Antonov's Dream realised
The giant Antonov An-225 Mriya
(Dream) made a 7$min maiden
flight from the Sdviet design bureau's
airfield in Kiev, Ukraine, on Decem-
ber 21, crewed by Capt Alexander
Galunenko, copilot Sergei Grbik,
and flight engineer Alexander
Shileshchenko.
The take-off weight has not been
released but, because the Dream has a predicted maximum take-off weight
of some 600 tonnes, it may have been
the heaviest aircraft to fly, even if it
was flown empty.
The Dream has a 43m-long inter-
nal cargo hold and has been designed
to carry piggyback loads such as the
Buran space shuttle. Tests with exter-
nal loads are due soon.
The aircraft has a wing span of
86m and is powered by six
53,800lb-thrust Lotarev D-18T
turbofans. Organisations in Moscow,
Leningrad, Tashkent, Ulyanovsk,
and Zaporozhye contributed to its
development.
The Dream can operate from a
"1,000m runway", compared with
the 3,000m said to be needed by the
An-124. It uses "scores" of com-
puters, says Tass, which supplied the
pictures. Cockpit instrumentation
appears to be analogue, however.

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Antonov An-225 Mriya (Dream)

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