

# ASPECT

## 'Flying saucer' invented by retired major

**LONDON, Sunday (AAP-Reuter) —** In the 1980s the fashionable way to travel could be by flying saucer.

A retired British Army major, Mr Malcolm Wren, has announced that he plans to begin building a prototype before the end of this year.

He said that European Ferries, which runs cross-channel ferries between Britain and Europe had agreed in principle to put up some of the \$A10 million he needs to make it.

Mr Wren's 'Thermoskyship' will be part airship and part vertical take-off jet. Saucer-shaped, it will be filled with helium. The saucer will measure about 45 metres across — or about two thirds

*Issues and topics aside from the mainstream  
of world headlines.*

the length of a jumbo jet. Its skin will be made of toughened plastic fibre and two jet engines will provide lift and thrust. Mr Wren is aiming at a 60 passenger capacity and a cruising speed of 150 km/h.

'I am confident that the finance needed will come through', he said.

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"This is a breakthrough".

European Ferries had agreed in principle to invest in the prototype if other backers were also found.

The chairman of European Ferries, Mr Keith Wickenden, said "we see Thermoskyships as an attack on hovercraft, hydrofoils, rail connected traffic and the airline market".

Mr Wren began work on the project in 1975 after leaving the Army.