

GLOBE CIRCLER -- This strange-looking aircraft approaching the landing strip at Edwards Air Force Base in California is designed to make the first round-the-world, non-stop, non-refueled flight. Built by Dick Rutan at his factory in Mojave (California), the "Voyager" will accomodate him and co-pilot Jeana Yeager during the 40,000-kilometer journey, of which 95 per cent is expected to be over water. To reduce weight in construction, Rutan used advanced composite materials such as graphite, Kevlar, and fiberglass over a Nomex paper honeycomb core. The wing span is 34 meters and the fuselage measures only 10 meters in length. Two conventional piston engines turn the propellers mounted in tandem on the fuselage. The globe-circling effort is scheduled for next spring.

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