The April 25th Unmanned Aerial Systems workshop, hosted by the Industry Specific Partnership Program at UTA, was a great success with more than 30 industry and UTA faculty and staff in attendance. Dr. Bredow, the ISP Program lead, opened the workshop with a brief presentation about the nature and goals of the EE Department’s Industry Specific Partnership (ISP) Program. Dr. Ella Atkins, Professor of Aerospace Engineering at the University of Michigan, was the keynote speaker and delivered a talk on “Contingency Flight Planning for Resilient Urban Air Mobility”. Dr. Atkins’ remarks as well as those of the industry and UTA faculty panel members’ and the ensuing interactive discussions with the audience covered much territory while providing multiple perspectives on the subject and approaches to the development of technical solutions.

Our observations of attendee and speaker participation in the technical discussions along with their personal comments indicate the workshop activities were well received. The ISP Program plans to continue this type of effort as a way to introduce and explain the purpose of the ISP Program in a forum that also addresses topics relevant to current business opportunities.

To assist in the Program’s future planning, the 4/25 workshop attendees have specifically received a request for comments and suggestions about the workshop. In addition, we welcome suggestions from all for future ISP sponsored workshops including topics, knowledgeable presenters, preferences for meeting days and times, etc. Please send them to us at isp@uta.edu or use the formal survey questionnaire here. We welcome your comments and will factor them into our planning for future ISP sponsored events. Your ideas are greatly appreciated and will improve the ISP Program and its future products.

Finally, we look forward to meeting with representatives of the various companies, either those who attended this workshop or others interested in learning about the ISP Program. Please indicate your interest in setting up such meetings via an email to isp@uta.edu, attention Dr. Bredow. We can visit with you on-site or here at the University, depending on the nature of information desired and your preferences. The beginning of this summer season is a great time to develop and initiate plans for academic programs addressing your company and employee needs. This lead time will facilitate the development of course structures and delivery options beginning with UTA’s fall 2019 academic session.