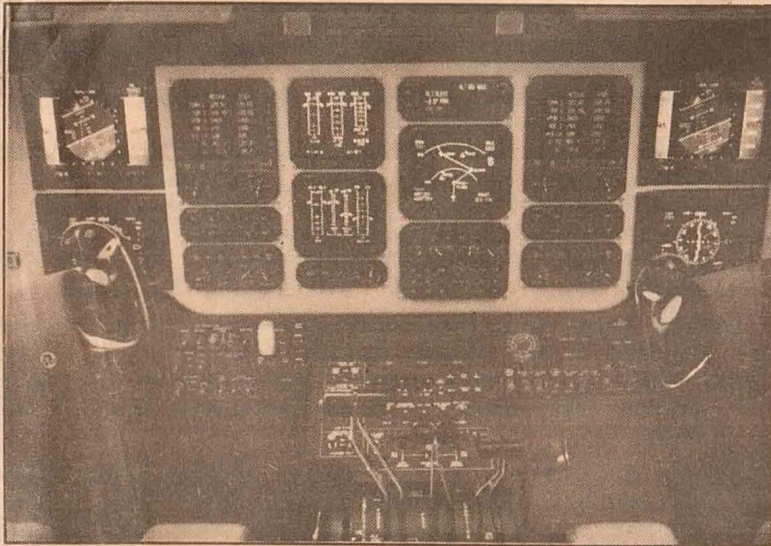


# Beech Enters Composite Era With 'Starship 1'



ALL ELECTRONIC instrument panel of new Beech "Starship."

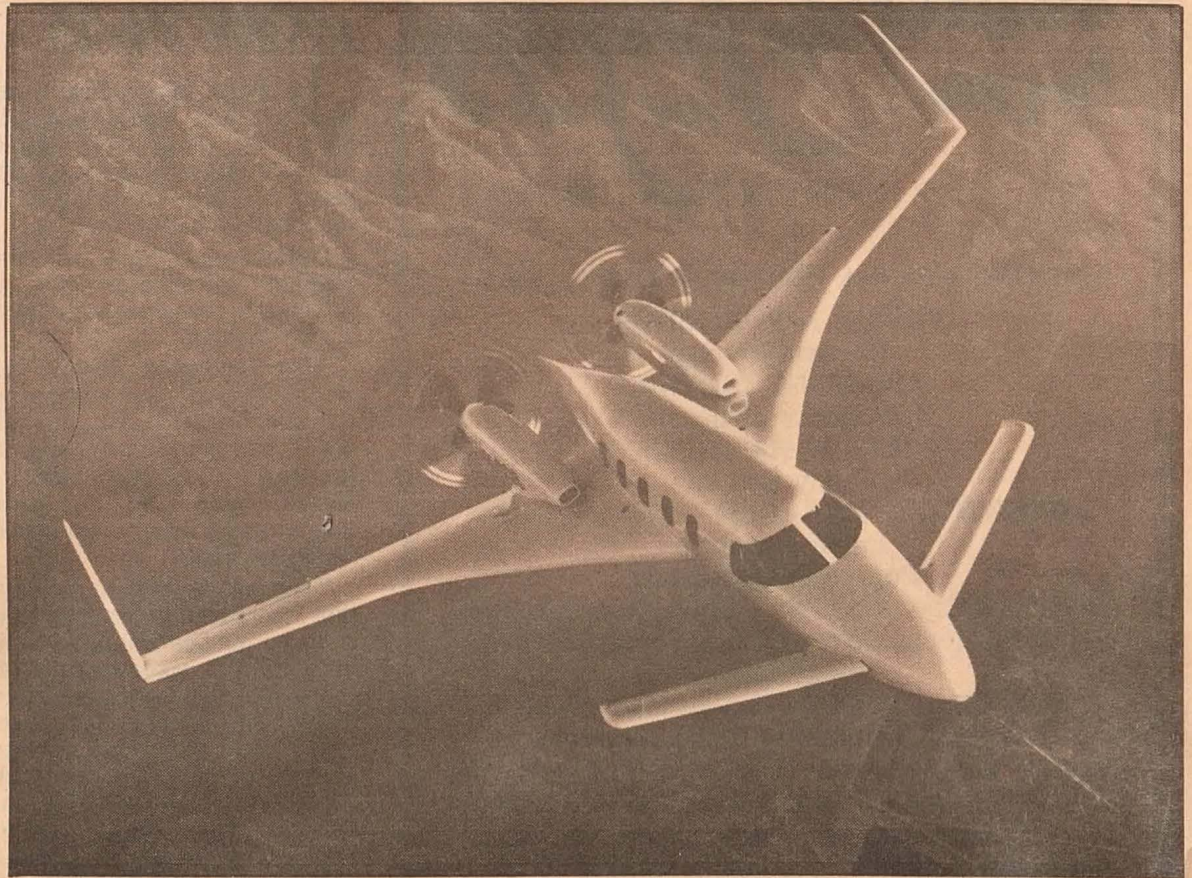
Beech Aircraft Corp. unveiled its new "Starship 1" composite, canard-winged, twin "jetfan" pusher to the business aircraft world at the National Business Aircraft Association convention in Dallas last month.

The \$2.7 million aircraft is scheduled to be delivered in 1985 with

deliveries to begin immediately afterward.

An 85 percent scale version made its first flight Aug. 29 and has logged more than 50 flight hours, Beech said.

The new airplane will have seating for eight to 10 passengers plus a crew of two. Constructed of composite materials and titanium, the Starship



MORE THAN 50 hours have been logged on 85 percent scale version of new aircraft, termed a "flying test bed."

1 will feature:

- \* A computer-aided, tandem-wing design configuration, incorporating a 54' 7"-span, aft-located swept wing with 7' 9" Tipsails at each end, and a 26' 5.6"-span patented variable-geometry forward wing.

- \* Overall airplane length of 45' 5" from nose to trailing edge of Tipsails.

- \* Twin pusher-propfan turbine engines located inboard, and above and to the rear of each aft wing.

- aft "wet wing".

- \* 8.5 psi cabin pressure differential for an 8,000-foot cabin altitude at an airplane altitude of 41,000 feet.

- \* Rate of climb of 3,300 feet per minute.

- \* Gross weight of 12,500 pounds.

Starship 1 will be powered by two Pratt and Whitney PT6A-60 engines flat-rated to 1,000 shaft horsepower each, and will have a maximum cruise speed in excess of 400 miles per hour, Beech said. It

weather flight at FL410 (41,000 feet), with range capability, cabin amenities and docile handling characteristics, the company said.

Floor to ceiling aisle height will be 65.8", approximately 8.8" more than the B200, and cabin length will be 26' 5", 4½ feet longer than the B200. Aircraft height, from ramp to the top of the Tipsails will be 12' 9".

Price for Starship 1, with standard Super King Air B200-type avionics, is projected to

