Technology Tuesday

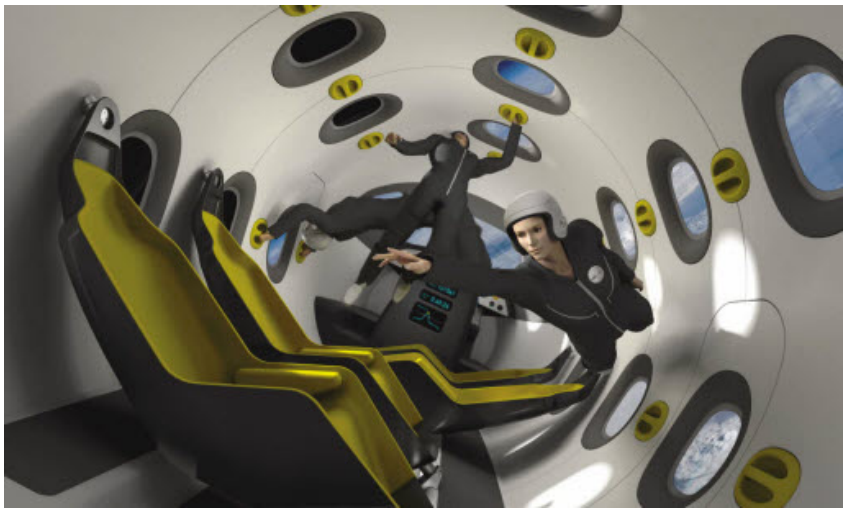
Description

Ah, all things interesting once moreâ€¦.

From the October CPU Magazine, the opportunity to play in weightlessness, a vertiable â€œFâ€• ticket ride (with an â€œFâ€• ticket price tag):



The â€œSpace Jetâ€• conceived by EADS Astrium , a European aerospace and defense company. It has both conventional jet engines and a rocket. Takes off like a jet, heads up to about 35-40K feet and fires up the â€œGâ€• maker to head up into the deep blue sky above.



Passing 60KM of altitude about 80 seconds later, the apogee will be at 100KM, with about 3 minutes of weightlessness, before heading into the atmosphere once more, using angle of descent to control the re-entry speed. 3-5 Gs will accompany this portion of the ride, with the exterior of the aircraft reaching the 250^{o}F range. Once low enough, the jets will be restarted and a conventional landing (hopefully) will follow a few minutes later.



Total time from take-off to landing is about 2 hoursâ€¦.cost? Thought youâ€™d never askâ€¦â€• aroundâ€• $250,000 (the price of a 1300 sq ft house in Va Beach these days).EADS is looking at a â€œfleetâ€• of 20 of the Space Jets.

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