

Flight tests for world's largest aircraft

Pathfinder 1, a prototype electric airship designed to provide disaster relief where roads and airports are impassable, as well as zero-carbon passenger transportation, has begun flight tests in Silicon Valley

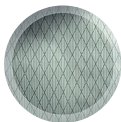


Project backed by **Google** co-founder **Sergey Brin** (above left)

PATHFINDER 1 FEATURES

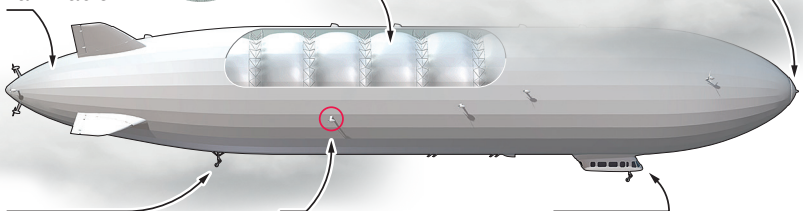
Outer covering:

Laminated
Tedlar –
lightweight
and non-
flammable



Gas cells: 13 ripstop
nylon bags, filled with
around **28,000m³** of
helium, provide
lift and buoyancy

Nose cone: Titanium,
aluminium, kevlar and
carbon fibre safety
mooring – can withstand
130km/h winds



Landing gear:

Zeppelin NT airship
system, customised
for heavier loads

Propulsion: 12 electric
motors rotate from **+180°**
to **-180°** for effective
direction control

Lidar: Sensors
calculate volume of
helium to help pilots
balance airship

124.5 metres (longer than **3 Boeing 737-800s**)

