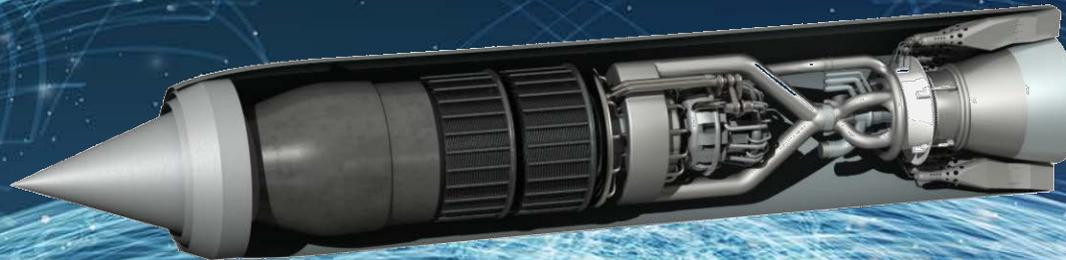


# REACTION ENGINES

## SABRE

FOR HYPERSONIC & SPACE ACCESS PLATFORMS

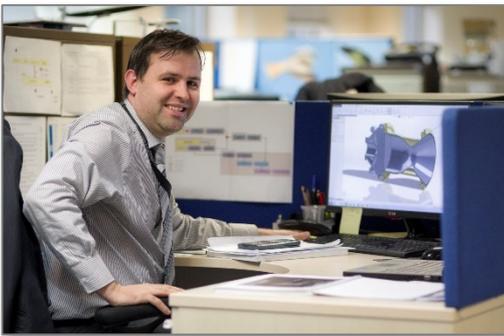
Mark Thomas  
Chief Executive Officer



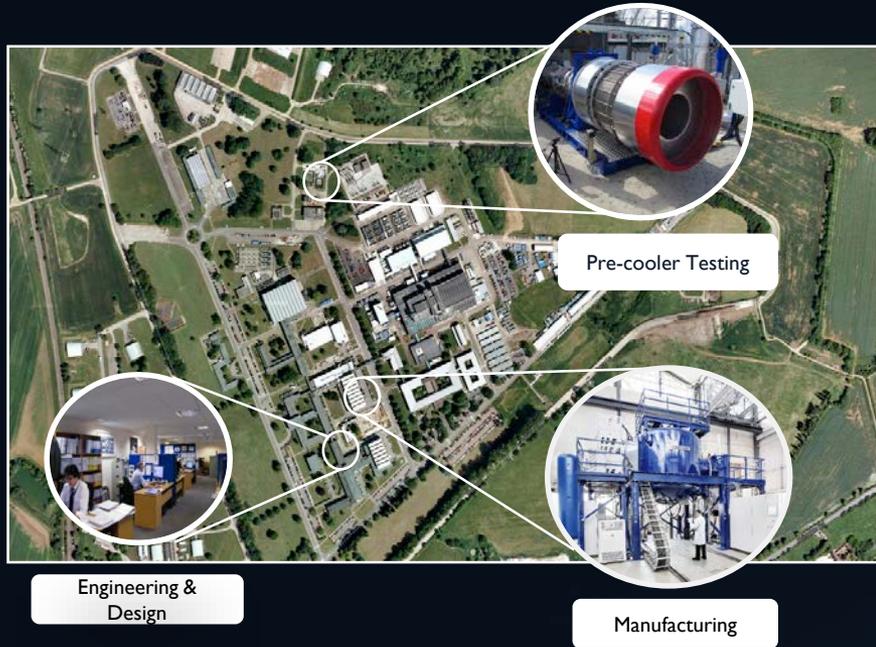
12<sup>th</sup> Appleton Space Conference  
RAL Space, 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016

# Reaction Engines Limited

- **REL's primary focus** is developing SABRE, a new class of aerospace propulsion, and its enabling technologies (notably, very advanced heat exchangers).
- **Grown** from 72 employees to 110 over last 12 months and continuing to hire.
- **Skills across aerospace disciplines**, from design & analysis through to manufacture and testing
- **2 sites:**
  - **Culham Science Centre, Oxfordshire** – HQ, Design Offices, Lab Testing, Manufacturing, Heat Exchanger and Lab testing
  - **Didcot Park, Oxfordshire** – Precision Manufacturing and Metal Fabrication
- **Rocket testing** undertaken at Westcott Venture Park, Buckinghamshire



# REL HQ Culham, Oxfordshire, UK

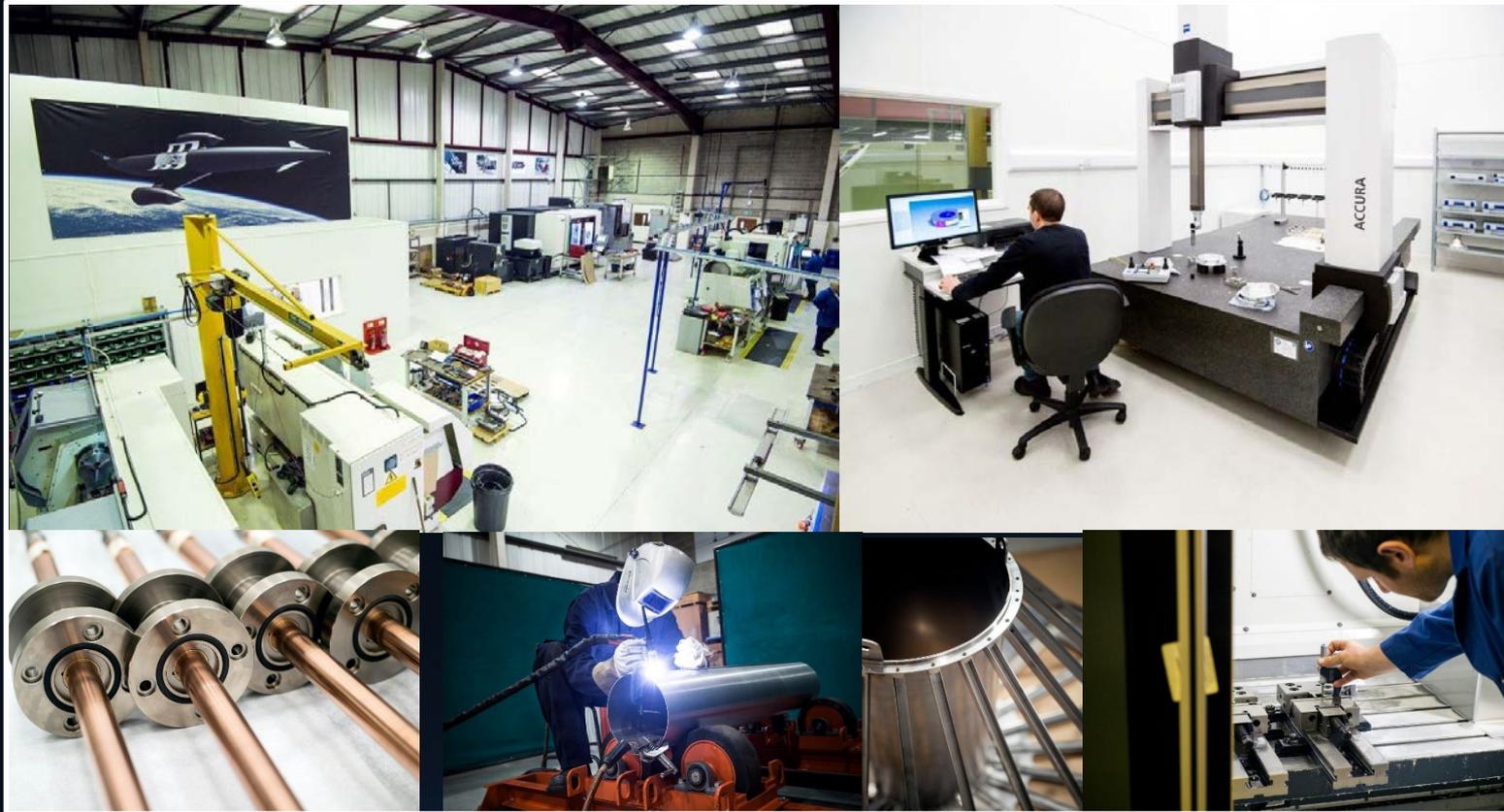


# Rocket Test Site Westcott, Buckinghamshire, UK



\* Current testing is outsourced

# REL Manufacturing Didcot Park, Oxfordshire, UK



# Space Value Chain and Growth

- Launch underpins the space industry
- Reduced satellite costs, size and lead times are opening up new business opportunities
- Low launch availability and high launch costs restrict space innovation and growth
- Significant new opportunities with improved space launch and the UK is playing a role...

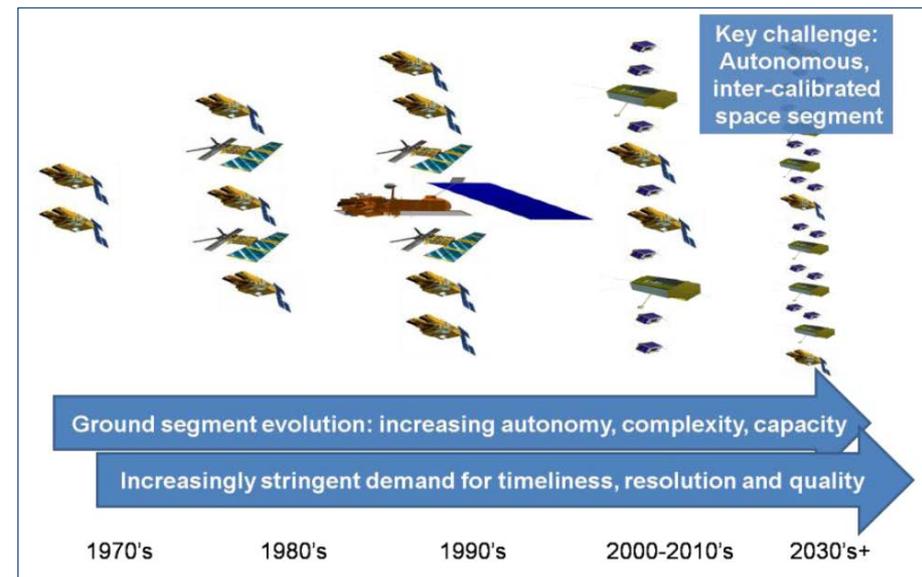
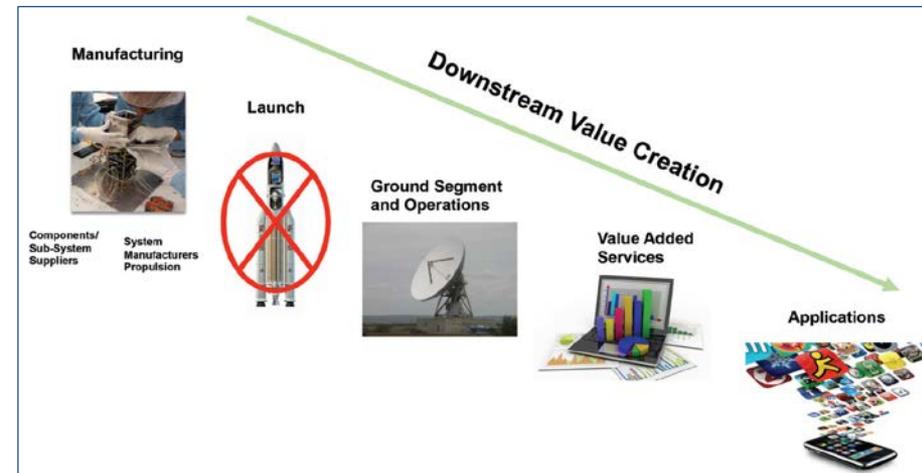


Image credits: Space Growth Partnership, Space Innovation and Growth Team

# Launch Vehicles – Propelled by Rocket Engines

## Rocket Characteristics:

- Vertical Take-off
- High Thrust
- Accelerate to Orbital Speeds

## Need to Carry:

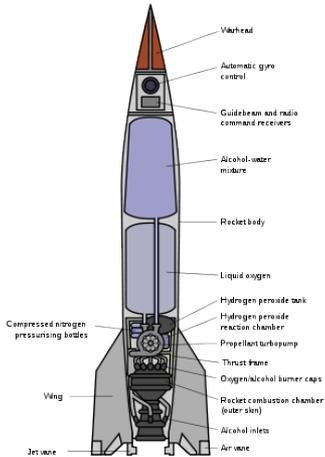
- Payload (e.g. satellite)
- All their Fuel and Oxygen
- Vehicle 'Dry' Structure

Typically require significant launch infrastructure & resources.



# Launch Vehicles – Propelled by Rocket Engines

- The rocket has carried us to great places... however current launchers are:
  - **Expensive** (~\$10,000/kg)
  - Have **Long Lead Times** (years to build, months to prepare)
  - **Unreliable** (2-5% of launches fail)
- Outcome:
  - **Only 50-100 launches/year** globally
  - **Restricts** economic opportunity
  - **Life confined** to Earth



1957



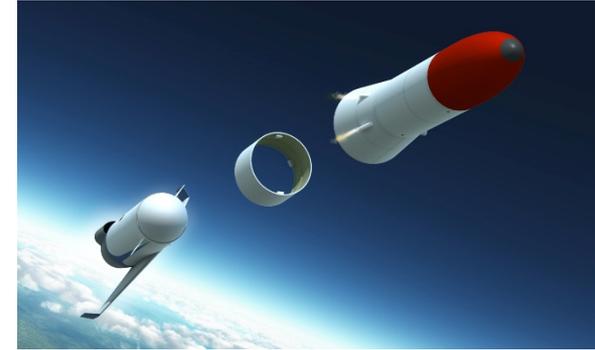
Today

# Launch Vehicles – Evolution and Innovation

Evolution of **launch vehicle configurations** to drive improvements in cost via reusability:

- Methodology includes using conventional rocket propulsion with **vertical take-off and landing** reusable first stage
- Allows **reduction in launch cost** by reusing first stage
- Option **being pursued** e.g. by SpaceX and Blue Origin
- Still issues with improving **reliability**, inability to **abort** a mission with the payload (once launched committed), **heavy vehicle** due to high fuel consumption of the rocket engine

Alternative approach is to **Innovate...**

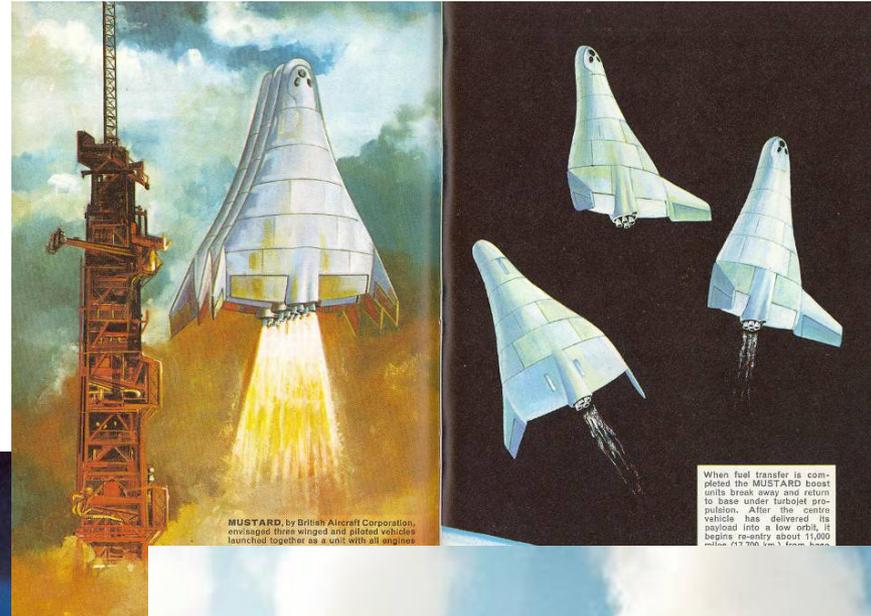


# Spaceplane Innovation – British heritage

## Blue Streak & Black Arrow



## BAC Mustard Study



## BAe / Rolls-Royce HOTOL



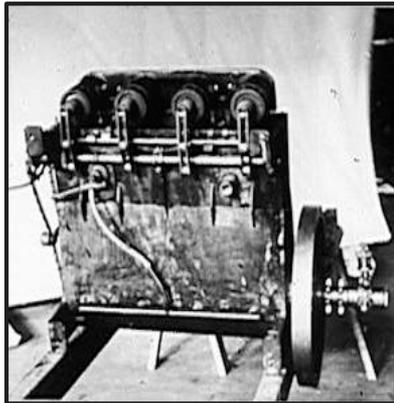
## Reaction Engines SKYLON

Image credits: BAE Systems and Rolls-Royce plc

# Propulsion: Drives New Vehicle Capabilities

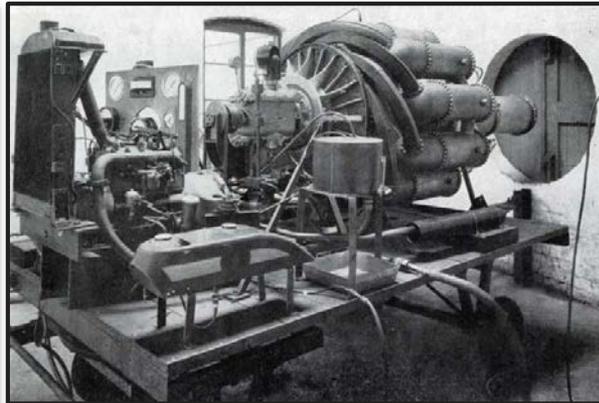
- Innovation in propulsion leads to step changes in transport capability
- Reaction Engines Ltd is focused on achieving a breakthrough in high speed aerospace propulsion - the SABRE class engine – to enable revolutionary launch capability

## Fundamental Breakthroughs In Propulsion



1903

First Flight Piston Engine



1937

First Jet Engine Demonstration



1942

First V2 Liquid  
Rocket Flight



2012

First SABRE Engine pre-cooler  
Demonstration

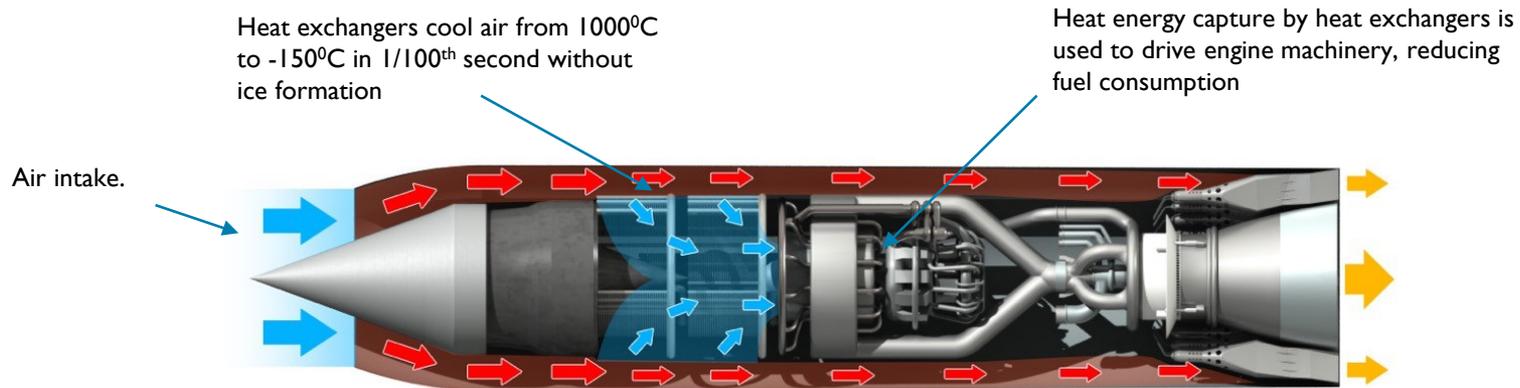
# SABRE - A New Engine Class



- **Synergetic Air-Breathing Rocket Engine** is a **new hypersonic and space access** propulsion solution being developed by REL
- SABRE **air-breathes from Mach 0 to 5+**, then can **transition to rocket mode** for higher speeds and altitude
- SABRE **feasibility confirmed by AFRL and ESA** after extensive assessments
- In the last decade, privately funded **demonstration** of key SABRE technology has **greatly increased credibility**
- Based on this technical success, **UK government and BAE Systems are investing £60m and £20m** respectively towards a SABRE engine core system test
- SABRE and its enabling technologies are **unique to Reaction Engines**

# SABRE Basics

SABRE engines use advanced heat exchangers to double the air breathing speed of jet engine technology and significantly reduce fuel consumption relative to conventional rockets.



## Heat Exchangers in SABRE Engines:

### 1: Cool

Cool the hot incoming air allowing jet propulsion to operate at speeds twice as fast as current technology i.e. above Mach 5

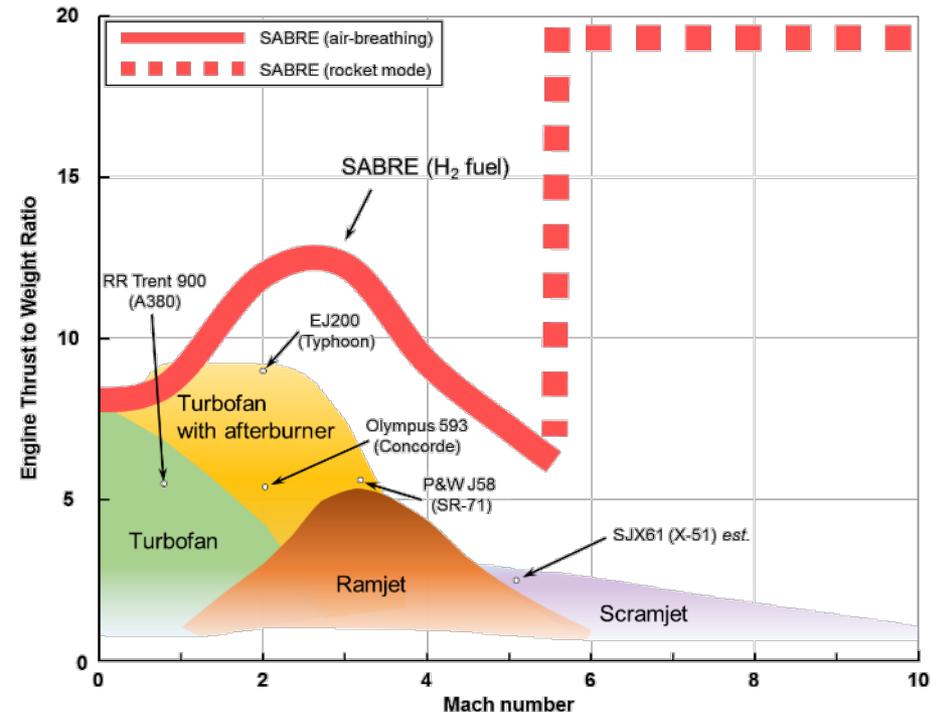
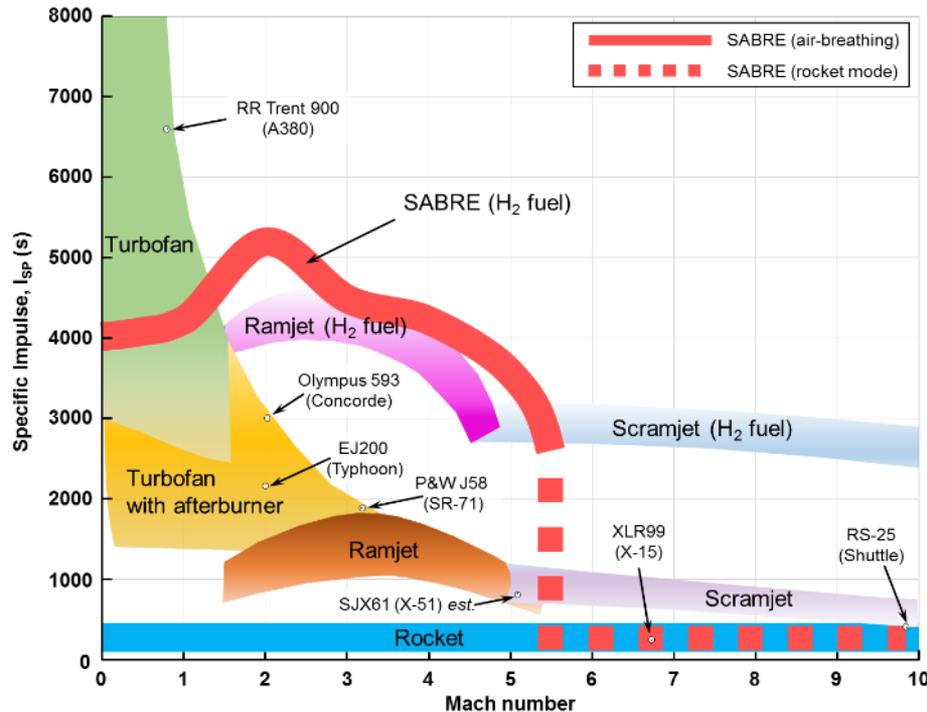
### 2: Regenerate

Re-inject the heat captured at the hot intake back into the engine to drive components, significantly reducing fuel consumption

### 3: Integrate

Allow jet propulsion to be integrated with rocket propulsion creating an engine class capable of high Mach atmospheric and space flight

# SABRE: New Combination of Thrust, Weight and Fuel Consumption



...a Two Stage To Orbit system based on SABRE-class propulsion may be game-changing.

# SABRE System Demonstration

Ground-based demonstration for low cost, rapid technology maturation



## Heat Exchanger

High temp air simulating high speed flight can be produced using existing ground-based facilities

## SABRE Core System

The core system sees a constant inlet temperature and pressure from Mach 0 to 5

Allows core system to be tested on the ground

## Combustion Chambers & Nozzles

Conventional ground-based development and testing

# SABRE Space Access Utility

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- **Responsive, high cadence operation**
- **Low cost, highly reusable system**



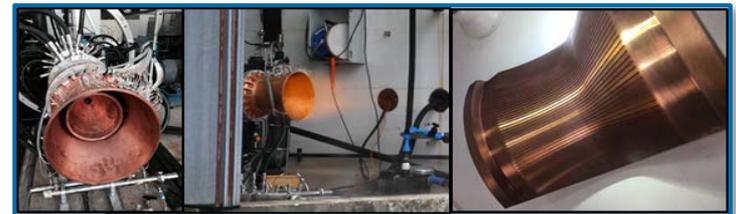
## KEY DIFFERENTIATORS:

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- Air breathing capability will enable **smaller and more capable launch systems** through reduced propellant load and efficient air breathing flight.
- SABRE class applicable in either **Two Stage or Single Stage** architectures.
- System performance enables horizontal takeoff & landing operations which **reduce cost, infrastructure, and operations timelines**.
- **Increased system reusability** achievable for TSTO systems compared to all-rocket systems.

# Summary

- Current space launch limits growth opportunities
- Breakthrough propulsion is a viable path to revolutionary space access capability—SABRE
- SABRE is under development at REL, in partnership with investors, government and industry
- UK is at the forefront of a next generation space launch and high speed propulsion system!



Thank You

