

AVIATIONWEEK

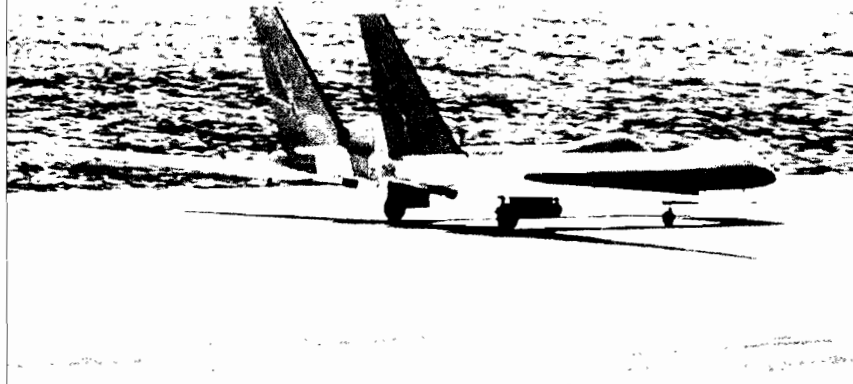
& SPACE TECHNOLOGY

Tap this icon in articles in the digital edition of AW&ST for exclusive features.

- 7 Feedback
- 10 Who's Where
- 11-12 First Take
- 14 Up Front
- 15 Going Concerns
- 16 Inside Business Aviation
- 18 Airline Intel
- 19 Leading Edge
- 22 Commander's Intent
- 23 In Orbit
- 24 Washington Outlook
- 71 Classified
- 72 Contact Us
- 73 Aerospace Calendar

64

Although neither Chengdu Aircraft's Guizhou Soar Dragon (below) nor Shenyang Aircraft's Divine Eagle has been observed in flight, images of what appear to be complete prototypes have appeared on Chinese websites. The Global-Hawk-size UAVs will likely support China's DF-21D anti-ship ballistic missile and target high-value air assets.



DEFENSE

- 26 **F-35 builds momentum**, but cost-cutting and international politics pose challenges for the program
- 28 **Pressure is on** Boeing to speed KC-46 testing, with schedule margin gone and \$1 billion in charges
- 54 **Australia's MRH90** helicopters are going into service after years of delays and development programs
- 55 **U.S. Air Force F-15Cs** likely to receive expensive upgrades due to service's impending fighter gap
- 56 **Kuwait's selection** of Eurofighter Typhoon buoys consortium's hopes that investment will pay off

SPACE

- 30 **Long March 6** launches with an engine that may be the foundation of China's space activities for years
- 66 **Historic space-launch** facilities in Florida receive makeover by private-sector space companies
- 67 **NASA delays first** flight of Orion capsule around Moon due to 'historical programmatic risks'
- 68 **Jet Propulsion Laboratory** concept outlines 'Comet Hitchhiker' for multimission space exploration
- 69 **Aerojet Rocketdyne** failure to buy United Launch Alliance leaves it looking for a rocket to power

TECHNOLOGY

- 32 **UTC Aerospace Systems** works on 'slimming down' engine nacelles to reduce drag and weight
- 46 **Hypersonic combined-cycle** engine could leverage small-scale supersonic missile engine work
- 47 **FAA's flagship** environmental technology program garners more players but less funding
- 48 **Need for faster**, cheaper deep-space transit spurs NASA's renewed nuclear rocket study

COMMERCIAL AVIATION

- 34 **Passengers fare better** than airlines in European court compensation ruling

35 Lufthansa Group seeks major savings with improved synergies among its recent acquisitions

36 Lifting of U.S. ban on crude oil exports could push fuel prices lower, benefit U.S. airlines

38 Hainan Airlines plans to use its allocation of 20 Airbus A330s on thin international routes

39 Airbus opens A320-family plant in Alabama, plans to expand production there to other types

40 Scandinavian Airlines boosts intercontinental capacity with new and refurbished aircraft

AIRLINES IN MEXICO

42 Legacy carrier Aeromexico enhances its global reach, eyes international partnerships

43 Sukhoi Superjets help low-cost carrier Interjet expand its network and improve load factor

44 Intercity bus passengers are lured by Mexican low-cost carriers looking to grow domestic market

44 VivaAerobus and VivaColombia holding company launching more Viva carriers in Latin America

EXPORT CREDIT WINNERS & LOSERS

50 U.S. spacecraft manufacturers seek foreign sources of credit in light of Ex-Im Bank uncertainty

52 Airbus is a potentially rich target for U.S. aerospace manufacturers seeking export opportunities

SAFETY

58 New software helps improve pilot reports of weather and turbulence forecasting and avoidance

60 As cockpit connectivity flourishes, tools emerge to enable pilots to 'futurecast' weather on their route

62 Flawed safety nets and pilot error led to May 2014 Gulfstream IV crash, NTSB investigators say

62 Flight crew failure to use checklists and communicate well prompts NTSB recommendations

UNMANNED SYSTEMS

64 Rival Chinese companies produce Global-Hawk-size UAV prototypes to complement missile capabilities

VIEWPOINT

74 Fleet management programs are like health insurance, and they offer a winning approach to MRO