

Garden-shed genius heads for the stars

by MICHAEL SHANAHAN

DAY trips to Australia and weekend jaunts in the Milky Way could become a reality, thanks to the brainpower of a Scottish inventor.

Sandy Kidd's discovery, which is set to revolutionise travel, is already sending shock waves through the scientific establishment.

One of Britain's top physicists described it "mind-boggling."

Mr Kidd's work, researched in his garden shed, will make science fiction writers' dreams come true. Trips to Mars will take 34 hours and the journey from London to Sydney will be reduced to a matter of minutes.

The 51-year-old former apprentice toolmaker's development of Gyroscopic Propulsion has also stunned



Kidd: Breakthrough

academics because it challenges Isaac Newton's Law of Motion.

He was worked out that, by setting gyroscopes at particular angles, a lifting force that defies gravity is produced.

Mr Kidd, who worked for five years on his brainchild at his Dundee home, is now

moving to the heart of the space industry in California where a massive investment programme is already under way.

Dr Harold Aspden, senior visiting research fellow at Southampton University, has seen the results of early tests. "Scientifically speaking it is a bombshell," he says. I would not have believed this if I had not seen it with my own eyes.

"It will totally revolutionise the travel industry. Taken to the ultimate, we will have planes without jet engines and helicopters without rotor blades."

Mr Kidd is being financed by an Australian research company. A spokesman said: "We are on to something really big. The next stage is to power up Sandy's device in California with the prospect of building a full-scale vehicle at the end of the day.

System

"Money is no object, but we are determined that his work will not get out.

At Imperial College, London, Professor Eric Laithwaite, who has followed Mr Kidd's experiments, said:

"I have always been convinced it could be done... and I like to see someone defeat the system. He may be a long time perfecting it but I am sure he will succeed."

Mr Kidd made the final breakthrough in his work, highlighted in the Sunday Express last year, about four weeks ago in a laboratory in Melbourne.

"I am sad Britain didn't back me. Nobody in this country is willing to take a chance," he said.