

NewsTrack

New technology enhances aircraft safety

ROCHESTER, N.Y., Feb. 13 (UPI) -- New technology utilized by Rochester Institute of Technology engineers in Rochester, N.Y., is helping the U.S. Navy improve the safety of its aircraft.

Michael Haselkorn, senior staff engineer at RIT's Center for Integrated Manufacturing Studies, is leading a team of professors, engineers and scientists in a major project to redesign and improve numerous components of the Navy's EA-6B jet.

"This project is a unique opportunity to combine the latest scientific innovation with the capabilities of private industry to address key issues of our nation's military fleet," Haselkorn said.

Haselkorn is currently working with Raymond Grosshans, professor of industrial and science technology at RIT, to utilize new laser scanning technology to create a three-dimensional digital schematic of the turtleback -- the metal cover over the EA-6B's fuselage. Such an analysis was previously substantially time consuming due to lack of accurate schematics, making improved manufacture of parts extremely difficult.

"This technology can be used in numerous industries to transform existing parts and structures into digital models that can then be analyzed, redesigned and improved," Haselkorn added.

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