

Global Flyer Jet Drag Chute System

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Figure 1: Deployed left drag chute on first test flight March 5, 2004. Note mirror above cockpit for pilot to confirm drag chute deployment.

ABSTRACT:

This paper describes the design, development and successful flight testing of a reliable, lightweight, high-performance prototype jet drag chute system for the Global Flyer Jet built by Scaled Composites. These drag chutes flew non stop around the world in the Global Flyer jet piloted by Steve Fossett on a single tank of fuel in 2005, and for second time in 2006 for Steve Fossett to achieve 3 new aviation world records. These drag chutes have the distinction of being the only parachutes in the world to have flown non-stop around the world twice. This is the first time guide surface parachutes have been used as jet drag chutes. This parachute system played a part in helping the Global Flyer achieve 3 new aviation world records. The Global Flyer jet and drag chutes now reside on permanent display in the National Air and Space Museum.