

AVIATION WEEK
& SPACE TECHNOLOGY



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For the 130-seater being studied under the Green Regional Aircraft program, wind-tunnel tests were used to assess the effectiveness of the airframe in shielding the noise from twin counter-rotating open rotors.

THE WORLD

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- 16 **U.S. Navy's first** Triton MQ-4C unmanned intelligence aircraft flies cross-country to begin flight-testing

SPACE

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- 26 **Blue Origin** tapped to complete development of a rocket engine that could replace RD-180 in the Atlas V
- 27 **SpaceX to continue** with engine work regardless of whether it meets a certification deadline

- 40 **Comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko** poses unexpected challenge for Rosetta lander mission

AIR TRANSPORT

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DEFENSE

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- 37 **Poorly designed** wiring bundles for KC-46 refueler forcing further slip in first flight of Boeing platform
- 38 **Retrofitting of fix** for F135 propulsion systems in the F-35 test fleet could be completed early next year
- 39 **USAF targets** winglets, lift control, fuel capacity and drag cuts for better C-130 airlifter efficiency

- 42 **Major upgrade** enhances Australia's continent-wide Jindalee over-the-horizon radar monitoring system
- 44 **Proliferating** low-frequency radars challenging stealthy aircraft such as F-22 and F-35

TECHNOLOGIES FOR GROWTH

- 46 **Confident that** unconventional designs can reduce aircraft noise, NASA eyes less radical approaches

ON THE COVER

Attracting little attention because of their remote locations, the Jindalee over-the-horizon radars peer far to the north and west of the Australian continent, into the tropics of Southeast Asia from the arid Outback. Operating in the high-frequency band, they transmit and receive with enormous arrays, including this one at Alice Springs, photographed by Leading Aircraftwoman Sonja Canty of the Royal Australian Air Force. As detailed in our report beginning on page 42, the three radars have been upgraded to detect targets with greater sensitivity, precision and speed.



28 Airline industry blasts FAA for lack of flight-testing on LED airport lights

36 Airbus will be even more reliant on the success of core programs now that is selling many of its other businesses



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