Langley Poses 3 Supersonic Liner Designs

Langley Research Center — internationally known for its aviation research advancements for several decades — today released a photograph of three supersonic transport concepts that will be studied by industry. Two contracts totaling $1,000,000 were let yesterday to Boeing Co. and the Lockheed-California Co., for the aircraft studies.

Yesterday's action will complement other programs being carried out by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Federal Aviation Agency in a national effort to provide technology necessary for the development of a supersonic commercial air transport capable of speeds up to 2,000 m.p.h. Each of the two contractors will evaluate all four concepts.

A total of four NASA concepts will be evaluated — three from Langley and one for the Ames Research Center. NASA expects the studies to provide information on the feasibility and the practicability of these concepts through engineers' research advancements for speeds up to 2,000 m.p.h. will evaluate all four concepts.

For the past several years an intensive aerodynamic research program has been pursued by Langley scientists which has evolved a number of highly advanced concepts for possible use as a supersonic carrier. All of the local concept entries which have been received are expected by the end of the evaluations to be submitted to the Langley Center for further evaluation.

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All of the Langley concepts have a sleek bullet-like appearance. Models of these proposed airliners have been put to the test in several wind tunnels at the local center. One has the smooth underbelly design, while another tucks four engines under its wings. The third mounts engines top and bottom.