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AVIATION WEEK

& SPACE TECHNOLOGY

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46 Majority of new helicopter sales this year will be of lightweight single-engine aircraft.

26 Expansion continues over the debate on the future of Hubble.

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AIR TRANSPORT

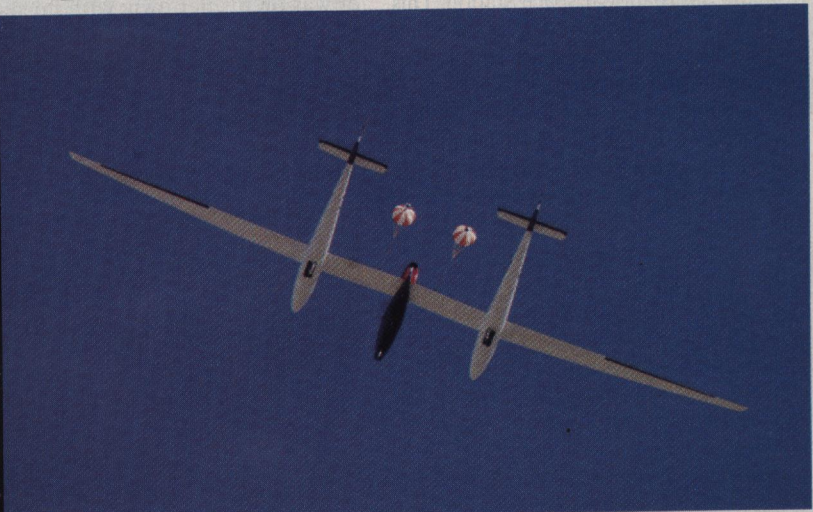
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- 45** Shanghai Airlines gains OK for services to Europe

WORLD NEWS ROUNDUP

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- 19** Changes in Russia could affect aerospace, defense

HELI-EXPO 2004

- 46** U.S. helo industry could rebound thanks to economy



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- 51 Orders pick up for rotorcraft with work-reducing avionics
- 52 Euro helicopter operators reorganize to boost clout
- 54 Eurocopter may offer all-weather capability in '05

ABOUT THE COVER

The first of as many as 50 twin-engine MD Explorers for the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration is flown on a test flight by company pilot Mark Friskel northeast of MD Helicopters' headquarters in Mesa, Ariz. The Explorer has been chosen by the DEA as its latest law enforcement aircraft and is capable of flying a variety of missions. It has a cruise speed of 136 kt. and VFR range of 400 naut. mi. with fuel reserves. The U.S. commercial helicopter industry is poised for at least marginal growth this year, but concerns about increased security, insurance costs and airspace restrictions continue to pose challenges to operators (see p. 46). Mark Bennett photo.

38 Scaled Composites working to activate cabin pressurization system for second GlobalFlyer flight.

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