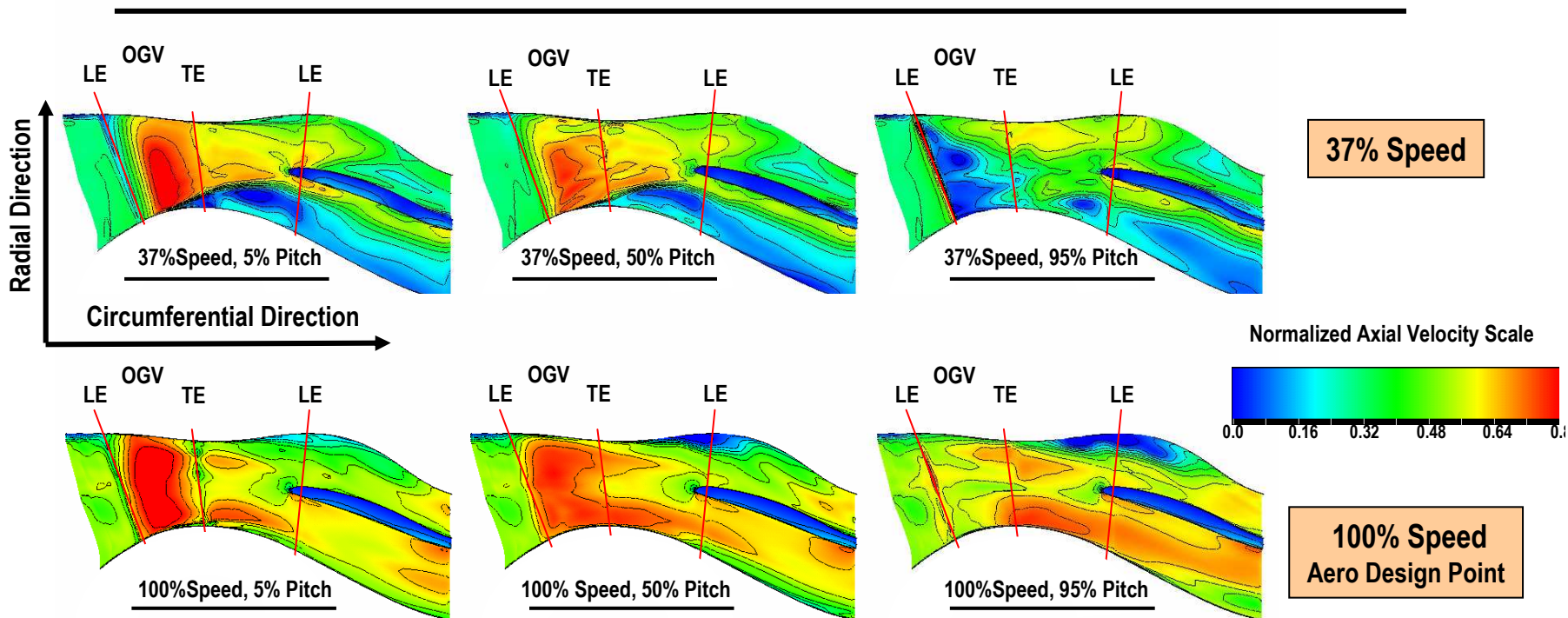
**Fan Stage = Rotor (25) + OGV (48) + Strut (6)**





## CFD tools utilized in Fan Stage Design to Accommodate Large Operating Range Requirements

Meridional views of the axial velocity distribution at 5%, 50%, and 95% OGV pitch for the final OGV design.



Final OGV Design Balances **Competing Requirements** over the Entire Flight Regime  
*Performance at Take-off*

*Pass the Flow with minimal losses at High Mach Flight*



# TBCC High Mach FAN Rig Test - Facility

## Mechanical:

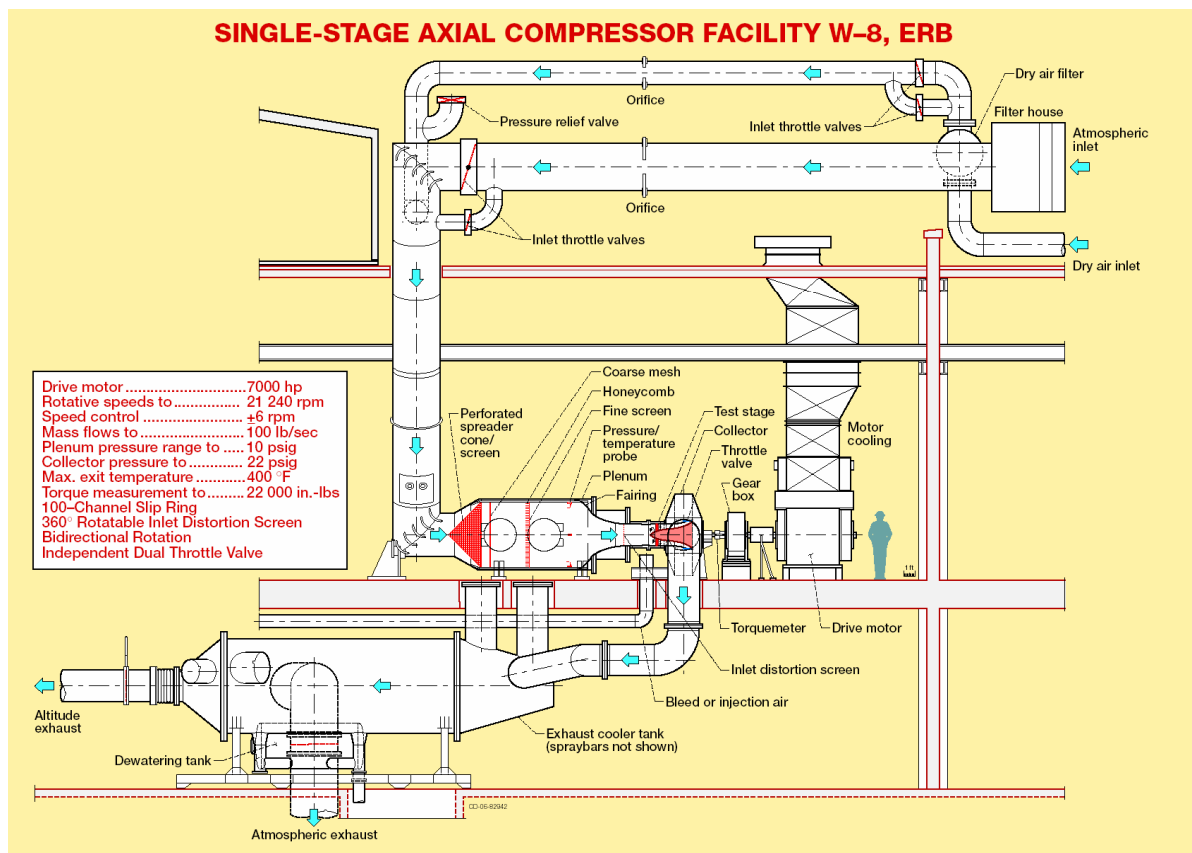
- Shaft power, max: 7000 HP (electric motor)
- Rotational speed, max: 21240 RPM
  - 5.9:1 Gear Ratio
- Approximately 4:1 Pressure Ratio capability
  - Exit temperature limit, 400F
- Air flow, max: 100 lbm/second
- Full Bi-directional rotation capability
- 20 to 22 inch diameter face
- Common shaft attachment scheme with W-7 Facility & the 9X15 LSWT

## Rig Health Monitoring System:

- 3500 Bentley Nevada rig health system
  - data acquisition/analysis/archival
  - Proximity sensors
  - Accelerometers
  - 100 channel slip ring

## Steady State Instrumentation (ESCORT D):

- 256 channels of analog data inputs.
- 320 pressure measurements
- 16 axis probe actuator control system



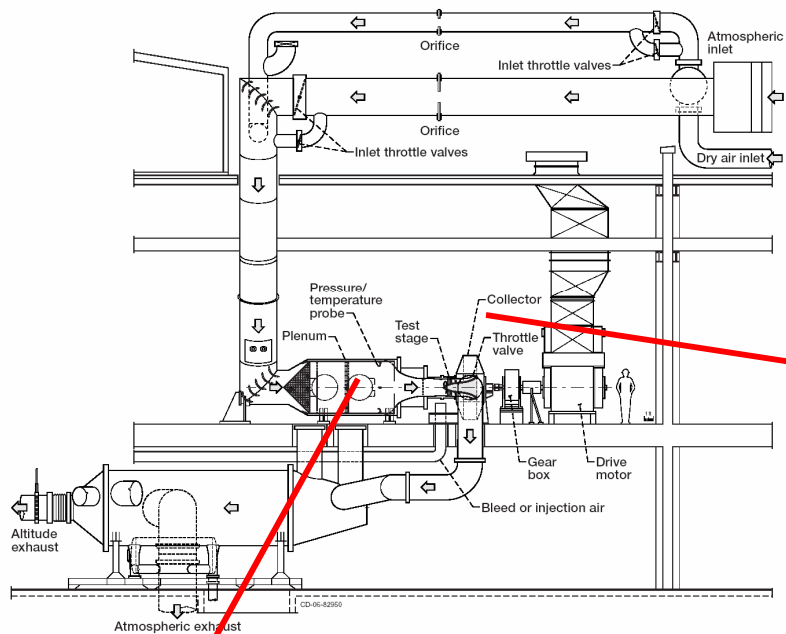
**Unique Facility Capabilities Utilized to Obtain Fan Windmilling DATA**





# Fan Stage Test Section Schematic

Following Slides will zoom into test section to show instrumentation



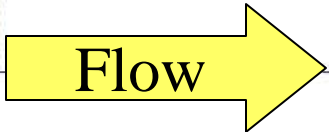
Collector

2 Throttle Valves

FAN

OGV

Plenum



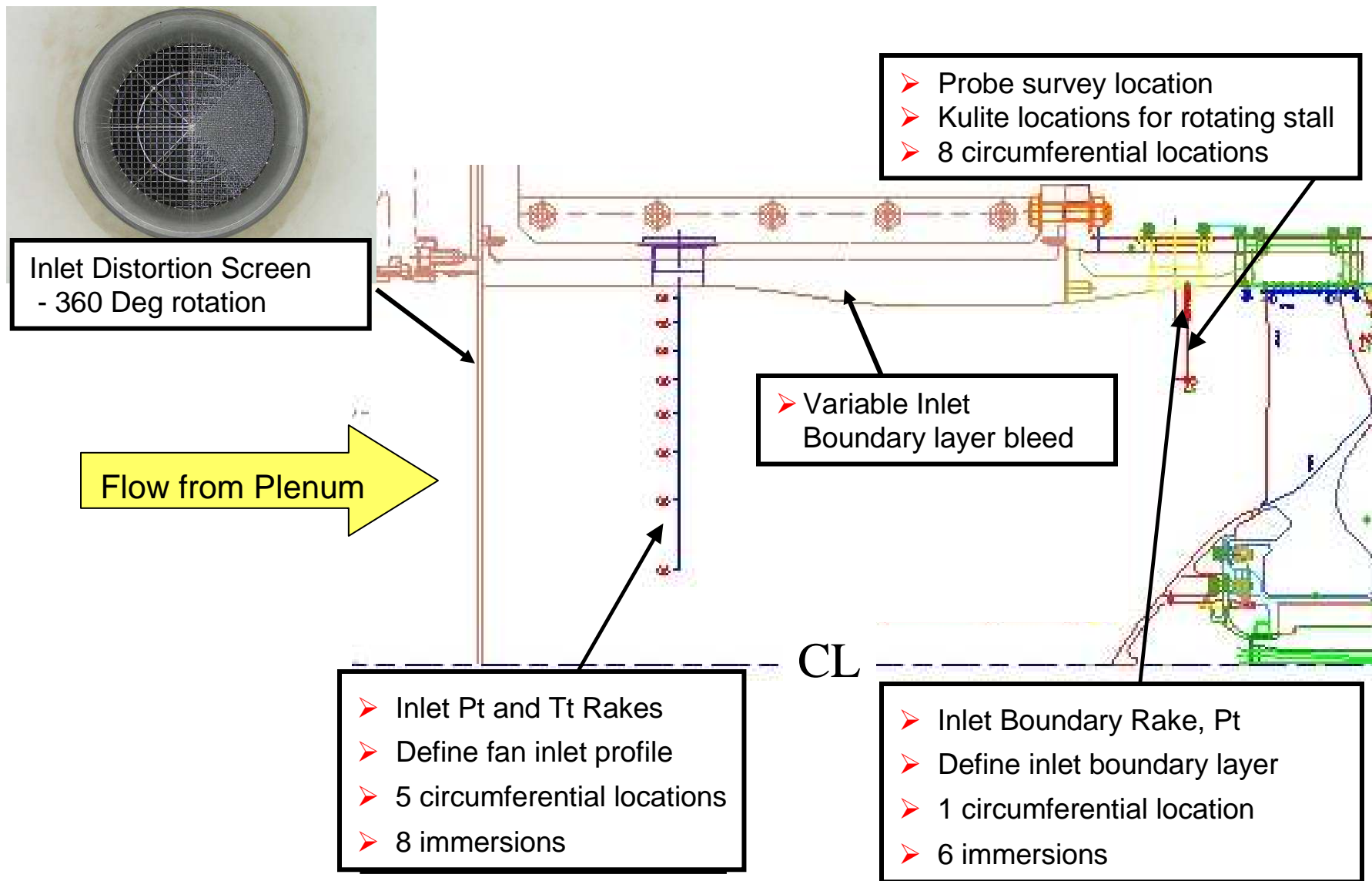
CL

Gearbox



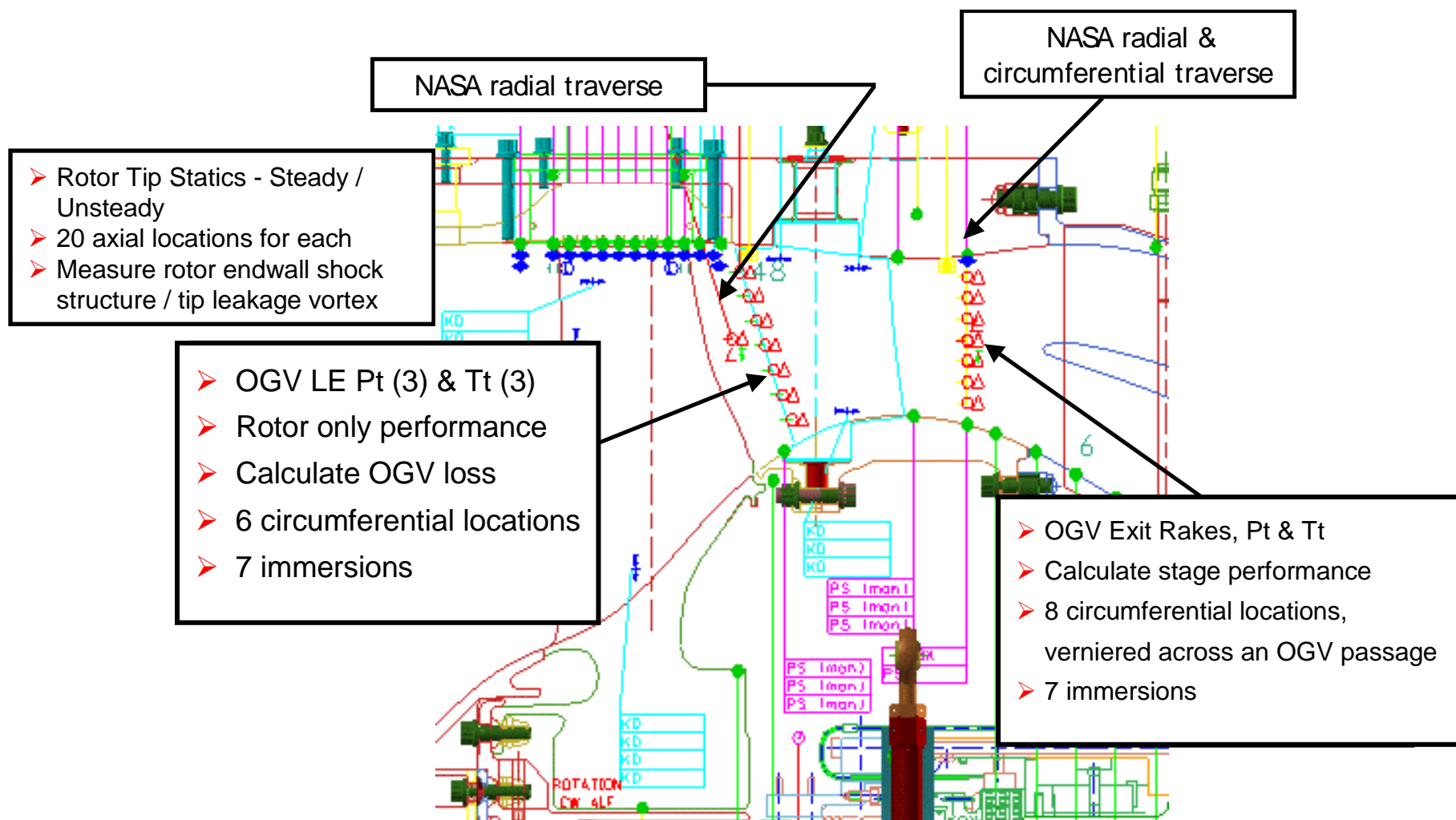


# Instrumentation



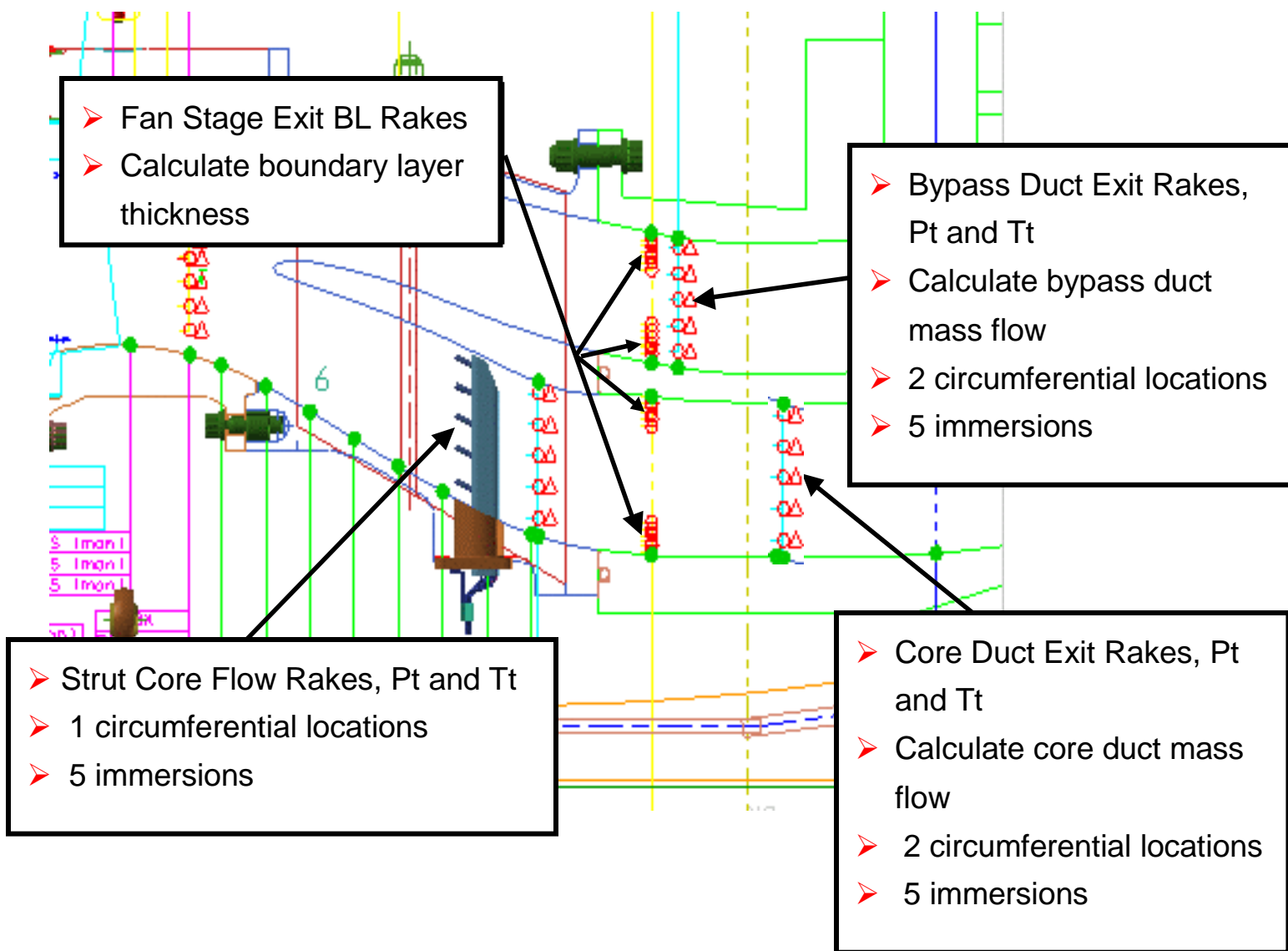


# Instrumentation





# Instrumentation





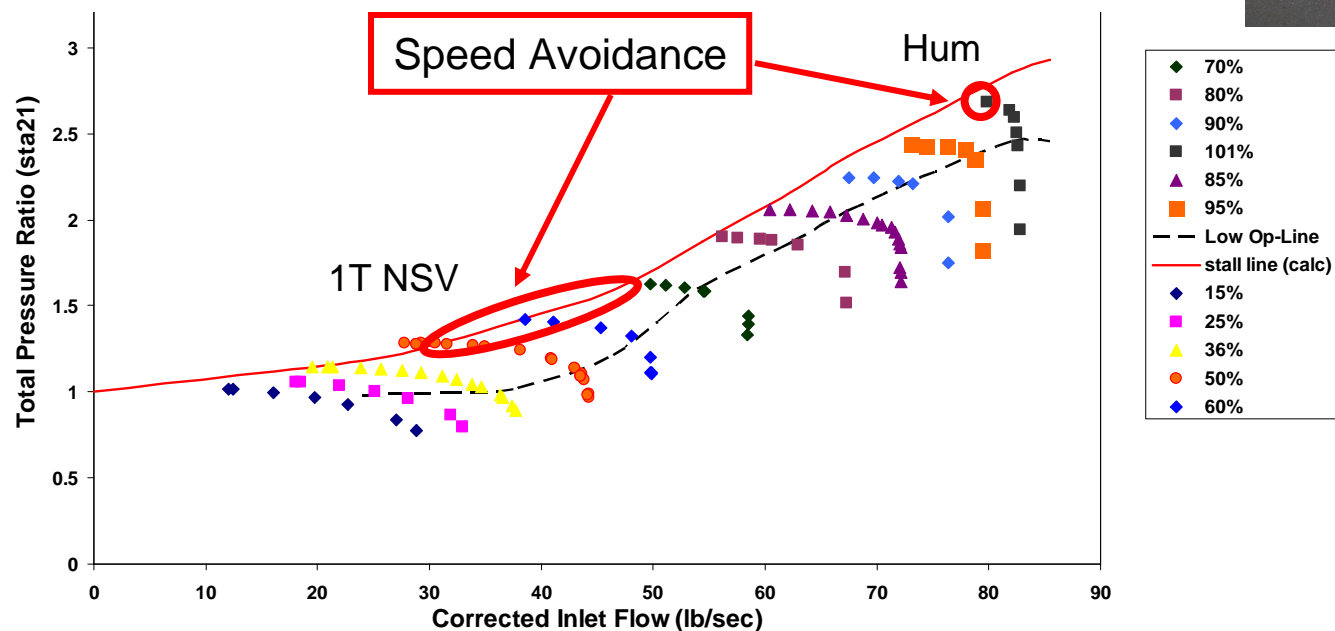
# TBCC Fan Stage : Aeromechanic Results - Smooth Wall Configuration

## Aeromechanic Instrumentation:

- Dynamic Strain Gages ( Rotor :21; OGV: 20; Inlet Rakes :12)
- Light Probes at Rotor Leading Edge (10) & Trailing Edge (10)
- Dynamic Tip Clearance Measurements (4 @ 50% chord)

## Aeromechanic Results:

- Speed Avoidance Zones for the Smooth Wall Clean Inlet Flow Condition:
  1. Near Stall from 51-67% Speed due to Non-synchronous vibration /excitation of the Rotor's First Torsion mode (1T NSV)
  2. 100% Speed Near Stall (Hum - not identified)



GE57 fan rig – fan blisk thin-film strain gages



OGV

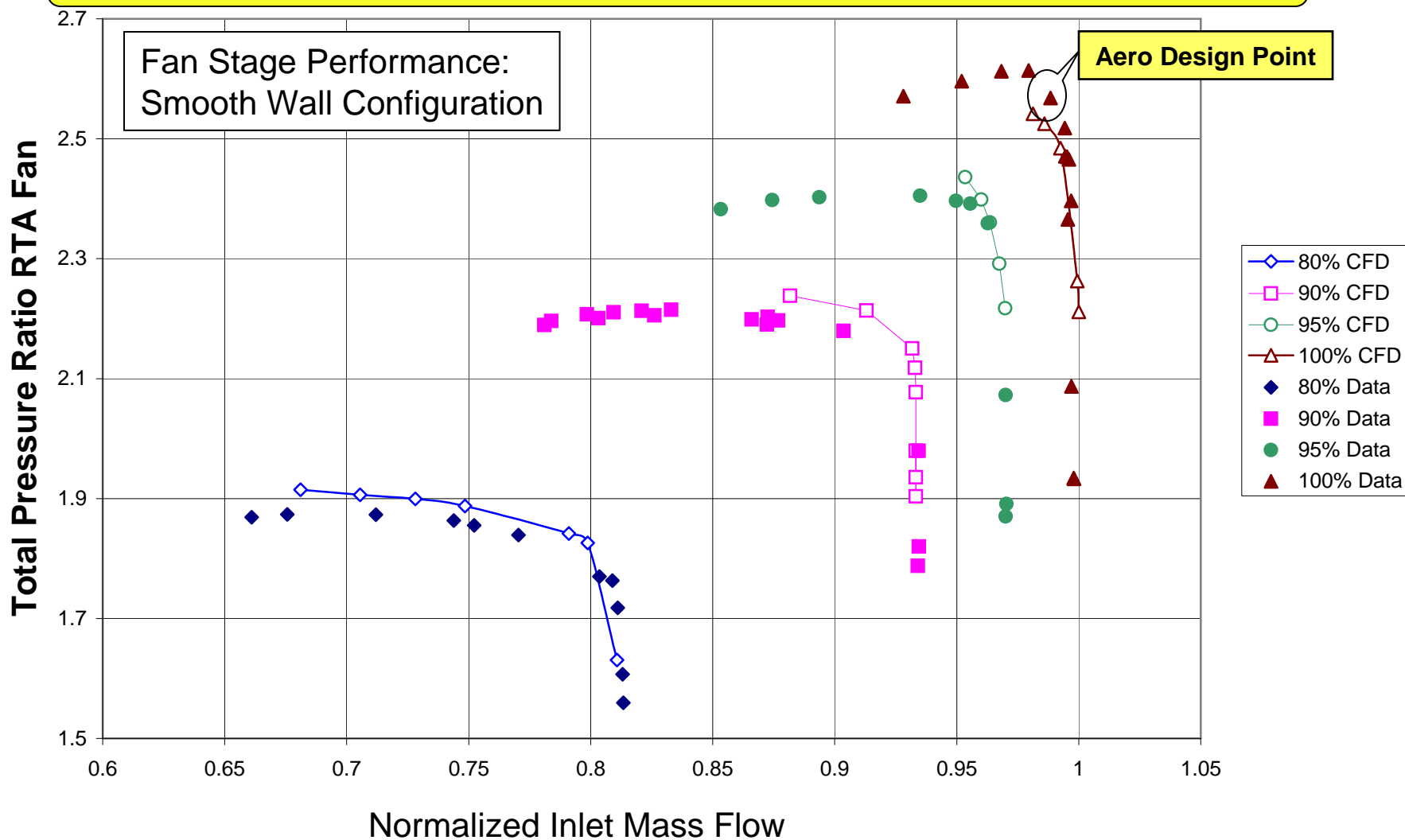


Fan Stage Cleared for 15-100% Speed Operation **Except** at Identified Speed Avoidance Zones



# Pre-Test CFD Compared to DATA

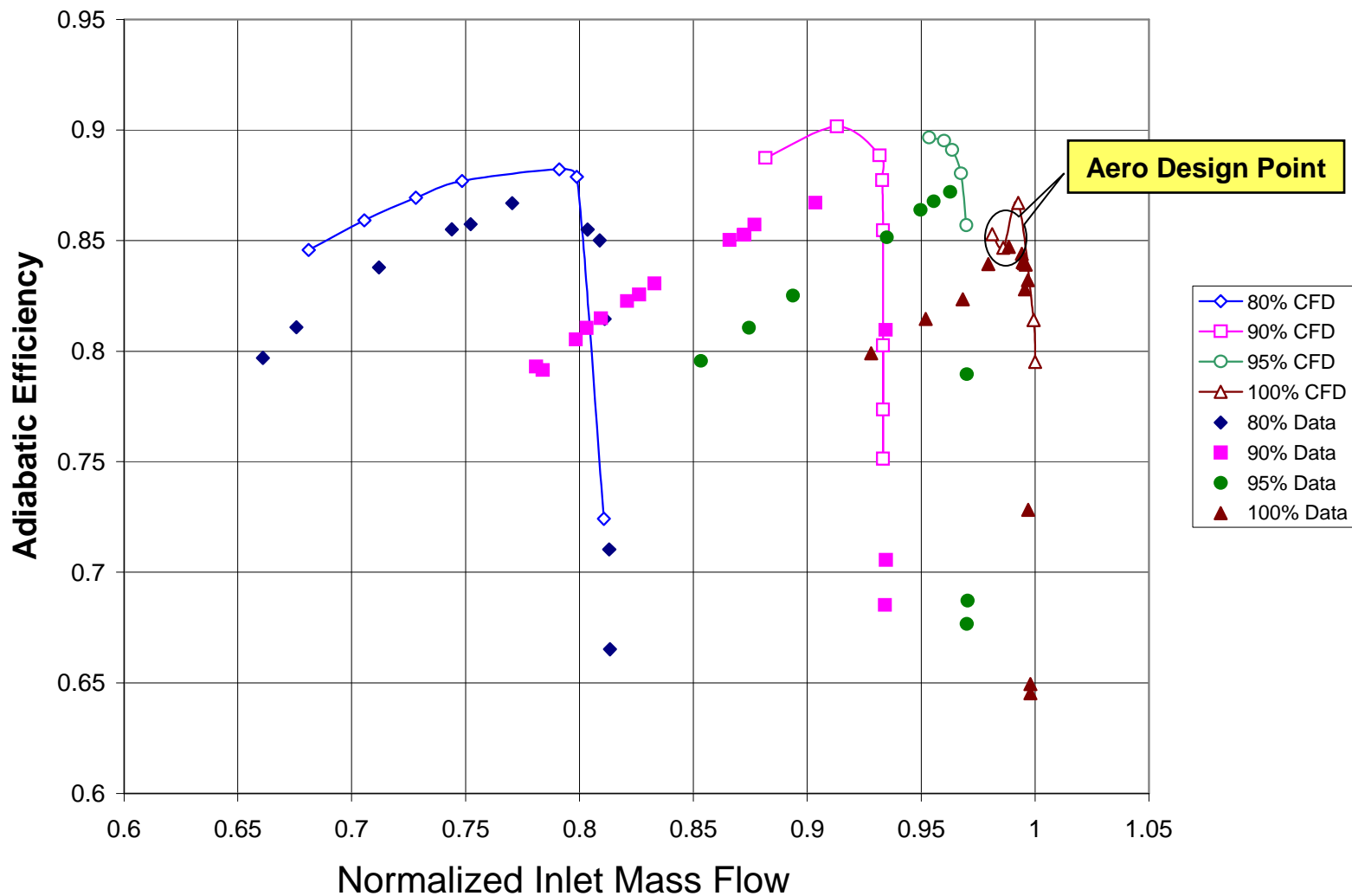
Pre-Test CFD does **NOT** predict Range of Operation @ High Speed







# Pre-Test CFD Compared to DATA

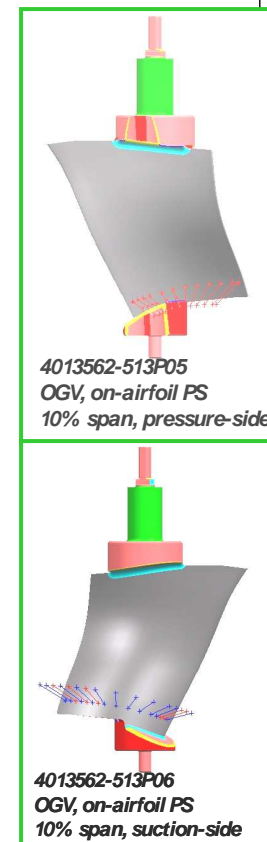
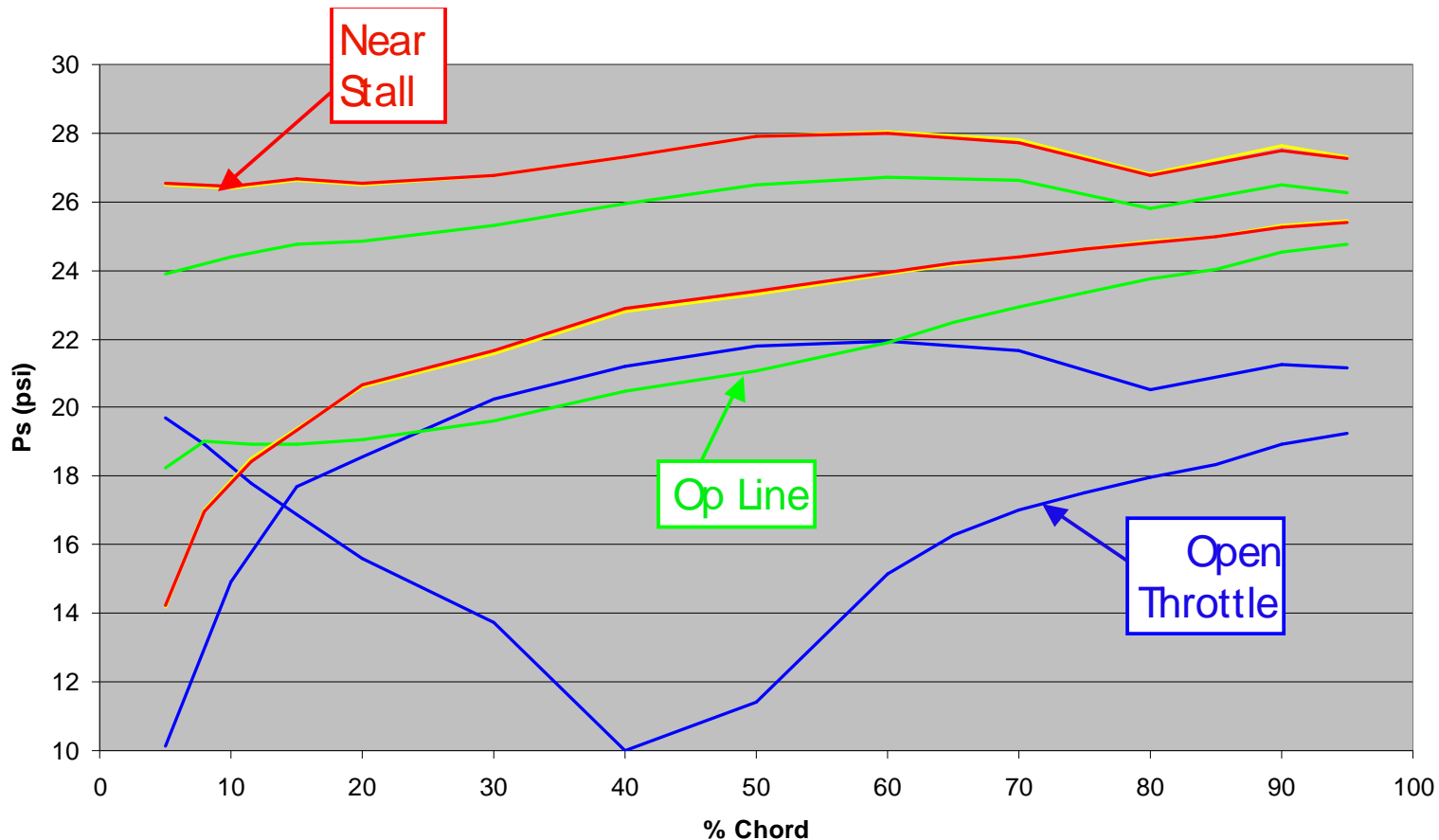


**Efficiency Discrepancy Between Pre-Test CFD and Rake Measurements**



# Instrumentation - OGV Blade Surface Static Pressure

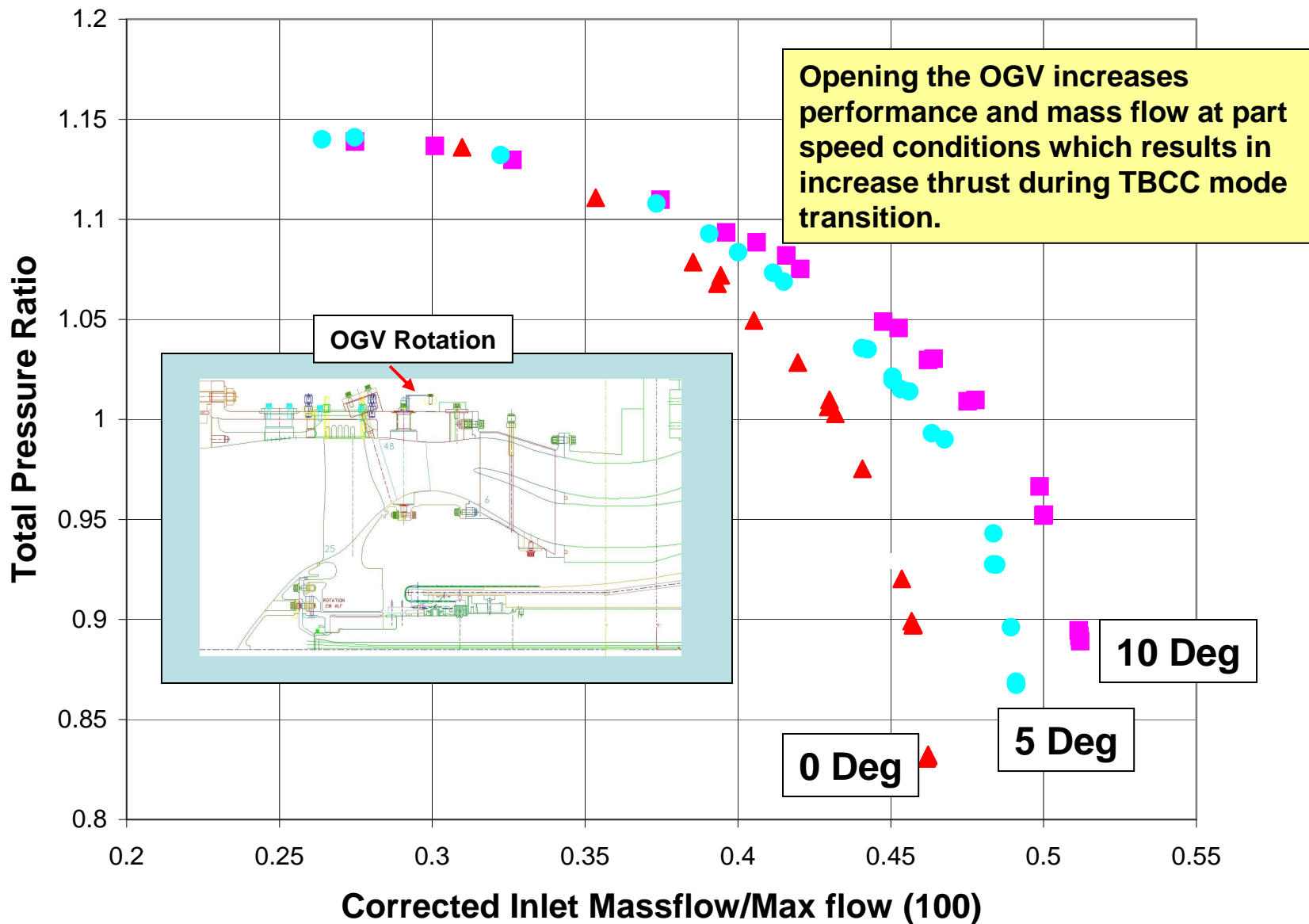
OGV pressure and suction surface static measurements at 10%, 15%, 25% and 45% span - Results @ 25%Span, 95% rotor speed.



**OGV surface statics indicate blade incidence, blade loading, & separations**

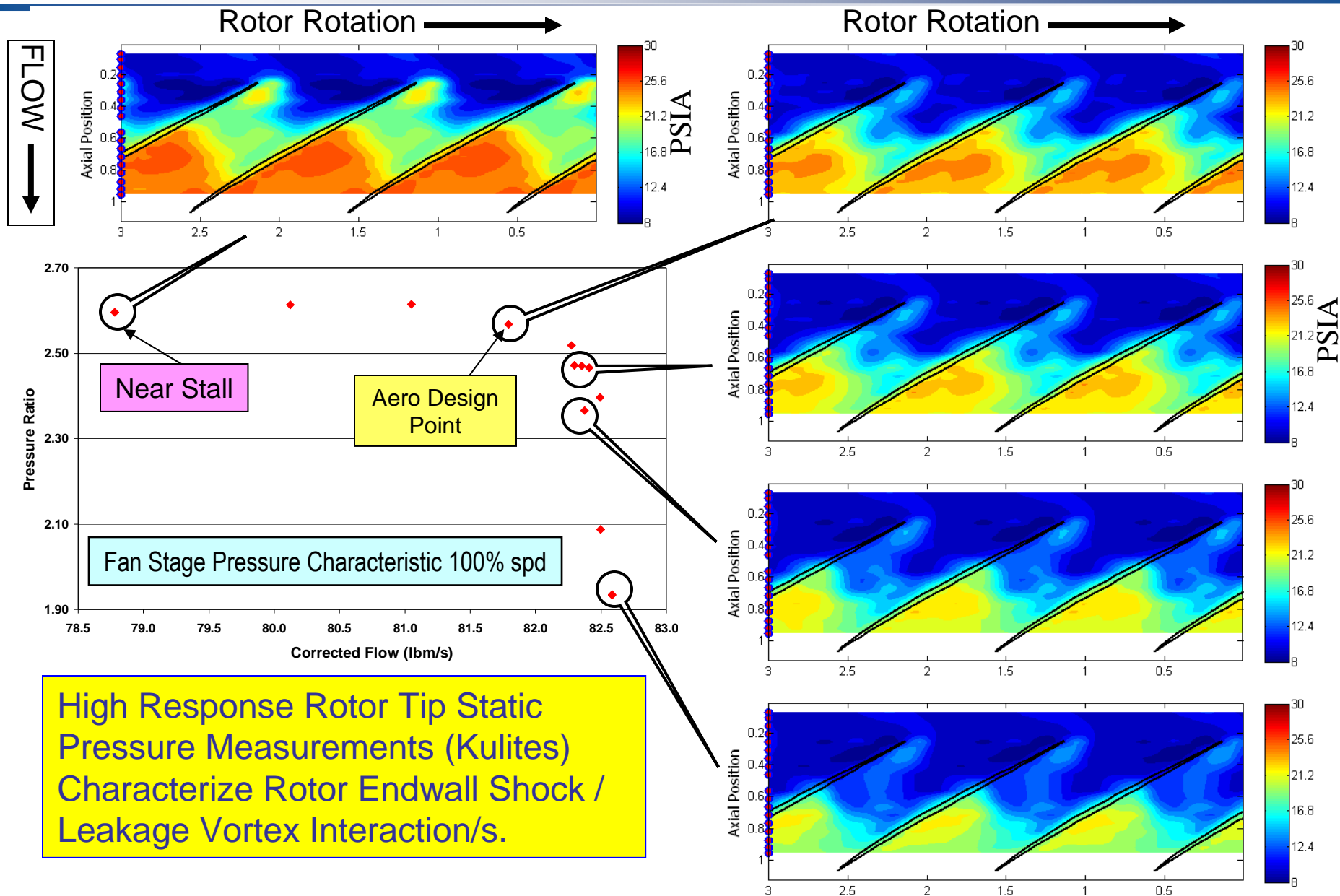


# Sensitivity to OGV Setting Angle : 37% Speed





# Rotor Tip Static Pressure Measurements: 100% Speed





# Concluding Remarks

- A SOA Mach 4 turbine engine fan stage was designed and scaled (0.57 linear) for testing in the NASA W8 high speed compressor facility.
- CFD was utilized in the design process and simulations were performed to predict performance and operability prior to test.
- Aerodynamic fan stage performance characteristics were acquired at 15%, 36%, 50%, 60%, 70%, 80%, 85%, 90%, 95%, and 100% of design rotor speed. Measurements are being compared to Pre-test CFD. Results to date include:
  - ❖ *Good agreement at the design point*
  - ❖ *Discrepancy in efficiency values over the speed range*
  - ❖ *Pre-Test CFD does NOT predict Range of Operation @ High Speed*
- Future Efforts include in depth analysis of CFD and its comparison to measurement, specifically:
  - ❖ *Rotor endwall flow structure - using steady and high response pressure measurements.*
  - ❖ *OGV blade loading using blade surface static measurements at 10%, 15%, 25% and 45% span.*
  - ❖ *Stage performance based on detailed aerodynamic probe surveys (radial and circumferential).*
- Additional fan stage testing to assess sensitivity (both CFD and measurement) of performance and operability to:
  - ❖ *Endwall tip clearance*
  - ❖ *Endwall flow control including casing treatment*
  - ❖ *Inlet flow distortions (radial, circumferential, and TBCC inlet)*

