# AVIATION WITH SPACE TECHNOLOGY

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## UNMANNED AIR COMBAT

PAGE 46

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Flying the Pilatus PC-12

PAGE 56

AVIATION WILLIAM SPACE OF SPACE TECHNOLOGY





#### **HEADLINE NEWS**

Trent failures ground
Cathay, Dragonair A330s
Lubrication shortfalls in step aside
gearbox may have caused bearing
failures and inflight shutdowns

Progress made on Trent 800 Mods for U.S. 180-min. ETOPS may be completed by June 30

Russia and NATO agree to cooperate
Act aimed at uniting Europe, integrating Russia with West

U.K. launches review
of defense priorities
No cuts expected in budget;
spending to stay flat for two years 27

New Mir science operations initiated U.S. astronaut's work involves reassembly of greenhouse

Proton challenges Ariane Telstar launch booked as part of new U.S./Russian venture

Boeing studies liquid booster for shuttle Would replace solid rocket motors to cut costs X-34 designs locked in
Fabrication can begin in
anticipation of flight debut
late next year

33

French government's candidate to head Arianespace
ESA managing director to succeed retiring Bigot; Avanzi to resign 33

#### **AIR TRANSPORT**

ATC upgrade mapped for Africa ICAO countries produce

ICAO countries produce navigation plan, propose that independent agencies build infrastructure 34

ICAO stresses safety compliance

Moves from development of standards to implementation

747 center fuel tank
inspections recommended
Boeing plan keyed to finding cause
of TWA Flight 800 destruction

Ice detectors for EMB-120s NTSB also wants operators to include FAA-approved minimum airspeeds for all flap settings

378-seat long-range A340 to enter service in 2001
Design completed, propulsion choice due in few days

#### Behind the Scenes

SimCom International's PC-12 program coordinator, Thomas J. Evans (right), and Rocky Mountain Bureau Chief William B. Scott prepare for a flight in a Pilatus PC-12. Scott completed the seven-day PC-12 ground and flight training program at SimCom's Orlando, Fla., headquarters, and then flew a heavyweight version of the aircraft in Colorado for a high-altitude performance evaluation. His pilot report begins on p. 56.



28

29

32







56

European component makers seek role in Chinese projects Hope their experience on Airbus transports will give them an edge 42

Safety board urges improved CVRs in Beechcraft 1900s
For better transmissions and crew communications

Assembly work proceeds on first MD-95 aircraft Wing, fuselage section mated

Hardening concepts tested to counter terrorist blasts Preliminary results of experiment validate concepts

#### UNMANNED AIR COMBAT

Unmanned strike next for military

Air-to-ground attack, deep penetration strikes seen as primary roles 46

U.S. industry searches for design formulas Potential for competition forces manufacturers to keep ideas quiet 49

Payload, not airframe, drives UCAV research

Early focus is on carving out missions, determining munitions 51

### Navy wants UCAVs for carrier use

Investigates concept of a Highly Maneuverable Lethal Vehicle

#### PILATUS PC-12 PILOT REPORT

Pilatus PC-12 excels in challenging roles Features efficient range-payload, big cargo door, docile handling

PC-12 market size hinges on FAA ruling Approval awaited for single-engine commercial operations under IFR

#### NUCLEAR ARMS CONTROL

Russians sketch START 3 despite odds against it U.S. analysts fear Kremlin may

U.S. analysts fear Kremlin may rely increasingly on nuclear arsenal

#### **About the Cover**

The Pilatus PC-12 fills a dual-market niche as a practical utility transport and cost-effective personal aircraft (see p. 56). The turboprop also could be one of the first to conduct single-engine IFR commercial passenger operations. Photo by Paul Bowen.

#### http://www.awgnet.com

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Polyphem missile completes first full-up test firing Can carry 44-lb. warhead, optic fiber to reach target 19 mi. away 64

#### SPACE TECHNOLOGY

Japan eyes low-cost J-1
To compete for LEO multiple
communication satellite launches 67

#### **DEPARTMENTS**

MIXIMEINIS	
Correspondence	6
Who's Where	13
Market Focus	15
Industry Outlook	17
Airline Outlook	19
News Breaks	21
Washington Outlook	23
n Orbit	67
Classified	68
Aerospace Calendar	71
Contact Us	73

#### **EDITORIAL**

The top 10 air safety priorities......74