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Quick Look. NASA Langley is acquiring a Boeing 757 aircraft which will serve as a flying laboratory in support of the agency's Advanced Subsonic Transport/Terminal Area Productivity and High Speed Civil Transport programs.

NASA Acquires Boeing 757 for Aeronautical Flight Research

NASA is scheduled to take delivery on March 24 of a Boeing 757-200 aircraft that will serve as a "flying laboratory" for aeronautical research. The aircraft will be modified extensively for a broad range of flight research programs to benefit the U.S. aviation industry and commercial airline customers.

The aircraft will be used to conduct research to increase aircraft safety, operating efficiency and compatibility with future air traffic control systems. It will serve as a vital research tool in support of the agency's Advanced Subsonic Transport and High-Speed Research programs.

The 757 will continue the work begun by the NASA 737-100 in state-of-the-art technologies such as electronic cockpit displays, flight management systems and flight safety devices such as airborne windshear detection sensors. Current and projected research needs greatly exceed the capabilities of the 737.

The NASA 757 was located after an extensive survey of the jet airliner market. It was used by Boeing for Federal Aviation Administration certification of the 757 class of jet airliners. The second generation, digitally-equipped transport, designated N501EA, will be obtained from the Eastern Airline bankruptcy estate.

NASA is acquiring the aircraft for $24 million, to be paid over 2 fiscal years. The 757 will be maintained and flown by NASA's Langley Research Center, Hampton, Va.

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