

EVALUATION OF THE AEROSPACE RESEARCH CENTRE

●●● NRC-EVALUATION

The National Research Council of Canada (NRC)'s Aerospace Research Centre supports industry and other government departments to create, advance and apply world-leading aerospace capabilities in Canada for the benefit of society. Its research is organized into five laboratories: Aerodynamics, Aerospace Manufacturing, Flight Research, Gas Turbines, and Structures and Materials Performance. It is one of the NRC's largest research centres in terms of both budget and staff.



Earnings of **\$196.7 million**
Direct expenses of **\$193.4 million**
(during the evaluation period)



354 employees
Ottawa and Montreal



714 unique projects with:
Industry (86%)
Other government depts. (7%)
Academia (4%)
Other organizations (3%)

ABOUT THE EVALUATION

The evaluation assessed the research centre's relevance and performance for the period of 2012-13 to 2018-19. The evaluation was carried out by the NRC's internal Evaluation team and drew on the following methods: a bibliometric study, data review, document review, internal and external interviews, a client survey, and a peer review by experts from industry, government, and academia.

RESULTS



✓ Impact on Business Innovation

- Increased clients' abilities to develop, adopt, and commercialize new technologies
- Increased client growth and productivity
- Reduced costs for clients



✓ Advancement of Scientific Knowledge

- Canadian leader in the topic areas of ice, ice particle, and fatigue of materials
- Several ARC researchers have won prestigious awards for their work



✓ Government Policy Solutions

- Research is contributing to government operations, policies, and regulations
- Collaborations with federal departments leading to social and environmental benefits

➤ Appropriateness of research

- New strategic focus on emerging technology well-aligned with industry and government needs
- Increased communication and direction to staff required to ensure clarity of purpose and alignment of efforts within the research centre

➤ Stakeholder engagement

- Effectively engaged with its major industry clients and most of its government clients
- Plans to enhance outreach to, and collaboration with, universities and SMEs
- Peer review committee found no clear plan or mechanism to ensure successful engagement with these two groups

➤ Capabilities

- Available capacities, competencies and facilities to achieve objectives, but continued action needed to shift to new strategic areas and address overwork and stress
- Timely decisions critical, regarding upkeep and maintenance of research facilities and aircraft
- Need for facility investments and a clearly communicated way-forward

The full evaluation report, including the management response and action plan, is available on the NRC's website: <https://nrc.canada.ca/en/corporate/planning-reporting/evaluation>

