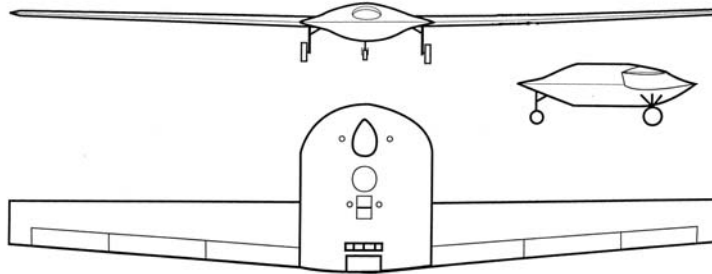


RQ-3 DarkStar

Users: DARPA/U.S. Air Force

Manufacturer: Lockheed Martin (Skunk Works)

Inventory: 2 Delivered/4 Planned (2006)



Background: The DARPA/Air Force RQ-3 DarkStar was the low observable aircraft portion (with the conventional Global Hawk) of the HAE UAV ACTD begun in 1994. It was also referred to as the Tier III- or LO-HAE program. It made its maiden flight on 29 Mar 1996 and crashed on its second on 22 Apr 1996. The second airframe made its first flight on 29 Jun 1998 and completed five flights before the program was cancelled on 28 Jan 1999. Two additional airframes were built but never flown. Lockheed Martin continued work on larger and smaller variants of this basic design after cancellation (see "Polecat").

Characteristics:

	RQ-3		RQ-3
Length	15 ft	Wing Span	69 ft
Gross Weight	8,600 lb	Payload Capacity	1,000 lb
Fuel Capacity	3,000 lb	Fuel Type	JP-8
Engine Make	1xWilliams FJ-44-1	Power	1,900 lb
Data Link(s)	BLOS	Frequency	
	LOS		

Performance:

Endurance	10.5 hr	Max/Loiter Speeds	300/225 kt
Ceiling	50,000 ft	Radius	1,500 nm
Takeoff Means	Runway	Landing Means	Runway
Sensor(s)	EO	Sensor Model(s)	Recon-Optical CA-236
	SAR		NGC APQ-183