

Media Assassin

24.10.08

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Breaking the 4-Second Mile.

October 24th, 2008 | [Automotive](#), [Technology](#)



[Richard Noble OBE](#), project director of the October 1997 ThrustSSC land speed run which still holds the world record—763 mph—has [announced his intent to break the 1,000 mph mark in 2011 with a new, yet-to-be-built car called the Bloodhound SSC](#), depicted in the computer rendering, above.

Requiring only 40 seconds to reach its top speed of 1,050 mph, the planned 42-foot-long, 7-ton vehicle will be blazing past onlookers at more than a mile every four seconds, faster than a handgun bullet. At that point, downward air pressure alone on the car will be higher than one ton per square foot.





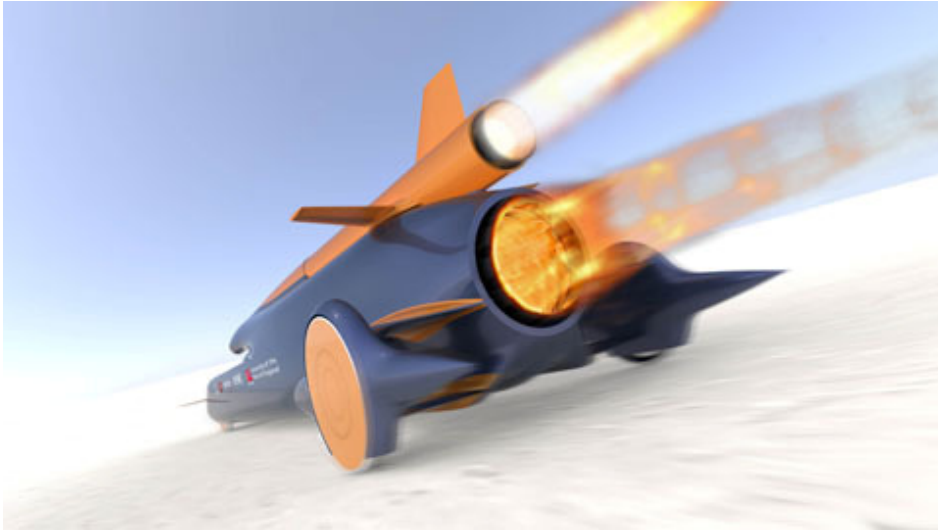
Bloodhound SSC will be “piloted” by Wing Commander Andy Green OBE, the British Royal Air Force pilot who drove ThrustSSC to the sound barrier-breaking world record eleven years ago, held at that time by Noble. (Together, these two men, and thus the British, have owned land speed records for a quarter-century.)

Test runs through 2009, 2010, and 2011 are expected to take the car up to 800 mph, 900mph, and 1,000 mph, respectively. Getting the Bloodhound SSC up to that top speed—equivalent to Mach 1.4—will require *three* engines: A Eurojet EJ200 jet will speed the vehicle up to 300 mph, at which point the SSC’s Falcon HTP rocket will shove the car towards, and ultimately far faster than, the speed of sound.

As well, [says Noble](#),

In the middle of the Bloodhound SSC is the MCT V12 800 bhp race engine which doubles as our APU [i.e., auxilliary power unit] delivering hydraulic power as needed, starting the EJ200 and, of course, pumping the High Test Peroxide (HTP) through to the Falcon rocket. The pump has to move a ton of HTP through to the rocket catalyst in 22 seconds and at 1200 psi.





For now, Bloodhound SSC faces a set of unusual challenges, a key one being where to run it.



Breaking the 4-Second Mile. — Media Assassin - Windows Internet Explorer

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How They Did It. —

Breaking the 4-Second Mile.

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