

National Institute of Aerospace (NIA)

NIA is a non-profit research and graduate education institute created to conduct leading-edge aerospace and atmospheric research, develop new technologies, and help inspire future scientists and engineers. Research at NIA supports an array of technology sectors, including Aerospace, Advanced Manufacturing, Environment, and Life Sciences. NIA's purpose is four-fold:

- To foster research collaboration among national laboratories, academia, and industrial partners that stimulates innovation and creativity
- To provide comprehensive graduate and continuing education in science and engineering via local campus presence and distance learning technologies
- To incubate and stimulate the commercialization of new intellectual property developed through NIA's research activities
- To promote aerospace science and engineering and provide outreach to the region and the nation

NIA conducts a broad range of scientific and engineering research sponsored by NASA, other government agencies, and the aerospace industry. In fact a number of NIA's scientists also work in various branches at NASA LaRC. NIA is working to develop several unique R&D brands in several areas including: boron nitride nano tube (BNNT) growth and applications and in uncertainly quantification (UQ), a design process for complex systems that determines likely outcomes when variables are uncertain.

NIA places a keen focus on outreach and education. Through an established education program, students work alongside researchers at NIA's partner organization, NASA LaRC; participate in innovative courses designed and led by field experts; and participate in leading-edge research programs. By providing training for teachers and creating engaging activities for middle and high school students, NIA strives to promote interest in science and technology.