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10 A&D analysts debate whether the industry's stock prices have hit bottom; budget is wild card

11 Global Observer long-endurance UAV in first flight with hydrogen-fueled propulsion system

12 EC, Italy agree on disbursements after improper use of state development aid for AgustaWestland

18 Latest NASA heavy-lifter concept would use elements from the space shuttle and Ares I

20 J-20 will require intense development program if it is going to meet fast-moving anti-stealth advances

21 Avic will use rapid prototyping centers like the Skunk Works for military aircraft developments

22 New F-16 life extension, bomber and space procurement plan will be in USAF's Fiscal 2012 budget proposal

24 Boeing steps up challenge to F-35 with growth road map for international Super Hornet

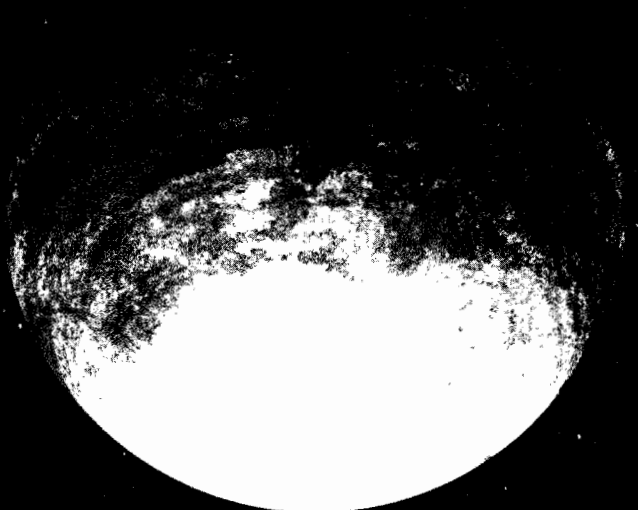


24 Boeing has fitted an F/A-18E with full-scale engineering mockups of the conformal fuel tanks, stealthy weapons pod, infrared search-and-track sensor, and missile/laser warning system proposed for a more capable and survivable growth version of the Super Hornet that will be offered to international customers as a competitor to the Lockheed Martin F-35 Joint Strike Fighter and European combat aircraft. The mock-up will be unveiled publicly at the Aero India show in Bengaluru Feb. 9-13. Boeing photo by Ron Bookout.

to the Lockheed Martin F-35 Joint Strike Fighter and European combat aircraft. The mock-up will be unveiled publicly at the Aero India show in Bengaluru Feb. 9-13. Boeing photo by Ron Bookout.

AVIATION WEEK

& SPACE TECHNOLOGY



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NASA's Kepler orbiting observatory has located its first Earth-like planet beyond the Solar System, but the planet is so hot that it streams flecks of silicon and iron into space like a comet's tail.

25 USAF seeks to hold off Senate hearings on data-release mishap as KC-X source selection continues

26 Concerns arise over whether the design for India's Light Combat Aircraft has lost its promised edge

27 India appears to have given up on near-term fielding of the indigenous Kaveri engine

28 Reusable hypersonic demonstrator ignites interest, but expected to face an inevitable funding threat

29 EADS entering final phase of transition to more profitable future, shift in corporate governance

30 Astrium fears government budget woes could undermine some of its leading space activities

32 American's distribution war could become very costly, but it's not showing signs of backing down.

33 Virgin Atlantic faces multiple challenges to its survival as an independent airline



18 NASA engineers and managers at odds with senators over the agency's ability to change its new reference vehicle designs for the next heavy-lift and human spaceflight vehicles.



38 Robust Asia-Pacific economic growth whets the region's appetite for business aircraft and provides a bright spot for original equipment manufacturers.

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- 34 IndiGo's plan** to field 150 A320 NEOs is giving a big boost to the carrier's and Airbus's reengining
- 35 AIDC institutes trial** run at new composites plant, stakes future as a supplier to civil programs
- 36 Chromalloy expands** production capabilities with new, \$30-million high-tech engine parts facility
- 37 India will gain its** first component repair shop in venture between Air France-KLM and Max MRO
- 38 Asia-Pacific boom** provides bright spot for business aviation OEMs as market has shrunk elsewhere
- 40 Beijing Capital Airlines** plans to field more than 270 aircraft by '15 as it exploits local market growth

- 41 China easing** general aviation airspace restrictions, looking to become a supplier of those aircraft
- 42 Taipei airport** to open privately run bizav facility to accommodate traffic growth of private aircraft
- 43 Failed U.S.** kit plane maker finds new life as Avic subsidiary, wins auction for its assets
- 44 Shift in India's** offset policy allowing manufacturers to apply civil aerospace work to defense projects

- 45 NASA Ames, Calfire** in pact to use imaging technology to keep track of the front lines of wildfires
- 45 Mars Exploration Rover Opportunity** images small crater to celebrate seventh anniversary on red planet
- 46 Korean researchers** outline concept for ground-launched Mach 4 quick-reaction scramjet interceptor



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