

AVIATION WEEK

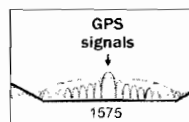
& SPACE TECHNOLOGY

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Boeing artist's concept shows the KC-46A tanker refueling a C-17. Details are finally emerging on the company's long-fought tanker development contract victory, and Pentagon officials are brimming with confidence about the way forward.



48 *The first Space-Based Infrared System satellite, made by Lockheed Martin, is being readied prior to its March shipping date to Cape Canaveral. This satellite, bound for geosynchronous orbit early in May, is the long-awaited first of a new generation of infrared sensing spacecraft designed to provide the first warning of a ballistic missile launch. GEO-1, at a cost of well over \$1 billion, will likely be operational within about 15 months of launch. It will join the constellation of Defense Support Program satellites already in orbit. Lockheed Martin photo.*



26 *Threats to GPS are on the increase and driving pressure to field a backup satellite navigation system*

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- 14** **Both companies** stand to benefit after Northrop Grumman spins off its shipbuilding division
- 15** **Indra ramps up** flight tests of Pelican unmanned helicopter intended for offshore patrol vessels
- 16** **Obituary for** Baruch Blumberg, first director of the NASA Astrobiology Institute

- 22** **Surge in response** from airlines convinces Airbus to accelerate fielding its A320NEO model
- 24** **Comac's interest** in geared-turbofan version for C919 adds to Pratt's single-aisle engine strategy
- 26** **GPS manufacturers**, users racing to receivers for susceptibility to jamming as interference looms
- 29** **KC-46A deal** prompts Pentagon to solidify rules for insight into Boeing's commercial financial data
- 31** **Pratt sticking** to its original cost-cutting plan for next batch of JSF engines, despite concern over F-35B
- 32** **Operating Falcon** Heavy launch vehicle expected to require a major production hike at SpaceX

- 34** **EU trying to bridge** government-industry divide to maximize region's space spending benefits
- 34** **Virgin Galactic** looking for a few very good pilots to fly customers to the edge of space and back
- 36** **Southwest Airlines 737** fuselage tear reopens concerns about metal fatigue inspections
- 37** **Despite almost** two years at deep-sea levels, wreckage of AF447 promises to yield important clues
- 38** **Gulfstream plans** to resume G650 flight testing after crash once it and FAA believe it's safe to proceed
- 39** **'Cryptic' agreement** between American and Expedia leaves key distribution questions unanswered
- 40** **Abrupt production** U-turns unveil fears at Airbus and Boeing that suppliers won't be able to keep up