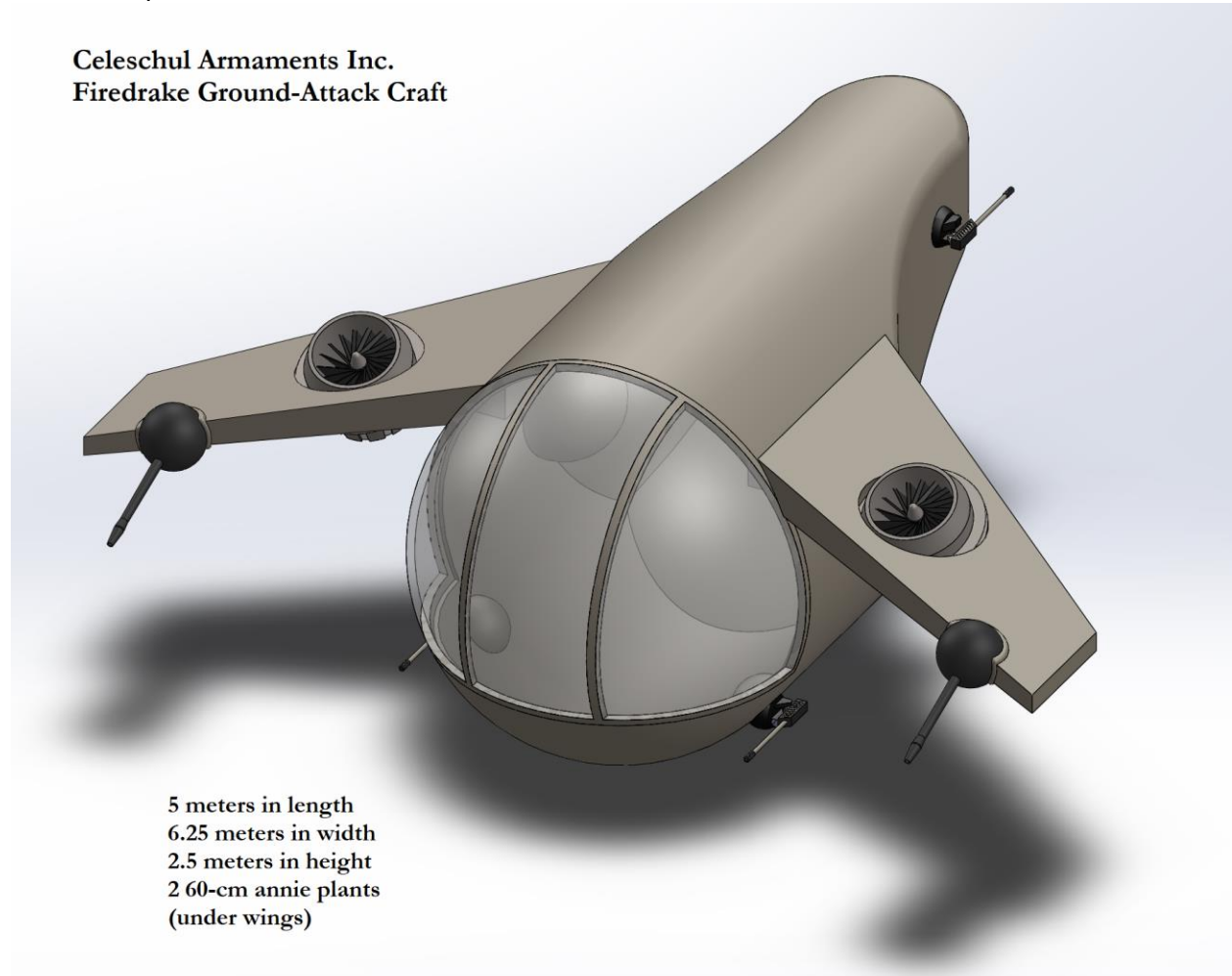


Celeschul Armaments Incorporated Firedrake Ground Attack Craft

Cost: S18 **Pass:** 2 **Encl:** Yes **Hull:** 2
Skill: Air, Space **WS:** 2

Celeschul Armaments Inc.
Firedrake Ground-Attack Craft



5 meters in length
6.25 meters in width
2.5 meters in height
2 60-cm annie plants
(under wings)

The Firedrake is an extremely fast and durable assault craft. It's configurable, capable, and comes with built-in all-round computer controlled anti-personnel autocannons (treat as starship Light AP weapons, can fire Gunfoam or Goober rounds). This system is controlled by the pilot, but the computer acquires targets (use Stationed Weapon skill with Hi-res targeting system quality). Not easy to find, but a favorite for Close Air Support when available.

Ball turrets on the wings can accept a wide variety of equipment, from Goober Guns to laser rifles to missile pods. Most mount at least one anti-vehicle weapon in the ball turrets, as the Firedrake is otherwise unable to threaten hard targets and vehicles. They are generally optimized for attacking ground targets to serve as close air support, and are not ideal superiority aircraft, though they can hold their own against light enemy aircraft.

The Firedrake is exceptionally nimble, with large gimballed turbines augmenting the drivetide system, as well as a small but potent inertic suite enabling blistering acceleration without so much as jostling the passengers. In the event that the main annie plants are breached and gravitic flight is disabled, the inertics shut down to conserve power and secondary annies allow the turbines to power a safe emergency landing or even a limping retreat. The turbine engines are also quite loud, their droning growl signaling salvation to pinned friendlies and impending doom to the enemies suppressing them. Due to this blend of propulsion systems, Firedrakes are capable of operating out of atmospheres, but do so at sharply reduced effectiveness, moving slower and less nimbly.

Firedrakes can also be modified substantially by a capable engineer, due to the robust COF systems design and redundant power supplies. Common alterations include light beam shields, extra weapon mounts, or small rear-mounted passenger compartments for emergency extraction. These are sold far and wide by COF and other secondary retailers, and the design straddles the line between light starfighter and aircraft, enabling it to perform well across a wide variety of missions.