The Windshear Airborne Sensors Program completed a highly successful series of flight tests in Denver, CO July 13-24. The Langley ATOPS Boeing 737 research aircraft equipped with radar, lidar, IR, in situ, and ground radar data link detection systems penetrated numerous dry (little or no rain) microbursts and strong gust fronts at low altitude (800 - 1000 ft AGL), collecting unprecedented, high quality data with all systems. Multiple strong shears were predicted by the forward-looking systems and subsequently confirmed by in situ measurement. Many of the shear penetrations were conducted at altitudes below the dust cloud generated by strong surface winds.

The success of these tests are a tribute to a remarkable effort by the entire Langley team. July 24 marks exactly 100 days from the discovery of a requirement for a major test aircraft structural repair, multiple engine replacements, and complete removal of aircraft experimental equipment. The repairs were completed, equipment reinstalled, local research flights conducted and the Denver deployment successfully accomplished in an exceedingly short time.

Flight tests in Orlando, FL begin August 10 and will last up to three weeks.