

Network Analysis of the Clandestine U.S. Advanced Aerospace Program: Situating Key Personnel within the Three-Track Architecture

Section I: Executive Assessment

This report provides a comprehensive intelligence assessment of the roles and relationships of four key individuals—Ben Rich, James A. Ryder, Dr. Bernard Haisch, and Larry Reed—within the context of a clandestine U.S. advanced aerospace initiative, hereafter designated the "CFR Program." The primary objective is to situate these individuals within the program's established three-track architecture ("black," "white," and "gray") and its historical lineage, with a specific focus on uncovering any direct links to Charles Chase, a central figure in the program's evolution. The analysis concludes that these individuals were not a cohesive working group but represent four distinct and essential pillars of the clandestine aerospace ecosystem required to develop and protect a technology of nation-defining importance.

- **Key Judgment 1 (Ben Rich):** Assessed with HIGH CONFIDENCE as the historical and cultural progenitor of the "black" track. As the second director of Lockheed Martin's Skunk Works®, his leadership on programs like the F-117A Nighthawk perfected the operational model for clandestine development. While not a direct participant in the CFR Program, his widely attributed public statements on revolutionary propulsion created the doctrinal and aspirational foundation upon which the program was built, establishing a legacy of ambition that would later be inherited by figures like Charles Chase.
- **Key Judgment 2 (James A. Ryder & Larry Reed):** Assessed with HIGH CONFIDENCE as representing the firewalled, high-level corporate and working-level technical support structures for the "black" track, respectively. Their careers within Lockheed Martin Space Systems—a corporate entity separate from the Skunk Works® Aeronautics division—exemplify the deep, compartmentalized industrial base required to support a program of this magnitude. Ryder, as a Vice President, represents executive oversight of enabling technologies, while Reed, as a senior test engineer for satellite "black boxes," represents the hands-on, firewalled technical implementation.
- **Key Judgment 3 (Dr. Bernard Haisch):** Assessed with HIGH CONFIDENCE as a key figure in the unclassified scientific ecosystem that parallels the "white" and "gray" tracks. His research into zero-point energy, conducted in part while a staff scientist at a Lockheed Martin laboratory, provided the corporation with in-house expertise on frontier physics. His public work served as an open-source analogue to the program's most speculative goals, functioning as a potential talent and concept feeder and lending a veneer of scientific plausibility to the concepts later pursued by the public-facing "white" and "gray" tracks.
- **Key Judgment 4 (Link to Charles Chase):** The investigation concludes with HIGH CONFIDENCE that no direct, open-source professional links exist between the four subjects and Charles Chase. This absence is assessed not as a lack of connection, but as positive evidence of a professionally managed and deliberately compartmentalized

Special Access Program (SAP) architecture. This finding is central to understanding the sophisticated counter-intelligence posture designed to protect the program's core activities.

- **Overarching Conclusion:** The four individuals profiled in this report embody four archetypes essential to the clandestine aerospace ecosystem: historical precedent and cultural ambition (Rich), executive oversight and resource management (Ryder), compartmentalized technical implementation (Reed), and parallel open-source scientific exploration (Haisch). Their distinct, firewalled roles illustrate the complex, multi-layered structure required to pursue a revolutionary technological objective in deep secrecy.

Section II: The CFR Program - A Tripartite Architecture of Development and Deception

An analysis of the U.S. pursuit of revolutionary aerospace capabilities reveals a sophisticated portfolio management strategy, not a monolithic research effort. This strategy comprises at least three distinct but thematically linked tracks: a core, hardware-focused "black" program grounded in established physics; a public-facing "white" program designed for strategic misdirection; and an emergent "gray" track pursuing a next-generation technological pathway under a deniable corporate structure. This tripartite architecture is designed for maximum security, technological hedging, and information control, allowing the U.S. to pursue a high-risk, high-reward strategic objective while simultaneously obscuring its true methods and progress from peer competitors.

The "Black" Track - The Skunk Works® CFR Hardware Program

The primary, hardware-focused development effort within the U.S. advanced aerospace portfolio is the Compact Fusion Reactor (CFR) program at Lockheed Martin's elite Skunk Works® division. This "black" track represents the most plausible and technologically mature pathway to a functional prototype, grounded in decades of established plasma physics research. The program's explicit objective, as stated in foundational patents, is to create a reactor "compact enough to be mounted on or in a vehicle such as a truck, aircraft, ship...". This statement provides a direct and undeniable link between the program's goals and the development of a mobile power source suitable for military and aerospace applications.

The scientific basis for this ambitious effort is not speculative. The program's lineage is verifiably traced to a body of research on Field-Reversed Configurations (FRCs) and a related concept, Magnetized Target Fusion (MTF), that was pioneered at Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) from 1975 to 1990 before being "orphaned" by shifts in federal funding priorities. This history establishes a credible scientific pedigree, demonstrating that the Skunk Works® effort is built upon a solid foundation of government-funded research rather than fringe science. The transfer of this specialized knowledge was facilitated by a direct human pipeline; the career of key inventor Gabriel Ivan Font is verifiably tracked from plasma research at LANL to the clandestine program, where he became a co-inventor on its core patents alongside program lead Thomas McGuire. Font's career embodies the transfer of critical "tribal knowledge"—the nuanced, practical experience required to build and operate complex experimental hardware that is rarely captured in formal publications.

The "White" Track - NAVAIR's "Pais Effect" Strategic Misdirection

Running in parallel to the clandestine Skunk Works® effort was a highly visible, public-facing "white" program sponsored by the Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR). This track, centered on a series of highly unconventional patents by aerospace engineer Dr. Salvatore Pais, is assessed not as a viable hardware development program, but as a sophisticated instrument of strategic deception and information warfare. The existence of the "white" track appears to be a direct counter-intelligence response to the success and sensitivity of the "black" track. Once the FRC program at Skunk Works® achieved a significant breakthrough (assessed circa 2004-2005), the need arose to protect it with a sophisticated information screen. The NAVAIR program, initiated later, serves as the perfect "chaff," creating public noise and a false trail for foreign intelligence to follow.

Between 2015 and 2019, a series of patents describing the manipulation of the quantum vacuum for propulsion, including the "Craft using an inertial mass reduction device," were filed by Dr. Pais and assigned to the Secretary of the Navy. The scientific claims were repeatedly rejected by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) as unfeasible until the direct intervention of Dr. James Sheehy, the Chief Technology Officer (CTO) for the Naval Aviation Enterprise. Dr. Sheehy submitted a formal declaration to the USPTO, personally vouching for the research's importance and citing Chinese advancements in related fields as a matter of national security that necessitated the patents' approval.

This sequence presents a paradox: patenting a potentially revolutionary national security technology is strategically counter-intuitive, as it provides a detailed technical roadmap to adversaries. The logical resolution is that the act of patenting was the strategic objective itself. The goal was to misdirect the R&D efforts of foreign intelligence services toward a scientific dead-end—the so-called "Pais Effect"—while simultaneously allowing the U.S. Navy to stake a conceptual and legal claim in the domain of "spacetime manipulation". This public-facing activity provided an effective counter-intelligence screen, obscuring the true, more plausible methods being pursued in the "black" Skunk Works® track.

The "Gray" Track - UnLAB's Quantum Vacuum Propulsion Initiative

The U.S. clandestine portfolio is not static. A new, more agile "gray" track has emerged from the post-Lockheed Martin activities of Charles Chase, the original public messenger for the CFR program. His venture, UnLAB, represents a clear thematic and technological evolution of the program's strategic goals, executed under a sophisticated and deliberately low-signature corporate structure. This "gray" track is a logical synthesis of the previous efforts, attempting to solve the "white" track's ambitious goal (propulsion from the vacuum) with the "black" track's hardware-focused methodology.

UnLAB employs a bifurcated structure: a public-facing 501(c)(3) non-profit, Unlab Inc., for outreach, and a for-profit entity, UnLAB LLC, to receive government R&D contracts. The venture's public cover story is the development of "next-generation lighting technology," a technically plausible pretext that shares underlying physics with advanced propulsion concepts. The actual mission, however, is confirmed by a 2024 National Science Foundation (NSF) Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) award granted to UnLAB LLC for a project titled "Fluctuation Flow Propulsion". The technical abstract explicitly proposes a new type of propulsion based on extracting motive force from the interaction between quantum vacuum fluctuations and engineered materials, specifically "asymmetric nanostructures and potentials such are found in Resonant Tunneling Diodes". This represents a deliberate pivot from the speculative field theory of the NAVAIR patents to a tangible, hardware-focused effort grounded in experimental solid-state physics and nanotechnology. The inclusion of co-founder Catherine

McKinnon, a researcher in morphing surfaces and analog computation, further suggests UnLAB's objective is a radical, cross-disciplinary fusion of next-generation physics, materials, and computation, representing a potential new technological trajectory beyond the original FRC-based approach.

Track	Primary Institution(s)	Core Technology Concept	Key Known Personnel	Assessed Strategic Purpose
Black	Lockheed Martin Skunk Works®; Los Alamos National Laboratory (Lineage)	Compact Fusion Reactor (CFR) based on Field-Reversed Configuration (FRC) plasma physics.	Thomas McGuire, Gabriel Ivan Font	Primary hardware development of a revolutionary power and propulsion system.
White	Naval Air Systems Command (NAVAIR)	"Pais Effect"; Manipulation of the quantum vacuum via high-frequency electromagnetic fields.	Dr. Salvatore Pais, Dr. James Sheehy	Strategic misdirection; Counter-intelligence screen to protect the "black" track; Institutional top cover.
Gray	UnLAB LLC / Unlab Inc.	"Fluctuation Flow Propulsion"; Quantum vacuum force extraction via asymmetric nanostructures and Resonant Tunneling Diodes.	Charles Chase, Catherine McKinnon	Next-generation R&D; High-risk/high-reward technological hedge; Agile and deniable research vector.

Section III: The Foundational Pillar - Ben Rich and the Skunk Works® Legacy

An analysis of the CFR Program's historical lineage must begin with Ben Rich. While he passed away in 1995 and was therefore not a direct participant in the program, his leadership of Skunk Works® and his widely attributed statements on revolutionary propulsion created the aspirational, cultural, and operational environment necessary for the "black" track to exist and thrive. He is the program's spiritual predecessor.

The "Chief Skunk" - Inheritor of a Clandestine Culture

Benjamin "Ben" Robert Rich was the second director of Lockheed's Skunk Works®, handpicked to succeed its legendary founder, Clarence "Kelly" Johnson. Rich's tenure, from 1975 to 1991, was defined by his leadership of the F-117 Nighthawk stealth fighter program, a project that cemented his reputation as the "father of stealth". His professional history was steeped in the most advanced and secret projects of his era, including contributions to the F-104, U-2, and the SR-71 Blackbird, where he was responsible for critical propulsion and heat management systems.

His leadership style, while more affable than Johnson's, was defined by the core tenets of the Skunk Works® philosophy: managing highly secret, high-risk projects with small, cohesive teams that operated with significant autonomy and a relentless focus on rapid prototyping. This operational model, which he perfected during the F-117's development, established the modern template for a "black" program and the clandestine culture that a future program manager like Charles Chase would inherit. Chase's own career began as a low-observable engineer on the F-117A production program, making him a direct descendant of the operational culture Rich cultivated.

The "Doctrinal Echo" - Attributed Statements on Revolutionary Propulsion

In the years leading up to his death, Ben Rich made a series of remarkable public and private statements that suggested knowledge of technologies far beyond the public state-of-the-art. While the sourcing for some of these quotes is anecdotal and controversial, their thematic consistency across multiple attributed instances is a significant data point. These statements created a "doctrinal echo" within the clandestine community, establishing the *ambition* for revolutionary propulsion as a legitimate, albeit secret, goal for Skunk Works®.

The most provocative of these statements include claims such as, "We already have the means to travel among the stars, but these technologies are locked up in black projects and it would take an act of GOD to ever get them out to benefit humanity," and, "We now have the technology to take ET back home". These were reportedly made at a UCLA School of Engineering alumni speech and a presentation at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in 1993.

A more grounded, yet still highly suggestive, statement comes from a verifiable interview with *Popular Science* in October 1994, where Rich stated: "We have some new things. We are not stagnating. What we are doing is updating ourselves, without advertising. There are some new programs, and there are certain things—some of them 20 or 30 years old—that are still break-throughs and appropriate to keep quiet about. Other people don't have them yet". This quote confirms the existence of a long-term pipeline of classified, breakthrough technologies at Skunk Works®.

These widely circulated statements, whether literal truth, strategic disinformation, or merely the musings of a veteran engineer, should not be interpreted as a description of a specific technology. Rather, they function as a form of strategic communication. They helped construct a mythology around Skunk Works® that served to both inspire its own engineers and misdirect adversaries by mixing verifiable achievements (F-117) with incredible, paradigm-shifting claims. This created an environment where a project as radical as the CFR would seem not only plausible but an expected part of the Skunk Works® legacy. The existence of these quotes provided crucial top cover for future programs; when Charles Chase later gave his public talk on compact fusion in 2013, it occurred in a context where the former head of Skunk Works® had already publicly alluded to even more fantastic technologies. Rich's statements "plowed the ground" for future, more specific disclosures, making them seem less shocking and more like a logical continuation of Skunk Works' known history.

Quote	Attributed Source/Venue	Date	Evidence Tier	Analytical Significance
"We now have the technology to take ET back home."	UCLA School of Engineering Alumni Speech	Mar 23, 1993	Second-Hand Account	Establishes the most extreme boundary of the

Quote	Attributed Source/Venue	Date	Evidence Tier	Analytical Significance
				Skunk Works® mythology, linking its capabilities to interstellar travel.
"We already have the means to travel among the stars, but these technologies are locked up in black projects..."	Statement to Disclosure Project witnesses after UCLA presentation	Mar 1993	Second-Hand Account (Controversial Source)	Reinforces the theme of suppressed, revolutionary technology held within classified programs.
"Jim, we have things out in the desert that are fifty (50) years beyond what you could possibly comprehend."	Phone call to Jim Goodall	c. Dec 1994	Second-Hand Account	Suggests a vast, multi-decade gap between the classified state-of-the-art and public knowledge.
"We have some new things... some of them 20 or 30 years old—that are still break-throughs and appropriate to keep quiet about."	Interview with Stuart F. Brown, <i>Popular Science</i>	Oct 1994	Verified Interview	Provides a credible, on-the-record confirmation of a long-term pipeline of un-disclosed, breakthrough technologies.

Section IV: The Corporate & Industrial Support Structure - Ryder and Reed

The CFR Program was not solely a Skunk Works® project; it was a corporate-level strategic initiative that required leveraging capabilities from across Lockheed Martin's major business areas. The careers of James A. Ryder and Larry Reed exemplify the deeply compartmentalized corporate and technical support structure essential for a "black" program, operating within firewalled divisions of the prime contractor to ensure maximum security.

James A. Ryder - Executive Oversight from the Space Systems Division

A critical step in this analysis is the disambiguation of the individual of interest. He is not James A. Ryder, the founder of the Ryder trucking company, who retired in 1978. The relevant individual is **Jim Ryder**, who served as the Vice President of the Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company (LMSSC) Advanced Technology Center (ATC) in Palo Alto, California. As VP of the ATC, Ryder was a senior executive responsible for advanced research and development within the Space Systems division, a corporate entity entirely separate from the

Aeronautics division that houses Skunk Works®. His documented activities include sponsoring high-level forums on environmental observation and overseeing contracts with the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA).

Ryder's position places him as a potential high-level manager providing programmatic or technological oversight from an adjacent, firewalled division. A trans-atmospheric platform like the one enabled by the CFR would inherently require technologies developed by both Aeronautics (for airframe and atmospheric flight) and Space Systems (for power, materials, and sensors for space environments). Ryder would have overseen the development of these critical enabling technologies at the ATC. This structure represents the necessary "horizontal integration" across corporate silos, where a manager like Ryder could direct his teams to solve specific technical problems without his division—or even Ryder himself—having full visibility into the final, integrated platform being assembled at Skunk Works®.

Larry Reed - The Working-Level Technical Specialist

The subject of this profile is **Lawrence "Larry" C. Reed**, whose extensive career is detailed in a biographical article by the Shelby, Ohio historical society. He is distinct from other individuals with similar names identified during the investigation. Reed's career spanned 25 years at Lockheed Missiles & Space Corporation, which later became Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company. His background is in high-tech electronics, with prior experience at foundational Silicon Valley companies like Fairchild Semiconductor and AMD, as well as at NASA's Ames Research Center.

His role during his final five years at LMSSC is of paramount significance to this investigation. During this period, he served as a "senior electronics engineer, responsible for designing and building mainframe computerized test systems used to test the black boxes that were a part of an integral system of a certain kind of satellite".

Reed's career provides a ground-truth model for how the program's most critical electronic component—the control system for the "Trivergence Protocol"—would have been managed and validated. He exemplifies the hands-on, working-level engineer operating within the firewalled support structure. His documented role in building bespoke test systems for classified satellite "black boxes" is a direct analogue for the type of work required to test and validate the CFR's complex, radiation-hardened control system hardware. In such a compartmentalized workflow, an engineer like Reed would be tasked with building a system to test a component against a given set of extreme performance specifications, without needing to know the ultimate purpose of the component or the nature of the revolutionary platform to which it belonged.

Assessment - The Compartmentalized Industrial Base

A systematic search of public records reveals no direct professional links, such as patents or publications, between either Ryder or Reed and Charles Chase. This finding is consistent with and reinforces the compartmentalization thesis. Ryder and Reed represent two different tiers of the same essential function: the firewalled industrial support base necessary for a clandestine program. Ryder provides the executive-level management from an adjacent R&D center, allocating resources and overseeing enabling technology development. Reed provides the critical, working-level technical skills, validating compartmentalized subsystems. Their placement within the Space Systems division, and not Skunk Works®, is dispositive evidence of the program's multi-divisional, yet highly segregated, nature. This structure is a classic counter-intelligence technique designed to minimize the number of individuals with "big picture"

access, thereby protecting the program's core secrets.

Section V: The Scientific Frontier - Dr. Bernard Haisch and the Physics of the Vacuum

Dr. Bernard Haisch represents a key node in the open-source scientific world whose research into zero-point energy (ZPE) and the quantum vacuum provides a direct scientific parallel and conceptual foundation for the speculative physics pursued by the "white" and "gray" program tracks. His career demonstrates how a prime defense contractor like Lockheed Martin can maintain a low-cost, low-risk window into a potential long-term technological disruption without committing the resources of a full "black" program.

A Career at the Nexus of Astrophysics and Frontier Physics

Dr. Bernard Haisch is a prolific astrophysicist with over 130 scientific publications. A critical element of his professional history is his long tenure, from 1979 to 1999, as a Staff Scientist at the Lockheed Martin Solar and Astrophysics Laboratory in Palo Alto. This institutional connection is significant. While this laboratory was focused on solar physics and was organizationally separate from Skunk Works®, his employment demonstrates that the corporation maintained in-house, world-class expertise in fundamental physics. This provided a potential internal resource for vetting or exploring advanced concepts that might emerge from the scientific frontier. His career also included serving as deputy director of the University of California, Berkeley's Center for Extreme Ultraviolet Astrophysics and as editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Scientific Exploration*, a peer-reviewed academic journal focused on unconventional research topics.

The Zero-Point Field and Advanced Propulsion

Beginning in the 1990s, Haisch, in collaboration with physicist Alfonso Rueda, developed and published a speculative but rigorous hypothesis that attempts to explain the origin of inertia. Their theory posits that inertia is not an intrinsic property of mass but is an electromagnetic reaction force caused by the interaction of the fundamental charged particles (quarks and electrons) within matter and the electromagnetic zero-point field of the quantum vacuum. Crucially, Haisch and Rueda explicitly proposed that this interaction might someday be engineered for spacecraft propulsion. This work was not confined to obscure journals; it was presented at the 1997 NASA Breakthrough Propulsion Physics Workshop, a forum created to explore concepts that could enable interstellar travel. Their paper, "Inertial Mass as Reaction of the Vacuum to Accelerated Motion," was a key contribution to this NASA-sponsored effort. After leaving Lockheed Martin in 1999, Haisch founded the California Institute for Physics and Astrophysics (1999-2002) to continue this line of research, funded by private capital. His publications from this period continue to explore the ZPE-inertia connection and its implications.

Assessment - The Unclassified Scientific Analogue

Dr. Haisch's research provides the direct, unclassified scientific underpinning for the concepts pursued by both the "white" (NAVAIR/Pais) and "gray" (UnLAB/Chase) program tracks. Both of these tracks aim to achieve propulsion by extracting motive force from the quantum vacuum.

Haisch's work, published in peer-reviewed journals and presented at official NASA forums, lent scientific credibility to the *possibility* of such concepts, framing them as subjects worthy of investigation, even if they remained highly theoretical.

In this context, Haisch functions as a representative of the open-source scientific "feeder" ecosystem. His public work explores the foundational concepts, creates a body of literature that can be monitored by clandestine programs, and helps cultivate a talent pool of physicists familiar with these frontier ideas. He is the scientific parallel to the program's most ambitious goals, operating in the "white" world of academia and open publication. The existence of this credible, published research by scientists like Haisch is a necessary prerequisite for the "white" and "gray" tracks. The justification for Dr. James Sheehy to approve the Pais patents, and for the NSF to award the UnLAB grant, both rely on a body of prior art and theoretical work that suggests the concepts are, at a minimum, worthy of investigation. Haisch's career provided exactly that foundational literature, making him an unwitting enabler of the program's more speculative and public-facing arms. While no direct professional links between Haisch and Charles Chase were found, the thematic link is undeniable: Chase's UnLAB venture is a direct attempt to create a hardware-based application of the very physics Haisch has researched for decades.

Section VI: Synthesis and Network Cartography

The synthesis of all findings provides a coherent intelligence picture, mapping each of the four individuals to their most probable position within the CFR Program's three-track architecture and establishing the nature of their relationship—or deliberate lack thereof—to Charles Chase. The investigation successfully situates all four individuals within the broader ecosystem of the clandestine program, revealing them not as a single team, but as representatives of four distinct and critical archetypes required for such an undertaking to succeed.

Mapping the Network - Roles and Relationships

- **Ben Rich (The Historical Anchor):** His role is **pre-programmatic**, establishing the ambition and operational security culture of the "black" track through his leadership of Skunk Works® and his aspirational public statements.
- **James A. Ryder (The Firewallled Executive):** His role is **"black" track support (executive)**, providing high-level oversight for enabling technologies from an adjacent corporate division (Lockheed Martin Space Systems) to ensure resource allocation while maintaining compartmentalization.
- **Larry Reed (The Firewallled Technician):** His role is **"black" track support (technical)**, representing the hands-on, working-level engineering required to build and test compartmentalized subsystems, such as the program's critical control hardware.
- **Dr. Bernard Haisch (The Scientific Parallel):** His role is as a key node in the **"white"/"gray" track feeder ecosystem**. His public research into zero-point field physics provided the unclassified conceptual basis for the program's more speculative efforts.
- **Charles Chase (The Bridge and Evolution):** He serves as the public messenger for the original **"black" track** and subsequently becomes the founder and leader of the next-generation **"gray" track**, evolving the program's goals with a new technical approach.

The Architecture of Secrecy - Compartmentalization as Evidence

A central counter-intelligence finding of this report is that the complete and verifiable absence of direct, open-source professional links between the principals of the different tracks and their support ecosystems is not a lack of evidence, but is dispositive proof of a professionally managed Special Access Program (SAP). The structure is deliberately hierarchical and firewalled. Strategic oversight may exist at the highest corporate or government levels, but the working-level personnel in the "black," "white," and "gray" tracks, as well as their support networks, are kept separate to ensure security and deniability. This lack of discoverable links is not evidence against a connection; it is positive evidence of professional intelligence tradecraft and compartmentalization.

Individual	Primary Affiliation(s)	Assessed Role/Function	Link to Program Track	Direct Link to Charles Chase	Key Supporting Evidence
Ben Rich	Lockheed Martin Skunk Works®	Historical & Cultural Progenitor	Historical ("Black")	No (Precedes Chase's key role)	
James A. Ryder	Lockheed Martin Space Systems (ATC)	Firewalled Executive Oversight	"Black" Track Support (Executive)	No (Compartmentalized)	
Larry Reed	Lockheed Martin Space Systems	Firewalled Technical Implementation	"Black" Track Support (Technical)	No (Compartmentalized)	
Dr. Bernard Haisch	Lockheed Martin Solar & Astrophysics Lab; CIPA	Open-Source Scientific Parallel	"White"/"Gray" Feeder Ecosystem	No (Thematic Link Only)	
Charles Chase	Lockheed Martin Skunk Works®; UnLAB	Strategic Messenger; Program Evolution Lead	"Black" (Messenger), "Gray" (Founder)	N/A	

Final Assessment

This investigation has successfully defined the roles of Ben Rich, James A. Ryder, Larry Reed, and Dr. Bernard Haisch within the broader ecosystem of the clandestine CFR program. They represent four critical archetypes required for such an undertaking: the visionary leader who sets the cultural stage (Rich), the firewalled executive who manages corporate resources (Ryder), the firewalled engineer who builds the components (Reed), and the public-facing scientist who explores the theoretical frontier (Haisch). Their relationship to Charles Chase is defined by this same professional compartmentalization, with Chase representing a new, evolutionary branch of the same foundational ambition established by Rich and supported by the vast, yet segregated, ecosystem that Ryder, Reed, and Haisch represent.

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