

DR. GEORGES BRIDEL

Looking at future fighter concepts for EADS Military Aircraft

Dr. Bridel's department, which led the Lampyridae project in the 1980s, focuses on potential specifications and requirements for Fifth Generation Combat Air Systems. Current programmes include the X-31 VECTOR as well as UAV and UCAV activities, Air Ground Surveillance (AGS) and other concepts for aerial reconnaissance and combat such as Future Airborne Weapon System (FAWS) and the German contribution to the European Technology Acquisition Programme (ETAP). Swiss-born Bridel (55) studied mechanical engineering at Zurich's Federal Institute of Technology and worked at this university in scientific research areas, receiving his PhD in 1978. He then headed the ALR Aerospace project development group in Zurich for 15 years,



working on projects for light combat and training aircraft. The most challenging was Piranha, a joint venture with the former Boeing Military Airplane Company. He also contributed to the Indian Light Combat Aircraft programme, together with MBB, and the development of the FFA-2000 Eurotrainer. In 1993 Bridel joined Daimler-Benz Aerospace as technical programme manager for the Dasa-Rockwell Ranger 2000 project, followed by Mako, the X-31, and automatic target recognition. His challenge now is to develop concepts for future air warfare, future weapon systems, and operation analysis, and to prepare R&D programmes for future training and combat aircraft. He loves the mountains, and is a keen theatre and opera-goer.