

IAF SPACE TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS AND INNOVATIONS SYMPOSIUM (D2)
Future Space Transportation Systems (4)

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HYPERSONIC CAPABILITIES AND RESEARCH ACTIVITY IN THE UK & EUROPE - A REVIEW

Abstract

Recent years have seen increased interest in hypersonic vehicles across a number of roles and uses especially on the international stage. These options range from using waveriders for point to point transportation and the delivery of cargo to the potential for planetary entry on other solar system bodies. In this paper, the UK European capability for the study, research and testing of hypersonic vehicles is examined and cross-reference with legacy projects and past test campaigns to examine the current UK European capabilities in this field across the academic, industrial and defence sectors. The paper identifies current strengths, weaknesses and areas for improvement to provide a baseline for any future increase in activity to meet the need for such vehicles.