



**Backgrounder**

**Richard R. Tracy**  
**Chief Technology Officer, Director**

Dr. Tracy is an aerodynamicist whose extensive research on supersonic natural laminar flow led to the present NLF wing concept which he first patented in 1994. He formed the ASSET Group (Affordable Supersonic Executive Transport) in 1991 to pursue research into the commercial application of NLF technology. Aerion acquired ASSET Group in 2002.

As Aerion's chief technology officer, Dr. Tracy is responsible for technology development and design oversight of supersonic aircraft incorporating NLF technology.

He has worked on a number of classified defense programs and civil aircraft development and certification projects, including the single stage to orbit X-30 and the Northrop Grumman Global Hawk. As Chief Engineer for Bill Lear's LearAvia in the 1970s, he led the advanced design of the Learstar 600, which was later developed as the Canadair CL-600 Challenger. He initiated the design of the carbon composite "Lear Fan" and led the development effort on that aircraft through its successful first flight.

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Dr. Tracy holds BS, MS and PhD degrees from Caltech, the latter in Hypersonic Aerodynamics, which he earned in 1964. He attended the Brussels-based NATO Von Karman Institute in 1959-60 as the General Motors Fellow, and was awarded the Von Karman Prize for his thesis on heat transfer in separated supersonic flows. Tracy has been a licensed pilot since 1953 with over 1,500 hours in a variety of aircraft.

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