

Russians' flying saucer

LONDON: Russian scientists have built and tested the world's first flying saucer, the *Sunday Times* newspaper has reported.

The craft was shaped like a poached egg. Scientists, having successfully tested a small, remote-controlled prototype at the Saratov complex, south of Moscow, planned to test a larger version this summer.

If this were successful, the Russians would build a full-scale, manned "Ekip" measuring 36m by 25m, about the size of a Boeing 767 jet.

It would be capable of carrying up to 400 people and travelling at speeds of 640km/h.

The aircraft could take off and land on most surfaces, and needed only 500m to take off.

A graphic of the craft showed that it had one stumpy wing each side and a tail with elevated wing-tips. The front was pierced by two jet intakes.

Jet exhausts just behind the crest of the "egg" blew over the rear section, creating enormous lift and forward motion, the newspaper

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said.

— Reuter
