# Numerical study of leading-edge flow control on a low signature UCAV

Magnus Tormalm

Swedish Defence Research Agency



## The EDA project LECoLoS

- <u>Leading Edge fluidic flow Control of Low Signature UCAV</u>
- Second <u>Joint Investment Programme on Innovative Concepts and Emerging</u> <u>Technologies (JIP-ICET2)</u>
- Started 2015-03-16, duration 24 months, ~30 MM
- Budget 780 k€, EDA contribution 650 k€ (83%)
- Partners:
  - ONERA Experimentally evaluate LE fluidic control
  - FOI Numerically design fluidic LE control and validate experimental result
  - PFB (Plastiques Façonnés du Béthunois) Manufacturing of LE inserts
- Follow work done in NATO STO AVT-161, 201







### Previous work by ONERA on mechanical slat



#### Result from NATO AVT-201 experiment 0.1 0.08 Pitch dip eliminated 0.06 Сm 0.04 Original pitch dip 0.02 0 25 5 10 15 20 30 -5 0 AoA





Aerospace Technology Congress, October 11-12, Solna, Sweden

## The flow solver M-Edge

- Developed at FOI since 1997
- Node centered, finite volume flow solver for the compressible Euler and Navier-Stokes
- Steady state and time dependent solutions on unstructured grids
- Dual mesh, fully parallel, high efficiency
- Functionalities:
  - Aeroelastic capabilities
  - Many turbulence models
  - Models for flow control, inlet distortion analysis
  - Adjoint solver for shape optimization
  - Coupling to transition prediction tools
- Enable implementation of unique capabilities





#### The FOI mesh

- 7 meshes from 4 to 70 million nodes
- 96 surface patches at the LE
- Slot/patch: 1x50 mm
- Half span only































#### Establish reference without any control devices





#### Evaluation of mesh and numerical method



#### The computational method for jets

- Time-dep RANS
- Implicit dual time stepping
- Long time-step
- ∆t=0.002s (15% of root chord)
- 40 inner subiterations
- Almost 30 flow passes to reach a converged solution





#### Find optimum jet location at AoA=15





#### Optimal position of jet at AoA=15





#### Pitching moment contribution



#### Find optimum jet location at AoA=17





#### Optimal results of jet 11:3 at AoA=17



#### Optimal results of jet 11:3 at AoA=17



#### Effect on pitching moment with a jet at slot 10:3





#### Variation of jet location around LE at AoA=15





#### Variation of jet azimuthal direction at AoA=15





#### Variation of jet angle at LE





#### Evaluation of jet speed/mass flow rate







## Swedish patent #301089 from 1966



## Next phase

Wind tunnel tests planned for fall 2016 at ONERA, Lille L1 ۲



![](_page_33_Picture_3.jpeg)

## Conclusions LECoLoS

- Adding a jet at the leading edge reduces the pitching moment dip found around AoA=15 degrees for the SACCON
- An optimal location of the jet along the leading edge has been found
- The effect of variation of the jet direction relative the leading edge and the mass flow or jet velocity has been assessed
- Time dependent RANS simulation was needed with at least 15 full flow past to reach a stable solution
- The physical effect of the jet is to initiate a split of a larger vortex into smaller and thus distributing the load onto the surface

![](_page_34_Picture_6.jpeg)