



**Burt Rutan**

Founder and President  
Scaled Composites

Burt Rutan founded Scaled Composites in 1982, to develop research aircraft. Since its founding, Scaled has been the world's most productive aerospace prototype development company. In 1972, Rutan became director of the Bede Test Center for Bede Aircraft in Newton, Kansas. In June of 1974 in Mojave, California, Rutan formed the Rutan Aircraft Factory to develop light homebuilt aircraft.

Scaled Composites develops new aircraft types at a rate of one per year. Recent projects include the White Knight and Spaceship One, which won the \$10 million X Prize in 2004. Scaled is developing new composite manufacturing processes for application to general aviation, fighters, and new space launch vehicles. Rutan oversaw the development of the Virgin Global Flyer, a single seat, turbofan powered airplane designed to fly around the world nonstop without refueling. It achieved this milestone for the first time on March 3, 2005 after 67 hours of flying time.