Image: NASA's Low-boom Flight Demonstration mission

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Credit: NASA

Aeronautical innovations are part of a government-industry partnership to collect data that could make supersonic flight over land possible, dramatically reducing travel time in the United States or anywhere in the world.

NASA's Low-boom Flight Demonstration mission has two goals: 1) design and build a piloted, large-scale supersonic X-plane with technology that reduces the loudness of a sonic boom to that of a gentle thump; and 2) fly the X-plane over select U.S. communities to gather data on human responses to the low-boom flights and deliver that data set to U.S. and international regulators. Using these data, new sound-based rules regarding supersonic flight over land could be developed, which would open the doors to new commercial cargo and passenger markets to provide faster-than-sound air travel.

This artist's concept shows a new Low-boom Flight Demonstration X-plane flying over land in the United States.

More information: Learn more about the Low-Boom Flight Demonstration: www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/lbfd/index.html

Provided by NASA