

A PURE GUNDAM MAGAZINE THAT PROVIDES
INFORMATION AT THE FOREFRONT OF GUNDAM



GUNDAM FORWARD



SPECIAL
FEATURE

MOBILE SUIT GUNDAM

the **Witch** from **MERCURY**

Alea iacta est

Spotlight on the intense "Duel" battle scenes, we present Gunpla of Gundam Aerial and the mobile suits of the Three Branches, all meticulously customized by professional modelers!

INTERVIEWS WITH MECHANICAL DESIGNERS:
Kanetake Ebikawa, Kou Inada, Ippei Gyoubu,
Kenji Teraoka and Takayuki Yanase



GUNDAM FORWARD

This is the twelfth issue of *Gundam Forward*, a Gundam magazine dedicated to reporting on the latest Gundam news, providing professional modelers' Gunpla production techniques, and other useful information from the front lines of Gundam.

Following the 9th installment released in November 2022, we feature *Mobile Suit Gundam the Witch from Mercury* again, shedding light on "Duels" to try to convey the appeal of the series.

The opening topic introduces *Mobile Suit Gundam SEED FREEDOM*, announced right after the finale of *G-Witch*.



MOBILE SUIT
GUNDAM SEED FREEDOM



GUNDAM FIGURE REVIEW



MOBILE SUIT
GUNDAM THE WITCH FROM MERCURY



GUNDAM BUILD METaverse



THE GUNDAM BASE

A PURE GUNDAM MAGAZINE THAT PROVIDES INFORMATION AT THE FOREFRONT OF GUNDAM

GUNDAM FORWARD

HOBBY JAPAN MOOK

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*All prices in this document are inclusive of tax.
*This book's information is current as of September 2023.



A decided destiny... or freedom to resist

Mobile Suit Gundam SEED FREEDOM

Nationwide release on January 26, 2024!

The TV anime *Mobile Suit Gundam SEED* began airing in October 2002. While reminiscent of the original *Mobile Suit Gundam*, this work is unique in its own right, capturing a younger generation and female demographic, and bringing a fresh feel to the Gundam series. Now, 20 years later, the latest series in the franchise, *Mobile Suit Gundam SEED FREEDOM*, will be released in theaters nationwide on Friday, January 26, 2024. It has been about 3 months since the first report on July 2nd, and as information has slowly been released, the outline of the work has begun to come into view. We will begin by recapping the information that has been released so far, so please stay tuned for more updates.



Mobile Suit Gundam
SEED FREEDOM
Official TikTok Account



Mobile Suit Gundam
SEED Series Official X
(Formerly Twitter) Account

Official Websites

Mobile Suit Gundam SEED FREEDOM <https://www.gundam-seed.net/freedom>
Mobile Suit Gundam SEED Series <https://www.gundam-seed.net/>

Comments from Director Mitsuo Fukuda

First, we had aimed to deliver this right after the TV series, but it took a long time, for which I apologize. But, I am grateful to all who have continued to support us.

Over the past 20 years, the way we create anime has undergone a profound change as well as the people involved. The people who watched *Gundam SEED* are now new staff. They call the old staff, including me, veterans because of their age.

Using 3D technology and finding new ways to express ourselves, we, as experienced staff, face daily challenges.

The story will be a completely new work, a sequel to the previous TV series, *Mobile Suit Gundam SEED DESTINY*.

While staying true to the *Gundam SEED* name, the classic approach is the best. But, recreating the same thing as before wouldn't

feel right or fresh to today's audiences. More than anything, that's not the *Gundam SEED* I want to see.

We want to make a new *Gundam SEED* that fits with the times. It will combine old and new personnel and technology. It will also use the good parts of analog.

The TV series had unfinished parts. I want to address those and take on new challenges. I want to go back 20 years and create a new drama with Kira, Athrun, Shin and the others.

I hope you will enjoy this new chapter in the saga of Gundam SEED.

Mitsuo Fukuda
Director of the *Gundam SEED* series

STAFF

Planning/Production: SUNRISE
Original Story: Hajime Yatate, Yoshiyuki Tomino
Director: Mitsuo Fukuda
Script: Chiaki Ryouzawa, Riu Gotou, Mitsuo Fukuda
Character Design: Hisashi Hirai
Mechanical Design: Kunio Okawara,
Kimitoshi Yamane, Kazutaka Miyatake, Junich Akutsu, Manabu Shintani, Zenseava, Takuya Io, Hirokazu Taiga
Mechanical Animation Director: Satoshi Shigeta
Color Design: Akemi Nagao
Art Directors: Shigemasa Ikeda, Yukiko Maruyama
CG Directors: Mitsuhiko Sato, Kensuke Kushida, Tomohiro Fujie
Monitor Design: Azura Tamura, Jiro Kageyama
Photography Directors: Takeshi Katsurayama, Shigenori Toyooka
Editing: Yukiko Nojiri
Sound Director: Sadayoshi Fujino
Music: Toshihiko Sahashi
Production: Bandai Namco Filmworks Inc.
Distribution: Bandai Namco Filmworks Inc., SHOCHIKU

Prologue

Cosmic Era (C.E.). In this era, there are two groups of humans – Coordinators and Naturals. Coordinators are born with superior physical and mental abilities due to genetic modification. Naturals are born without any genetic enhancements. Coordinators and Naturals had different beliefs. These beliefs caused a war for survival.

During the war, they came up with the Destiny Plan. It would assign roles to everyone to drop competition between the two groups. But people fought against and rejected the Destiny Plan to protect freedom and hope for the future.

The war ended with sacrifice. Yet, there is still animosity and hatred between the two groups.

Event Information

An event called "Mobile Suit Gundam SEED FESTIVAL CONNECT Beyond That Era" will be held before the release of *Mobile Suit Gundam SEED FREEDOM*. Soichiro Hoshi, who plays Kira Yamato, will be there. Rie Tanaka, who plays Lacus Clyne, and Kenichi Suzumura, who plays Shinn Asuka, will also attend. T.M.Revolution, Tamaki Nami, and more will also be appearing. Check out the official website for more details.

Mobile Suit Gundam SEED FESTIVAL CONNECT Beyond This Era
● Date/Time: November 19th (Sun) ● Venue: Bunkyo Civic Hall (Tokyo) ● Tickets: ¥9,800 (all reserved seats) *No admission for preschool children

Movie Ticket Information

Movie tickets featuring original illustrations by character designer Hisashi Hirai are being released. There will be five batches, and lining up the 5 movie tickets forms a single large picture. The first batch with Kira & Lacus, the second with Athrun & Cagalli & Meyrin, and Shin & Lunamaria are now on sale. You can buy them at theaters and online.



CHARACTER

We have revealed a total of 18 characters. Fans eagerly expect the appearance of familiar characters like Kira, Athrun, and Lacus. Excitement grows as new characters join the series. Cast comments for the five main characters have also arrived, so please check them out as well.



Shin Asuka (V.A: Kenichi Suzuki)

Kenichi Suzuki
/Shin Asuka
For about 20 years, so many people I've met have asked me, "When is the theatrical release coming out?" But now I can finally say, "Please watch it!" (laughs). Times have changed since then, so we have more options now. I'm also looking forward to enjoying the latest version of *Gundam SEED* myself. Time has finally begun to move. As a voice actor, I will do my best to let everyone experience this world again. How much has Shinn grown, and what is the relationship between Kira and Athrun? There are a lot of things I'm curious about! Until the release, let your imagination run wild!



Kira Yamato (Soucirou Hoshi)



Athrun Zala (V.A: Akira Ishida)

Soucirou Hoshi
/Kira Yamato
Finally, the theatrical version of *Gundam SEED* is being released. I still can't believe it's for real ...to be honest, I'm not completely sure how to feel even now (laughs). But at the same time, I'm exhilarated. Although there's also this immense sense of pressure when I come back to reality. Currently, I feel the pressure of fans' high hopes for the *Gundam SEED* movie after waiting for it for many years. But we've come this far, so I want to tell the full story of SEED. I want to portray Kira Yamato to the fullest. What does the title "*SEED FREEDOM*" mean? Everyone, please wait a bit longer. Then let's meet at the theaters!

Rie Tanaka/Lacus Clyne
For 20 long years, I've held onto my belief and waited for *Mobile Suit Gundam SEED FREEDOM*! I did my best while recording ADR. I imagined fans eagerly waiting for an older Lacus Clyne in the *Gundam SEED* movie. The movie will be released on January 26th, 2024, so please make sure to watch it! It would bring me immense joy if you not only watch it once, but many times!

Akira Ishida
/Athrun Zala
Finally, we have the theatrical version of *Gundam SEED* as *Mobile Suit Gundam SEED FREEDOM*. I've been waiting for this for so long that, at one point, I thought they may have canceled the project. But after 20 years, it's become a reality. I would be really happy to share this feeling of surprise and happiness with all the fans who have been there from the start. I feel anxious and excited as I wait for the full story to unfold. I want to see how Kira, Lacus, and Athrun get involved in the politics and battles of this theatrical version.

Nana Mori
/Cagalli Yula Athha
It is an honor for me to voice the role of Cagalli Yula Athha in this project. My name is Nana Mori. I feel both privileged and a great sense of responsibility to be a part of the story of *FREEDOM*, which continues from *SEED* and *DESTINY*. I will do my utmost to ensure that *Mobile Suit Gundam SEED FREEDOM* is a joy to watch.



Lacus Clyne (V.A: Rie Tanaka)



Cagalli Yula Athha (V.A: Nana Mori)



Lunamaria Hawke (V.A: Maaya Sakamoto)



Meyrin Hawke (V.A: Fumiko Orikara)



Murtrie Ramius (V.A: Kotono Mitsuishi)



Mu La Flaga (V.A: Takehito Koyasu)



Yzak Jule (V.A: Tomokazu Seki)



Dearka Elsman (V.A: Akira Sasamura)



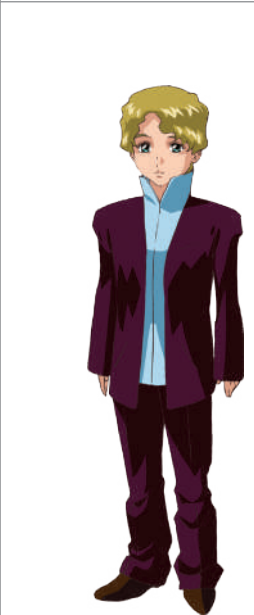
Agnes Giebrenath (V.A: Houko Kuwashima)



Albert Heinlein (V.A: Jun Fukuyama)



Alexsei Konoe (V.A: Hiroshi Otsuka)



Toyah Mashima (V.A: Ayane Sakusa)



Hilda Haken (V.A: Michiko Neya)



Herbert Von Reinhard (V.A: Taiten Kusunoki)



Maas Symeon (V.A: Junichi Suwai)



All characters from *Gundam Build* series assemble! A new Gunpla battle finally begins

On October 6th, Bandai Namco released a new anime called *Gundam Build Metaverse*. It celebrates the series' 10th anniversary. It's amazing that all the main characters from the entire series are together now. They have new Gunpla too!

BATTLE START!
Streaming begins October 6, 2023!!

Official website: <https://www.gundam-bm.net/>

CHARACTER

STAFF

Planning: SUNRISE
Original Concept: Hajime Yatate, Yoshiyuki Tomino
Director: Masami Obari
Series Composition: Noboru Kimura
Character Design: Hirona Okada, Yoriko Goto, Ippei Gyobu
Fumina Design Cooperation: Humikane Shimada
Character Design Supervision: Kenichi Onuki
Mechanical Design: Kunio Okawara, Kanetake Ebikawa, Takayuki Yanase, Shinya Terashima, Naohiro Washio, Kotaro Ando(Studio GS)
Chief Mechanic Animator: Yu Yoshiyama
Art Direction: Studio Naya
Color Design: Wish
Photography: ASAHI PRODUCTION
Music: Yuki Hayashi
Planning Cooperation: BANDAI SPIRITS, BANDAI NAMCO ENTERTAINMENT
Production: SUNRISE BEYOND
Produced BY BANDAI NAMCO FILMWORKS, SOTSU

CAST

Rio (Houjou Rio) (VA: Chika Anzai)
Seria Urutsuki (VA: Rio Tsuchiya)

MUSIC

Opening Theme: *Hikari to Kaze* by BACK-ON
Ending Theme: *Days of Birth* by LINK PLANET

Sei Iori
(VA: Mikako Momatsu)



▲ A world-famous Gunpla builder who was once teamed up with the remarkable fighter Reiji. His Gunpla building techniques are world-class, and his fighting skills are second to none. His machine is the Build Strike Exceed Galaxy.

Sekai Kamiki
(VA: Kazumi Togashi)



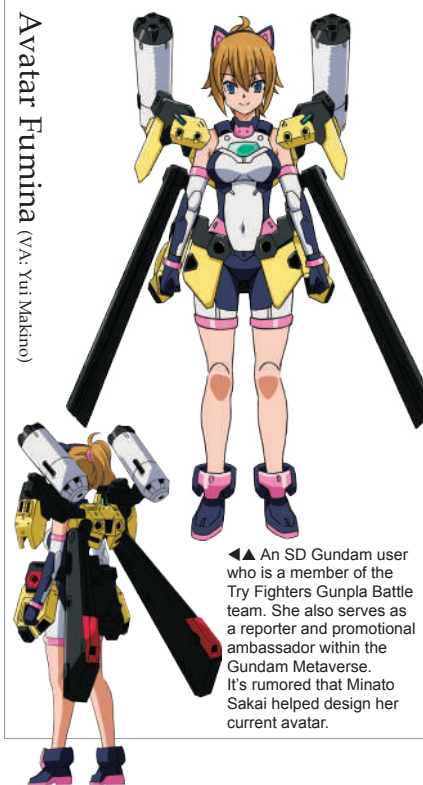
▲ He was on the Try Fighters team and won the Gunpla Battle Japanese Championship. He is a master of the Jigen Haoh school martial arts, who specializes in close combat even in Gunpla Battle. His machine is the Shin Burning Gundam.

Riku
(VA: Yusuke Kobayashi)



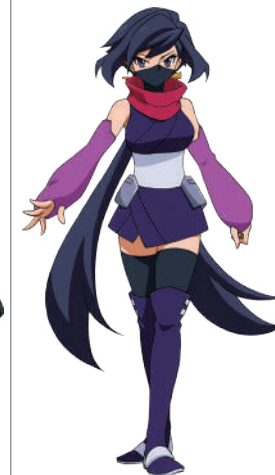
▲ He helped create and lead the famous Build Divers team in *Gundam Battle Nexus Online*. He is an all-rounder who can fight at anything from long and medium range to close combat. His machine is the 00 Diver Arc.

Avatar Fumina (VA: Yui Makino)



▲ An SD Gundam user who is a member of the Try Fighters Gunpla Battle team. She also serves as a reporter and promotional ambassador within the Gundam Metaverse. It's rumored that Minato Sakai helped design her current avatar.

Ayame
(VA: Manami Numakura)



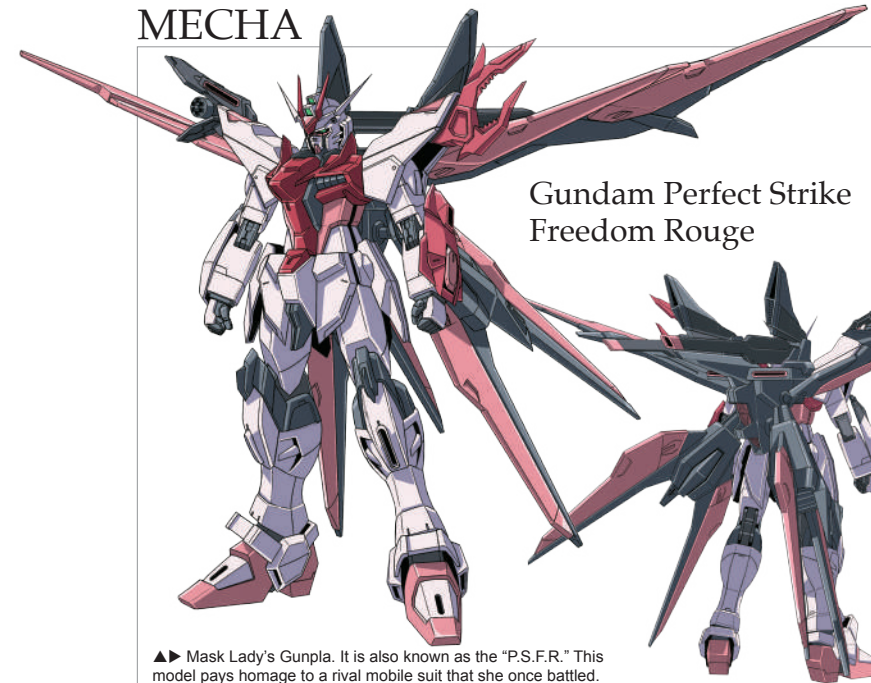
▲ An SD Gundam user who made a name for herself in Gunpla Battle Nexus Online (GBN). Her fighting and building skills are both first-class. She likes to use ninja-type avatars and Gunpla, and her machine is the F-Kunoichi Kai.

Hiroto (VA: Chikii Kobayashi)



▲ A veteran player from before GBN, he went through many ordeals and matured into someone who could give his best for others. His abilities as a builder are top-notch, and his machine is the Plutine Gundam (Core Gundam II + Pluto Armor).

MECHA

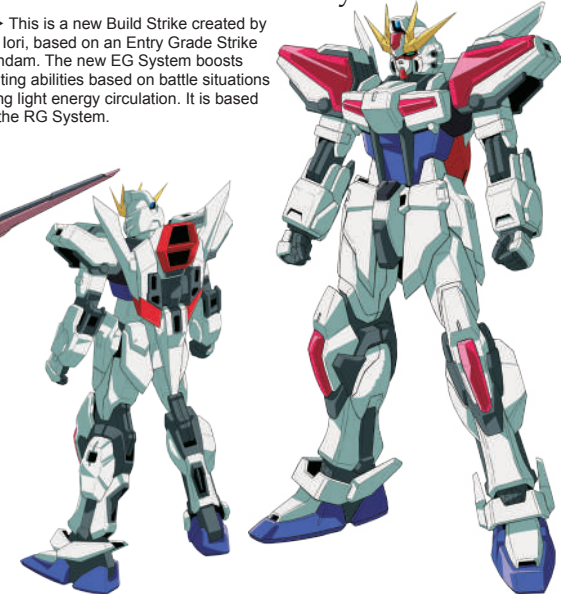


Gundam Perfect Strike Freedom Rouge

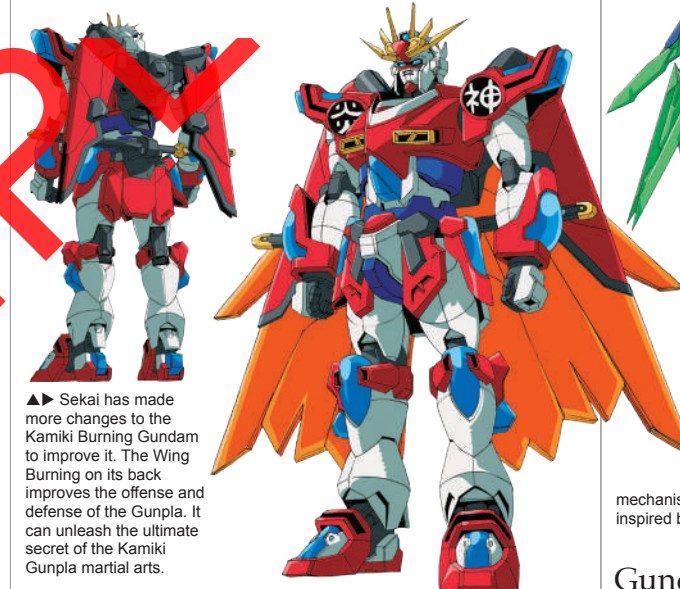
▲ Mask Lady's Gunpla. It is also known as the "P.S.F.R." This model pays homage to a rival mobile suit that she once battled.

Build Strike Exceed Galaxy

▼ This is a new Build Strike created by Sei Iori, based on an Entry Grade Strike Gundam. The new EG System boosts fighting abilities based on battle situations using light energy circulation. It is based on the RG System.



Shin Burning Gundam



▲ Sekai has made more changes to the Kamiki Burning Gundam to improve it. The Wing Burning on its back improves the offense and defense of the Gunpla. It can unleash the ultimate secret of the Kamiki Gunpla martial arts.

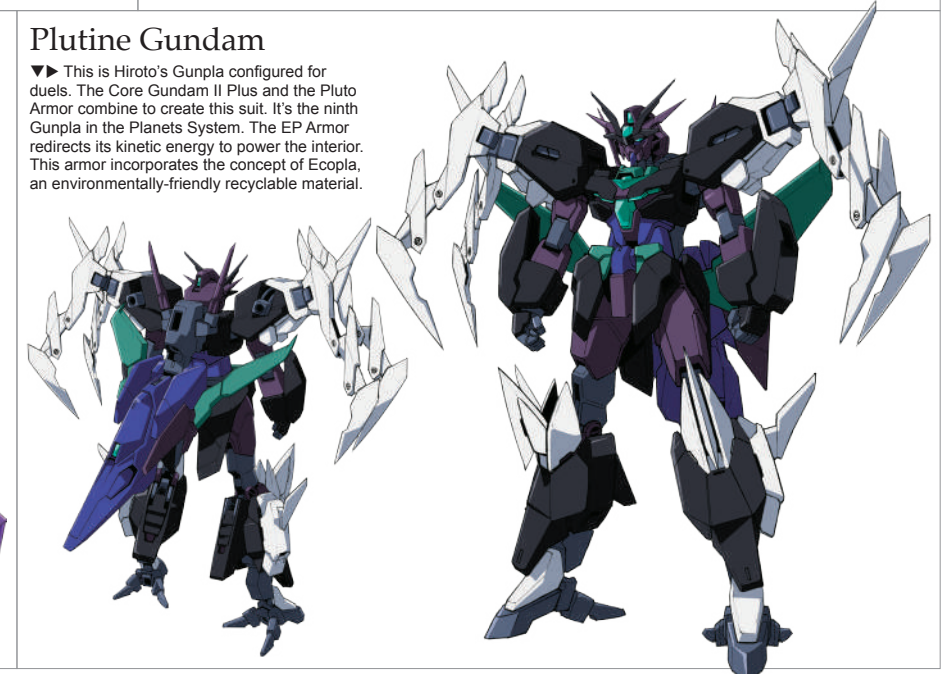


▲ What if Riku, now a renowned Gunpla builder, were to refurbish his first Gunpla, the Gundam Double 00? That's the concept for this Gunpla. The shoulder-mounted arc drive units now include a new mechanism called GN Burst, which was inspired by Gundam AGE-FX.

Gundam 00 Diver Arc

Plutine Gundam

▼ This is Hiroto's Gunpla configured for duels. The Core Gundam II Plus and the Pluto Armor combine to create this suit. It's the ninth Gunpla in the Planets System. The EP Armor redirects its kinetic energy to power the interior. This armor incorporates the concept of Ecopla, an environmentally-friendly recyclable material.



F-Kunoichi Kai

▲ This SD Gunpla recreates Ayame's F-Kunoichi with a new Cross Silhouette structure. The equipment has been updated. This shapeshifting mobile suit makes Ayame's new ninja techniques very powerful.



SPECIAL FEATURE
MOBILE SUIT GUNDAM

the *WITCH* from *MERCURY*

Alea jacta est

Victory is never decided by mobile suit performance alone.
Nor by the skill of the pilot, alone.
The result itself is only the truth!

Fix release!

BANDAI SPIRITS 1/144 scale plastic kit
"High Grade"
MD-0064 DARILBALDE
modeled by kaine(firstAge)

BANDAI SPIRITS 1/144 scale plastic kit
"High Grade" GUNDAM AERIAL use
XVX-016 GUNDAM AERIAL
modeled by ARUE

The latest Gundam TV show, *Mobile Suit Gundam: the Witch from Mercury*, began on October 2, 2022, and ended on July 2, 2023. This work introduced new elements to the Gundam series, exciting fans in various ways including different media developments.

We want to showcase this work again while it's still fresh after our last issue on November 9, 2022. This time, our focus is on "Duels," one of the primary elements that make up this work. We showcase the Gunpla of the Gundam Aerial and the mobile suits of the three branches.

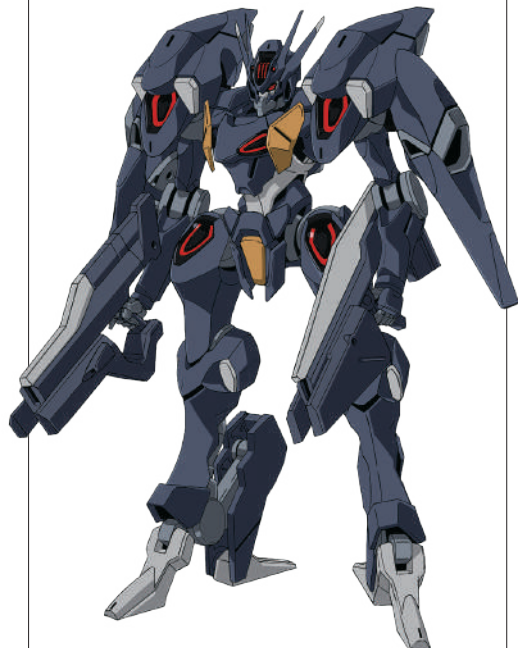
In the last issue, we interviewed JNTHED. This time, we will interview other mechanical designers: Kanetake Ebikawa, Wataru Inada, Ippei Gyoubu, Kenji Teraoka, and Takayuki Yanase, and ask them about the charm of the mechs they created.

MOBILE SUITS

This list includes all major mobile suits from episode 14 through the final episode. It also includes new weapons for the mobile suits of the three branches. These suits became a hot topic after their appearance in the opening sequence of the anime. We also introduce Gundam Schwarzette and Demi Barding. Information about them used to be scarce, except that they were available as Gunpla. And of course, we have the Gundam Calibarn, which appeared in the climax.

Gundam Pharact

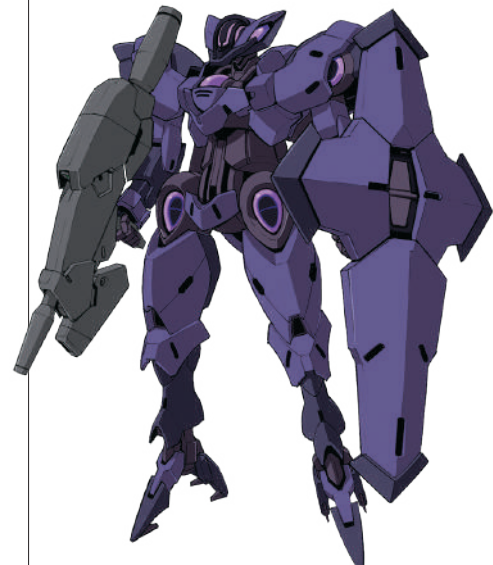
Model Number: FPA-77
Manufacturer: Peil Technologies
Pilot: Elan Ceres (Enhanced Person Number 5)



Equipped with "Beam Calibers" on both arms. These can be linked together to form a large weapon.

Beguir-Pente (Dominicus Specification)

Model Number: CEK-077
Manufactures: Grassley Defense Systems
Pilots: Kenanji Avery and others

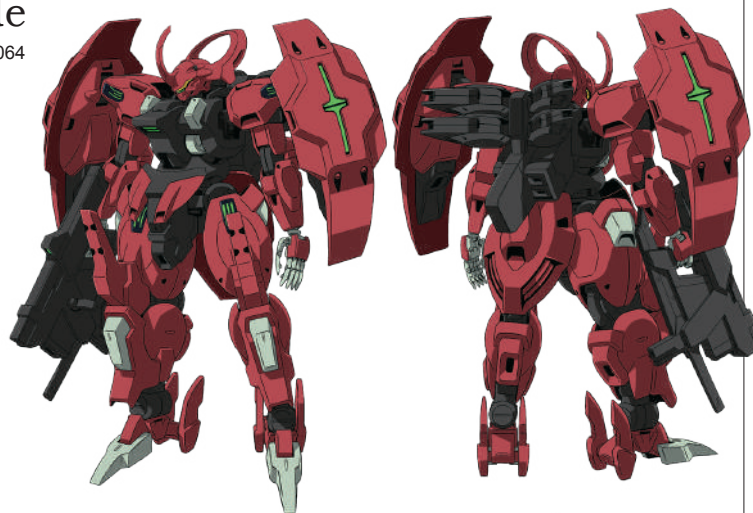


This is a Beguir-Pent for the Dominicus Corps. In contrast to the school version, it lacks the blade antenna and is painted a different color.

Darilbalde

Model Number: MD-0064
Manufacturer: Jeturk Heavy Machinery
Pilot: Guel Jeturk

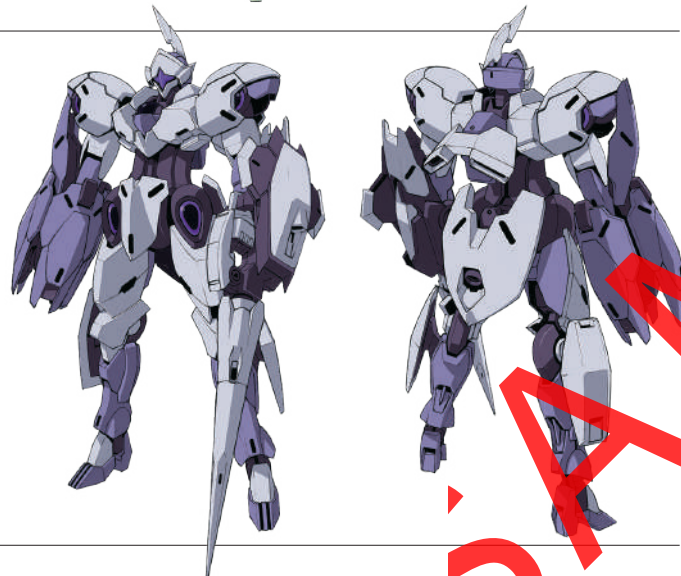
It has a new rifle with a sword mounted on the bottom. The drones it uses are new. On their shoulders, they are shield-shaped ones. On their backs, they have ones with integrated beam sabers.



Michaelis

Model Number: CFK-029
Manufacturer: Grassley Defense Systems
Pilot: Shaddiq Zenelli

The left arm is equipped with the Javelin Bracer, which fires its tip as a projectile using a wire.



XGF-E3 Gundnode

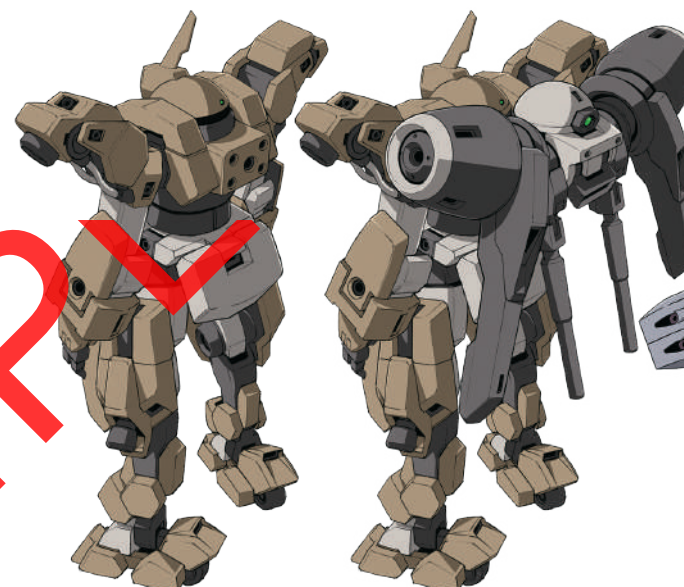
A mobile suit-type GUND-Bit, developed alongside the Quiet Zero by Prospera. This Data Storm space amplifier can also be used as a mobile armor with extra gear.



Demi Barding

Model Number: MSJ-R122
Height: 16.9 m
Weight: 78.3 t
Manufacturer: Burion
Pilot: Chuatury Panlunch

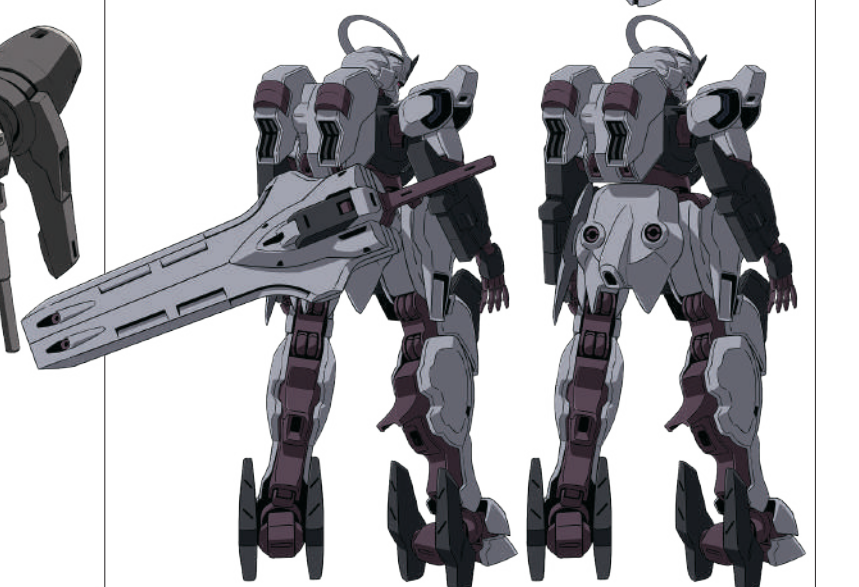
A new concept model in the Demi series that Brion Corp is currently designing and developing. It has luxurious specifications that have nothing to do with profitability. It boasts easy-to-handle designs and maintainability, which are iconic features of the series. Additionally, it can use a backpack with flight unit functions.



Gundam Schwarzette

Model Number: MDX-0003
Height: 18.7 m
Weight: 73.3 t
Manufacturer: Jeturk Heavy Machinery
Pilot: Lauda Neill

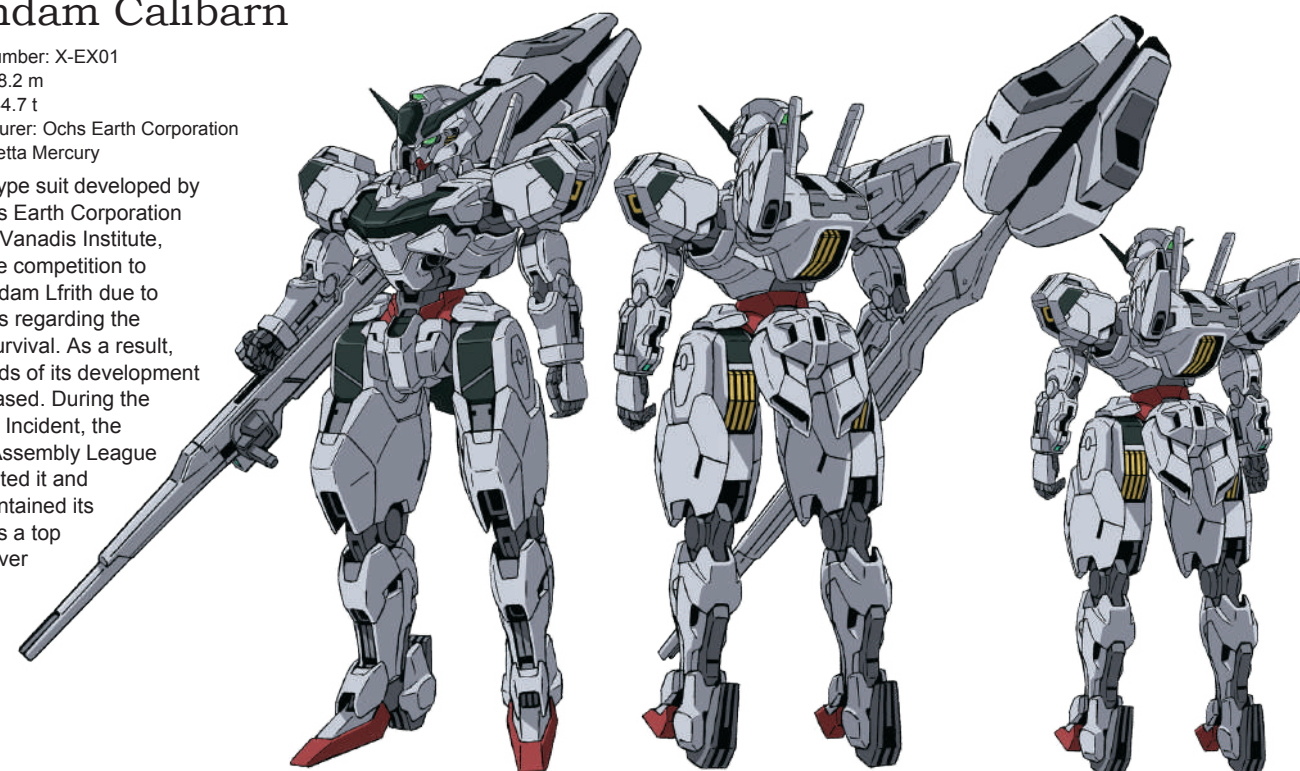
Jeturk Corp created this new concept model but stopped its development. They intended it to be the successor to the Darilbalde. Later, Prospera provided them with GUND format technology for its production. The model utilizes GUND-Bits inspired by the Gundam Aerial.



Gundam Calibarn

Model Number: X-EX01
Height: 18.2 m
Weight: 44.7 t
Manufacturer: Ochs Earth Corporation
Pilot: Suletta Mercury

A prototype suit developed by the Ochs Earth Corporation and the Vanadis Institute, it lost the competition to the Gundam Lfrith due to concerns regarding the pilot's survival. As a result, all records of its development were erased. During the Vanadis Incident, the Space Assembly League confiscated it and has maintained its status as a top secret ever since.



Story review of *Mobile Suit Gundam: the Witch from Mercury* Season 2!

Two weeks after the attack on Plant Quetta. At first glance, it looks like school has returned to normal. Yet, GUND-ARM and Gundam are slowly forcing the world to change. Prospera approaches Miorine to let her run for the presidency to further her own plans. Shaddiq, who has been plotting a scheme, now shows his true intentions.

We finally learn the secrets of Prospera, Ericht, Suletta, and Aerial's relationships from Season 1. The story that began with Suletta and Miorine's encounter pulls the world into a huge vortex. Let's take a look back at the road they've traveled.



Episode 13: *Envoys from the Earth*

Two weeks after the attack on the Quetta factory. Asticassia School of Technology is preparing for the open campus. A gag order is in place about the incident at Plant Quetta, and GUND-ARM Inc. has also suspended operations. Miorine is at the Benerit Group headquarters, watching over her badly injured father, Delling. Units are secretly mobilized within the group to apprehend the perpetrators. Sophie and Norea are enrolled at the school on the orders of Shaddiq, the mastermind behind the whole incident. Nika, the person the organization is talking to, finds out who they are and tells them to leave the school. But they overpower Nika. The one who saves her is Suletta. To break the deadlock, Suletta challenges them to a duel.

We'll show Big Sis that Gundams are just machines made for violence.



Episode 14: *What They Wish For*

Prospera suggests Miorine should continue Delling's Quiet Zero project. She admits that Miorine's mom initiated the project. She and Delling are in agreement. She brought Suletta to the school to evolve Aerial. On the open campus, a battle royale-style duel, the Rumble Ring, begins. At that time, two Gundams that attacked Plant Quetta appear. Activating the mobile suit-type GUND-Bits, Gundvölvas, they ravage the place. Breaking through the front wall, Aerial and Gundam Lfrith Ur collide in space. Due to the strain of the data storm in this battle, Sophie loses her life. Meanwhile, Belmeria presses Prospera about Aerial's true identity.

Move forward, gain two... Just like Mom says!



Episode 15: *Father and Child*

Dawn of Fold, the perpetrators of the incident, capture Guel after the attack on Plant Quetta and hold him hostage on Earth. Meanwhile, Shaddiq captures Sarius. Shaddiq wants to destroy the privileged structure of war sharing. He also wants to balance relations between Spacians and Earthians. Shaddiq plans to empower Earthians. Garrison forces from Benerit Group are closing in on Dawn of Fold's hideout on Earth. This is causing them to prepare for their retreat. The Dawn of Fold's MS squad distracts the garrison. Guel boards an abandoned MS to save a girl named Seethia, who got hurt during the attack.



I don't want to lose any more of the things that bind me to my father.

Episode 17: *Precious Things*

Prospera suggests that Miorine become the next president to continue the Quiet Zero project and fulfill her wish of freeing Suletta. Prospera also states that Suletta and Aerial will have to duel once again. Meanwhile, upon his return to the school, Guel rescues Suletta from Elan (Enhanced Person #5). After overhearing their conversation, the determined Miorine urges Suletta to duel with Guel. Miorine devises a plan to befriend Guel, who aims to revive the Jeturk Corporation. Her ultimate goal is to free Suletta.

Pride alone won't defeat Suletta Mercury.

Episode 18: *Our Empty Selves*

After losing Miorine and Aerial in a duel against Guel, Suletta acts as if she has overcome her sadness. Shaddiq secures the cooperation of Peil Corporation and contacts Prospera to prepare for the election. Feeling pressed for time, Miorine decides to follow Prospera's suggestion and speak with Earth's protesters to help calm the riots. With Chuchu's support, Suletta decides to meet Miorine once again. However, she unexpectedly encounters Aerial instead. In Aerial, Suletta comes face-to-face with Ericht and learns the complete truth.



You can't cling to me anymore. Not to me, or to Mom.

Episode 16: *Cycle of Sin*

The secrets regarding the attack on Plant Quetta and the terror incidents at the Academy have been leaked. The Benerit Group, using the Corporate Administration Act as an excuse, unilaterally oppresses people on Earth. This further fuels anti-Spacian sentiment on Earth, and the media reports that the situation is escalating towards a riot. The Group is now facing significant criticism for its actions. In an effort to resolve the situation, a new presidential election has been called. At the Academy, student activities are restricted, and those in the Earth House are suspended. Miorine struggles to accept Suletta's words about trusting her mother and confronts Prospera.



If you want revenge, why don't you adults kill each other? But leave Suletta out of your vengeance!



Episode 19: *Not the Best Way*

The residents of the Earth Dorm offer support to Suletta, who is feeling down. Meanwhile, Miorine and Guel travel to Earth to engage in negotiations at Quin Harbor. It proves challenging, but the Earth negotiator decides to listen to Miorine after discovering the GUND-ARM's prosthetic limbs and her sincerity. He agrees to temporarily halt the protests until the completion of her election. Prospera, who accompanies Miorine, uses Aerial to take control of Earth's weapons. This initiates a clash with the stationed forces. Taking this opportunity, Prospera proceeds to the Ochs Earth Corporation facilities, which were believed to have been destroyed 21 years ago.



The heinous sinners who trampled on GUND's ideals... Now you're trying to interfere with Eri's future? I can't allow that, can I?