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**Categories** Aerospace, Air Transportation, Infrastructure, Travel

## Overview

Hermeus is an aerospace and defense technology company committed to radically accelerating air travel by developing hypersonic aircraft. Founded in 2018, the company aims to create hypersonic aircraft quickly and cost-effectively through a hardware-rich, iterative approach combined with modern computing and autonomy. [1]

The company successfully validated this approach through the design, build, and test of their first combined turbojet-ramjet engine, which is now being scaled through their first flight vehicle program, Quarterhorse. [1] Founded by AJ Piplica (CEO), Glenn Case (Chief Technologist), Skyler Shuford (COO), Mike Smayda (PhD), Hermeus focuses not only on commercial hypersonic flight but also on uncrewed hypersonic aircraft like Darkhorse to provide unique capabilities for defense purposes. [1]

Hermeus recently achieved several milestones, including groundbreaking on a hypersonic engine and flight test facility, as well as the completion of initial testing for their Quarterhorse MK 0 vehicle. They have also signed a multiyear contract with the Defense Innovation Unit (DIU) and secured \$100 million in Series B funding led by Sam Altman. [0]

[0]<https://www.hermeus.com>

[1]<https://www.hermeus.com/about>

## About Products and Technologies

Hermeus is developing Chimera, the world's first commercially developed turbine-based combined cycle engine. Chimera operates in turbojet mode at low speeds similar to conventional jet aircraft and transitions to ramjet mode at higher speeds, removing the need for a clean-sheet turbine development and saving billions in development costs. [2]

Their flagship hypersonic flight program, Quarterhorse, aims to validate and scale the combined turbojet-ramjet engine technology through rigorous testing. [0][1][2]

Darkhorse, an uncrewed hypersonic aircraft currently in development, is designed to deliver unique asymmetric capabilities to warfighters. [1]

[0]<https://www.hermeus.com>

[1]<https://www.hermeus.com/about>

[2]<https://www.hermeus.com/products>

## Main Product Names

Chimera: The world's first commercially developed turbine-based combined cycle engine, essential for operational hypersonic flight. [1][2]

Quarterhorse: Hermeus' first hypersonic flight vehicle program aimed at validating engine technology. [0][1]

Darkhorse: An uncrewed hypersonic aircraft designed for defense purposes. [1]

[0]<https://www.hermeus.com>

[1]<https://www.hermeus.com/about>

[2]<https://www.hermeus.com/products>

## Leadership team

**Name:** AJ Piplica

**Position:** Cofounder, CEO

**About:** Co-founder and CEO of Hermeus, leading the company to several key milestones in hypersonic flight technology.

**Name:** Glenn Case

**Position:** Cofounder, Chief Technologist

**About:** Co-founder and Chief Technologist, playing a crucial role in the company's technology development.

**Name:** Skyler Shuford

**Position:** Cofounder, COO

**About:** As COO, focuses on operations and project execution within Hermeus.

**Name:** Mike Smayda

**Position:** Cofounder

**About:** Co-founder contributing to strategic initiatives and corporate direction.

**Name:** Robbie Hurwitz

**Position:** General Counsel

**About:** Responsible for all legal matters within Hermeus.

## Most Recent Patents

N/A

## Most Recent News Articles

**Title:** Hermeus Develops Hypersonic Aircraft to Surpass SR-71 Blackbird Speeds with Cutting Edge Chimera Engine Technology.

**Publication Date:** Invalid date

**Abstract:** The aviation world is witnessing a remarkable resurgence, with the ambitious goal of surpassing the speed records set by the legendary SR-71 Blackbird. Hermeus, a pioneering company, is at the forefront of this revolution, developing both military and civilian hypersonic aircraft. While the Darkhorse, an uncrewed military aircraft, aims to shatter the Blackbirds Mach 3 record, the Halcyon is poised to redefine commercial air travel with its unprecedented speed. Hermeus journey towards these ambitious goals involves a series of meticulous steps. The company has been diligently developing and testing prototype aircraft, known as Quarterhorse Mk 1 and Quarterhorse Mk 2, to refine technologies and gather crucial data. The Quarterhorse Mk 1, equipped with a General Electric J85 jet engine, is scheduled for remote controlled flight trials later this year. The Quarterhorse Mk 2, powered by a modified F100 engine, incorporates innovative precooler technology to enhance its speed and performance. As Hermeus continues

**URL:** <https://daxstreet.com/aviation-news/211347/hermeus-develops-hypersonic-aircraft-to-surpass-sr-71-blackbird-speeds-with-cutting-edge-chimera-engine-technology/>

**Title:** Hermeus To Build Hypersonic Engine and Flight Testing Facility in Florida.

**Publication Date:** Invalid date

**Abstract:** Hypersonic developer is investing \$135 million in the Jacksonville test site

**URL:** <https://www.ainonline.com/aviation-news/aerospace/2024-09-13/hermeus-build-hypersonic-testing-facility-florida>

**Title:** Hypersonic Plane Startup Hermes Making New Test Facilities.

**Publication Date:** 12/09/2024

**Abstract:** Hermeus is breaking ground on a new engine and flight test facility HEAT will accelerate US hypersonic development, offering increased testing cadence for not only Hermeus, but the DoD and larger defense industrial base. Hermeus has selected Cecil Airport in Jacksonville, Florida for its hypersonic engine test facility. Named HEAT (High Enthalpy Air-Breathing Test Facility), this facility will be Hermeus largest and most technologically advanced test site to date and become a national asset for hypersonic testing. The site will also be the initial base for Hermeus high-Mach flight test capabilities starting in 2026, expanding cadence and affordability of the nations flight test infrastructure. We announced our plans for the new facility at a groundbreaking ceremony at Cecil Airport in Jacksonville. Hermeus executives and employees were joined by U.S. Congressman Aaron Bean (FL- 04), U.S. Congressman John Rutherford (FL-05), State Sen. Clay Yarborough (R-Jacksonville), Mayor Donna Deegan, Florida Department of Commerce officials,

**URL:** <https://www.nextbigfuture.com/2024/09/hypersonic-plane-startup-hermes-making-new-test-facilities.html>

**Title:** Hermeus Celebrates Groundbreaking for Hypersonic Engine and Flight Test Facility in Jacksonville, Florida.

**Publication Date:** 10/09/2024

**Abstract:** Hermeus has selected Cecil Airport in Jacksonville, Florida for its hypersonic engine test facility. Named HEAT (High Enthalpy Air-Breathing Test Facility), this facility will be Hermeus largest and most technologically advanced test site to date and become a national asset for hypersonic testing. The site will also be the initial base for Hermeus high-Mach flight test capabilities starting in 2026, expanding cadence and affordability of the nations flight test infrastructure. Hermeus announced their plans for the new facility at a groundbreaking ceremony at the Cecil Airport site. Hermeus executives and employees were joined by U.S. Congressman Aaron Bean (FL- 04), U.S. Congressman John Rutherford (FL-05), State Sen. Clay Yarborough (R-Jacksonville), Mayor Donna Deegan, Florida Department of Commerce officials, JAXUSA officials, and other community leaders. The HEAT facility will provide continuous high flow rate, high enthalpy and low-pressure conditions required for high-supersonic and low-hypersonic flight modeling. This capability will make the facility an

**URL:** <https://www.asdnews.com/news/defense/2024/09/10/hermeus-celebrates-groundbreaking-hypersonic-engine-flight-test-facility-jacksonville-florida>

**Title:** Hermeus Selects Florida For Future Test Sites.

**Publication Date:** 09/09/2024

**Abstract:** Hypersonic vehicle startup Hermeus has announced plans to open an engine test facility and a flight test base at Cecil Airport in Jacksonville, Florida. The facilities will support testing of the Atlanta-based companys Quarterhorse and Darkhorse series of high-speed testbeds, along with the Chimera...

**URL:** <https://aviationweek.com/defense/aircraft-propulsion/hermeus-selects-florida-future-test-sites>

**Title:** Hypersonic aircraft manufacturer Hermeus launches plans at Cecil Aiport.

**Publication Date:** 09/09/2024

**Abstract:** Your free article limit has been reached this month. Subscribe now for unlimited digital access to our award-winning business news.

**URL:** <https://www.jaxdailyrecord.com/news/2024/sep/09/hypersonic-aircraft-manufacturer-hermeus-launches-plans-at-cecil-airport/>

**Title:** Britain risks being left behind in the race for hypersonic travel.

**Publication Date:** 06/09/2024

**Abstract:** Britains aerospace industry used to do a good line in exotic aircraft straight out of an episode of Thunderbirds. There was the Fairey Rotodyne, a big part-helicopter, part-plane with rockets at the tips of its rotor. Noise, apparently, was a problem. The Saunders-Roe Princess was an enormous flying boat that arrived just in time to be out of date. Only one flew. Perhaps the raciest of all was HOTOL, a plan for an aircraft that took off, zoomed straight into space and landed back at an airport ready for its next flight. London to Sydney in four hours was the headline and HOTOL (an acronym of horizontal take-off and landing) was all the rage in the mid-1980s. British Aerospace, now BAE Systems, championed it and Rolls-Royce came on board to make the engines. The government was keen, too, putting in money and making strenuous efforts to turn it into a pan-European

**URL:** <https://www.thetimes.com/business-money/economics/article/britain-risks-being-left-behind-in-the-race-for-hypersonic-travel-6xpcqsjhv>

**Title:** Aviation Week Believes Secret SR-72 Plane is in Production at Lockheed Martin.

**Publication Date:** 01/09/2024

**Abstract:** A classified contract that involves a highly complex design and systems integration project fell \$45 million deeper into losses at Lockheed. Based on Lockheeds quarterly filing with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, that places the total Lockheed losses associated with this single shadow program up to some \$335 million since 2022. Between February 2018, when the SR-72 went dark and September 2023, Lockheed Martin increased the size of the advanced development programs unit by 75 percent. They hired more than 2,300 new employees over five years. Lockheed Martin began development on a hypersonic successor to the SR-71 Blackbird in 2006. The program continued in secret for seven years, before being formally announced to the public in 2013. The SR-71 Blackbird spy plane had a reported top speed of mach 3.2 but there was unofficial speeds of Mach 3.5. The veteran SR-71 pilots indicated that the SR-71 could regularly fly at mach 3.3. Lockheed has

**URL:** <https://www.nextbigfuture.com/2024/09/aviation-week-believes-secret-sr-72-plane-is-in-production-at-lockheed-martin.html>

**Title:** Hypersonic drones by 2026-2027.

**Publication Date:** Invalid date

**Abstract:** Startup Hermeus is developing hypersonic propulsion system for their Quarterhorse and Darkhorse vehicles. This could be achieving mach 5 speeds in 2026 to 2027. Mk 1 The first flyable version of Quarterhorse, Mk 1, is set for flight tests later in 2024. These tests will focus on high-speed takeoffs and landings Mk 2 Scheduled for 2025, Mk 2 will be powered by a Pratt and Whitney F100 engine, enabling supersonic flight. This version will serve as a precursor to the full hypersonic capabilities planned for future iterations Mk 3 Expected to be developed by 2026, Mk 3 will incorporate Hermeus Chimera II propulsion system, which includes a modified F100 engine. This version aims to achieve speeds faster than Mach 3.3, supporting Defense Department testing. This is two engines in one Chimera II This is an upgraded version of the Chimera engine It is bigger and uses an F100 engine instead of a J85. Hermeus makes their own

**URL:** <https://www.nextbigfuture.com/2024/08/hypersonic-drones-by-2026-2027.html>

**Title:** Hermeus releases taxi test footage of first Quarterhorse flight vehicle.

**Publication Date:** Invalid date

**Abstract:** US hypersonic flight developer Hermeus has begun taxi testing on the companys first flight vehicle, as seen in recently released footage. The Atlanta-based manufacturer posted video to multiple social media platforms showing the chrome-coloured Quarterhorse Mk 1 moving up and down a runway during what Hermeus describes as medium- and high-speed taxi runs. Were getting a lot of reps in taxi testing Quarterhorse Mk 1, Hermeus said on 22 August. These repeated runs allow us to gather data on all integrated systems. The company had teased the first flight of the Mk 1 typer earlier this year, saying in March that the single-engined jet would take to the skies at Edwards AFB in the upcoming summer months. However that schedule now appears to have been delayed, as footage from taxi testing shows lush greenery not found at the desert air base in California, which is home to the US Air Forces (USAF) flight test

**URL:** <https://www.flightglobal.com/fixed-wing/hermeus-releases-taxi-test-footage-of-first-quarterhorse-flight-vehicle/159756.article>

## Social Links

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<https://www.instagram.com/hermeuscorp/>

<http://youtube.com/c/hermeus>

## References

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