

For Immediate Release



## **Build A Plane and Cessna Aircraft Guide U.S. Dept of Energy's Real World Design Challenge**

**Oshkosh, WI, July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008**—Build A Plane and engineers from Cessna Aircraft are helping to create an aviation-themed Real World Design Challenge sponsored by the United States Department of Energy (DoE). The program will allow high school students across the country to collaborate on line with scientists and engineers from all 17 US DoE laboratories as well as the Oakridge National Laboratory to create 'greener' aircraft designs using computer-aided design (CAD).

“This is an unprecedented opportunity for students to have access to some of the best minds in the country,” Build A Plane’s Lyn Freeman said. “Cessna’s engineering team came on board and developed a design challenge that gave the US Department of Energy exactly what they were looking for. Their work also provided Build A Plane what it was looking for, the opportunity to expose more and more kids to aviation.”

Build A Plane and Parametric Technology Corporation (PTC) approached DoE to discuss the realities of making a Real World Design Challenge where students use CAD software to create better performing, more fuel efficient aircraft designs. Participating high schools will compete on local and state levels with a national winner being selected in a final competition at the National Academy of Engineering in Washington D.C.

To participate in the Real World Design Challenge, teachers must attend a two-day training course to learn to use PTC’s Pro/Engineer CAD software. Each teacher completing the training receives more than \$900,000 worth of free CAD software to use in their classrooms. The software comes with free lifetime updates compliments of PTC.

Build A Plane and Cessna are working on a variety of other programs to put aviation into schools, grades K-14. Cessna’s president, chairman and chief executive officer, Jack Pelton, is a member of Build A Plane’s Board of Advisors.

Build A Plane donates aircraft building and restoration projects to schools at no charge. Currently there are more than 70 aircraft projects across the country, and that number is expected to rise to more than 100 before the year’s end. For more information, visit [BuildAPlane.org](http://BuildAPlane.org) or call 920-279-3321.