

AVIATION WEEK *& SPACE* TECHNOLOGY

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RUSSIA'S TRANSAERO PIONEERS FREE MARKET COURSE

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AVIATION WEEK & SPACE TECHNOLOGY

HEADLINE NEWS

Saturn's mysteries beckon Cassini

Science team begins to plan strategy as Titan/Centaur launches most complex U.S./European mission **22**

Titan 4 surge tests team

Working to launch three of the boosters within three weeks **24**

17 nations on Cassini project

NASA, European Space Agency and Italian Space Agency lead team **24**

Solar panel problem triggers major MGS assessment

Brings suspension of aerobraking, change to key element in planned mapping orbit **25**

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Republican reaction mixed to Clinton's use of line item veto **30**

Turkey warns Russia on missile sale to Cyprus

May be excluded from bidding on defense projects if deal proceeds **31**

France to form world-class defense/space group

To combine four existing companies or their sectors **32**

BAe, Lagardere add LFK to missile venture

Proponents of cross-border consolidation in Europe see progress **33**

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Beijing-Zhuhai rivalry as homes for air shows likely to continue **59**

TAG group to run Farnborough airfield

Ensures continuation of biennial Farnborough air show at site **59**

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Union-backed bill would restore limits on maintenance sent to overseas shops **60**

Scramble on for 70-seat market

Contenders await Boeing decision on whether it will enter fray with a scaled-down version of MD-95 **61**

<http://www.awgnet.com>

Aviation Week's Web site offers selected articles from the current issue, as well as daily news updates, the **Safety Resource Center**, a gallery of photos and features from special issues. It's also a great jumping off spot for surfing to other aerospace sites. We're available on CompuServe, too; just **GO AWG**.



Aviation Week & Space Technology editors will discuss emerging trends this Friday on the new "Fox on Technology" program. The discussion will center on issues to be featured in future editions of the magazine. The Fox show airs live at 1:40 p.m. EST. Consult your local listings for the time and cable channel in your area.

Market tells Asia-Airbus partners to make smaller jet

Plan had been to start program with larger aircraft and then downsize **63**

Serious deficiencies revealed during safety assessments

During ICAO survey of 45 national aviation authorities **64**

DC-9 dives 24,000 ft. into Uruguay swamp

Crash could raise concern about air safety in neighboring Argentina **65**

Caravan crash called unique

Aircraft drops flat onto its belly **65**

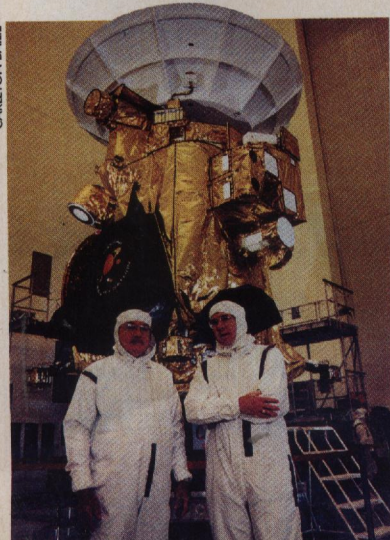
Controlled blast tests target TWA center tank behavior

Using tank model with instrumented, reconfigurable compartments **66**

Behind the Scenes

Senior Editor Craig Covault (right) and Richard J. Sphehalski, Cassini program manager at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, are shown with the massive Cassini/Huygens Saturn mission spacecraft at Cape Canaveral (see p. 22). Sphehalski has been at JPL for 38 years and also was Galileo project manager. During 25 years at *Aviation Week & Space Technology*, Covault has covered the launch of many U.S. planetary missions and as Paris bureau chief between 1992-96, he reported on Europe's contributions to Cassini.

CARLETON BAILE





Officine Aeronavali converting DC-10s into freighters

New pact is for 20 aircraft 66

3D database used for 747 panels

Will eliminate 'hard' tooling and reduce cycle time and costs 67

AIR TRANSPORT IN RUSSIA

Privately run Transaero breaks into the black

But Russia's first commercial airline must face industry-wide consolidation, sinking domestic traffic 68

Transaero juggles competing goals

Such as new aircraft purchases, versus financial stabilization 70

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Digital recon system attracts Navy, USAF

Designed initially to be interchangeable among aircraft 72

Rising civil orders buoy Eurocopter line

Taking measured approach toward increasing production capacity 75

SAR pod helps generate three-dimensional maps

Can produce high-resolution models through clouds, rain, darkness 75

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Russian mob shies away from nuclear theft—so far

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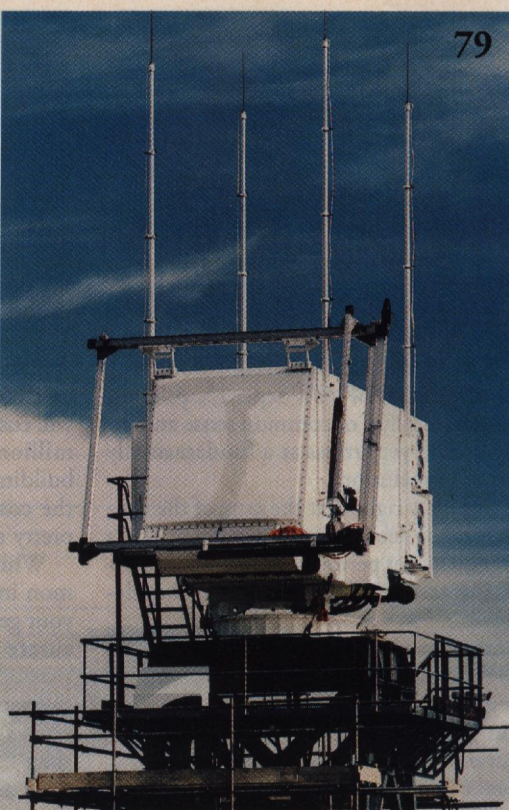
BUSINESS FLYING

Galaxy Aerospace showcases plans for new headquarters

Will include a factory service and completion center 80

Piper Aircraft introduces turboprop Malibu Meridian

First flight next year 80



INTERNATIONAL SPACE

Japan pushes satcom frontier

Part of plan for network of space-based and fiber-optic services 81

Italian space agency proposes hike in spending, more focus

Aims to strengthen industry in areas where it is not fully competitive 82

Ocean-monitoring satellite generates first image

Expected to improve understanding of environmental shifts 83

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