

Independent Market Study: Commercial Hypersonic Transportation

Executive Summary

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Market Characterization

Task 1: Define the Market

Task 2: Define the Business Case

Task 3: Identify the Barriers

Methodology



Determine the economic viability of commercial hypersonic point-to-point transportation, identifying business models, markets, and regulatory dynamics, and barriers that will affect technology investment and trades

Define the Market for Commercial Hypersonics

- Segments: commercial, private jet, cargo
- Passenger demand for HNWI (\$5M+) and highly compensated execs (\$1M+)
- Over 800 long haul (over 5 hours) city pairs considered, viable routes included
- Demand reaches 2019 (pre-COVID) rates in 2024
- Limited cargo market

Define the Business Case and Operations Requirements

- Compare increased revenue associated with value of time saved to increased cost associated with high-speed aircraft
- Consider manufacturer/ airline dynamics
- Estimate supportable RDT&E

SOW specifies Mach 2 to Mach 7 range

Barrier Analysis

- Airport infrastructure
- Air traffic management
- Certification (U.S.)
- Environmental impacts
- Export control
- Insurance
- International legal and regulatory
- Societal
- Supply chain
- Weather
- Workforce

Sources of Data





Documents 70+ reviewed

Corporate IP

Forecast Model



Market Survey

Individual 150 results

UHNWIs

HNWIs

Subject Matter Experts

Pam Melroy*

- NASA Shuttle commander, USAF test pilot DARPA TTO Deputy Director
- Space Council Users Advisory Group
- Board of Directors, Aerospace Corp

Oscar Garcia

- Advisor, airlines, aircraft operators, gov't
 FAA/AST, Commercial Space
 - Transportation Advisory Committee
- Expert in supersonic and hypersonic economics, certification
- Former airline captain

Jim Free

- Director Glenn Research Center, Deputy AA NASA HEOMD
- 11+ years as NASA executive PM, space systems engineer
- Hypersonics expertise

Stu Witt

- Mojave Air and Space Port Director
- Sought FAA approval for disruptive flight technology
- 42-year veteran of the aerospace industry
- Military pilot

Natasha Heidenrich

- Senior market and competitive intelligence analyst
- Expertise in airport business models

SAIC SMEs



50 Completed

Vehicle Developers

- Aerion
- Boeina
- Boom Technology
- Exosonic
- Hermeus
- Lockheed Martin
- Northrop Grumman
- The Spaceship Company
- **Reaction Engines**
- SpaceX

Engine Manufacturers

- GE
- Momentus
- Reaction Engines
- Rolls-Royce ٠

Federal Agencies

- DoD. DDR&T
- FAA •



Developer Industry Expert Engineering SME

Others

AIAA

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- Apollo Global Management
- Aviation Week
- AXA XL
- Bank of America
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- International Airlines Group
- JSX
- LTA Research •
- Mojave Air and Space Port ٠
- Smithsonian Institution •
- University of Colorado .
- Aerospace management consultant
- ITAR attorney
- Southern Sky

*Involvement ended on November 11, 2020.

Results



- Pax willingness to pay + route viability (revenue > op costs) define demand for each case
- Willingness to pay ↑ w/ speed, rate of increase ↓ above Mach 3
- Drops off significantly for commercial aviation above 1.5x subsonic fare, for general aviation above 2.5x
- Viable routes \$\geq w\$ / speed due to higher operating costs
- No appreciable cargo demand
- Addressable market of 800 city pairs considered



Define the Business Case and Operations Requirements

- Strongest case: Mach 3 aircraft, commercial aviation fare 1.5x subsonic, general aviation 2.5x
 - 200M pax
 - \$244B revenue (25 yrs, NPV 2020)
 - \$24B available RDT&E
- Mach 4+ cases
 - Costs > revenue at lower fares
 - Market driven by price insensitive pax, private jet sales
- Mach 5 cases constrained by few viable routes due to increased cost
- Lower fares result in largest fleet size (300 700) over 25 yrs
- Biz cases highly sensitive to fuel costs

Barrier Analysis

- 28 barriers characterized through analysis, SME input, vehicle developer interviews
- Identified 6 priority barriers based on consequence and impact
 - Type certification in increasingly strict safety and environmental conditions
 - Stability and control across all speed regimes
 - Overflight prohibition
 - Emissions
 - Current avionics performance assumptions (e.g., GNSS receivers)
 - Impact on special materials







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Market Characterization



Market Cases: Demand and Business Case





Study Overview Market Characterization

Task 1: Define the Market

Task 2: Define the Business Case Task 3: Identify the Barriers



Air Transportation Market Segments Mapped to Demand Model Elements

General Aviation

- On-demand commercially-operated flights, including charters, fractional flights for passengers (priced by itinerary) and cargo
- At-will flights of privately-owned aircraft (including individually-owned, corporate-owned)
- Addressable passenger market consists of charters, fractional flights and sales of aircraft purchased by individuals or corporations for their own use. A proportion of those privately-owned aircraft are made available to commercial operators for charters, so model will excise overlap

Demand Model Elements

General Aviation Services

Private Aircraft Sales

General Aviation Cargo

Commercial Aviation

- Scheduled commercial flights for passengers (priced by seat) and cargo
- Addressable passenger market consists of existing passengers flying subsonic business and first class (not upgraded)

Demand Model Elements

Commercial Aviation Passengers

Commercial Cargo



Commercial and GA Passenger Services Demand: Passenger Model Architecture

Premium Passenger Demand per Route and Demographics

- Passenger forecast, by city pair (seats)
- Based on widely-used industry projections, real world
- # 1st, business, private jet passenger (seats)
- By wealth/income category

Value of Time Saved Calculate current fare + value of travel time saved (VTTS)

- Fare per route by class, by business/leisure travel (USD)
- Current fare drawn from regional estimates based on current fares
- Willingness to pay by passenger type, route, type of travel, fare class (USD)

Assume business class level comfort, equivalent level of safety. Sensitivity to be tested with additional data **Ticket Price Comparison** If \$\$HIGH SPEED < FARE +VTTS, then purchase high-speed ticket

- Time saved per route (at Mach x) (Hrs.)
- Ticket price (from business case) (USD)

Traffic Analysis

Cost per route estimated in business model, informs route selection based on profitability in demand model

Passenger demand (#,\$) Viable routes (#,\$)



2050 Passenger and Revenue Demand for Commercial and General Aviation Services



- Passenger demand (for viable routes) is greatest for Case 1 (Mach 2)
- Revenue greatest for Case 2 (Mach 3); while there are slightly fewer viable routes for Case 2, they generate higher average revenue per route
- → At 2.5x fares lose demand for lowest demographic business and leisure travelers, the largest demographic group
- Across addressable market of 800 city pairs, max # viable city pairs = 327 (Case 1 commercial), 382 (Case 2 general)



Commercial and General Aviation Services Demand at 1.5x Fare, All Cases



Total Passenger Trips per Year on Viable Routes at 1.5x Subsonic Fare

Total Revenue per Year on Viable Routes at 1.5x Subsonic Fare



- Case 1 yields most pax trips; ~15% of 2050 addressable market (i.e., premium pax on long-haul routes)
- Case 2 yields highest revenue; ~25% of 2050 addressable market
- Context, current subsonic industry
 - 2019 total airline industry revenue \$870B; representing 4B passengers
 - 15% of industry revenue is from premium pax on long haul routes, ~\$130B



Commercial Services Routes for Case 2: Mach 3 with 4,500 mi Range

- Best case: Case 2 (Mach 3) at 1.5x base fare
- 249 viable city pairs in 2050





Top 25 City Pairs (2050)

London/Dubai New York/London Middle East China San Francisco/Hong Kong London/Mumbai New York/Shanghai London/Doha London/Delhi Paris/Dubai Los Angeles/London Anchorage/Hong Kong New York/Beijing Dubai/Beijing Los Angeles/Hong Kong Manchester/Dubai New York/Paris Los Angeles/Shanghai New York/Hong Kong London/Abu Dhabi New York/Frankfurt Frankfurt/Delhi Birmingham/Dubai New York/Tel Aviv Chicago/London

New York/Delhi



Hypersonic Cargo Market

- ✓ Very few commercial markets for urgent cargo delivery are sensitive to changes of hours
 - Organ transplants
 - Urgent documents
- Perishable luxury goods
- Emergency repair parts
- Disaster aid
- Little new commercial demand expected for high-speed cargo transport; small marginal gains
 - Currently, air freight is dwarfed by maritime freight
 - Of the 108 trillion tonne-km of freight transported in 2015, 70% went by sea and less than 0.25% by air
 - 50% of air freight travels aboard passenger aircraft
 - Currently, next-day shipping is available between every inhabited continent for small delivery fees
 - Hypersonic cargo transportation would continue to face "last-mile" challenges
- ✓ A military hypersonic cargo market may emerge, separate from commercial demand
 - The U.S. Transportation Command signed a non-funded cooperative research and development agreement with SpaceX and XArc to study the use of space launch vehicles to transport supplies in emergencies
 - U.S. Army and Air Force officials have previously entered discussions with SpaceX regarding the possibility of
 using the Starship for point-to-point transportation around Earth and to deliver intercontinentally

Some niche cargo revenue likely; not a driver of business case



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Special Topic: Survey of High-Net-Worth Individuals

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Available RDT&E

NPV (2020)

Business Case Model Architecture

on profitability in demand model



marginal production cost) = funds available for

RDT&E (developmental, vehicle,

manufacturing)

Overview of Operating Cost Inputs

- Operating costs estimated relative to subsonic
 - Multipliers calculated and applied per seat-mile
 - Applied to fuel and non-fuel costs
 - Informed by insight from SMEs/aircraft developers, recent conceptual design studies, historical data comparing Concorde with Boeing 747
- Operating costs considered
 - <u>Fuel</u> is largest single operating cost for airlines with significant increases anticipated for high-speed aircraft
 - <u>Non-fuel</u> costs being escalated: maintenance, insurance, and ground (aircraft handling, airport fees, and passenger/cargo processing)
 - <u>Non-fuel</u> costs held constant: air crew, and system (transport related, G&A, pax service, marketing)

	Propulsion	Speed	Fuel Multiplier	Non-Fuel CA	Non-Fuel GA
CASE 1	Turbine	Mach 2.0	4.5x	1.5x	1.9x
CASE 2	Modified Turbine	Mach 3.0	5.5x	1.7x	2.3x
CASE 3	Turboramjet	Mach 4.0	7x	1.9x	2.7x
CASE 4	Ramjet	Mach 5.0	10x	2.1x	3.2x
CASE 5	Scramjet	Mach 5.0	11x	2.5x	3.7x



Commercial Aviation Costs (2020)





Sources:

Kharina, Anastasia, et al. "Environmental Performance of Emerging Supersonic Transport Aircraft." The International Council on Clean Transportation, July 2018 Pincini, Margherita. "Analysis of Cost Drivers Impact on Direct Operating Costs Estimation of a Hypersonic Point-to-Point Vehicle." Polytechnic University of Turin, March 2018



Overview of Manufacturing Cost Inputs

- Marginal manufacturing cost, excluding RDT&E, profit
 - RDT&E excluded to calculate available RDT&E as model output
 - Aircraft sale prices are typically quoted including RDT&E, profit
 - Marginal cost typically ~75% of aircraft sale price [AIAA]
- Includes cost of production, tooling for building single aircraft
- Estimated as an input value denominated in \$, considered in business case model to determine available RDT&E
- Assumed to increase with speed regime, vehicle complexity
 - Powerplant cost driven by required enhancements such as pre-cooling technology, variable inlets, augmented thrust, more robust components, etc.
 - Airframe cost driven by use of titanium, Inconel, and other expensive materials, combined with optimized structures
 - Wide range of expert views regarding costs for higher Mach cases

	Queed		Model Input: Unit Cost			
	Speed	Propulsion	10 Pax	50 Pax		
CASE 1	Mach 2.0	Turbine	\$150M	\$200M		
CASE 2	Mach 3.0	Modified Turbine	\$200M	\$300M		
CASE 3	Mach 4.0	Turboramjet	\$250M	\$400M		
CASE 4	Mach 5.0	Ramjet	\$400M	\$500M		
CASE 5	Mach 5.0	Scramjet	\$450M	\$500M		



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Analysis of Market-Supported Available RDT&E: Total





Analysis of Market-Supported Available RDT&E: Best Case

Best case: Mach 3 aircraft, 4,500 mi range, commercial and general aviation



 Cost multipliers applied to approx. total cost per available premiumseat-mile for subsonic operator

• 25% profit

Cost Breakdowr	ו (\$B, CA	20 years,	GA 25 ye	ears)	
	CA	% total	GA	% total	
Fuel	\$385	51%	\$126	44%	
Maintenance	\$112	15%	\$84	30%	
Crew	\$34	4%	\$20	7%	
Insurance	\$28	4%	\$9	3%	
Ground	\$106	14%	\$35	12%	
System	\$92 12%		\$9	3%	
Cost / available premium-seat-mile	2.32				
Avg Total Operating Cost, \$K / hour / aircraft GA					
BB G7500 B737r	max B	5777 C	Concorde	Optimized	

Sensitivity Analysis Based on Optimized Case

ROM Change in RDT&E Available

Total	GA	CA	(~1	Sensitivity Analysis 0% change in magnitu	CA	GA	Total	
+\$9B	+\$3B	+\$6B	6%	Discount rate	8%	-\$4B	-\$2B	-\$6B
+\$2B	+\$1B	+\$1B	-\$25M	Aircraft unit cost	+\$25M	-\$1B	-\$1B	-\$2B
+\$6B	+\$2B	+\$3B	-0.5x	Fuel multiplier	+0.5x	-\$3B	-\$2B	-\$5B
+\$3B	+\$2B	+\$1B	-0.4x	Maintenance multiplier	+0.4x	-\$1B	-\$1B	-\$3B
+\$2B	+\$1B	\$1B	-0.2x	Ground multiplier	+0.2x	-\$1B	-\$1B	-\$2B
+\$5B	+\$1B	+\$4B	-0.2x	Non-fuel multiplier	+0.2x	-\$3B	-\$1B	-\$4B

ROM Change in RDT&E Available

Totals may reflect rounding

- Results most sensitive to discount rate, due to long time periods assessed. Highest for Cases 4 and 5
- Other than discount rate, available RDT&E is most sensitive to fuel across cases, followed by maintenance
- Sensitivity to marginal manufacturing cost varies by fleet required, highest for low Mach regimes



	Optimized Case Inputs						
	СА	GA					
_	1.5x fare	2.5x fare					
Pax Capacity	50	10					
Discount Rate	7%	7%					
Aircraft Unit Cost	\$300M	\$200M					
Fuel Multiplier	5.5x	5.5x					
Maintenance Multiplier	4x	4x					
Ground Multiplier	2x	2x					
Non-Fuel Multiplier	1.8x	2.3x					



Practical Business Case Considerations

- Future cost and performance
 - SME/developer uncertainty around (operating, manufacturing) costs at higher Mach regimes
 - High-speed aircraft assumed to achieve annual flight hours comparable to subsonic aircraft; performance variations could require
 more aircraft
- Alignment of fleet size with manufacturer incentives
 - Accepted subsonic industry norm is 500+ aircraft to achieve manufacturing viability
 - At least one high-speed aircraft developer anticipates viability at ~100 units
- ✓ Whether available RDT&E is adequate
 - Media, anecdotal reports of high-speed aircraft developers (Mach 2) predicting < \$10B; unvalidated estimates
 - RDT&E cost for advanced subsonic aircraft, requiring less innovation than high-speed aircraft, have reportedly exceeded \$10B (Airbus A350 and A380), up to \$30+B (Boeing 787)

	Year Entered Service	RDT&E (\$B 2020)	Orders (as of 2020)
Boeing 777	1995	\$9	2,012
Boeing 787	2011	\$36	1,507
Airbus A350	2015	\$17	930
Airbus A380	2007	\$18	251
Concorde	1976	\$15 – 22	70

Takeaways

- Available RDT&E >\$0 for most cases, max \$24B (2020 \$)
 - Available RDT&E lower for higher Mach cases
 - Fewer viable routes as operating and aircraft costs increase
- Acquisition budget (e.g., revenue [operating cost + profit]) shrinks at higher Mach speeds due to increased operating costs
- ✓ Required fleet size ranges from ~150 to 600+ across cases
 - 50-pax commercial aircraft 100 300 at 1.5x fare, <50 at higher fares
 - 10-pax general aviation aircraft (other than private jet sales) 0 150
 - 10-pax private jet sales estimated at 5/yr across cases, total 150
 - Manufacturers typically seek production volume of several hundred, potentially as high as 500 1,000 for a single aircraft
- Best case: Mach 3 vehicle, \$24B available RDT&E 1.5x fare commercial, 2.5x general
 - 302 viable routes for commercial aviation, 382 for general
 - Fleet size: 252 commercial, 299 general (including private jets)
 - Aircraft marginal manufacturing cost (excluding RDT&E) \$300M for commercial, \$200M for general
 - Available RDT&E \$24B (\$15B commercial, \$9B general)







Market Characterization

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Methodology



Catalog real and perceived <u>non-technical</u> barriers, conduct a preliminary assessment of ways to address those barriers, and forecast the likely consequences of different approaches

Identify and Catalog Barriers

- Reviewed articles, papers, studies, and reports
- Interviews with industry professionals
- Reviews with Bryce
 and SAIC SMEs



Characterize Consequences

- Identify potential consequences of barriers
- Categorize consequences
- Estimate magnitude of consequences
- Identify relevance by vehicle configuration and fuel type
- Quantify consequences

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Identify Mitigations and Impacts

- Map interdependencies
 among barriers
- Identify actions to mitigate barriers
- Map mitigations to barriers
- Use categorization to elicit further actions from interviews
- Categorize mitigations by type and actor



Assess and Prioritize

- Assess impact of mitigations
- Model mitigated barrier to determine impact on demand and business case
- Rank mitigations based on efficacy and cost

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Identify and Catalog Non-Technical Barriers

Number of Non-Technical Barriers by Group											
UNI (I	+	UNI II	(III)	II	\$	(IP)		Et.	-	II	
Airport Infrastructure	ATM	Certification	Environmental Impacts	Export Control	Insurance	International/ Regulatory	Societal	Supply Chain	Weather	Workforce	
	Barrier Category					Barrier Des	cription				
			1. Required runway	y lengths to sup	port SST and HST	likely to limit airport	operation plannin	g			
			2. Existing terminal	l layouts, vehicle	e clearances (espe	ecially length), and ot	her facilities may	be incompatible w	ith SST and HST	aircraft designs	
			3. Special mainten	ance and suppo	rt personnel requi	rements (especially p	propulsion and ma	aterials)			
	Airport Infrastructure		4. Potential need for non-destructive inspection and other quality control and safety processes may slow turn around or increase costs								
			5. Need for post-flight cool down aircraft holding areas for some SST and all HST may increase flight time, slow turn around, increase costs, and increase fleet size								
			6. Need for specialized storage, transport, and handling of cryogenics (liquid hydrogen) safely may increase costs								
Air Traffic Management		7. High-speed aircraft exiting and reentering terminal air traffic systems as well as traffic lane management may create handoff challenges, and potentially safety issues									
			8. Type certification during time when safety standards and environmental compliance trends are tightening								
			9. Stability and control challenges to include inadequate certification regulations, across the operational flight envelope may increase difficulty to certify as safe, increase test program duration, and/or require more highly skilled pilots								
			10. Extended operations (ETOPS) for twin-engine aircraft, polar operations								
	Certification (U	.S.)	11. Emergency descent and landing requirements under FAR Part 25								
		- ,	12. Current avionic Minimum Operational Performance Standards (MOPS) will require reevaluation to determine if assumptions and algorithms are still valid for SST and HST operations (e.g., TCAS/ACAS traffic alerting, frequency shift due to Doppler effect, environmental testing (temperature and vibration), etc.								
			13. Prohibition of s	upersonic flight	over the continent	tal U.S. and certain a	reas outside the l	J.S. may prevent o	operations		
			14. Potential shorta	age or schedule	availability of grou	und testing facilities (e.g., wind tunnels)			

Identify and Catalog Non-Technical Barriers

Barri	er Category	Barrier Description
\bigcirc	Environmentel	15. Sonic boom and takeoff and landing noise may make it difficult for SST and HST aircraft to meet current Stage 4/5 international noise certification standards
	Impacts	16. Emissions (CO ₂ , NO _x , UHC, and particulates) may prevent chemical emission compliance
\sim		17. Need for special handling of certain hazardous materials may increase costs
O	Export Control	18. ITAR restrictions may prevent or hinder operations at non-U.S. facilities, especially in terms of maintenance, software and cyber security, and servicing
		19. GNSS operations above 600 m/s (Mach 1.8) restricted by U.S. Munitions List (22 CFR Part 121 Category XII (d)(2))
(3)	Insurance	20. Non-existing or unclear insurance approach for SST and HST
	International Legal and Regulatory	21. Length of time to develop and institute regulations will take several years
99		22. Coordination with international partners to ensure integrated regulatory approach (e.g., lack of International agreement for flight operations above 60,000 feet may impede safe operations)
	Societal	23. Increased emissions may create resistance to high-speed aircraft in light of climate change
W	Societai	24. Virtual communication technologies replacing certain travel may reduce demand for high-speed flight
	Supply Chain	25. Potential shortfalls in producing SST and HST aircraft and components in quantity; higher costs for lower volume
8	Weather	26. Weather can impact special materials needed at greater than Mach 4 cruise such as tiles, potentially degrading performance; de-icing systems and/ or ground support
	Warkforce	27. Potential shortage of pilots with sufficient experience yet not about to retire
		28. Potential shortage of engineers and skilled manufacturers to design, build, and maintain SST and HST aircraft and components, also regulators



Impact of Mitigations for Each Barrier

NASA proposed mitigations were determined to fall within 7 common categories. The potential impact of these proposed mitigations and relative level of effort to implement were assessed and mapped to barriers













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Prioritize Barriers Based on Consequence of Barrier and Impact of Mitigation





High Consequence Barriers with Significant Mitigation Impact

- Barrier 8. Type certification during time when safety standards and environmental compliance trends are tightening
- Barrier 9. Aircraft designed to fly at high Mach regimes across all weather conditions may be less stable at lower speeds and be more difficult to certify as safe, increase test program duration, and/or require more highly skilled pilots
- Barrier 13. Prohibition of supersonic flight over the continental U.S. and certain areas outside the U.S. may prevent operations
- **Barrier 16.** Emissions (CO_2 , NO_x , UHC, and particulates) may prevent chemical emission compliance
- → Barrier 19. 600 m/s (Mach 1.8) velocity limit on GNSS receivers (22 CFR Part 121 U.S. Munitions List)
- Barrier 26. Weather can impact special materials needed at greater than Mach 4 cruise such as tiles, potentially degrading performance; de-icing systems and/or ground support



Detailed consequences and mitigations for all barriers are incorporated in Appendix to this briefing



Priority Actions to Mitigate Barriers

✓ NASA

- Facilitate working groups with FAA, Department of State, Department of Defense, airport authorities, and industry as appropriate to address certification, regulatory, and environmental barriers
- Provide technical expertise and modeling/simulation to FAA and industry relating to critical technologies (e.g. materials, fuels) across a variety of environmental conditions to help reduce certification delays
- Work closely with developers to provide technical expertise in RDT&E of cleaner propulsion systems and fuels
- Continue to pursue sonic boom reduction technologies and social science experiments to determine the acceptable level of takeoff noise and sonic boom
- Work with industry to leverage government programs to develop innovative alternative capabilities, technologies, and processes to address cleaner propulsion, navigation receivers, and special materials
- Industry Establish early coordination with Department of State Department's Directorate of Defense Trade Controls (DDTC) and Department of Commerce to determine if GNSS receivers are an export restricted technology

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