

The Air Cargo System

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IMPACT OF ADVANCED AIR TRANSPORT TECHNOLOGY

Part 2—The Air Cargo System Background Paper



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Foreword

This background paper is one of four parts of an OTA assessment of the economic, environmental, and societal impacts of advances in the technology of transport aircraft. This paper, Part 2, addresses the air cargo system. It seeks to put in perspective the role and importance of aircraft technology in the total air cargo system. It is not a detailed study of aircraft technology; it focuses instead on the principal factors that could influence the future evolution of air cargo transport.

The overall assessment had its origin in a request from the House Committee on Science and Technology asking OTA to examine the implications of the eventual wide-scale introduction—or nonintroduction—of advanced high-speed passenger aircraft. At the request of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, the assessment was subsequently broadened to include the aircraft used in providing service to small communities and to embrace cargo as well as passenger transport.

This paper and the other three parts to this assessment (“Advanced High-Speed Aircraft,” “Air Service to Small Communities,” and “Financing and Program Alternatives for Advanced High-Speed Aircraft”) together comprise OTA’s published documents for this study.

In conducting this assessment, OTA was assisted by an advisory panel that provided advice on the overall assessment and a working group focused on air cargo. I would like to thank these individuals for their contributions.



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*Commission was dissolved Dec 31, 1979.

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