



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

General Electric GE4 Super-Sonic Transport (SST) Engine Collection

2006

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	General Electric GE4 Super-Sonic Transport (SST) Engine Collection
Date:	(bulk 1963-1971)
Identifier:	NASM.2005.0049
Creator:	General Electric Company
Extent:	0.18 Cubic feet ((1 box))
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

William L. Rowe, Gift, 2005

Preferred Citation

General Electric GE4 Super-Sonic Transport (SST) Engine Collection, Accession number 2005-0049 National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

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Biographical / Historical

The United States' Supersonic Transport (SST) program was initiated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in 1963. The program aimed for a Mach 2+ aircraft capable of carrying approximately 300 passengers with intercontinental range. The US aimed to outstrip the British Aerospace/Aerospatiale Concorde and Soviet Tu-144 programs through the use of advanced technology and materials. By the late 1960s contracts had been let to prime contractors Boeing (airframe) and General Electric (engines) but the program was four to five years behind the European and Soviet efforts, which had graduated to supersonic flight testing while the US program had yet to pass beyond the mockup stage. In 1971 the slow pace of technical development, environmental concerns, high costs, and questions over the commercial feasibility of the aircraft led Congress to cancel the program.

Scope and Contents

Materials in this collection relating to the General Electric GE4 SST engine include the following: Master Engine Cross-section, GE4 Tool Flow Sheet, documents relating to production and assembly of the GE4, documents relating to the National Air and Space Museum's acquisition of the GE4 SST engine, miscellaneous draft correspondence concerning the GE4 and other General Electric projects, a drawing of the GE4 Experimental Bypass Engine, a drawing of GE Lift-Cruise Fan, three drawings of cruise fan engine installation, and Generalized Field Balance Procedure for Jet Engines. Also included is a drawing of a General Electric scramjet engine.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Airplanes -- Motors
- General Electric GE4 SST
- High-speed aeronautics
- Supersonic transport planes

Types of Materials:

- Correspondence
- Drawings
- Reports