

First flight of “flying wing”

An experimental “blended wing” jet – which could lead to quieter, more fuel-efficient, and higher capacity aircraft – has successfully flown for the first time. The design allows the entire body to generate lift and minimise drag while providing more space for passengers or cargo

Engines: Located high on back of aircraft to reduce noise reaching ground and inside cabin

Control surfaces on trailing edge

Blended wing: Wedge-shaped aerofoil body blends fuselage with wing

Structure: Built using advanced composites – like the new Boeing 787 – lighter and stronger than metal construction

Fuel economy: With wingspan slightly larger than Boeing 747, plane would use 20% less fuel cruising at high subsonic speeds

Range: 13,000km

