

# Progress on the SKYLON Reusable Spaceplane

7<sup>th</sup> Appleton Space Conference 8 December 2011

**Alan Bond** 

Managing Director





12 tonnes to LEO

10 tonnes to ISS

200m<sup>3</sup> payload bay

4.6m diameter payload

Being revised to D1 Payload 15 tonnes to LEO



#### **Company Structure (April 2011)**

#### Headquarters

Design and Test Facilities

Culham Science Centre



CROSSMAN 🕞 ENGINEERING

Sheet metalwork & fabrication Wantage

**Experimental production**Abingdon



Precision engineering
Newbury

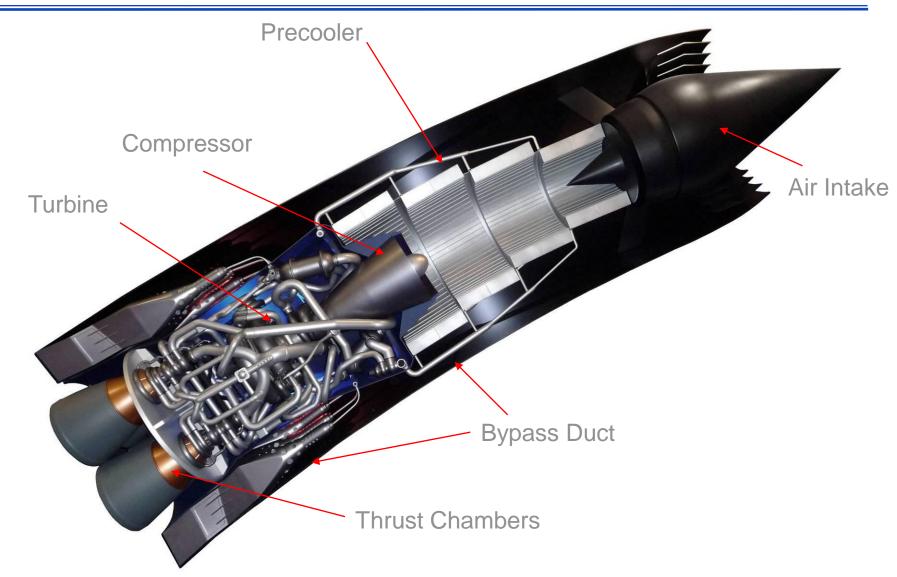


# **Progress on SABRE**



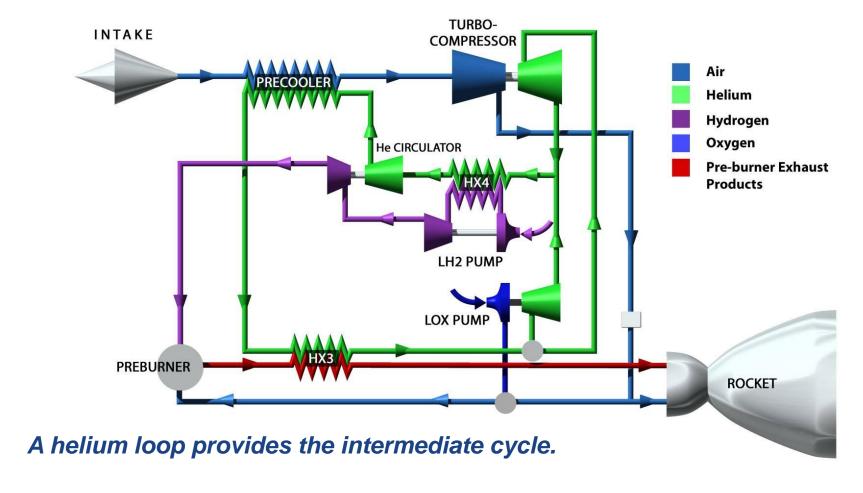


### **SABRE-3 Engine**





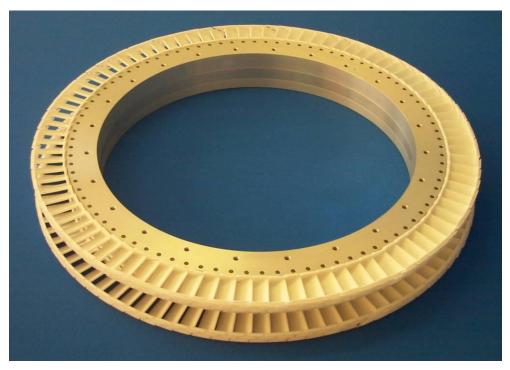
#### The SABRE Engine Cycle



In rocket mode LOX replaces the air fed to the combustion chamber.



### Inlet Plenum & IGV Assembly



Rotors 1 & 3

Rotors 2 & 4

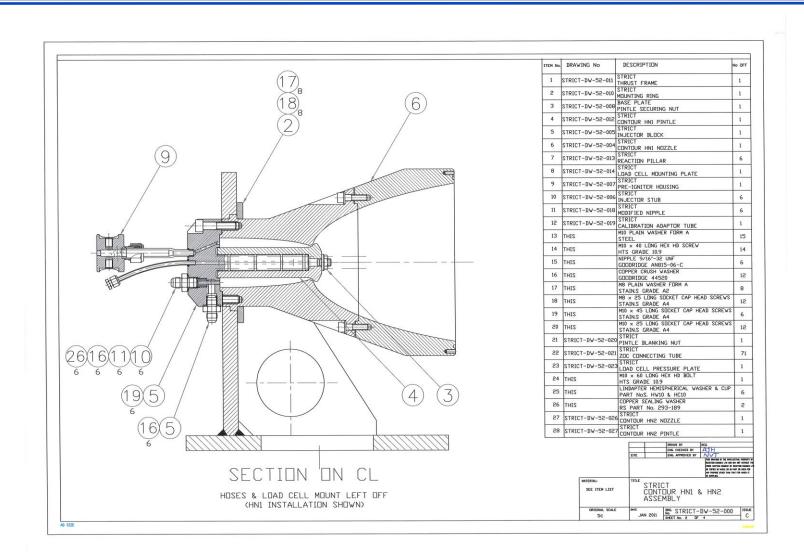


Experimental Contra-rotating Stator-less Turbine Installation





#### **STRICT Thrust Chamber**





#### **E-D Nozzle Test Program (STERN)**

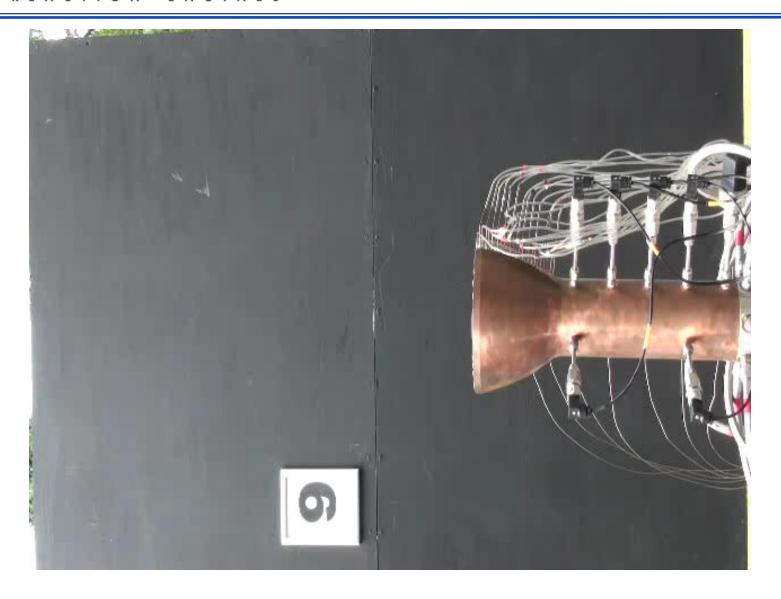
#### (Joint program Uni. of Bristol and Airborne Engineering)







# **STERN Thrust Chamber Firing**





### **Reaction Engines Testing**



J-site at Westcott

Joint programme with Airborne Engineering

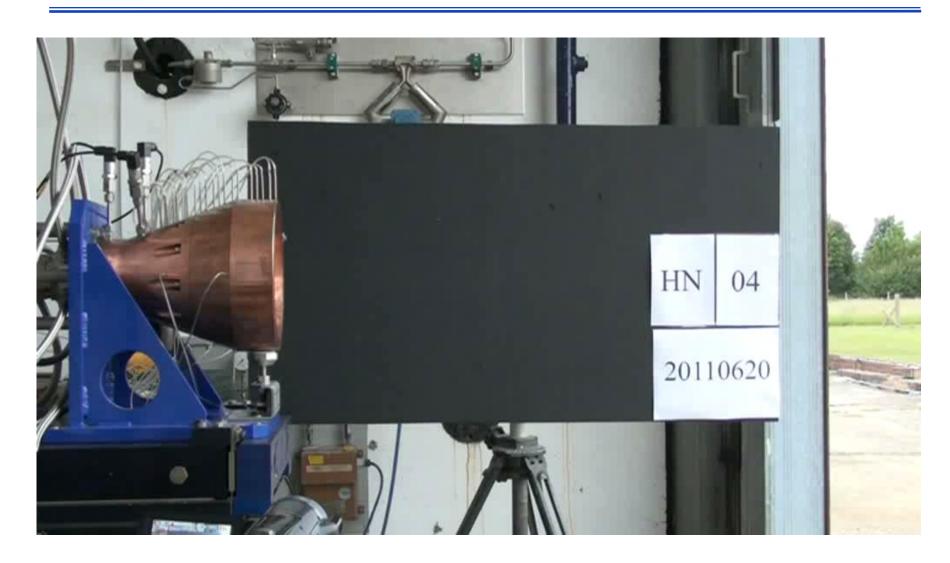
# Thrust stand for Low-NOx and Strict Programmes





# **Strict Engine Test Firing – June 2011**

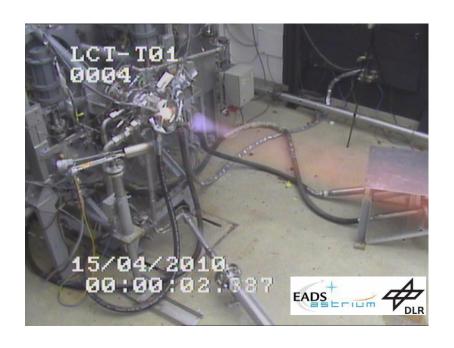
REACTION ENGINES





# Test LCT-T01-4 @ pc=70 bar 8kg/s LOX cooling Test bench P8, Lampoldshausen Germany

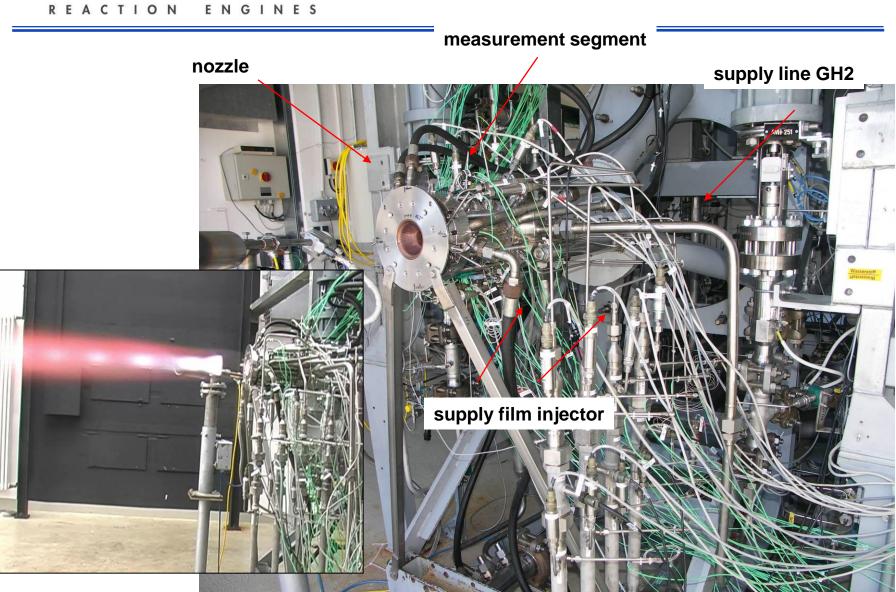
REACTION ENGINES





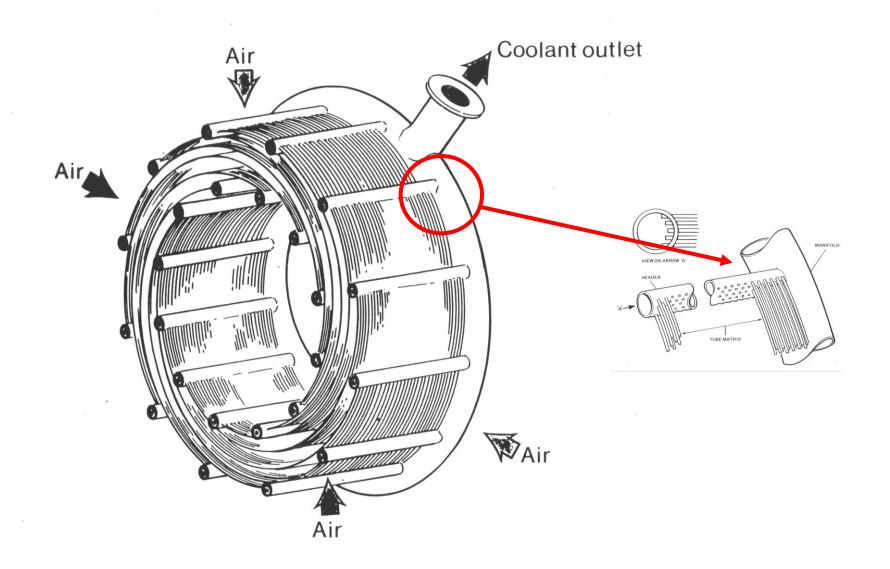


#### **DLR Film Cooling Test Facility at P8 Lampoldshausen**



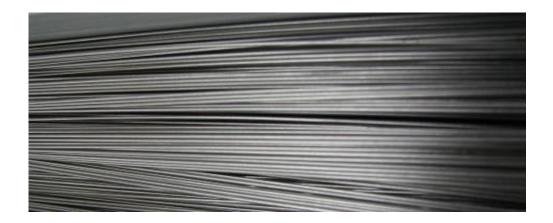


### **Precooler Geometry**

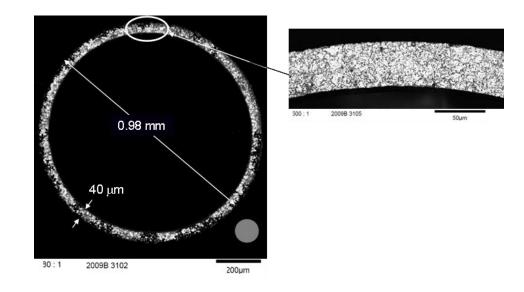




#### **Matrix Production**



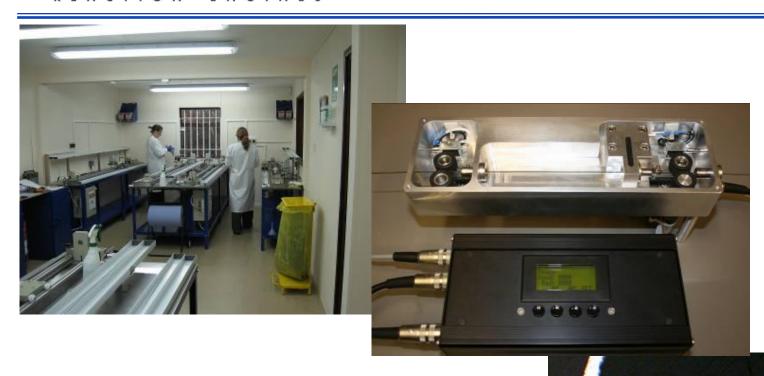
 The prototype pre-cooler will be made from over 16,000 thin-walled Inconel tubes.





# Reaction Engines' Radley Road (Abingdon) Facility

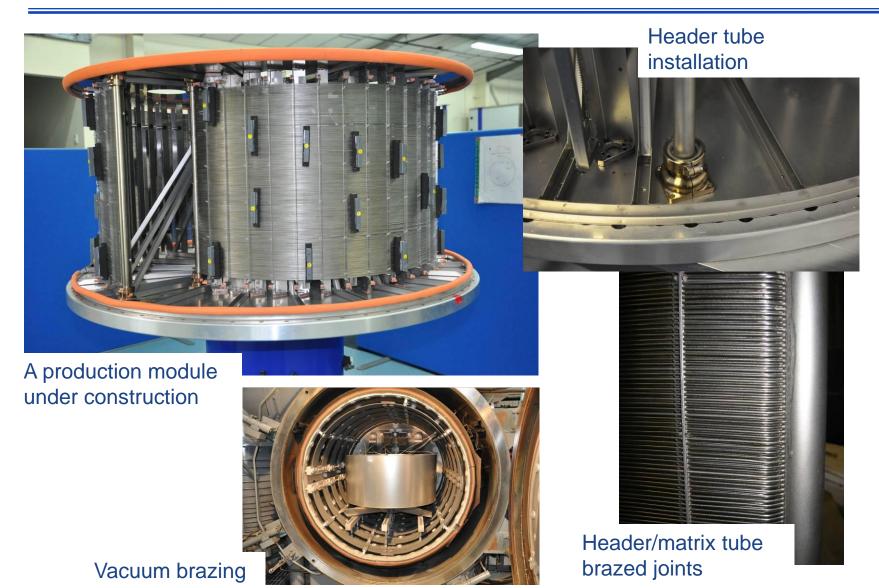
REACTION ENGINES



 All incoming tubes are inspected and processed prior to module assembly.



#### **Pre-Cooler Construction**





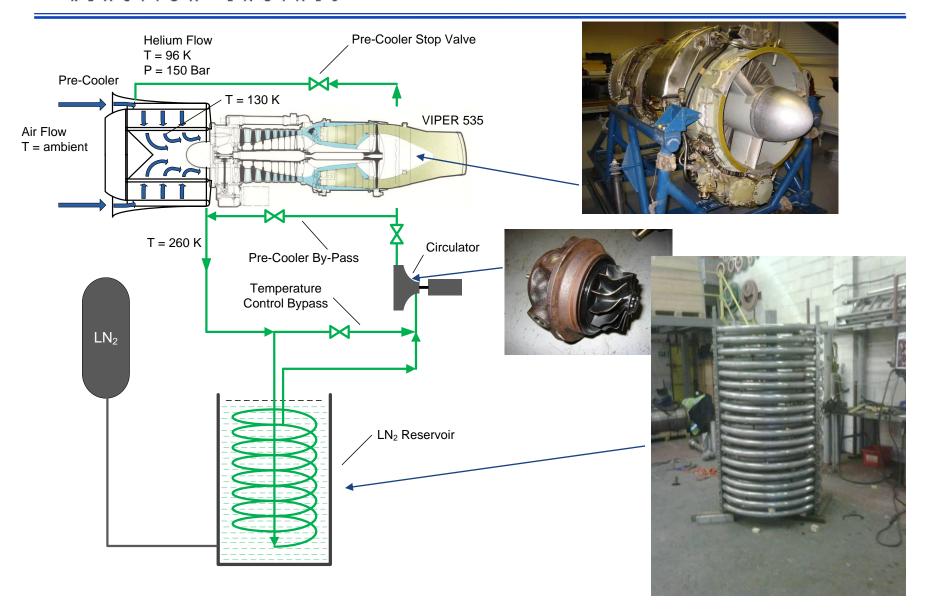
#### **Precooler Modules**





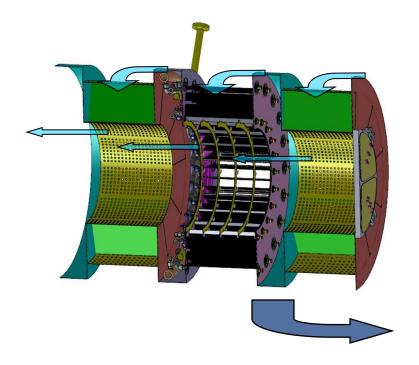
### **Pre-Cooler Testing at Reaction Engines B9**

#### REACTION ENGINES





#### **Pre-Cooler Testing**



 The Pre-Cooler will be tested at REL's B9 test site using a VIPER 522 jet engine.



REL's B9 installation with VIPER and 'dummy' pre-cooler assembly.



# **High Pressure Helium Loop at B9**



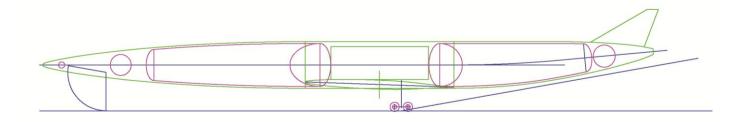


# **Progress on SKYLON**



#### SKYLON D1





D1 requirements are now established and validated.

Configuration revision proceeds: a fully trimmed solution has been found, but it will require further study before it can be finalised.

External contributions to D1 design (expand available skill base):

- Aerodyanmic modelling
- Structure loads analysis
- Payload interface
- Avionics and electrical power

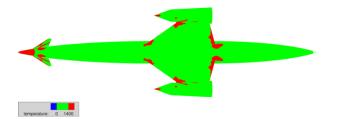


# **SKYLON D1 Airframe Support Studies**

REACTION ENGINES

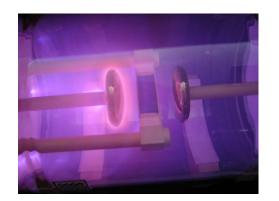
#### **Re-entry Modelling**

with DLR Braunschweig using TAU CFD code



#### **Aeroshell Material**

with Lateral Logic and Pyromeral



### **Titanium Matrix Composite Struts**

with TISICS Ltd (TSB supported Research)



# The Phase 3 Objectives (30 month Programme)

- Raise engine technology to TRL 6 through ground testing.
- Complete the design of the SABRE4 to manufacturing drawings.
- Ensure that the vehicle requirements and SABRE4 engine design are compatible.
- Flight test the nacelle design (desirable).



### **Nacelle Flight Test Vehicle**



 $Length \approx 9m$ 

Span  $\approx 3.5$ m

 $Mass \approx 1000 kg$ 



#### **Phase 3 Programme**

#### Phase 3 Cost Estimate

Total Engine Programme (with NTV) £220m

#### Which is comprised by:-

•	Airframe	requirement studies	£6
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<ul> <li>Preparation for Phase 4 £30</li> </ul>	0
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•	Engine	technology	demonstration	£30m
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•	SABRE4 design	£134m
	or to the industry.	~ 10 1111

• NTV £20m

The engine is the long lead item but the vehicle system design must begin soon in order to meet entry to service in 2021-2022



#### **SKYLON Review**



**UK Space Agency independent review** 

ESA providing technical support

Almost 100 invitees attended two day workshop (Sept 2010)

Part of wider review including on site audit by ESA

#### **REVIEW CONCLUSIONS**

'no impediments or critical items have been identified for either the SKYLON vehicle or the SABRE engine that are a block to further developments'.