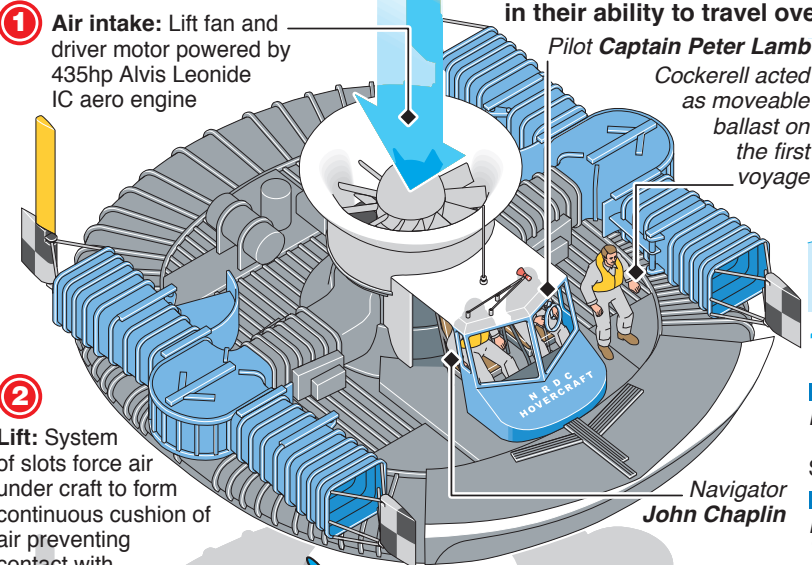


# 50th anniversary of the cross-Channel hovercraft

## Saunders Roe SR.N1

Invented by **Sir Christopher Cockerell**, former radar developer at Marconi, following first experiments in 1954

The first cross-Channel hovercraft run from Calais to Dover took place July 25, 1959, fifty years to the day after **Louis Bleriot** had first flown the Dover Strait by aeroplane. Hovercrafts are unique among all forms of ground transport in their ability to travel over land, ice and water



ENGLAND

Distance: 34km

London

Ramsgate

Dover

Calais

Boulogne

FRANCE

ENGLISH CHANNEL

Later Channel Hoverports

<b>Hover height:</b> SR.N1	<b>0.23m</b>
Hover height with flexible skirt (invented 1961 by <b>Cecil Latimer-Needham</b> )	<b>1.07m</b>
SR.N4	<b>7.5m</b>
<b>Maximum speed:</b> SR.N1	<b>35 knots</b>
Fitted with <b>Rolls Royce</b>	
Viper engine	<b>50 knots</b>
N500 French hovercraft	<b>74 knots</b>

## TIMELINE

**1959:** World's first test hovercraft **SR.N1** crosses Channel in 2 hours 3 minutes

**1968:** World's largest commercial hovercrafts begin service, later models carrying up to 60 cars and 418 passengers across Channel in 35 minutes

**2000:** Hovercraft ceases operation after 32 years due to cost pressures, including Channel tunnel trains and cheap flights

