

26th September 2011

New exhibits for interactive gallery

Launched on – Monday 26th September 2011

Thanks to a generous donation from the RAF Charitable Trust, the Royal Air Force Museum Cosford has been able to invest in the popular interactive area Fun 'n' Flight. The grant has enabled the Museum to commission three new interactive exhibits together with an upgrade to the Cosford weather station, which is also available online through the Museums website.

The Fun 'n' Flight gallery is used by more than 20,000 students each year and thousands of Museum visitors, packed with hands on excitement, it's the easy way to answer all those questions about how planes stay up in the air. The grant of almost £30,000 from the RAF Charitable Trust has also enabled work to be undertaken to replace text panels, upgrade electrical circuits and redecorate the Fun 'n' Flight gallery. Today the area was re-launched by Air Chief Marshal Sir John Day, Chairman of Royal Air Force Museum Trustees and Air Vice-Marshal Richard Charles, Trustee of the RAF Charitable Trust with a number of invited guests present.

Pupils from Lady Grove Primary School, Telford attended the launch and were the first to test out the new exhibits;

- **The Blower** – which demonstrates Bernoulli's principle, based on the idea that as a wing passes through the air its shape causes air to travel over the top of the wing creating a higher pressure beneath the wing. This pressure difference causes the wing to push upwards and lift is created.
- **Mission Control** – Three interactive kiosks that help young people to broaden their understanding of navigation, jet and piston engines in a fun and innovative way.
- **Radar Table** - An exhibit that demonstrates Ultrasonic Radar. A transmitter/receiver mounted at the rear of a purpose built table emits a pulse, which, if there is a target present on the table, will be reflected back to the receiver.

Sue Fitzsimmons, Head of Access and Learning Development says:

"The addition of these three new exhibits marks a significant development for our interactive gallery. They will enable children and visitors to explore areas of Science & Technology not previously covered in an exciting and innovative way."

Fun 'n' Flight is staffed by a dedicated team of volunteers many of whom are retired engineers and technicians who can offer in-depth explanations to our visitors. Many of the volunteers were involved in the discussions for the proposed redevelopment along with consultation with secondary school teachers and undergraduates from Loughborough University to establish what they felt would enhance this area for visitors. The ideas generated were then brought to life by 'Jellybean Creative Ltd' based in Leicester, who created the bespoke exhibits.

The Fun 'n' Flight Gallery was originally opened in the spring of 2000 following a substantial donation by Mrs Puddepha in memory of her husband Ken. Ken was an aviation enthusiast who had served as a Wireless Operator in Bomber Command during WWII. Mrs Puddepha was present at today's re-launch and was accompanied by her nephew Robert Clark.

The Museum is open daily from 10am and admission is free of charge. For more information on the Museum, visit www.rafmuseum.org or call 01902 376200.

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Notes to Editors:

- Royal Air Force Museum Cosford, Shifnal, Shropshire, TF11 8UP
- Open daily from 10am
- FREE admission
- For further information and all media enquiries please contact Michelle Worthington on 01902 376212 or michelle.worthington@rafmuseum.org
- RAF Museum Cosford images & logo available at:
<http://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/cosford/media-enquiries/downloads.cfm>