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PROJĘCT	PRIOR FY 1978	156	MATERIAL 0	OTHER 9	165
FUNDING \$K	CURRENT FY 1979	LABOR 0	MATERIAL 0	OTHER 0	TOTAL 0

## TECHNICAL PROBLEM

Evolving Satellite Power System (SPS) program concepts envision the assembly and operation of sixty solar-powered satellites in synchronous equatorial orbit over a period of thirty years. Each satellite weighs approximately 81.5 million pounds and is capable of beaming microwave energy to a ground rectenna system which delivers 5 GW at the utility interface. Economic feasibility of the SPS is strongly dependent upon low-cost transportation of SPS elements, interorbital transportation systems, propulsive materials, and operations support equipment between earth and low earth orbit (LEO). The rate of delivery of SPS elements alone to LEO for this projected program is 163 million pounds per year. This translates into 815 flights per year or 2.2 flights per day using a fleet of vehicles, each delivering a cargo of 200,000 pounds.

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The magnitude and sustained nature of this advanced space transportation program concept require long-term routine operations somewhat analogous to commercial airline/airfreight operations. Heavier lift, vertical-takeoff launch vehicles (e.g., 800,000 pound cargo) can reduce the launch rate to 200 or more flights per year. However, requirements such as water recovery of expendable stages with subsequent refurbishment, stacking, launch pad usage, and short turnaround schedules introduce severe problems for routine operations. Studies performed previously showed that substantial operational advantages are offered by an advanced horizontal takeoff, single-stage-to-orbit (HTO-SSTO) aerospace vehicle concept. Further analysis of this concept was needed to provide a promising alternative to heavy lift launch vehicle approaches for LEO logistics support of the SPS, the latter being analyzed as part of an SPS contracted study for NASA/MSFC.

The technical problems needing investigation were of two types: (a) the need for further development of the vehicle system concept including a multicell wet wing containing cryogenic propellants in a blended wing-body configuration; and (b) technology issues, particularly the technical feasibility and performance potential of an advanced hybrid airbreathing engine system, and technical assessment of a flight mode involving horizontal takeoff, long range cruise, subsequent insertion into an equatorial orbit and return via aeromaneuver to the higher-latitude take-off site.

A related technical need, which was addressed briefly, is assessment of the potential of a smaller-scale version of the HTS-SSTO vehicle to deliver cargo to a range of inclinations including polar orbits and to return to the takeoff site, and to meet other DoD-projected requirements.

## OBJECTIVE

The general objective of this project is to improve system definition and to advance subsystem technologies for a horizontal takeoff, single-stage-to-orbit vehicle which can provide economical, routine earth-to-LEO transportation in support of a postulated Satellite Power Systems program. Specific objectives for CFY 1978 were:

- To improve the design definition and technical and operational features of the Star-Raker HTO-SSTO vehicle concept primarily using existing aerodynamic, aerothermal, structural, thermal protection, airbreather and rocket propulsion, flight mechanics and operations technology integrated into a total systems design.
- To identify disciplines and subsystems in which the application of advanced technology would produce the greatest increase in system performance, and to advance technologies in specific areas.
- To determine whether a smaller-scale version of the Star-Raker could achieve specific performance goals, and to compare key operational and performance characteristics with an all-rocket propelled vehicle concept.

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#### PROJECT SUMMARY

The primary elements of the Star-Raker IR&D study and the related technology issues are summarized in Figure 1. Technical briefings and study progress briefings were given to NASA Headquarters, MSFC, JSC and LaRC, and to USAF/SAMSO. A code showing the general level of government agency acceptance of the study data as being suitable for feasibility confirmation is placed adjacent to technology items. A filled square, \$\mathbb{\mathbb{G}}\$, indicates concurrence with analytical methods and results. A half-filled square, \$\mathbb{\mathbb{G}}\$, indicates data evaluated by NASA MSFC/LaRC that required resolution of differences. The hollow square, \$\mathbb{\mathbb{G}}\$, relates to technology issues not analyzed or which will require detailed indepth analysis to produce data suitable for feasibility confirmation.

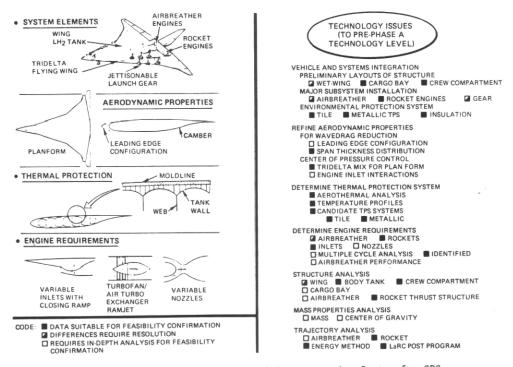


Figure 1. Study Summary -- Advanced Transportation System for SPS

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The combined systems design/performance and technology development studies in CFY 1978 produced a number of significant results.

- Demonstrated, with end-to-end simulation, the ability of the vehicle to take off from KSC, cruise to the equatorial plane, insert into a 300 nmi equatorial orbit with 151,000-pound payload, and then to re-enter and return to the launch site; also to deliver a 196,000-pound payload with a due-East launch.
- Devised a modified airbreathing engine cycle for operation in turbofan, air-turbo-exchanger and ramjet modes to provide an effective match with takeoff, cruise and acceleration requirements.
- 3. Showed that Star-Raker lower surface temperatures during re-entry are several hundred degrees lower than orbiter lower surface temperatures because of a lower wing loading. As a result, an advanced titanium aluminide system shows promise of being lighter than the RSI tile for Star-Raker application.
- 4. Performance trades for a 1,200,000-pound version of the Star-Raker based on moderate advancement in airbreathing engine technology showed competitive performance with an all-rocket-powered vehicle. Payload lift capabilities to LEO can be doubled with significant advancements in airbreathing propulsion technology, e.g., engine thrust-weight ratio of 8 and acceleration to 6000 fps prior to rocket transition.
- Performance was found to scale nearly linearly between 1,000,000pound and 5,000,000-pound GLOW vehicle systems.

The principal results of the study, which had been performed to an accelerated schedule, were briefed to NASA/MSFC in January 1978, and technical issues resulting from NASA evaluation of the data were essentially resolved by mid-year. Results of the Star-Raker study were utilized in the SPS contract (NAS8-32475). Highlights were included in the SPS final report, Reference 1. Adjusted results were subsequently utilized in the SPS contract extension. As an outgrowth of the Rockwell and NASA/MSFC study and evaluation activities, NASA/MSFC let a contract, number NFT-01-002-099, subject: "Airbreathing Engine/Rocket Trajectory Optimization" to the University of Alabama.

Of the five tasks which comprised the project, "Advanced Transportation - STS Launch" was a systems-oriented activity, which emphasized design analysis and integration; and four supporting tasks emphasized propulsion and performance technologies. All tasks were completed in CFY 1978.

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TASK TITLE	CFY 1978 TASK NO.
Advanced Transportation - SPS Launch Airbreathing Launch Vehicle Engine Systems Aerodynamic Characteristics Predictions HTO Airbreathing Launch Vehicle Performance Orbit Determination and Error Analysis	26410 95320 93420 91120 91430

#### CFY 1979 APPROACH

This is a completed project. Further Advanced Space Transportation studies are being performed in Project 206.

## PROGRESS IN CFY 1978

More than 90 percent of the study was directed to defining and refining design and performance, and resolving technical issues regarding the basic Star-Raker concept for support of a Satellite Power Systems program. Basic requirements for logistics support in the form of transportation of cargo between the earth and low earth orbit (LEO) were generated in the SPS contracted activities, Reference 1. Goals for the Star-Raker concept which are additive to the quantitative requirements for logistic support of the SPS include both NASA and SAMSO objectives/requirements.

- Total vehicle reusability with many reuses
- · Rapid turnaround
- · Ferry capability with cargo between airfields
- Minimized launch costs
- High reliability of delivery
- Ability to reach any LEO plane from alternate launch sites (KSC, VAFB and others) and return to the same site; includes single-pass orbits
- Cargo security

Less than 10 percent of the study effort was directed to the preliminary definition of a smaller-scale (1,200,000-pound) version of the Star-Raker and comparison with an all-rocket vehicle of the same weight from a SAMSO-sponsored study.

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Study results are presented by subject, as follows, rather than by task to simplify the review process.

- · Operational features
- · Design features
- Multicycle airbreather engine system
- Aerodynamic characteristics
- Flight mechanics
- · Aerodynamic and structural heating
- Thermal protection system
- Structural analysis
- Mass properties
- Orbit determination
- 1,200,000-1b Star-Raker/RASV comparison

### OPERATIONAL FEATURES

The Star-Raker concept adapts existing and advanced commercial and/or military air transport system concepts, operations methods, maintenance procedures, and cargo handling equipment to include a space-related environment. The principal operational objective was to provide economic, reliable transportation of large quantities of material between earth and LEO at high flight frequencies with routine logistics operations and minimal environmental impact. An associated operational objective was to reduce the number of operations required to transport material and equipment from their place of manufacture on earth to low earth orbit.

Operations features derived in the study are as follows:

- Single orbit up/down to/from the same launch site (at any launch azimuth subject to payload/launch azimuth match)
- Capable of obtaining 300 nmi equatorial orbit launched from KSC
- Takeoff and land on 8,000 to 14,000-foot runways (launch velocity ≈ 225 knots; landing velocity ≤ 115 knots)
- Simultaneous multiple launch
- Total system recovery including takeoff gear jettisoned and recovered at launch site

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- Aerodynamic flight capability from payload manufacturing site to launch site, addition of launch gear and fueling, and launch into earth orbit
- · Amenable to alternative launch/landing sites
- Incorporates Air Force (C-5A Galaxy) and commercial (747 cargo) payload handling, including railroad, truck, and cargo-ship containerization concepts, modified to meet space environment requirements
- Swing-nose loading/unloading, permitting normal aircraft loading-door facility concept application
- Propulsion system service using existing support equipment on runway aprons or near service hangars
- In-flight refueling options (option not included in reference vehicle data)

Figure 2 shows a Star-Raker vehicle in an airport environment alongside a Boeing 747 passenger transport.

## DESIGN FEATURES

The star-Raker utilizes a tri-delta flying wing, consisting of a multi-cell pressure vessel of tapered, intersecting cones. The tri-delta planform (blended fuselage-wing) and a Whitcomb airfoil section offer an efficient aerodynamic shape from a performance standpoint and high propellant volumetric efficiency. The outer panels of the wing and vent system lines in the wing's leading edge provide the gaseous ullage space for LH2 fuel. LH2 and LO2 tanks are located in each wing near the vehicle c.g., and extend from the root rib to the wing tip LH2 ullage tank (see Figure 3). Approximately 20% of the volume of the vertical stabilizer is utilized as part of the gaseous ullage volume of the integral wing-mounted LO2 tanks. In the aft end of the vehicle, three uprated high-Pc rocket engines (thrust = 3.2 x  $10^6$  lb) are attached with a double-cone thrust structure to a two-cell LH2 tank.

Most of the cargo bay side walls are provided by the root-rib bulkhead of the LH<sub>2</sub> wing tank. The cargo bay floor is designed similar to the C5-A military transport aircraft. This permits the use of MATS and Airlog cargo loading and retention systems. The top of the cargo bay is a mold-line extension of the wing upper contours, wherein the frame inner caps are arched to resist pressure at minimum weight. The forward end of the cargo bay has a circular seal/docking provision to the forebody. Cargo is deployed in orbit by swinging the forebody to 90 or more degrees about a vertical axis at the side of the seal, and transferring cargo from the bay into space or to in-space receivers on telescoping rails.

The forebody is an RM-10 ogive of revolution with an aft dome closure. The ogive is divided horizontally into two levels. The upper level provides seating for crew and passengers, as well as the flight deck. The lower compartment contains electronic, life support, power (fuel cell), and other subsystems including spare life support and emergency recovery equipment.

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Conventional/Operations Flexibility Features Incorporated in Star-Raker Concept Figure 2.

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## Earth-to-LEO Transportation System for SPS

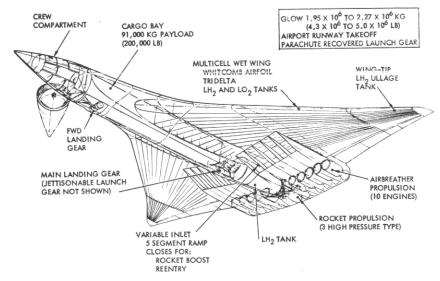


Figure 3. Star-Raker Design Features

Ten high-bypass, supersonic-turbofan/airturbo-exchanger/ramjet airbreather engines with a combined static thrust of  $1.4 \times 10^6$  lb are mounted under the wing. The inlets are variable area retractable ramps that also close and fair the bottom into a smooth surface during rocket powered flight and for either Sanger skip glider or high angle-of-attack ballistic re-entry.

Figure 4 shows an inboard profile of the vehicle, illustrating the details of body construction, crew compartment, cargo bay length, LH2 tank configuration, and location of the rocket engines at rear of fuselage. The hinging and rotation of the nose section for loading and unloading the payloads are illustrated, with indication of view angle from the rear of the nose section during these operations. The multiple landing gear concept shows the position of the nose gear bogie, the jettisonable takeoff gear, and the main landing gear for powered landing.

Figure 5 presents front and rear views of the vehicle showing the blended wing, engine inlet ducts, landing gear arrangement, and vertical stabilizer. Also shown are typical sections through the vehicle at:

 The hinge line section (B-B) aft of the crew compartment and forward of the nose gear. Cross-sectional dimensions of the cargo bar are indicated.

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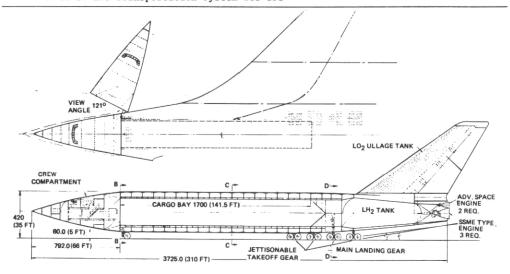


Figure 4. Star-Raker Inboard Profile

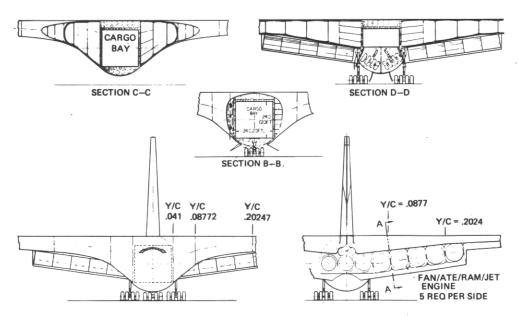


Figure 5. Vehicle Section Results

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- The 40% chord line fuselage section (C-C) illustrating the wing and fuselage construction and the profile of the wing/fuselage fairing.
- The main landing gear station (D-D) illustrating the gear retraction geometry, the relationship of the gear to the engine air inlet ducts and the wing construction and profile to the fuselage shape.

Figure 6 presents details of the basic multi-cell structure of the Star-Raker wing. The upper portion illustrates the application of "Shuttle-type" RSI tile thermal protection system (TPS). The lower portion shows a potential utilization of a "metallic" TPS.

The wing is an integrated structural system consisting of an inner multi-cell pressure vessel, a foam-filled structural core, an inner facing sheet, a perforated structural honeycomb core, and an outer facing sheet. The inner multi-cell pressure vessel arched shell and webs are configured to resist pressure. The pressure vessel and the two facing sheets, which are structurally interconnected with phenolic-impregnated, glass fiber, honeycomb core, resist wing spanwise and chordwise bending moments. Cell webs react winglift shear forces. Torsion is reacted by the pressure vessel and the two facing sheets as a multi-box wing structure.

The outer honeycomb core is perforated and partitioned to provide a controlled passage, purge and gas leak detection system function in addition to the function of structural interconnect of the inner and outer facing sheets. The construction of the wing structure utilizes the "Inflation Assembly Technique" developed by Rockwell for the Saturn II booster common bulkhead.

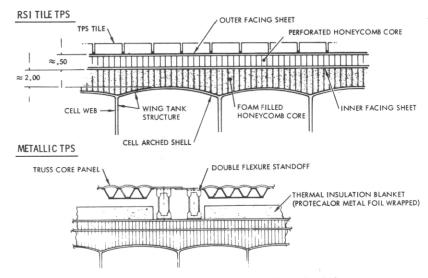


Figure 6. Wing Construction Detail With Candidate TPS Configurations

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## MULTI-CYCLE AIRBREATHER ENGINE SYSTEM

Takeoff and climb to 100,000 ft altitude and 5,800 fps is by airbreather propulsion. Parallel burn of airbreather and rocket propulsion occurs between 5,800 to 7,200 fps. Rocket power propels Star-Raker from 7,200 fps into orbit.

The multi-cycle airbreathing engine system, Figure 7 is derived from the General Electric CJ805 aircraft engine, the Pratt and Whitney SWAT 201 supersonic wrap-around turbofan/ramjet engine, the Aerojet Air Turborocket, Marquardt variable plug-nozzle, ramjet engine technology, and Rocketdyne tubular-cooled, high-P<sub>C</sub> rocket engine technology.

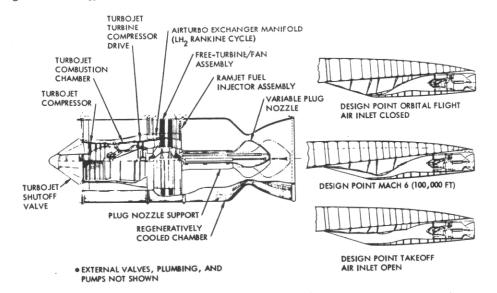


Figure 7. Multi-Cycle Air Breathing Engine and Inlet, Turbofan/ Air Turboexchanger/Ramjet

The multi-mode power cycles include: an aft-fan, turbofan cycle; a LH2, regenerative Rankine, air-turbo-exchanger cycle; and a ramjet cycle that can also be used as a full flow (turbojet core and fan bypass flow) thrust-augmented turbofan cycle. These four thermal cycles may receive fuel in any combination permitting high engine performance over a flight profile from sea level takeoff to Mach 6 at 100,000 ft altitude.

The engine air inlet and duct system of Figure 7 is based on a five-ramp variable inlet system with actuators to provide ramp movement from fully closed (upper RH figure) for rocket-powered and re-entry flight, to fully open (lower RH figure) for takeoff operation.

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The inlet area was determined by the engine airflow required at the Mach 6 design point. The configuration required 1.4 x  $10^6$  pounds thrust at the Mach 6 condition and at least 1.2 x  $10^6$  pounds for takeoff. This resulted in an inlet area of approximately  $1200 \text{ ft}^2$  or  $120 \text{ ft}^2$ /engine for a 10-engine configuration. In order to provide pressure recovery with minimum spillage drag over the wide range of Mach numbers, a variable multi-ramp inlet is required. Inlet pressure recovery efficieny vs. velocity is plotted on Figure 8. Higher recoveries are possible for the HTO vehicle than for military aircraft which must operate during more violent maneuvers. However, the pressure recovery must still provide a margin which prevents inlet instability and possible engine flameout from expulsion of the normal shock during transients.

Estimated engine thrust (total of 10 engines) versus velocity is plotted on Figure 9. Initially, a constant thrust of 1.4 million pounds of thrust was assumed for the Rockwell modified Rutowski energy method trajectory analysis (dashed curve of Figure 9). A tentative airbreather engine performance map was estimated from engine data sources previously described. Coordination between Rockwell and NASA/MSFC team members produced the engine thrust versus Mach number estimate shown by the upper solid curve of Figure 9.

All major engine companies were contacted to obtain assistance in advanced cycle analysis and to obtain the results of any studies which investigated this operating regime. Data from a Pratt and Whitney report (Reference 2) on an advanced hydrogen burning engine, the SWAT 201 turbofan ramjet, were evaluated and scaled up to the size required. However, this engine, which uses a bypass valve to close off the engine core above Mach 3.1 and operates the afterburner as a ramjet at higher speeds, did not provide a good match of thrust requirements over the required operating range. Also because of the high compression-ratio design, the engine thrust-to-weight ratio (T/W) was in the range of 4.5 to 5.5 for an installed system. Single-stage-to-orbit launch vehicle analysis showed that a T/W of at least 8 would be necessary to meet the vehicle payload requirements. From Aerojet, (Reference 3) data were obtained on an air turborocket concept which provides a potential for meeting the required T/W values while providing a better match of

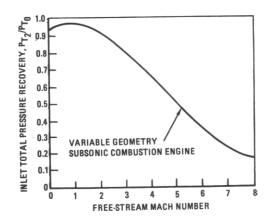


Figure 8. Air Induction System
Performance

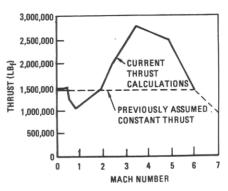


Figure 9. Air Breather Thrust Versus
Mach Number

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thrust required at takeoff, transonic and supersonic conditions. A modification of this cycle was devised by Rockwell to best match the SSTO requirements. This engine operates as an augmented turbofan for takeoff, a turbofan for high-efficiency cruise, an augmented turbofan for acceleration, and as a ramjet above Mach 3.

The engine components include a rotary vane assembly to close off the compressor-turbine assembly at higher mach numbers. The use of LH<sub>2</sub> fuel permits the use of a Rankine-cycle air turbo-exchanger concept to provide power for the bypass fan. This allows elimination of approximately one-half of the normal turbofan compressor stages normally needed for fan drive. Heating of the LH<sub>2</sub> in outer walls and nozzle plug of tubular construction, in addition to providing fan drive power, permits stoichiometric combustion in the augmentor/ramjet by cooling of exposed surfaces. The 5500-degree combustion temperature provides high cycle efficiency. During ramjet mode operation, the fan is allowed to windmill and is cooled by flow of LH<sub>2</sub> through the fan guide vanes.

The study scope did not permit a detailed evaluation of engine components to provide further, more accurate calculation of the performance capability of this engine concept. Engine manufacturers are best equipped to further refine the design and provide real data on concept feasibility and system weight. The engine companies contacted were not interested in further work without government funding.

For preliminary estimation of airbreathing propulsion system size requirement, a computer program was developed for the Hewlett Packard computer. A flow diagram of this program is shown in Figure 10.

A computer program which has the capability of computing performance of mixed-cycle engines including JP and LH $_2$  fuel, as well as the air turbo exchanger cycle was obtained from the Los Angeles Division of Rockwell (Reference 4). This program was developed under NASA contract in 1966 and is currently used by LAD for calculation of JP-fueled turbojet and turbofan engine data for advanced aircraft.

INITIAL INPUTS
FREESTREAM CONDITIONS (∞)
BODY-WEDGE ANGLE
THRUST REQUIRED

COMPUTES:

CONDITIONS AFTER BOW SHOCK (0)
AREA RATIO A<sub>00</sub>/A<sub>0</sub>

USING PRESSURE RECOVERY CURVE FIT, M2 ASSUMED, COMPUTES: CONDITIONS AT ENGINE FACE (2)  $A_2/A_0$   $P_{T_2}/P_{T_0}$ 

USING H<sub>2</sub>/AIR COMBUSTION PRODUCTS AT STOICHIOMETRIC,

COMPUTES:

CONDITIONS AT NOZZLE EXIT (9)
ALSO: WAIR AND WH2

ISPIDEAL AND ISPACTUAL

REQUIRED EXPANSION
RATIO AO AND NOZZLE
AREAS

Figure 10. Computer Program Flow Diagram for Air Breather
Propulsion System Sizing



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In order to maximize the payload boosted to orbit, an optimization technique is required to define the proper engine sequencing over the flight trajectory. Research at NASA/MSFC and Rockwell has focused on improving the mathematical models of the airbreathing propulsion systems, which can be mated with the rocket engine model and incorporated in trajectory optimization codes. As a result of the NASA/MSFC and Rockwell findings, NASA/MSFC let a contract, number NFT-01-002-099, AIRBREATHING ENGINE/ROCKET TRAJECTORY OPTIMIZATION, with the University of Alabama (Reference 5). Program description documents and users manuals for the mixed cycle propulsion computer program were provided to NASA Marshall Space Flight Center for inclusion in that study.

#### AERODYNAMIC CHARACTERISTICS

The selected wing shape is a supercritical Whitcomb airfoil with a relatively blunt leading edge, flat upper surfaces and cambered trailing edges. The trailing-edge camber and the tri-delta shape minimize translation of the center of pressure throughout the flight Mach number regime. The blunt leading edge offers good subsonic characteristics, but produces relatively high supersonic wave drag; therefore, further shape and refinements are recommended. The wing has a spanwise thickness distribution of 10 percent at the root, 6 percent near midspan, and 5 percent at the tip, providing a large interior volume for storage of LH2 fuel.

Aerodynamic coefficients (C<sub>L</sub>, C<sub>D</sub>, C.P.) were calculated using the Flexible Unified Distributed Panel program FA-475, which was developed by the LAD Aerodynamic group. Because the governing equation is linear, singular behavior of the linear equation and nonlinearity near M = 1.0 preclude the transonic solutions. Also, the hypersonic solution cannot be calculated with this theory due to the introduction of nonlinear terms. However, aerodynamic coefficients computed at  $\rm M_{\infty}$  = 5.0 can be frozen and can be used for hypersonic application. Viscous drag due to the skin friction is not computed by this program. This effect was added in a separate analysis. The resulting aerodynamic coefficients are plotted versus flight Mach number on Figure 11.

Maximum lift/drag and corresponding lift coefficients and angle of attack versus Mach number are given on Figure 12.

- Subsonic: (L/D)<sub>max</sub> 16.0 at α · 1.0, C<sub>L</sub> · · · · ·
- Supersonic:  $(L/D)_{max}$  from 5.4 to 4.0 at 4.5°  $\leq \alpha \leq 6.2$ °
- Hypersonic: For airbreather-OFF, rocket only  $(L/D)_{max} \simeq 3.4$

More detailed aerodynamic characteristics are reported in Document 1.

Earth-to-LEO Transportation System for SPS

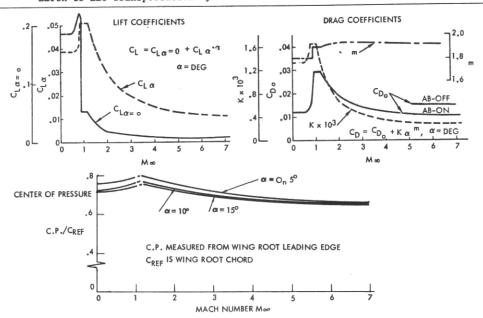


Figure 11. Aerodynamic Coefficients

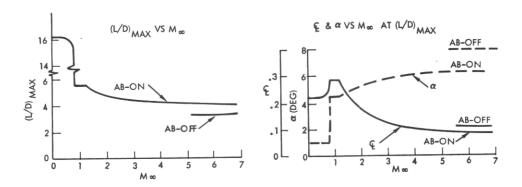


Figure 12: Maximum Lift/Drag

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The wing bending moments are based on the following data:

- Differential pressure distributions computed by the Unified Distributed Panel Program
- X = 10°
- · 2 g loading on wing
- GLOW =  $4 \times 10^6$  1b

Lift force  $(L_p)$  and bending moment (BM) at the wing root for the above conditions are tabulated below.

M <sub>∞</sub>	L <sub>F</sub> x 10 <sup>-6</sup> 1b	BM x 10 <sup>-6</sup> ft-1b
0.5	4.0	318
0.8	4.0	322
1.2	3.94	334
2.0	3.87	278
3.0	3.8	251
5.0	3.0	185

#### FLIGHT MECHANICS

The majority of the ascent performance analysis for the Star-Raker vehicle concept was accomplished using a recently developed lifting ascent program based on a modified Rutowski Energy Method (Idawa Method). This technique accurately estimated payload and propellant performance; however, it did not provide a bona fide integrated time history of trajectory state from liftoff to orbit insertion. A second computer program, the Two-Dimensional Trajectory Program (TDTP), was then used to compute the ascent trajectory timeline.

In order to do an end-to-end simulation of the Star-Raker (i.e., airbreather horizontal takeoff, climb, cruise, turn, airbreather ascent, rocket ascent, coast, and final orbit insertion) with flight optimization including aerodynamic effects, Rockwell acquired the Langley POST computer program (program to optimize simulated trajectories, developed by Martin-Marietta). POST was installed on the CDC system at Rockwell and several launch cases were executed.

The Star-Raker uses aircraft-type flight from airport takeoff to approximately Mach 6, with a parallel burn transition of airbreather and rocket engines from Mach 6 to 7.2,

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and rocket-only burn from Mach 7.2 to orbit. Figure 13 illustrates a nominal trajectory from KSC to 300-nmi earth equatorial orbit. Prime elements of the trajectory are:

- Runway takeoff under high-pass turbofan/airturbo exchanger (ATE)/ramjet power, with the ramjets acting as supercharged afterburners
- Jettison and parachute recovery of landing gear used only for launch
- Climb to optimum cruise altitude with turbofan power
- Cruise at optimum altitude, Mach number, and direction vector to earth's equatorial plane, using turbofan power
- Execute a large-radius turn into the equatorial plane with turbofan power
- Climb subsonically at optimum climb angle and velocity to an optimum altitude, using high bypass turbofan/ATE/ramjet (supercharged afterburner) power
- Perform an optimum pitch-over into a nearly constant-energy (shallow γ-angle) dive if necessary, and accelerate through the transonic region to approximately Mach 1.2, using turbofan/ATE/ramjet (supercharged afterburner) power
- Execute a long-radius optimum pitch-up to an optimum supersonic climb flight path, using turbofan/ATE/ramjet power
- Climb to approximately 29 km (95 kft) altitude, and 1900 m/s (6200 fps) velocity, at optimum flight path angle and velocity, using proportional fuel-flow throttling from turbofan/ATE/ramjet, or full ramjet, as required to maximize total energy acquired per unit mass of fuel consumed as function of velocity and altitude

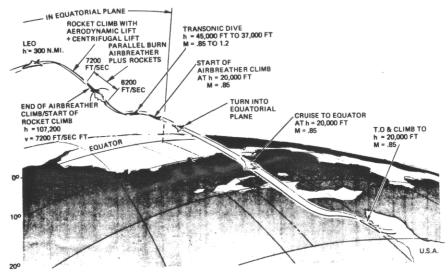


Figure 13. Star-Raker Trajectory
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- Ignite rocket engines to full required thrust level at 6200 fps and parallel burn to 7200 fps
- Shut down airbreather engines while closing airbreather inlet ramps
- Continue rocket power at full thrust
- Insert into an equatorial elliptical orbit 91 x 556 km (50 x 300 nmi) along an optimum lift/drag/thrust flight profile
- Shut down rocket engines and execute a Hohmann transfer to 556 km (300 nmi)
- Circularize Hohmann transfer

The re-entry trajectory is characterized by low gamma (flight path angle) high alpha (angle of attack) similar to Shuttle. The main re-entry trajectory elements are:

- Perform delta velocity (ΔV) maneuver and insert into an equatorial elliptical orbit 91 x 556 km (50 x 300 nmi)
- Perform a low-gamma, high-alpha deceleration to approximately Mach 6.0
- Reduce alpha to maximum lift/drag (L/D) for high-velocity glide and crossrange maneuvers to subsonic velocity (approximately Mach 0.85)
- Open inlets and start some airbreather engines
- Perform powered flight to landing field, land on runway, and taxi to dock

Flyback fuel requirements include approximately 300 nmi subsonic cruise and two landing approach maneuvers (first approach waveoff with flyaround for second approach).

Typical  $I_{\text{Sp}}$  characteristics of AB/rocket engine system are:

- ullet Subsonic range Linear reduction of  $I_{SD}$  from 9700 to 4000 sec at 1200 fps
- ullet Supersonic range Reduction of  $I_{ exttt{SD}}$  from 4000 sec at 1200 fps to 3500 sec at ~ 5600 fps (AB)
- Rocket  $I_{SD}$  = 455 sec

Required takeoff distances for the Star-Raker were compared with existing data. The distance computed for a tire rolling coefficient  $\mu$  = 0.10 agrees with the existing data. Throw weight sensitivity to tire rolling coefficient is 700 lb (reduction) from  $\mu$  = 0.02 to 0.20.



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The airbreather cruise mode, which results in an economical orbit plane change from the launch site to the equatorial orbit, was analyzed. The estimated fuel requirements to cruise 1000 statute miles down-range for alternate propulsion modes are given below.

(ft/sec)	Altitude (k-ft)	Δt (sec)	ΔW <sub>F</sub> (1b)	Engine
800	20	6600	72,000	Turbofan Jet
6000	85	880	386,000	Ramiet

Although subsonic cruise takes a longer time (110 minutes), the amount of fuel consumed is substantially less when the orbital plane change is accomplished with subsonic cruise at maximum L/D.

A transition maneuver from high-lift configuration to  $(L/D)_{max}$  configuration is performed shortly after liftoff (beginning at 3000 ft altitude). The maximum angle of attack of 13 degrees is reduced gradually to 1 degree for subsonic  $(L/D)_{max}$  climb configuration.

Velocity and angle of attack vs flight time are reported in Document 1. The time required to reach 300 nmi orbit (not including subsonic cruise leg) varies from 1800 to 2300 sec, depending upon  $(W/S)_0$ , (T/W), and engine operational mode.

Variation in load factor, altitude, and dynamic pressure with respect to velocity and time during supersonic ascent are also reported in Document 1. The load acceleration remains less than 2.3 g (76% of Shuttle maximum acceleration), which is a comfortable level for both crew and payload. Maximum dynamic pressure is 940 psf, which is within load limits. From takeoff to burnout, the ascent profile is quite shallow - with flight path angle ranging between -0.7 and 4.5 degrees.

Ascent and descent trajectories of the Star-Raker and the Space Shuttle missions are compared in Figure 14. Because the performance of airbreathing engines and aerodynamic lifting of winged vehicle depend on the high dynamic pressure, the Star-Raker flies at much lower altitude during the powered climb than the vertical ascent trajectory of the Space Shuttle for a given flight velocity. Light wing loading of the Star-Raker contributes to the rapid deceleration during deorbit.

The total enthalpy flux histories which indicate the severity of expected aerodynamic heating are shown in Figure 14. As expected, the aerodynamic heating of ascent trajectory may design the Star-Raker TPS requirement. The maximum total enthalpy flux of  $6000 \, \text{Btu/ft}^2$ -sec is estimated near the end of airbreather power climb trajectory. Except in the vicinity of vehicle nose, wing leading edge, or structural protuberances, where interference heating may exist, most of the ascent heating is from the frictional flow heating on the relatively smooth flat surface.

The descent heating is mainly produced by the compressive flow on the vehicle windward surface during the high-angle-of-attack re-entry, and is expected to be considerably lower than the Space Shuttle re-entry heating.

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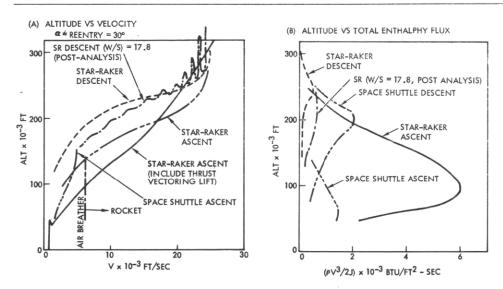


Figure 14. Ascent and Descent Trajectory Comparisons

Weight in orbit is summarized in Table 1. The data entries identified by an asterisk are revised reference vehicle data resulting from Rockwell and NASA/MSFC data exchange in May 1978. Calculations reflect additional fuel reserves, performance losses and a 10-percent growth factor. Inert weight in orbit was increased from 694,510 lb to 775,800 lb and airbreather engine thrust of 1.4 x 10<sup>6</sup> lb constant was revised to reflect increase in airbreather thrust potential shown on Figure 9.

#### AERODYNAMIC AND STRUCTURAL HEATING

Preliminary aerodynamic heating evaluation of the Star-Raker configuration was performed for several wing spanwise stations and the fuselage centerline.

For the wing lower surfaces, heating rates were computed including the chordwise variation of local flow properties. Effects of leading edge shock and angle of attack were included in the local flow property evaluation. Leading edge stagnation heating rates were based on the flow conditions normal to the leading edge neglecting cross-flow effects. All computations were performed using ideal gas thermodynamic properties.

Wing upper-surface heating rates were computed using free-stream flow properties, i.e., neglecting chordwise variations of flow properties. Heating rates were computed for several prescribed wall temperatures as well as the reradiation equilibrium wall temperature condition. Transition from laminar to turbulent flow was taken into account in the computations. Wing/body and inlet interference heating effects were not included in this preliminary analysis. The analysis was limited to the ascent trajectory, since the descent trajectory is thermodynamically less severe.

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Table 1. Star-Raker Weight in Orbit Summary

		ROCKET ISP = 455. SEC (SHUTTLE VALUES)				ROCKET ISP = 468 SEC (LaRC VALUES)	
		ENERGY METHOD		POST ANALYSIS		ENERGY METHOD	
ORBIT	GLOW W <sub>0</sub> x 10 <sup>-6</sup> LB	Wf (LB)	PAYLOAD (LB)	Wf (LB)	PAYLOAD (L8)	Wf (LB)	PAYLOAD (LB)
EQUATORIAL ORBIŢ CRUISE FROM KSC	4.31 4.31 (P.B) 4.62 (P.B) 5.00 (P.B)	787,400. 801,700. 845,800. 895,300.	92,890. 107,190. 151,290. 200,790.	790,000.	95,490.	832,800.	138.290.
INCLINED ORBIT KSC DUE EAST	4.31 4.31 (P.B) 4.62 (P.B) *5.00 (PB)	864,500. 882,600 925,100.	169,990. 188,090. 230,590.	849,000. *972.400	154,490 *196,580	897,000. 917,300.	202,490. 222,790.

- DATA FOR 300 N.MI. ORBITAL INSERTION
- REFERENCE WING AREA (SREF) = 40,900. SQ. FT.
- WEIGHT IN ORBIT (EXCLUDING PAYLOAD) = 694,510. LB
- LAUNCH FROM KSC
- PB = PARALLEL BURN

- AIRBREATHER
  - THRUST = 1.4 x 106 LB.

  - ISP VARIABLE VELOCITY = 0 ≤ V ≤ 6200 FT/SEC
- ROCKET
  - THRUST = 3.2 x 10<sup>6</sup> LB
  - . ISP = SEE CHART
  - VELOCITY = 6200 ≤ V ≤ VORBIT FT/SEC

These parametrically generated aerodynamic heating rate data were used for thermal analysis of the various candidate insulation systems. Radiation equilibrium temperatures for emissivity,  $\varepsilon = 0.85$ , are based on:

- Leading edge stagnation heating rates peak at M = 16.4, alt = 196,000 ft
- Upper wing surface uniform static pressure assumed, temperatures peak at M = 6.4, alt = 86,500 ft
- Lower wing surface heating rates and temperatures peak at M = 7.9, alt = 116,000 ft
- Local flow property variation, angle of attack, and leading-edge shock effects are included
- Inlet interference effects were not included

Isotherms of the peak surface temperatures for upper and lower surfaces (excluding engine inlet interference effects) for the Star-Raker and Orbiter are shown on Figure 15. Leading edge and upper wing surface temperatures have similar profiles. Star-Raker lower-surface temperatures are from 400°F to 600°F lower than the orbiter due to lower re-entry wing loading (23 versus 67 psf).

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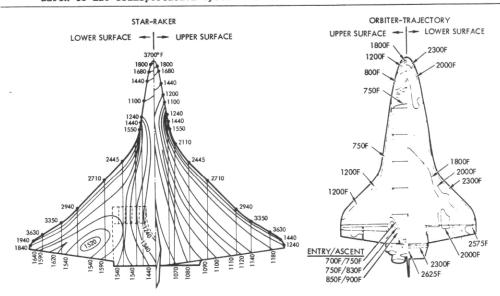


Figure 15. Isotherms of Peak Surface Temperatures During Ascent

Structural heating analysis reported in Document 1 include: (a) typical variations of heat leak rate (BTU/ft $^2$ -hr) and total heat flux (BTU/ft $^2$ ) as a function of HRSI tile thickness for typical LH2 upper and lower wing tank surface locations; (b) variation of bondline temperatures versus tile maximum temperature to thickness ratio for RSI tile insulation, including bondline temperatures for the dry, wingtip ullage tank, the wetted lower surface of the LH2 tank, and the dry upper surface of the LH2 tank; and (c) typical thermal response as a function of launch trajectory exposure time of the insulation system.

Figure 16 shows HRSI tile thickness profiles for bondline temperatures of 350F. Preliminary data indicate that the titanium aluminide system described in the TPS section of this report may be lighter than the RSI tile for the Star-Raker TPS system due to the low average temperature (1000°F to 1600°F) profiles occurring over 80 and 85 percent of the vehicle exterior surface.

## THERMAL PROTECTION SYSTEM

Ceramic coated RSI tile, used on Shuttle, and metallic truss core sandwich structure, developed for the B-1 bomber, were investigated as potential thermal protection systems for Star-Raker (see Figure 6).

The radiative surface panel consists of a truss core sandwich structure fabricated by superplastic/diffusion bonding process. For temperatures up to 1500/1600°F, the concept utilizes an alloy based on the titanium-aluminum systems which show promise for high-temperature applications currently being developed by the Air Force. For temperatures higher than 1500/1600°F, it is anticipated that an alloy will be available from

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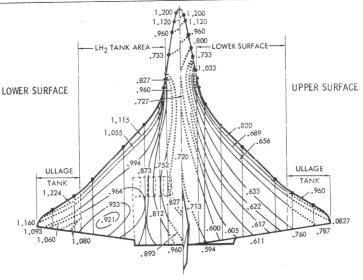


Figure 16. HRSI Tile Thickness Contours for 350°F Bonline Temperature

the dispersion-strengthened superalloys currently being developed for use in gas turbine engines. Flexible supports are designed to accommodate longitudinal thermal expansion while retaining sufficient stiffness to transmit surface pressure loads to the primary structure. Also prominent in metallic TPS designs are expansion joints which must absorb longitudinal thermal growth of the radiative surface, and simultaneously prevent the ingress of hot boundary layer gases to the panel interior. The insulation consists of flexible thermal blankets, often encapsulated in foil material to prevent moisture absorption. The insulation protects the primary load-carrying structure from the high external temperature.

During the past two years, Rockwell and Pratt and Whitney Aircraft have participated in an Air Force Materials Laboratory sponsored program, F33615-75-C-1167, directed toward the exploitation of Ti<sub>3</sub>Al base alloy systems. The titanium aluminide intermetallic compounds based on the compositions  $\text{Ti}_3\text{Al}$  ( $\alpha_2$ ) and TiAl ( $\lambda$ ) which form the binary Ti-Al alloys have been shown to have attractive elevated-temperature strength and high modulus/density ratios.

The titanium hardware depicted on Figure 17 is an example of complex configurations that have been developed, utilizing a process which combines superplastic forming and diffusion bonding (SPF/DB). This Rockwell proprietary process has profound implications for titanium fabrication technology, per se. In addition, the unprecedented low-cost hardware it generates promises to revolutionize the design of airframe structure. The

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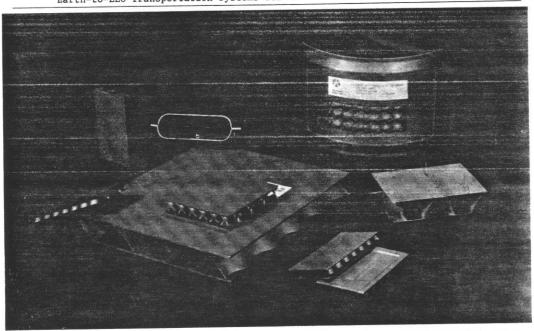


Figure 17. Examples of Super Plastic-Formed, Diffusion-Bonded Configurations

versatile nature of the process is apparent, showing complex deep-drawn structure and sandwich structure with various core configurations. This manufacturing method and the design freedom it affords offer a solution to the high cost of aircraft structure. Manufacturing feasibility and cost and weight savings potential of these processes have been established through both IR&D efforts at Rockwell and Air Force contracts. These structures may be used for engine cowling, landing gear doors, etc., in addition to providing major TPS components.

Unit masses of Star-Raker TPS concept, state-of-the-art TPS hardware and advanced thermal-structural designs are compared with the unit mass of the orbiter RSI on Figure 18. The unit mass of the RSI includes the tiles, the strain isolator pad, and bonding material. The hashed region shown for the RSI mass is indicative of insulation thickness variations necessary to maintain mold line over the bottom surface of the orbiter. The RSI is required to prevent the primary structure temperature from exceeding 350°F. The unit masses of the metallic TPS are plotted at their corresponding maximum use temperatures. The advanced designs are seen to be competitive with the directly bonded RSI.

## STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS

The multi-cell wing tanks provide a structure which is capable of sustaining pressure while, at the same time, reacting aerodynamic loads. The tanks are sized based on

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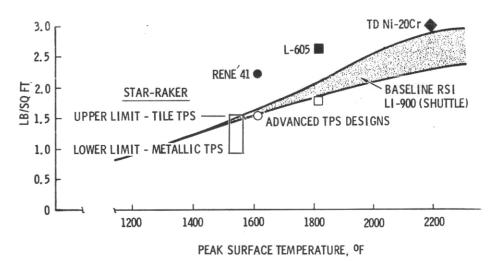


Figure 18. Unit Mass of TPS Designs

ullage pressures of 32-34 psia (LH2) and 20-22 psia (LOX). Maximum wing bending occurs at about Mach 1.2. The LH2 and LOX wing tanks are the major load path for reacting these loads. The wing also supports the airbreather engine system.

The primary wing attachment is to the cargo bay structure. The cargo bay aft section, in turn, is connected to the LH2 tank. The LH2 interconnects the cargo bay, aft portions of the wing, the vertical surface, and the rocket engine thrust structure.

An ultimate factor of safety of 1.50 was used in the analysis. The prime driver in the structural sizing of the multi-cell wing tanks is the bending moment resulting from air loads at Mach 1.2. The net bending moment on the wing is the difference between the lift moment and the relieving moment due to LOX remaining in the wing. Trades were performed to determine the structural wing weights required to sustain these bending moments plus internal pressure. An intermediate location was chosen for LOX propellant where lift moment -2 times relieving moment. Locating LOX outboard results in a lower net flight bending moment, but the critical design condition then becomes prelaunch under full propellant loading. To sustain this prelaunch bending moment, the wing weight would be in excess of 200,000 lb.

The wing LH<sub>2</sub> tank was designed to sustain the loads from both internal pressure and wing bending. Al 2219-T87 was chosen for the tank material on the basis of high strength at cryogenic temperatures, fracture toughness, and weldability. Loads resulting from wing bending moments are dominant in determining membrane thickness, which is based on a maximum tank ullage pressure of 34 psia, and an ultimate factor of safety of 1.50. Figure 19 shows material thickness versus wing station due to pressure and wing bending. The column showing bending only relates to wing-bending contribution, not an unpressurized wing design.

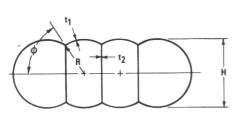
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STA*	H <sub>NOM</sub> (IN.)	PRESSURE REQUIREMENT t <sub>1</sub> = t <sub>2</sub> ** (IN.)	BENDING ONLY t <sub>1</sub> (IN.)	BENDING + PRESSURE t <sub>1</sub> (IN.)
10.9	240	0.066	0.021	0.087
23.0	146	0.040	0.076	0.116
54.0	110	0.031	0.092	0.123
107.0	48	0.014	0.120	0.134

<sup>\*</sup>DISTANCE FROM VEHICLE & \*\*FOR Ø = 60 DEG ONLY

Figure 19. Material Thickness Versus Wing Station

The fuselage LH<sub>2</sub> tank is the primary load path for reacting total vehicle mass inertias during the maximum acceleration condition (3.0 g). Approximately 27 percent of the propellant remains at that time. The tank has a twin-cone "Siamese" configuration which is required in order to fit in the fuselage at maximum propellant volume. The forward end of the tank is cylindrical, while the aft end is closed out with a double modified ellipsoidal shell. The bulkheads react the internal pressures while the sidewall carries pressure and axial compression loads. The bulkheads are monocoque construction while the sidewall is an integral skin-stringer with ring frames construction. Tank configuration and bulkhead membrane and sidewall "smeared" thickness requirements to sustain the internal pressure and axial compression loads are reported in Document 1. The structural design of all cryo tanks is based on cryogenic temperature material properties and allowables.

## MASS PROPERTIES

Star-Raker mass properties are dominated by the tri-delta wing structure, the thermal protection system and the airbreather and rocket propulsion system. The initial Reference Vehicle data, shown in Table 2, were generated by Rockwell during the period of December 1977 - January 1978. These data were reviewed by NASA MSFC/LaRC during February and March 1978, resulting in two extremes of mass estimates. Cooperative effort between Rockwell and NASA teams during May produced the final reference vehicle data. The data presented in this report are considered to be reasonable achievable targets. Both Rockwell and NASA team members agree that technology items coded on Figure 1 require study in greater depth and degree of sophistication to confirm Star-Raker mass property data. Vehicle center-of-gravity data are detailed in Document 1. Mass centroids of individual elements, except the wing structure and TPS system, are in close agreement. Sensitivities in orbital insertion weight due to rocket thrust, aerodynamic lift/drag ratio, and airbreather engine thrust/weight ratio also appear in Document 1.

## ORBIT DETERMINATION

Star-Raker vehicles will be rendezvousing with facilities in low earth orbit at a high rate in support of SPS. One important consideration during orbit determination is the

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Table 2. Star Raker Weight Summary

	ROCKWELL	MS	ROCKWELL/MSFC	
ITEM DESCRIPTION	INITIAL REFERENCE VEHICLE	NORMAL TECHNOLOGY	ACCELERATION TECHNOLOGY	FINAL REFERENCE VEHICLE
AIRFRAME, AEROSURFACES, TANKS AND TPS	367,000	458,000	249,000	370,000
LANDING GEAR	27,700	53,000	39,000	27,700
ROCKET PROPULSION	63,700	40,000	40,000	71,700
AIRBREATHER PROPULSION	148,000	200,000	148,000	140,000
RCS PROPULSION	4,000	16,000	11,000	10,000
OMS PROPULSION	1,200	9,000	7,000	5,000
OTHER SYSTEMS	35,500	41,000	22,000	37,800
SUBTOTAL	647,100	817,000	516,000	662,200
10% GROWTH		81,700	51,600	66,220
TOTAL INERT WEIGHT (DRY WEIGHT)	647,100	898,700	567,600	728,420
USEFUL LOAD (FLUIDS, RESERVES, ETC.)	47,400			47,400
INERT WEIGHT & USEFUL LOAD	694,500			775,820
PAYLOAD WEIGHT	107,200	-		196,580
ORBITAL INSERTION WEIGHT	801,700			972,400
PROPELLANT ASCENT	3,438,080			4,027,600
GLOW (POST-JETTISON LAUNCH GEAR)	4.239.780			5,000,000

EXCESS PROPELLANT TANK VOLUME SEE WEIGHT IN ORBIT SUMMARY

INCLINED ORBIT

accuracy of the resulting ephemeris prediction with time. Ephemeris accuracy depends upon initial state errors prior to the tracking period, the number of observation sets, the errors inherent in the tracking system, errors that occur during orbital maneuvers, and model errors in the satellite environment.

During CFY 1978, existing TRACE computer program options that were of interest were exercised. For each program option, the approach was to set up the required input data instructions, debug the input data deck, and to run TRACE on the in-house IBM computer Preferred options are: system.

- 1. General prediction accuracy derived from a combination of ground- and space-based tracking networks.
- 2. Orbit insertion dispersion analysis due to transfer errors (e.g., initial state, motor impulse, and attitude errors).
- 3. Modeling of the tracking network for orbit determination and ephemeris prediction accuracy.

# 1,200,000-LB STAR-RAKER/RASV COMPARISON

Performance trades were developed and comparisons made for: (a) a scaled-down version of the Star-Raker with its airbreather/rocket (AB/R) propulsion, and (b) the Reusable Aerodynamic Space Vehicle (RASV) with its all-rocket propulsion, as defined by Boeing in Reference (6). The study responded to an expression of interest by the SAMSO, who had sponsored the RASV study. The objectives were to determine whether the AB/R

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configuration could achieve specific performance goals, to identify key operational and performance differences between the AB/R and all-rocket vehicles, and to determine conditions (cross-over) at which performance gains are realized.

Vehicle configurations, major design characteristics and performance groundrules to permit comparisons of useful payload are summarized in Figure 20. The scaled-down AB/R Star-Raker has a tri-delta flying wing planform (blended fuselage-wing) and a Whitcomb airfoil section similar to the Star-Raker designed for the SPS mission. This combination offers an efficient aerodynamic shape from a performance standpoint while minimizing shifts in aerodynamic center of pressure and maximizing propellant volumetric efficiency. Holding the same gross lift-off weight (GLOW) for the comparison was a study groundrule. The higher empty weight for the scaled-down or mini Star-Raker represents the addition of airbreathing engine system and net propellant tank weight increments to the basic RASV weight. As noted, the RASV has a 10,000-pound payload capability to a 100 nmi polar orbit and a 25,000-pound capability to a 100 nmi orbit at 28 degrees. The payload capability of the mini Star-Raker was to be defined parametrically.

Optimal trajectories for HTO/SSTO concepts using combined airbreathing rocket (AB/R) and all rocket propulsion systems were determined as reported in Document 2. Approximately 1500 sec of AB operation are required for the AB/R system to reach a transitional velocity  $(V_{AB}/R)$  of 6000 ft/sec., while 300 seconds are required by the rocket system to reach the same velocity. After  $V_{AB/R}$  the time increment required to reach orbital velocity is the same for both vehicles. The corresponding aerodynamic heating parameters, which are proportional to total enthalpy flux histories, were also determined as reported in Document 2. The data show that the AB/R system will be exposed to a higher heating

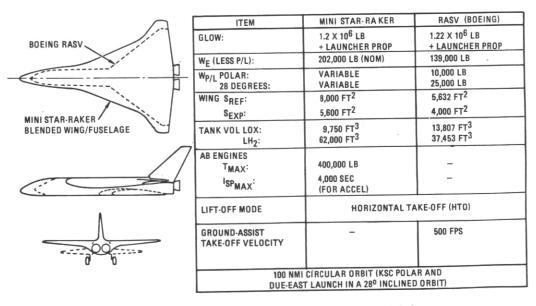


Figure 20. Configuration Characteristics and Ground Rules

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environment than the all-rocket system because the AB/R system must fly at lower altitudes where the AB engine operates most efficiently.

Total throw weight as a function of launch wing loading and AB/R transitional velocity  $(V_{AB/R})$  are also presented in Document 2. For a given transitional velocity, the throw weight increases rapidly between 100 and 150 psf wing loading but flattens out between 150 and 200 psf. Therefore, considering the substantial increase in the aeroheating parameter between 150 and 200 psf, a wing loading of 150 psf was selected for the rest of the trade studies.

The useful payload capability for the AB/R system, which considers the added weight penalty resulting from AB engines and increased tank weights, is shown parametrically in Figure 21. For the AB/R configuration, the minimum payload requirement of 10,000 lb to a polar orbit can be met with a  $V_{AB/R}/(T/W)_{AB}$  combination of 4000/10, 4500/8, or 6000/6. The payload requirement for 30,000 lb into the 28-degree inclined orbit is also exceeded by these engine performance/weight combinations. Figure 21 also shows that the payload capability of advanced technology AB engines of Mach 6 and  $(T/W)_{AB} = 8$  are almost double those of a vehicle with state-of-the-art 40,000 lb thrust Mach 4 engines (8 < (T/W)AB < 10). However,  $(T/W)_{AB}$  will tend to decrease as  $V_{AB/R}$  increases due to the added weight incurred by engine and inlet design complexities resulting from aeroheating effects.

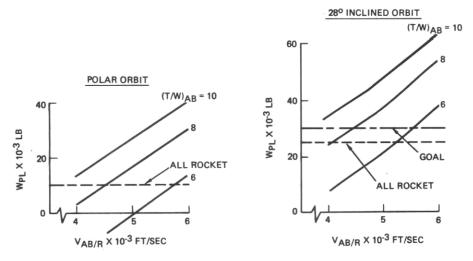


Figure 21. Payload to Orbit Capabilities of Mini Star-Raker and RASV

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In summary, the performance trade studies show the following:

- 1. The mini Star-Raker is capable of placing the desired 10,000 and 30,000 1b of useful payload into 100 nmi polar and 28 deg orbits, respectively.
- 2. These payload capabilities can be achieved with various combinations of  $\rm V_{AB/R}$  ranging from 4000 to 6000 fps and (T/W)  $_{AR}$  ranging from 6 to 10.
- 3. The optimal wing loading is approximately 150 psf when performance and aeroheating effects are taken into account.
- 4. The mini Star-Raker is competitive from a performance standpoint with the all-rocket RASV system with moderate advancements in AB propulsion system technology (T/W<sub>AB</sub> = 8-10, and  $V_{AB/R} = 4000$  fps).
- 5. The mini Star-Raker offers the potential of major growth in payload capability (e.g., ~ 25,000 lb into polar orbit and ~ 50,000 lb into 28 deg orbit) with significant AB propulsion system technology advancement to  $V_{AB/P} = 6000$ fps and  $(T/W_{AR} < 8)$ .
- 6. Key technical areas for further analysis and research are: advanced airbreathing propulsion system, TPS, wet wing, and vehicle mass fraction analysis.

A major advantage of the AB/R system is operational flexibility. Particularly, the atmospheric cruise capability with AB engines make this vehicle an excellent air transportation system for ferrying and payload pick-up missions. This capability results in reduced ground and auxiliary air transportation requirements for logistics support. The mini Star-Raker without LOX, which is required for space operation only, weighs approximately 300,000 lb (W/S < 40 psf) including the payload and cruise fuel for 4000 statute miles. Therefore, the mini Star-Raker can operate in this mode from any airfield which can handle the C-5A or the Boeing 747 and which adds LH2 facilities.

### APPLICATION OF RESULTS

A large part of the study was performed to an accelerated schedule in order to provide results to NASA/MSFC in a briefing by the end of January 1978. NASA, in turn, provided an agency evaluation of the Star-Raker results to Rockwell personnel at the MSFC in April 1978. Major differences were resolved during the next two months. Results of the Star-Raker study were utilized in the SPS contract (NAS8-32475). Highlights were included in the SPS final report, Reference 1. Adjusted results were subsequently utilized in the SPS contract extension. As an outgrowth of the Rockwell and NASA/MSFC study and evaluation activities, NASA/MSFC let a contract, number NFT-01-002-099, subject: "Airbreathing Engine/Rocket Trajectory Optimization" to the University of Alabama.

FY ORGANIZATION

SPACE SYSTEMS GROUP

PROJECT NO. 243

PROJECT TITLE

Earth-to-LEO Transportation System for SPS

In March 1978, Rockwell briefed Col. Grover and Col. Graetch and staff on Star-Raker study findings. The SAMSO personnel, with support from Aerospace presented RASV data to Rockwell in March, and expressed an interest in a potential comparison of a scaled-down, 1,200,000-pound version of the Star-Raker with the RASV. Presentation of the results of the subsequent analysis, Document 2, to SAMSO is pending.

## DOCUMENTATION

- D. A. Reed, Jr., "Star-Raker, an Airbreather/Rocket-Powered, Horizontal Takeoff, Tridelta Flying Wing, Single-Stage-to-Orbit Vehicle," Rockwell Space Systems Group, Report No. SD78-AP-0044 (November 1978)
- H. Ikawa, "Preliminary Performance and Sizing Analysis of a HTO/SSTO Vehicle with a 10 to 30 K-Lb Payload Capability," Rockwell Space Systems Group, Report No. SD78-AP-0104 (November 1978)

## REFERENCES

- "Satellite Power Systems (SPS) Concept Definition Study, NAS8-32475 Final Report," Rockwell Space Systems Group, Report No. SD78-AP-0023-5 (April 1978)
- "Estimated Performance of a Mach 8.0 Hydrogen Fueled Turbofan Ramjet," Pratt and Whitney Aircraft Report STFRV-230A (January 1965)
- "Air-Turborocket Application Study," Aerojet General Corporation (December 1964)
- "Final Report and Users Manual for the Hypersonic Airbreathing Propulsion Computer Program, NASA Contract NAS2-2985," North American Aviation Reports NA66-479 and NA66-530 (May 1966)
- Virgil K. Smith, "Airbreathing Engine/Rocket Trajectory Optimization Study," University of Alabama (August 1978)
- "Feasibility Study of Reusable Aerodynamic Space Vehicle," SAMSO-TR-76-223, Boeing Aerospace Company (November 1976)

## RELATED CONTRACT

<u>Number</u> <u>Title</u> <u>Customer</u>

NASS-32475 Satellite Power Systems (SPS) Concept NASA/MSFC

Definition Study

E-154