



U.S.-India Civil Nuclear Cooperation Initiative
An Agreement That Promotes Our National and Economic Security

On March 2, 2006, the United States and India announced a landmark *Civil Nuclear Cooperation Initiative* (CNCI) that promises to expand the strategic relationship between the world's largest and oldest democracies. This agreement follows a broader initiative concluded last summer by President Bush and Prime Minister Singh. For this reason, the Aerospace Industries Association of America, the nation's largest trade organization of national defense, civil aviation, and space systems manufacturers, respectfully urges full and swift Congressional support for the U.S.-India Civil Nuclear Cooperation Initiative.

Under the initiative, in exchange for peaceful nuclear cooperation and the reliable supply of nuclear fuel from the U.S., the Indian government makes explicit commitments to place civilian nuclear facilities under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards; continue its voluntary moratorium on nuclear testing; ban the transfer of enrichment and re-processing technologies to any state that seeks a nuclear capability; follow the export control guidelines of the Nuclear Suppliers Group; and join the U.S.-led multinational Proliferation Security Initiative.

The indirect benefits of reconciling this historical source of discord between our two countries are considerable. The CNCI strengthens political ties between the U.S. and India and builds confidence between both nations. Such positive developments in the political arena will certainly bolster the dynamic trade relationship we are developing in civil aviation with India.

The direct security benefits of the agreement are very compelling. The CNCI enhances U.S. national security by fostering cooperation in a number of areas that will promote peace, stability, and prosperity in the region. The agreement will also create a positive environment to further develop bilateral defense cooperation and integration in a region of great and growing importance to America, particularly with regard to our counter-terrorism and counter-proliferation efforts.

Last summer the U.S. and India concluded a new *Framework for the U.S.-India Defense Relationship* that binds the signatories to a common mission of preserving stability in Southern Asia. President Bush and Prime Minister Singh supplemented the *Framework* in their joint statement of March 2nd by announcing a series of additional bilateral agreements that illustrate the potential of this new relationship.

The United States and India have seized an unprecedented opportunity to build a new strategic partnership. This relationship is built on our common values, concerns and interests. The U.S.-India Civil Nuclear Cooperation Initiative will help move this partnership to the next level of political, economic, and security cooperation, which is why the Aerospace Industries Association of America supports this agreement and urges Congress to do the same.