

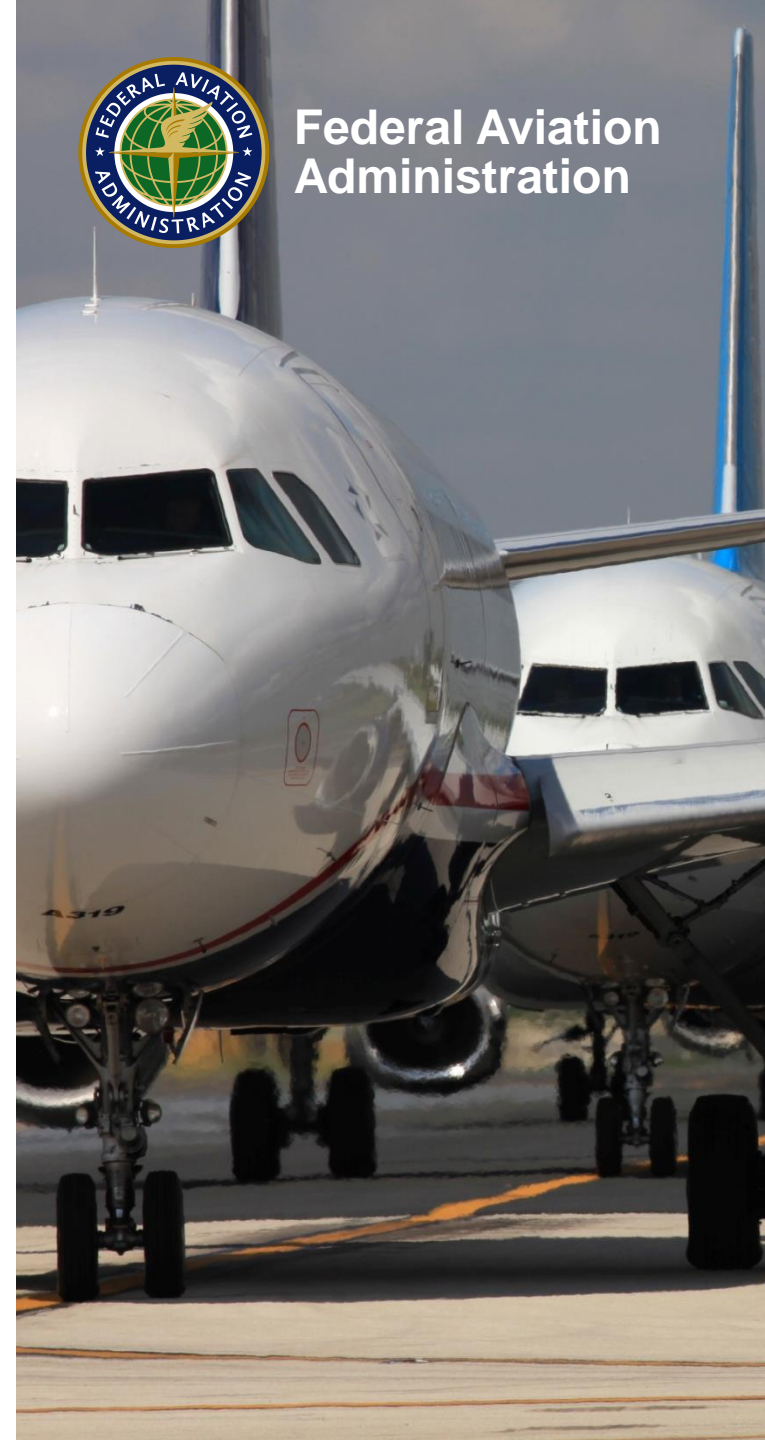
Next Generation Fire Test Burner for Powerplant Fire Testing Applications

International Aircraft Systems Fire
Protection Working Group
Cologne, Germany
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Fire Safety Branch
<http://www.fire.tc.faa.gov>



Federal Aviation
Administration



Background

- **Numerous FAR's mandate fire protection in aircraft powerplant fire zones**
 - Parts 23, 25, 27, 29, 33...
 - FAR Part 1 Section 1.1 – Definitions and Abbreviations
 - Fireproof--
 - (1) With respect to materials and parts used to confine fire in a designated fire zone, means the capacity to withstand at least as well as steel in dimensions appropriate for the purpose for which they are used, the heat produced when there is a severe fire of extended duration in that zone;
 - (2) With respect to other materials and parts, means the capacity to withstand the heat associated with fire at least as well as steel in dimensions appropriate for the purpose for which they are used.
 - Fire resistant--
 - (1) With respect to sheet or structural members means the capacity to withstand the heat associated with fire at least as well as aluminum alloy in dimensions appropriate for the purpose for which they are used; and
 - (2) With respect to fluid-carrying lines, fluid system parts, wiring, air ducts, fittings, and powerplant controls, means the capacity to perform the intended functions under the heat and other conditions likely to occur when there is a fire at the place concerned.
 - No definition of test method, apparatus, or criteria
 - Advisory material has been used to define these test parameters



Background

- **Advisory Circulars and FAA Reports:**
 - Power Plant Engineering Report No. 3A, Standard Fire Test Apparatus and Procedure (For Flexible Hose Assemblies), Revised March 1978
 - Acceptable fire test burners listed in Appendix III:
 - Lennox OB-32 (not available)
 - Carlin 200 CRD (not available)
 - Stewart-Warner HPR 250 (not available)
 - Stewart-Warner FR-600 (not available)
 - AC 20-135, Powerplant Installation and Propulsion System Component Fire Protection Test Methods, Standards, and Criteria, 2/6/90
 - Acceptable fire test burners listed in sec. 6c:
 - Those listed in Appendix III of Powerplant Report 3A
 - SAE 401 Burner adjusted to 9.3 BTU/ft²s (propane fueled burner)
 - Propane and oxy-acetylene torch-standard and diverging nozzles



Background

- **Advisory Circulars and FAA Reports (cont.):**
 - FAA Aircraft Materials Fire Test Handbook (4/2000)
 - Chapter 11 specifies the oil burners listed above, plus
 - Park DPL 3400 (not available)
 - Chapter 12 specifies the oil burners above, including the Park DPL 3400
 - Chapter 12 Supplement, section 12.3.1 states:
 - » SAE AS401B Propane Burner is also acceptable provided the temperature profile and heat flux density conform to the specified requirements
 - AC 33.17-1A, Engine Fire Protection, 8/3/09
 - References Powerplant Report 3A and AC 20-135 for acceptable burners
- **All of these specified oil burners are no longer commercially available**

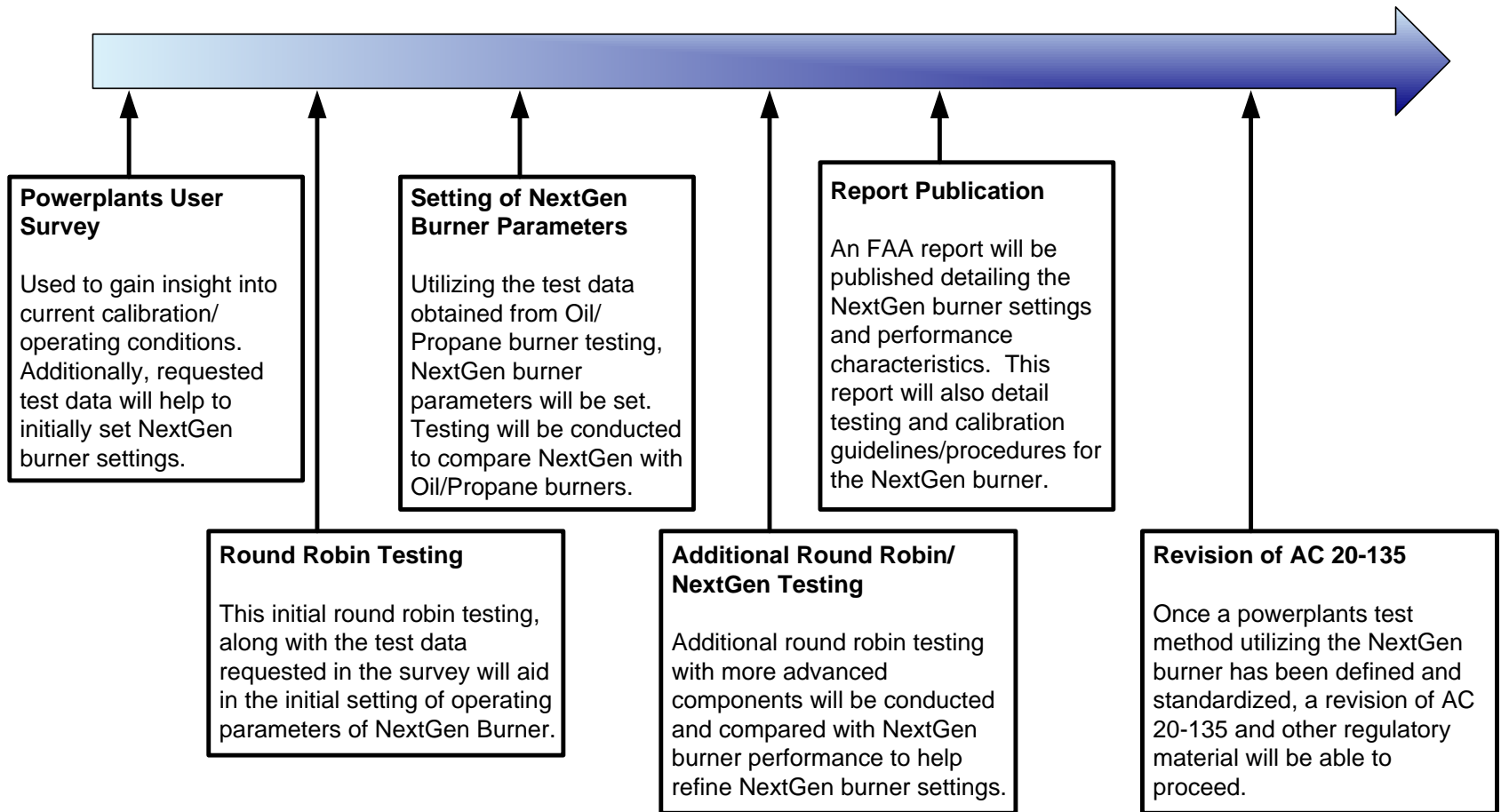


Background

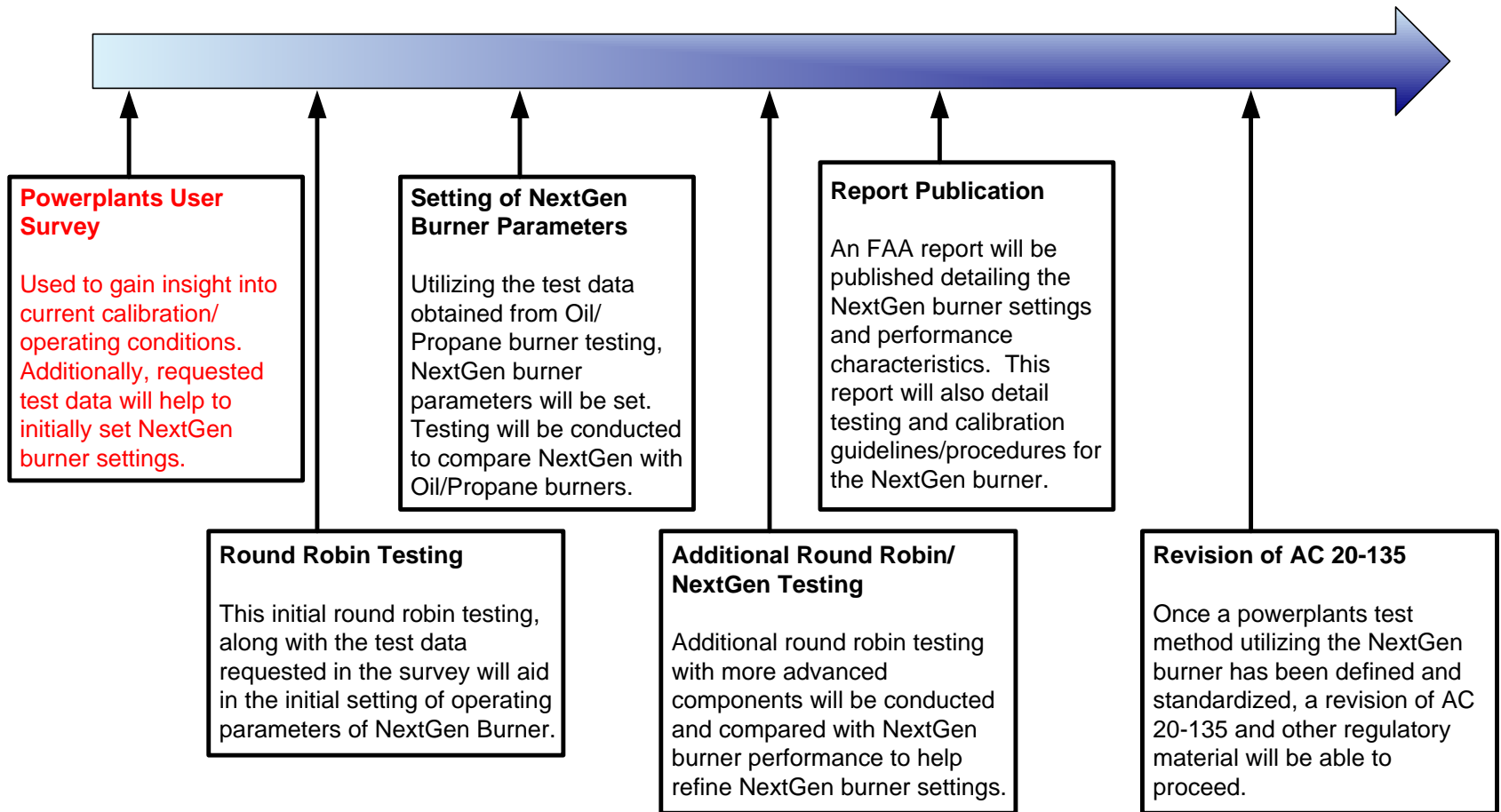
- **Industry is left with the propane burner, which can be obtained and is typically preferred due to its consistency and ease of use**
 - Propane and jet fuel flames, despite having similar measured temperatures and heat flux, are fundamentally different
 - Propane will provide a less severe flame than a jet fuel flame, due to the transparency of the propane flame vs. the opacity of the jet fuel flame
 - As test components approach the flame temperature, they begin to re-radiate due to the high surface temperature
 - Heat is lost readily from the hot surface through the transparent propane flame
 - Heat is not lost through the opaque jet fuel flame
 - Intent of regulations is to provide protection against an *engine* fire, which is a jet fuel flame, not a propane flame
- **FAA Tech Center Fire Safety Branch has been tasked by Transport Airplane Directorate to develop burner performance standards for the next-generation fire test burner for powerplant fire testing**



A Roadmap to NextGen Burner Implementation for Powerplant Testing



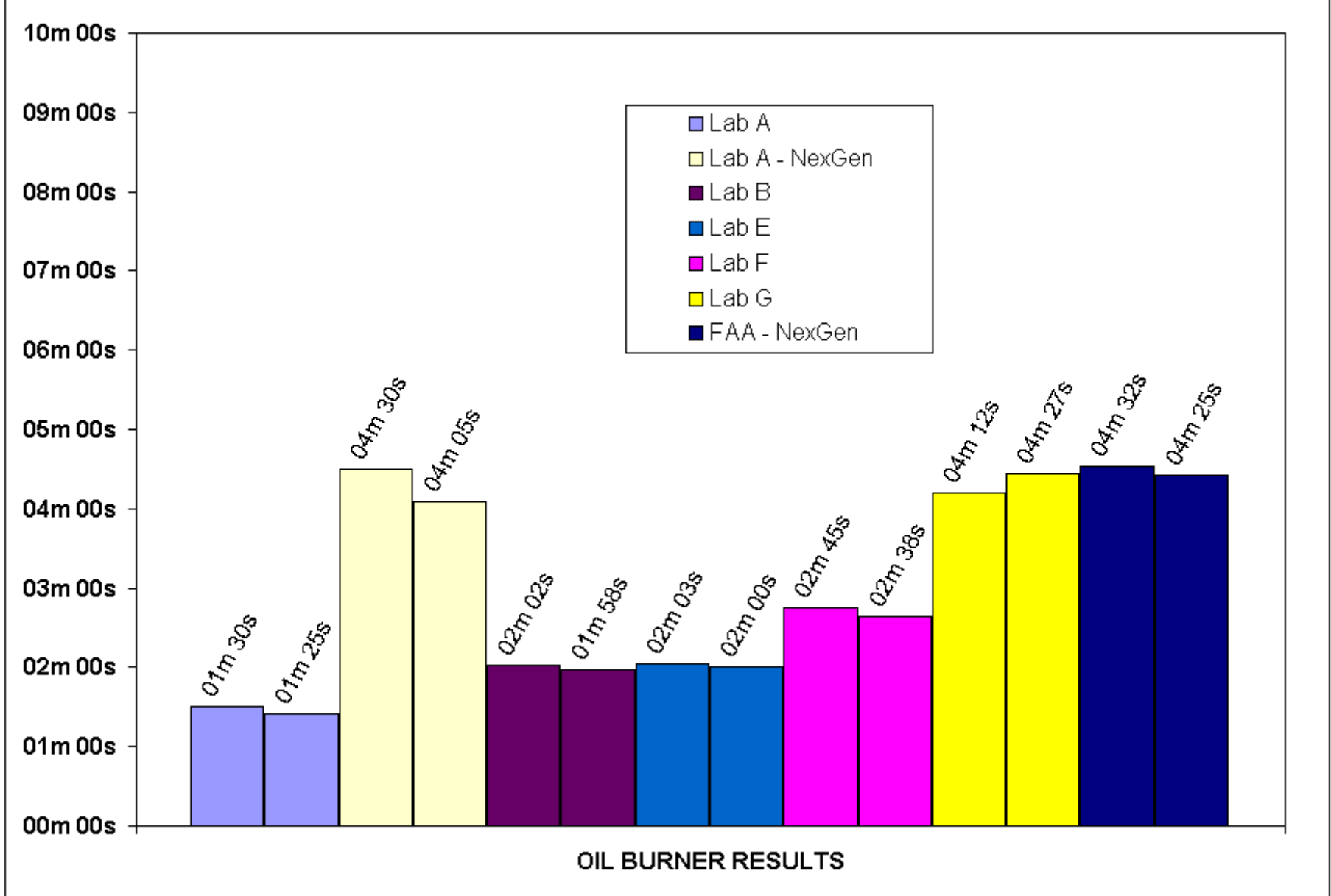
Previous Work



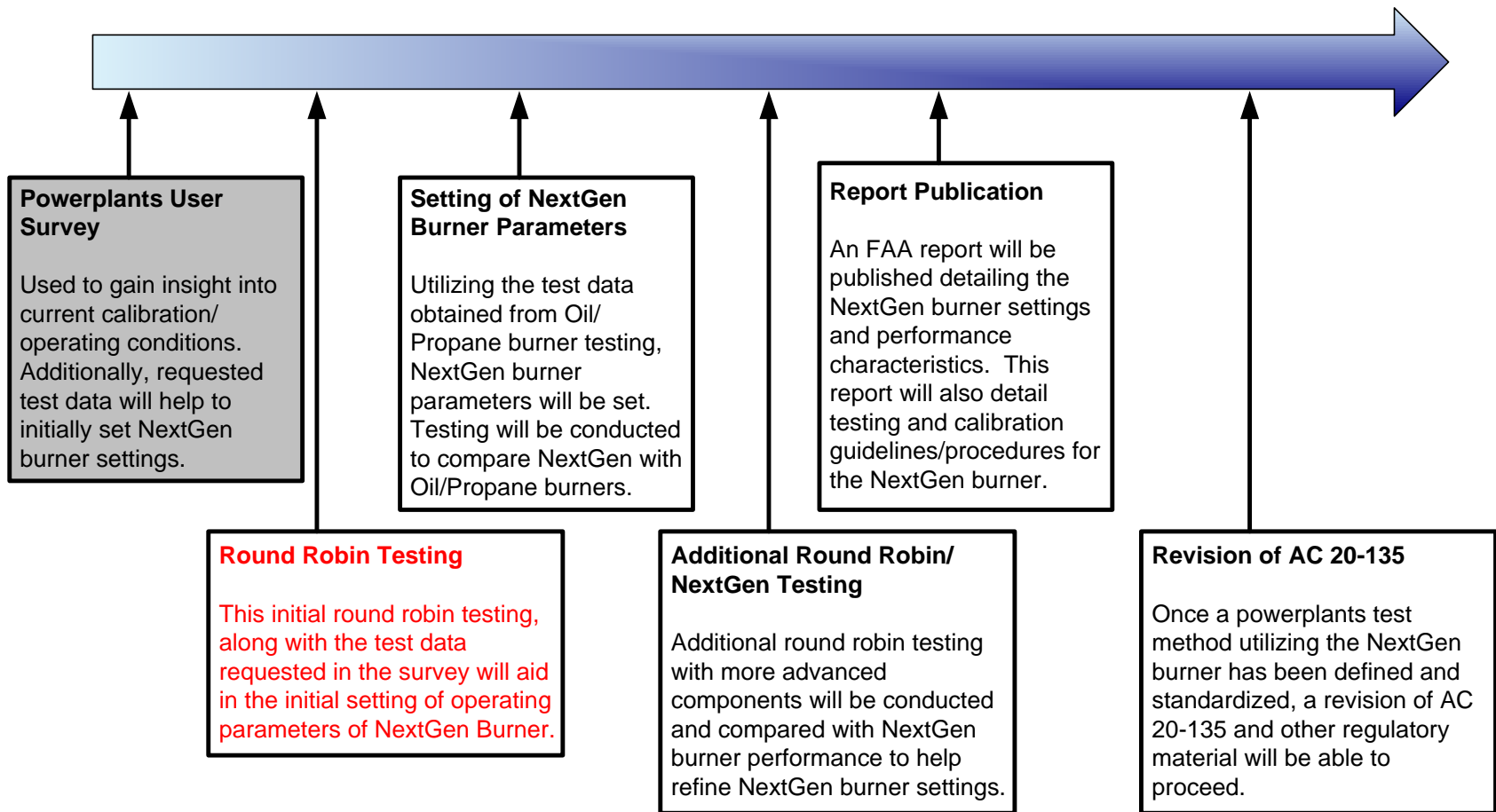
Previous Work

- **Round robin testing as part of the Powerplants User Survey resulted in our initial burner configuration:**
 - 2.25 gph Delavan, Solid-Cone nozzle
 - Fuel pressure: 100-110 psi (pressure matched to obtain proper flow based on nozzle being used)
 - Fuel Temperature: $42^{\circ} \pm 10^{\circ}\text{F}$
 - Air pressure: 40 psi
 - Air Temperature: $50^{\circ} \pm 10^{\circ}\text{F}$
- **These settings are an initial starting point only and will change based on results from future Round Robin tests, as well as Univ. of Cincinnati testing**





Current Status



Current Status – Round Robin Testing

- **Round Robin testing to be initiated with various labs and burners (Park DPL 3400, NexGen, and other oil burners). Materials to be tested include:**
 - Slug Calorimeter
 - Sheet of copper with thermal absorptive coating, and thermocouple(s) on back face to determine heat flux
 - 2024 Aluminum Sheet
 - 4130 Steel Sheet
- **Initial testing is currently being conducted with FAA NexGen burner under initial burner settings to ensure consistency in results prior to initiating round robin.**
 - Results with slug calorimeter and 2024 aluminum show very repeatable results.
 - Testing with steel sheets is under way.
 - Additional testing will aim to reduce sample size while maintaining repeatability.
- **Upon completion of these tests, samples and testing parameters will be sent to participating labs**
 - When available, information will be posted on the Powerplants KSN site
 - If you'd like to participate, contact Steve Summer (steven.summer@faa.gov)



Additional Work – Flame Retention Heads

- Eliminates the need for a stator and turbulator
- Fits on end of burner draft tube with minimal modification
- Parts purchased from local heating supply store for less than \$50
- Initial testing for some of the materials fire tests has shown potential for improved test result repeatability as compared to stator and turbulator configuration
- Once initial round robin tests are completed, the FAA Powerplants burner will be converted over to FRH and follow-on testing will be conducted.



Additional Work – AC20-135 Sub Group

- **Goal is to develop proposed rewording of AC20-135 in a parallel effort with NexGen burner development.**
 - Testing requirements (i.e. when/how to vibrate sample, orientation of sample, etc) and testing equipment (i.e. thermocouple type, heat transfer calibration device, etc) will be addressed.
 - Actual burner operation and calibration will be left open subject to burner development.
 - Proposed rewording will be transmitted to and coordinated with AIR-120 within FAA
- **First meeting was held via conference call on May 7th**
- **Group is developing a comment matrix for areas that need to be addressed within the AC and will meet on June 11th to review all submitted comments.**

