Infrared Signature Suppression for Aircraft
Aircraft IR Signature Suppression for Improved Survivability

The largest threat to helicopters and fixed wing military transport aircraft is the Man-Portable Air Defense System (MANPADS), also commonly referred to as the shoulder launched surface-to-air-missile (SAM). The majority of these systems use infra-red guidance to detect and intercept an aircraft. IR MANPADS are relatively inexpensive, widely used, portable, and difficult to detect. Since the threat cannot be eliminated, the most effective countermeasure is to equip aircraft with self protection (i.e. Aircraft Survivability Equipment (ASE)).

Reducing IR signature is the first step in equipping an aircraft for self protection. IR suppression has a dual benefit: it reduces the range at which the IR missile can detect and lock-on to the aircraft; and it improves the effectiveness of the jammer and flares by increasing the jammer-to-aircraft signal ratio (J/S).

Davis possesses or has access to all the design, manufacturing, and test facilities required to quickly develop IR suppressors for any aircraft type. Modern Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD), structural analysis, IR signature prediction tools, and specialized simulation codes developed by Davis, allow for the efficient development of high performance and robust designs. Davis also maintains a Hot Gas Wind Tunnel (HGWT) on site, which is able to simulate engine exhaust flow conditions, and is used to test early prototype suppressor designs. In each design, Davis takes into consideration all the key integration issues like: maintenance access; fluid flows in and around the engine; and operability of other systems on the aircraft.

Davis has specialized in IR signature management for over 30 years, and has produced engine exhaust IR suppressors for both warships and aircraft. The company supplies flight qualified off-the-shelf suppressors for several aircraft types, including: the Bell 212/412; Bell 205/UH-1H; Bell 407; MIL Mi-17; MIL Mi-24; Boeing CH-47; Airbus A3332 Super Puma; the Airbus CASA CN-235; Leonardo T-129; AW139; and Beechcraft KA350.

Comparison of suppressed and unsuppressed Leonardo T-129

Davis IR suppressors reduce signature by cooling the exhaust plume and tailpipe metal, and obscuring the view to the hot engine machinery. Exhaust gas cooling is achieved with low backpressure ejectors, and metal temperature reduction is achieved with film cooling. Both of these techniques allow for passive designs with minimal power loss and low maintenance. The devices are also designed to minimize the impingement of the exhaust gases on the aircraft skin, which has the dual benefit of reducing IR signature and alleviating airframe structural fatigue.

All Davis IR suppressors are sold as mission kits. The A-kit, which is the part permanently installed on the aircraft, is designed so there are minimal or no changes to the airframe, and the B-kit is designed for easy installation and removal.

As a specialist in the field of IR signature management, Davis has the unique capability to quickly produce high performance IR suppressors for any aircraft type. The application of proven technology, and a streamlined development process, enables the low risk production of a flight qualified IRSS device for a new aircraft type in less than one year.

Davis is an ISO 9001-2008 and AS9100C certified design and manufacturing facility.
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**CFD analysis results of both internal (left) and external (right) flow.**

As part of the development process, engine test and shock and vibration qualification are performed in order to prepare the device for flight test. Davis has the expertise to plan the flight test, instrument the aircraft, and measure the platform IR signature.

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**3D aircraft integration model of the AS332 IRSS.**

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**Measured Contrast Radiant Intensity (3-5 um).**

Comparison of suppressed and unsuppressed Leonardo T-129

**CH-47 IRSS on T55 engine test cell.**

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**B412 IRSS under manufacture.**

**Bell 407 2005**

**MIL Mi-24 2014**

**CASA CN 235 2006**

**Boeing CH-47 2008**

**AW T129 2010**

**AW 139 2011**

**KA 350 2014**

**MIL Mi-24 2016**

**1995 2003 2004 2005**

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