

Phantom Eye takes to the skies

A high-altitude, unmanned spy plane which can fly non-stop for up to four days is being prepared for its first flight. The aircraft, powered by liquid hydrogen, is a major push for Boeing in the UAV market, said to be worth \$55bn through 2018

PHANTOM EYE DEMONSTRATOR

SPECIFICATIONS

Speed	278km/h
Range	18,520km
Altitude	19,800m
Weight	4,450kg
Endurance	Four days

Wingspan

Phantom Eye **45.7m**
Boeing 747 **68.5m**

Planned larger version to remain aloft for up to 10 days

Engines: Two Ford 2.3 litre, four-cylinder, each capable of generating 150 horsepower

Payload: Up to 204kg

Fuel: Two 2.4m diameter specially insulated pressurised tanks contain cooled **liquid hydrogen**

Propellers: 4.9m diameter, variable pitch

Equipment: Electro-optical and infrared sensors capture images, real-time data and videos

Intelligence data transmitted to ground control station via satellite

Fuselage: Composite and aluminium frames

Hydrogen: Renewable, non-polluting, abundant – generates three times more energy than gasoline

Launch: Demonstrator will take off from trolley and land on skids – reducing cost by saving weight of under-carriage

Sources:
Boeing, NASA

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