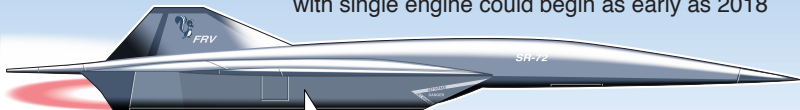


# U.S. developing SR-72 hypersonic aircraft

Lockheed Martin is working on a successor to the U.S. Air Force's long-retired SR-71 spy plane. Dubbed "son of Blackbird", the SR-72 would be capable of reaching Mach 6, or six times the speed of sound

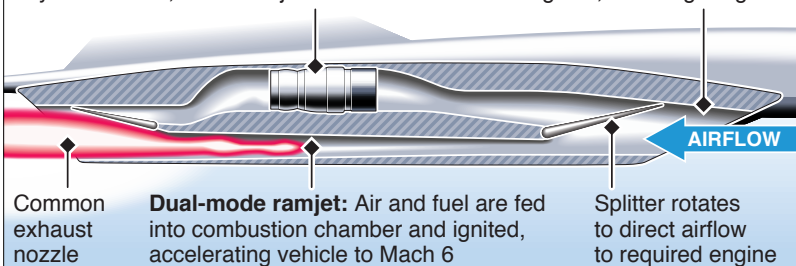
**LOCKHEED MARTIN SR-72:** Construction of scaled demonstrator vehicle with single engine could begin as early as 2018



**COMBINED CYCLE PROPULSION:** Merges turbojet and ramjet engines

**Turbojet:** Provides thrust up to and beyond Mach 3, when ramjet takes over

Common inlet feeds air to both engines, reducing drag



*Lockheed SR-71 Blackbird*

*Lockheed Martin SR-72*

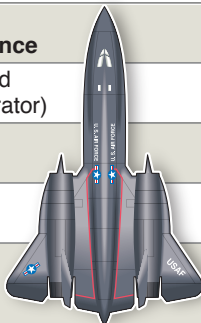
**Role** **Strategic reconnaissance**

**Crew** **Two** (pilot and systems operator)

**Propulsion** **Turbojet** (x2)

**Maximum speed** **Mach 3.3** (4,075km/h)

**History** First flight **1964**  
Retired **1999**



**Strike and reconnaissance**

**Optionally manned**

**Combined cycle** (x2)

**Mach 6** (7,400km/h)

Test flight **2023**  
Operational **2030** (projected)

