



news release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LEARJET RECEIVES \$24.5 MILLION
CONTRACT FROM MARTIN MARIETTA
FOR SPACE SHUTTLE**

WICHITA, KS -- Learjet Corporation today announced receipt of \$24.5 million contract from Martin Marietta Manned Space Systems in New Orleans for production of assemblies for the Space Shuttle program.

The contract is for 40 shipsets of external tank hardware and is an extension won in a competition of a previous award in 1985 for 20 shipsets. The new contract extends production from 1991 into 1994. The present award brings the value of total Martin Marietta contracts with Learjet to about \$48,500,000.

Bev Lancaster, Learjet president and CEO, said the new contract represented good news for the company. "We are pleased with Martin Marietta's confidence in our ability to fulfill a key role in the important NASA shuttle program," he said.

Learjet produces the intertank structure's skin and stringer panels and the solid rocket booster (SRB) beam assembly. The intertank joins two huge propellant tanks and serves as an attachment point for the two solid rocket boosters.

The complete intertank structure is over 22 feet in length. It consists of two machined thrust panels and six stringer-stiffened panels and serves as the mechanical connection between the propellant tanks.

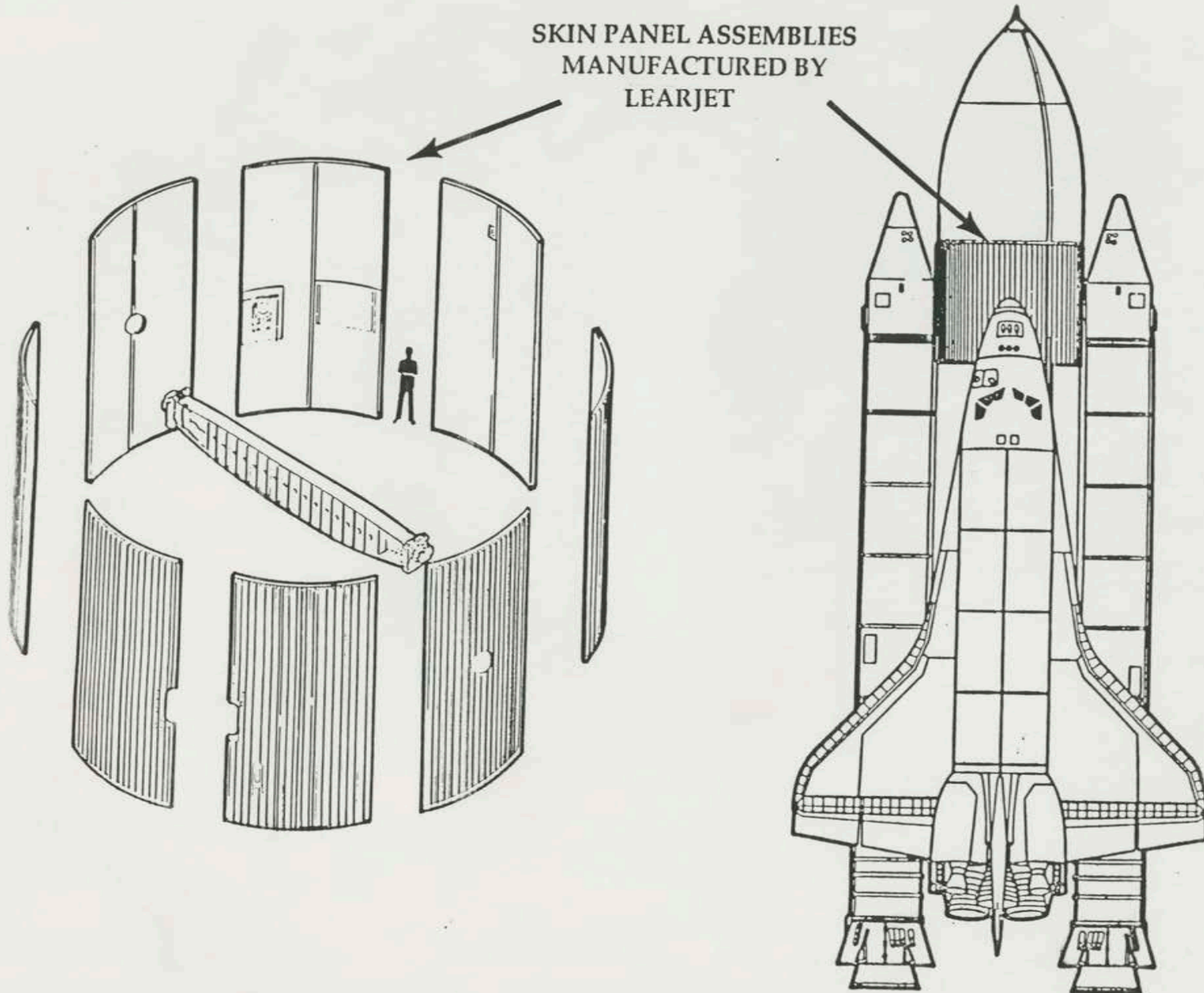
Primary functions of the intertank are to provide structural continuity to the liquid oxygen and liquid hydrogen tanks, and to receive and distribute thrust loads from the solid rocket boosters attached on either side of the nonreusable external tank.

The structure also houses and protects the external tank's instrumentation. On the launch pad prior to flight, these instruments are linked to the ground through an umbilical panel.

The external tank's total fuel capacity is consumed in about eight minutes during lift-off and powered flight to about 70 miles above the earth, at which time the external tank is jettisoned and breaks up over a remote, predetermined ocean area. The structural backbone of the shuttle, it absorbs thrust loads of over 6,610,000 pounds.

First deliveries to Martin Marietta on the previous contract occurred in September, 1987. The first of the Learjet components is scheduled to fly in 1991, based on the present NASA schedule.

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LEARJET CORPORATION SUBCONTRACT FOR SPACE SHUTTLE WITH MARTIN MARIETTA