

Robert H. Liebeck

Bob Liebeck is currently Chief Scientist of the Blended-Wing-Body (BWB) Airplane Program at Boeing. The BWB is an advanced concept subsonic transport configuration that offers a 20 percent reduction in fuel burn when compared to a conventional tube and wing configuration. In addition, the BWB offers a reduction in cumulative airport noise of 52 db below Stage III. In his 54 years at Boeing, Bob has also served as program manager on several classified advanced-concept airplane programs, some of which culminated in successful flight vehicles. He has an extensive list of technical publications, and his airfoil work is discussed in several textbooks on aerodynamics. Bob is also Professor of the Practice of Aeronautics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Adjunct Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at the University of California Irvine where he teaches courses in aerodynamics, flight mechanics, and airplane design. He received BS, MS, and PhD degrees in Aeronautical Engineering from the University of Illinois in Urbana Champaign, and received the university's College of Engineering Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1996. In 2011, he was inducted into the Illinois Engineering Hall of Fame.

As a consultant, Bob has designed the wings for racing cars that have won the Indianapolis 500 and Formula 1 races. More recently, his wing was selected for the NASCAR "Car of Tomorrow". He also designed the keel section for the America³ yacht that won the America's Cup in 1991 and the wing for a World Championship aerobatic airplane. This could be summarized as victory on land, sea and in the air.

Bob is a Boeing Senior Technical Fellow, an AIAA Honorary Fellow, and a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society. His awards include: AIAA Aerodynamics Award, AIAA Aircraft Design Award, AIAA Wright Brothers Lectureship in Aeronautics, AIAA Dryden Lectureship, the ASME Spirit of St. Louis Medal, ICAS Award for Innovation in Aeronautics, General Charles E. Yeager Award for Aeronautical Innovation, and the Daniel Guggenheim Medal. He is a member of the National Academy of Engineering.