



REACTION ENGINES

Aerospace Propulsion Systems

Alan Bond – Founding Engineer

Alan's career began in 1963 at Rolls Royce, working first on gas turbines and then rocket engines, including the RZ2 used on the Blue Streak rocket.

In 1972 he moved to the British Aircraft Corporation, Stevenage, to classified weapons work but he continued to carry out work on advanced propulsion. In 1976 he moved to the Atomic Energy Authority to work on nuclear fusion, including the Joint European Torus amongst other projects, and as a consultant to British Aerospace and Rolls Royce during the HOTOL spaceplane project, having designed its RB545 air-breathing rocket engines.

Along with Richard Varvill and John Scott Scott, two of the other principal engineers on the HOTOL project, Alan founded Reaction Engines Ltd in 1989 to continue and progress their spaceplane research. REL now employs over 100 staff and has successfully demonstrated the key technologies for HOTOL's successor, SKYLON; and more specifically the SABRE engines used to power it.

As a result of the successful technology developments, and subsequent verification by the UK Space Agency and the European Agency in 2012, the UK Government has committed to backing REL's future developments with a £60 million grant.

The company is now involved in its programme to design, manufacture and test full prototype SABRE engines and progress research and development into the SKYLON vehicle.

In February 2015 Alan stood down as the Reaction Engines Managing Director and he has continued to work in a supporting role in the company since then.