

Re: Skylon SSTO

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.space.policy/2007-02/msg00002.html>

- *From:* Pat Flannery <flanner@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 31 Jan 2007 17:21:42 -0600
-

Fred J. McCall wrote:

Isn't that pretty much true of any aircraft? An airframe failure will kill you. It doesn't matter how fast or slow you're going. It's that fall with bits coming off that gets you...

I flew on a Soviet Il-62 with a screw missing from its top wing access panel and a leaking emergency escape hatch (that I was sitting right next to- frost covering, hissing noise, and all.) At those Mach numbers and as lightly built as this aircraft is going to have to be to work, if something goes even slightly wrong that causes it to diverge from its intended flightpath it's going to come apart almost instantly. It's got all the structural toughness of the Space Shuttle or the Hindenburg.

Pat

.