Scaled Composites
SpaceShipOne



SpaceShipOne is part of the two-stage launch system that won the X-Prize competition to build a privately-funded reusable spacecraft. Released from its carrier plane, called White Knight, at an altitude of 15,000 metres, SpaceShipOne ignited its rocket engine and soared beyond the 100 kilometre boundary of space before gliding back to Earth. SpaceShipOne is currently displayed in the National Air and Space Museum in Washington D.C.

Milestones

21 June 2004: Mike Melvill flies SpaceShipOne to beyond 100km, the first manned spaceflight by a privately-funded vehicle.

29 September and 4 October 2004: Piloted by Mike Melvill and Brian Binnie, SpaceShipOne completes the two flights into space necessary to win the X-Prize.

Designer: Burt Rutan

Length: 8.5 m (28 ft)

Wingspan: 8.2 m (27 ft)

Height: 2.7 m (8 ft 9 in)

Capacity: One pilot, two passengers

Maximum speed: Mach 3

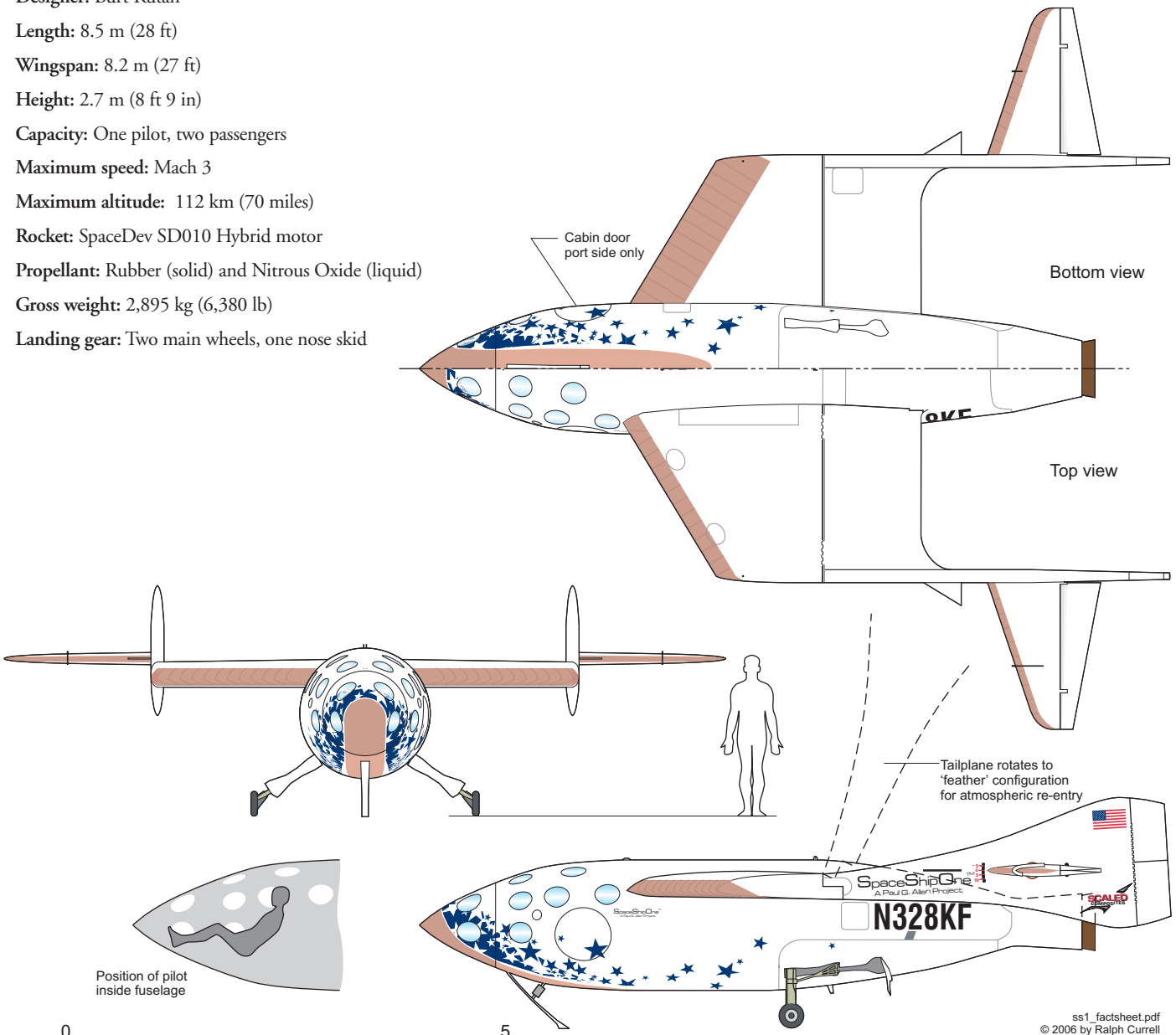
Maximum altitude: 112 km (70 miles)

Rocket: SpaceDev SD010 Hybrid motor

Propellant: Rubber (solid) and Nitrous Oxide (liquid)

Gross weight: 2,895 kg (6,380 lb)

Landing gear: Two main wheels, one nose skid



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