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12 Small, innovation-driven companies most financially vulnerable to defense program cutbacks

14 Minotaur I launcher places classified National Reconnaissance Office payload into polar orbit

16 Lockheed Martin awaiting first complete Orion CEV structure for the start of ground tests

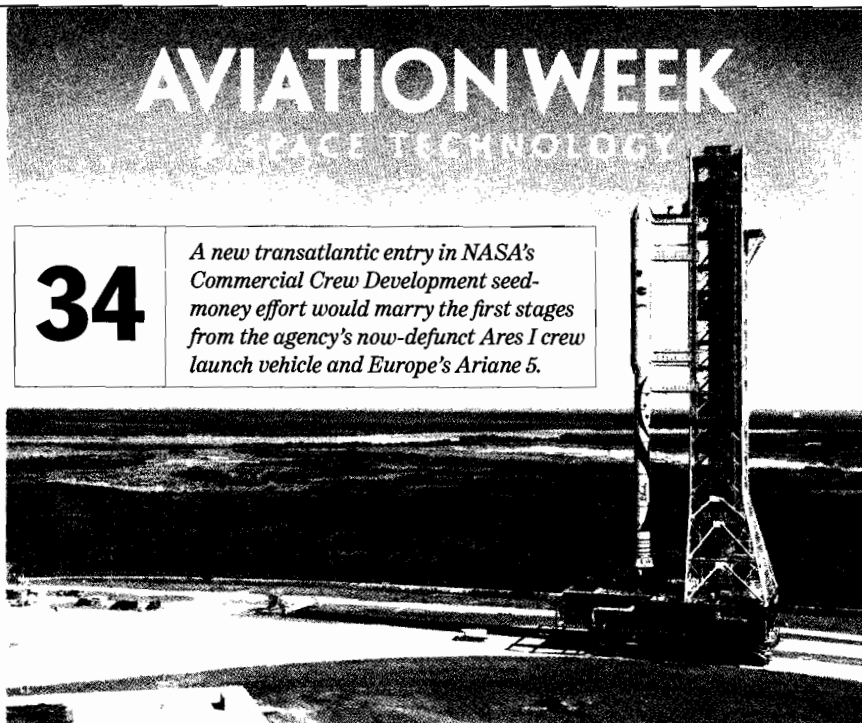
16 Obituary for Henry Hubschman, oversaw rapid growth of General Electric's aircraft leasing business

24 U.S. puts lower-tier A&D firms on merger menu nearly 20 years after Pentagon's 'Last Supper'

26 Some A&D companies may become smaller as they prepare for first defense downturn since the 1990s

27 Rockwell Collins aims to triple its European revenues in next decade as part of overall activity boost

45 Finmeccanica quietly undergoing shift in priorities as it navigates through a difficult business climate



34

A new transatlantic entry in NASA's Commercial Crew Development seed-money effort would marry the first stages from the agency's now-defunct Ares I crew launch vehicle and Europe's Ariane 5.

28 First flight of stealthy, tailless X-47B called pivotal step toward placing unmanned aircraft on carriers

30 NATO chief warns that risk of losing relevance looms if efforts to reform Europe's military structure fail

31 U.K. returning to the drawing board after pulling the plug on search-and-rescue helicopter program

32 Japanese industry urges government to keep the planned F-X fighter in production until 2028

33 Japanese defense ministry and industry aim to develop an engine with advanced stealth features

34 Shift to private spaceflight, heritage hardware drive bidders on Constellation to CCDev-2

51 USAF adapting two sensors from canceled Npoess, working to define another for weather satellite system

52 Astrium to join with Singapore in building suborbital demo to underpin its spaceplane program

36 Delayed fighter decision and changing offset policy signal India's transforming defense plans

36 India's aerospace industrial growth strategy about to get an \$80 billion government shot in the arm



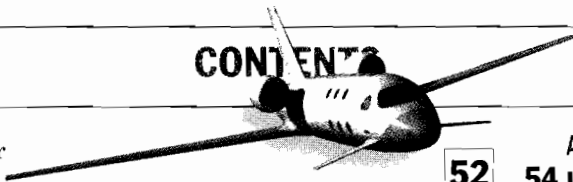
28 *With gear down and spoilers partially deployed, Northrop Grumman's X-47B slows toward one of three target speeds below 200 kt during its 29-min. first flight from Edwards AFB, Calif., on Feb. 4. Hailed as the start of a new era for Naval Aviation, the first flight of the unmanned combat air system demonstrator comes as the service celebrates 100 years of seaborne aviation and marks the start of a roughly 10-month*



36 *India delays award in its MMRC competition; downselect is still anticipated this year.*

46 *Middle East expected to remain a hotbed of defense procurement activity, thanks to oil dollars and pent-up demand.*

initial test phase. First autonomous carrier landings are planned for 2013. Northrop Grumman photo.



38 First upgraded MiG-29UPGs for the Indian air force should be ready for delivery this year

39 India looking to boost airborne early warning and control capabilities to support ops farther afield

AIR TRANSPORT

40 EADS faces prospect of another turbulent transition period, with extensive personnel changes

41 U.S. charter carrier Vision Airlines looks to emulate Allegiant's scheduled-service success

42 Test flights with Dassault Falcon 7X enhance European Clean Sky laminar flow studies

43 Competition in Asia-Pacific turbo-prop market to grow as airframers prepare to make inroads there

44 Mandala's move to suspend ops may be precursor of activity by other Indonesian airlines

MIDDLE EAST AEROSPACE

46 Flush with oil dollars and needing to upgrade, Middle East will remain hotbed of procurement

48 Israel prepares to roll out new missile defense phase, pits military desires against popular will

50 Resurgence in fighter modernization in Middle East spurs purchase of new training aircraft

AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING

53 Australian composites maker takes on F-35 work, with hopes of lowering program costs

52

AIR SAFETY

54 ICAO proceeding with new rules to ensure proper recovery of critical data from aircraft downed at sea

EDITORIAL

58 Many in Congress decry proposed 2012 defense cuts, but ignore failure to craft funding for 2011

