

103^D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2522

To authorize appropriations for the design and construction of a hypersonic research airplane as part of the National Aerospace Plane Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 24, 1993

Mr. BROWN of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To authorize appropriations for the design and construction of a hypersonic research airplane as part of the National Aerospace Plane Program, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Hypersonic Research
5 Airplane Authorization Act of 1993”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The timely development in the United
9 States of a single-stage-to-orbit, air-breathing aero-

1 space plane is expected to result in a major reduc-
2 tion of the cost of payload delivery into space, and
3 could therefore provide the United States aerospace
4 industry with a major competitive boost in inter-
5 national markets in the twenty-first century.

6 (2) There are significant strategic advantages
7 associated with having access to a hypersonic aero-
8 space plane.

9 (3) The recently restructured National Aero-
10 space Plane Program, under which the decision to
11 design and construct an X-30 aircraft has been in-
12 definitely deferred, has lost sight of the initial goal
13 of the Program, which was the timely development
14 of a single-stage-to-orbit hypersonic research air-
15 plane with an air-breathing engine and the capability
16 to take off and land from a runway.

17 (4) To provide the proper focus for the Na-
18 tional Aerospace Plane Program and to obtain suffi-
19 cient data for the timely development of a single-
20 stage-to-orbit hypersonic aircraft, the Program must
21 include the development, in the near future, of a
22 hypersonic research airplane which will push the lim-
23 its of the flight envelope using existing technology.

24 (5) The timely deployment of a hypersonic re-
25 search airplane will decrease the overall technical

1 uncertainty, size, and cost of eventually building a
2 single-stage-to-orbit airplane.

3 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

4 For the purposes of this Act:

5 (1) The term “National Aerospace Plane”
6 means an airplane which—

7 (A) utilizes single-stage-to-orbit technology;

8 (B) relies on air-breathing propulsion to
9 achieve orbital speeds;

10 (C) utilizes technology with the potential to
11 reduce substantially the cost of delivery of pay-
12 loads to orbit; and

13 (D) can take off and land on a runway.

14 (2) The term “hypersonic research airplane”
15 means an airplane which—

16 (A) utilizes air-breathing propulsion and
17 carries no payload except for a pilot and nec-
18 essary instrumentation;

19 (B) is a precursor of the National Aero-
20 space Plane and is instrumented to collect
21 hypersonic aerodynamic and combustion data in
22 the speed regime beyond Mach 8; and

23 (C) extends flight envelope boundaries by
24 flying at speeds that push the limits of tech-

1 nology developed as of the date of the enact-
2 ment of this Act.

3 (3) The term “single-stage-to-orbit” means a
4 technology which enables an aircraft to fly into orbit
5 from a runway without expendable booster rockets.

6 (4) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary
7 of Defense.

8 (5) The term “Administrator” means the Ad-
9 ministrator of the National Aeronautics and Space
10 Administration.

11 (6) The term “development” means design, con-
12 struction, and initial testing.

13 **SEC. 4. DEVELOPMENT OF A HYPERSONIC RESEARCH AIR-**
14 **PLANE.**

15 (a) SUBMISSION OF PLAN.—Within 180 days after
16 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary and
17 the Administrator shall jointly submit to the Congress a
18 plan for the National Aerospace Plane Program. In devel-
19 oping the plan, the Secretary and the Administrator shall
20 consider existing independent proposals which meet the
21 purposes of the plan. The plan shall—

22 (1) contain specific plans for the development of
23 a hypersonic research airplane that costs not more
24 than \$5,000,000,000, and the first flight of which is

1 within 5 years after the date of the enactment of
2 this Act; and

3 (2) have the objective of achieving single-stage-
4 to-orbit with the airplane referred to in paragraph
5 (1) or with a research aircraft that is the follow-on
6 to such an airplane.

7 (b) PARTICIPATION BY OTHER ENTITIES.—The Sec-
8 retary and the Administrator may enter into arrange-
9 ments with Federal agencies, States, universities, non-
10 profit entities, industry, international sources, or other
11 persons, or with consortia thereof, for participation in the
12 research, development, design, construction, and operation
13 of the hypersonic research airplane referred to in sub-
14 section (a)(1) and the National Aerospace Plane, except
15 that any such arrangement may not jeopardize the strate-
16 gic advantage to the United States to be gained from the
17 National Aerospace Plane Program.

18 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
19 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary and
20 the Administrator a total of \$5,000,000,000 for fiscal
21 years 1995 through 2000 to carry out the plan referred
22 to in subsection (a). No funds appropriated pursuant to
23 this subsection may be obligated until 60 days after the
24 submission of the plan under subsection (a)(1).