

Re: Major Spiral "50/50" find

Source: <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.space.history/2005-04/msg00326.html>

- *From:* henry@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx (Henry Spencer)
 - *Date:* Fri, 8 Apr 2005 04:58:34 GMT
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In article <1154k1ubovlc2aa@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>, Pat Flannery <flanner@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:
>The manned booster flies at Mach six under the power of four liquid
>hydrogen jets that use some sort of odd power cycle I've never heard of:
> "... The engines' peculiarity consisted in the use of hydrogen vapours
>to gear the turbine that rotated the turbojet compressor. Hydrogen
>evaporator was placed at the compressor inlet..."

Not very different from what was done for Suntan -- the long-classified abortive LH2 spyplane that came between the U-2 and the Blackbird at the Skunk Works. It wasn't flying at such high speed, so it put the heat exchanger in the exhaust rather than the intake, but otherwise it was the same idea -- essentially an expander-cycle jet engine.

Various bits and pieces of technology from the canceled jet engine for Suntan showed up a bit later in the RL10 rocket engine.

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"Think outside the box -- the box isn't our friend." | Henry Spencer
-- George Herbert | henry@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

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- *References:*
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◇ *From:* Pat Flannery
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