



An overview of HIAPER and its role in the national and international research aviation fleet

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After more than a decade in planning, and several more years of development, the newest airborne platform in the US federal fleet begins operations in late summer. HIAPER (High-performance Instrumented Airborne Platform for Environmental Research), a highly modified Gulfstream V business jet, fills an important niche in the national airborne science fleet. Its performance characteristics make it a unique platform in the US inventory: long duration; high altitude; long range, and significant science payload. Structural modifications made to HIAPER make it ideal for not only atmospheric research but also for broader based environmental research, including solid earth science, oceanography, terrestrial ecology and studies of the cryosphere. This paper will describe HIAPER and how its fits into the US national research aircraft fleet as well as how it can complement the international airborne research fleet.