

NCAR

National Center for Atmospheric Research

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NCAR ADDS NEW RESEARCH AIRCRAFT TO ITS FLEET

BOULDER--A sleek, twin-engine turboprop Beechcraft Super King Air B200T will join the fleet of specially equipped research airplanes at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) aviation facility at Jefferson County Airport near Broomfield today. Funds for the aircraft were provided by NCAR's federal sponsor, the National Science Foundation.

NCAR aircraft are used in research programs in many parts of the world, including major and international programs. They play an essential role in research on the many processes that take place in the lowest ten miles of the atmosphere, including the formation of storms, rain, hail and snow, air pollution and acid rain, and the detailed motions of the atmosphere in three dimensions.

The Super King Air and other NCAR aircraft serve scientists from many institutions in the United States and abroad. Addition of the B200T turboprop will enable NCAR and university scientists to undertake new multidisciplinary experiments, including research in cloud physics, atmospheric electricity, solar radiation and atmospheric dynamics. The new aircraft will also serve as a launching platform for wind-finding dropsondes and dispensing metallized chaff for detecting boundary layer turbulence.

NCAR's Research Aviation Facility team is working to outfit the airplane with specialized research instruments including a sophisticated data collection system featuring TV console-type display and a hard-copy dispenser of research information gathered in real time. A wind gust probe, fitted upon the nose of the aircraft, an inertial navigation system, and a measurement system to differentiate between cloud particles and aerosols will also be added. The aircraft will have room for three scientists and equipment needed for specific research experiments.

The new King Air is capable of flying to 35,000 feet in altitude and is fully pressurized. Its interior is more than five feet longer than NCAR's two

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existing Beechcraft Queen Airs, and it can supply twice as much electrical power for instrumentation as its sister craft. Depending upon the payload, the aircraft can fly as far as 1,675 miles without refueling.

Upon its arrival, the Super King Air will join NCAR's current research fleet, which includes a four-engine Lockheed Electra, a North American Rockwell Sabreliner twin-engine jet, and the two Beechcraft Queen Airs.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: NCAR will host an Open House to view the Super King Air B200T at its Research Aviation Facility hangar at Jefferson County Airport near Broomfield from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. on Monday, December 13, 1982

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