

# European Space Agency budget cut

**Columbus  
\$5.3  
billion**

**Space programme  
proceeds despite  
budget cuts in 1992**

**Columbus  
laboratory**

**Hermes  
spaceplane**

Columbus' combined laboratory  
and living quarters provide  
accommodation for 3 people

Columbus is  
12.8m long, 4.4m  
in diameter and  
weighs 14,000kg.  
The laboratory will  
orbit 410km above  
the earth

**Columbus is intended to be Europe's  
contribution to the international  
space station, Freedom**

**Hermes is designed to compete  
with US and Soviet space shuttles**

Hermes carries a crew of 3.  
It is 15.51m long and can carry  
a payload of 3 tonnes

**Hermes  
\$7.6  
billion**

**Cargo bay**

**Living  
quarters**

**Airlock**

Silicon carbide ceramic nose  
and leading edges of wings  
designed to withstand 1900°C

Control surfaces on wingtips  
eliminate need for tailplane

SOURCES: Jane's Spaceflight Directory, Reuters  
VIKI RAMSAY, DUNCAN MIL/Graphic News