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- [Area 51](#)
- [Random](#)
- [Top 100](#)
- [Catalog](#)
- [What's New](#)

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  - Page Contents
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# MiG plasma cloaking device to take off soon

Date: Mon, 21 Jun 1999 13:33:53 -0700  
From: "Terry W. Colvin"  
Subject: MiG plasma cloaking device to take off soon

Source: The Electronic (Daily) Telegraph, June 14, 1999,

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/et?ac=000343180237640&rtmo=au4WahhJ&atmo=99999999&pg=/et/99/6/10/ecnmig10.html>

MiG plasma cloaking device to take off soon

By Jon Pratty

A NEW Russian MiG fighter that uses a "Star Trek"-style plasma cloaking device to hide from enemy radar and missiles is due to make its first flight any day.

The stealth device weighs under 100kg and can be fitted to any aircraft. It surrounds the plane with a cloud of plasma or electrically charged gas, rendering it invisible to enemy radar, say its makers.

The plasma stealth system on the MiG 1.42 is most likely real; Russian scientists have long been experts in high-energy physics.

"The Russians do have some novel approaches to plasma research," said Nick Cook, of Jane's Defence Weekly. "I suspect they are very much more advanced than we think. This device promises passive reductions in both radar

cross-section and drag."

The device was developed at a secret base outside Moscow called the M.V. Keldysh Research Centre. Established as long ago as 1933, it is one of the pioneering centres of rocket research in the world. The centre's website coyly confirms that work on plasma physics takes place, as well as building new rocket engines, space power plants and lasers.

The Russians are so convinced of the value of the new cloaking shield, they want to sell it to raise hard currency. Jane's Defence Weekly recently revealed the makers are now offering to fit the system to any fighter, raising the unhappy prospect of Iraqi or Serbian MiGs using it.

The first flight has been postponed several times since January; to date, the plane has only taxied on a runway for some visiting politicians and generals. Unkind observers in the West have suggested that the plane is nothing more than a dummy. Said Cook, "It's a real aircraft, but it is a generation behind our latest offering in the West."

\*11 February 1999: Nasa jet takes a turn for the better [New flight control system]

External:

\*M.V. Keldysh Research Centre - Federation of American Scientists

\*Jane's Defence Weekly [Subscription required]

\*MiG 1.42 info - Russian Aviation FAQ

\*MiG 1.42 Photos - AeroWorldNet

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