

Symposium on Innovative Propulsion Systems

October 20th-21st, 2026

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20TH, 2026		
TIME	**TOPIC**	**LOCATION**
8:00am-8:45am	Arrivals and Registration	**Indiana Manufacturing Institute 1105 Endeavour Drive Suite 1000 West Lafayette, IN 47906**
8:45am-9:00am	Welcome & Opening Remarks with **Nikhilesh Chawla**, *Associate Dean for Research, College of Engineering; Ransburg Professor of Materials Engineering*	
9:00am-10:15am	**"The Future of Gas Turbine Technology"** with **Steven Wellborn,** *Senior Fellow-Turbomachinery Systems; Chair Fluid Mechanics and Functional Design Board, Rolls-Royce*	
10:15am-10:30am	Coffee Break	
10:30am-12:00pm	**"The Thermodynamic High Ground: Engineering more capable propulsion, power, and energy cycles"** with **Fred Schauer**, *Associate Professor of Aerospace Engineering, Air Force Institute of Technology*	
12:00pm-1:00pm	Lunch –Lunch will be provided	
1:00pm-2:15pm	**"Advancing Propulsion for Future Flight"** with **James Heidmann,** *Chief of NASA Glenn Research Propulsion Division*	
2:15pm-2:30pm	Coffee Break	
2:30pm-3:45pm	**"Affordable, Sustainable Aviation Energy"** with **James Hileman**, *Vice President of Vehicle Systems and Sustainable Energy; Chief Engineer of Sustainability, The Boeing Company*	
3:45pm-4:00pm	Closing Remarks & End Symposium Day 1	
4:00pm-4:45pm	Closed Door Discussion—Please see Li Qiao and Guillermo Paniagua for additional details	

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21ST, 2026		
TIME	**TOPIC**	**LOCATION**
8:00am-8:45am	Arrivals and Registration	**Indiana Manufacturing**
8:45am-9:00am	Welcome & Opening Remarks with **Bill Crossley,** *Uhrig & Vournas*	

	Head of Aeronautics and Astronautics	**Institute** **1105 Endeavour Drive Suite 1000** **West Lafayette, IN 47906**
9:00am-10:15am	**"Pratt & Whitney: Meeting the Future Propulsion Needs of Commercial Aviation"** with **Simon Evans**, *Manager of Advanced Concepts, Pratt & Whitney*	
10:15am-10:30am	Coffee Break	
10:30am -11:45am	Lightning Talks Moderated by **Bill Crossley**, *Uhrig & Vournas Head of Aeronautics and Astronautics* with Purdue Faculty. • **Li Qiao,** *Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics* • **Mary Johnson,** *Professor and Associate Head for Graduate Education and Research in the School of Aviation and Transportation Technology* • **Matt Lee,** *Assistant Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering* • **Eric Bach,** *Research Scientist, Maurice J. Zucrow Laboratories* • **Carson Slabaugh,** *Paula Feuer Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics*	
11:45am-12:00pm	End of Symposium Day 2	
1:00pm-3:30pm	Zucrow Laboratories Tour — Program concludes	**Chaffee Hall** **500 Allison Road** **West Lafayette, IN 47906**