



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Atlanta Aircraft Certification Office
One Crown Center
1895 Phoenix Blvd., Suite 450
Atlanta, GA 30349

JUL 29 2010

Mr. Kurt Erbacher
Vice President, GVI Program
Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation
P.O. Box 2206
Savannah, GA 31402-2206

Dear Mr. Erbacher:

This letter is intended to alert you to FAA concerns regarding the program schedule for the GVI Type Certification effort. As you are aware, the FAA and Gulfstream have been working collaboratively on this program for the past five years, and have enjoyed a good working relationship and a great deal of success thus far. However, we have recently reached a point where delays in aircraft systems development, most notably for flight controls and avionics, have resulted in the slippage of many testing milestones, including a significant number of TIA issuance dates. Since Gulfstream has not yet shown a corresponding shift in the FAA approval date, this slippage results in a decreased time allocation for critical certification functions.

As discussed many times in the past, the FAA believes that a failure to acknowledge program delays and make corresponding schedule adjustments can result in significant problems. During previous programs, similar situations created an adverse, high-pressure work environment for Gulfstream engineers and DER's, whereby the quality of data submittals suffered significantly and FAA review time had to be increased to ensure that certification requirements were not missed or concluded erroneously. We are confident that you share our desire to avoid these type of problems on the GVI program.

To address these concerns, the FAA requests that Gulfstream examine the impact of the developmental delays on both company testing and the FAA certification effort, and adjust the GVI schedule as necessary to allow adequate time for these activities to take place without compromises to safety or quality. We feel this is in line with our PSP agreement, which calls for jointly developed schedules that are "realistic, executable, and mutually acceptable."

We reiterate our willingness to work with Gulfstream to complete all certification requirements as expeditiously as possible; however, it must be understood that the FAA can not be expected to relax those requirements or truncate our certification efforts. In short, while the FAA is sensitive to Gulfstream's business needs, the regulatory requirements and the integrity of the certification process remain our primary responsibilities, and must therefore be our primary focus.

If you have any questions on the contents of this letter, please contact me directly at [REDACTED].

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Melvin D. Taylor, Manager
Atlanta Aircraft Certification Office