

NEWS RELEASE

Museum's Harrier Jump Jet presented with prestigious Engineering Heritage Award

16 October 2012

The Hawker Siddeley Harrier, also known as the Harrier Jump Jet, on display at the RAF Museum, Hendon was presented with a prestigious Institution of Mechanical Engineers' Engineering Heritage Award on Thursday 18 October.

The award recognises its position as the first vertical take-off aircraft to go into volume production.

Professor Isobel Pollock, President of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers who will be presenting the award to Air Vice-Marshal Peter Dye, the Museum's Director General, on Thursday said:

"The Harrier Jump Jet is a fantastic example of British engineering and it is a great testament to the preservation work of the RAF Museum in Hendon that it is in such excellent condition.

"The Harrier Jump Jet, developed in the 1960s, and is a precursor to subsequent vertical take-off aircraft like the Harrier II and F-35 Lightning II.

"Thursday's award recognises the fact that the Hawker Siddeley Harrier was the first generation of vertical take-off aircraft to go into volume production.

"Engineering Heritage Awards recognise great engineering achievements, with previous winners including Tower Bridge, the E-Type Jaguar and the Falkirk Wheel."

Museum Director General Peter Dye said

"It's an honour to receive this award and we take pride in displaying it. As the first operational vertical short take-off and landing jet fighter, the Harrier will always be regarded as an iconic aircraft in the history of British aviation. It is a fine example of British engineering, built around the remarkable Rolls Royce Pegasus engine and is a true aviation milestone."

The plaque was unveiled as part of a ceremony rededicating the jet's prestigious Engineering Heritage Award from the Institution of Mechanical Engineers.

The award was originally presented to the aircraft in October 1990, but the site was subsequently demolished.

The Engineering Heritage Awards, established in 1984, aim to promote artefacts, sites or landmarks of significant engineering importance – past and present.

Notes to Editors

- Contact the Institution of Mechanical Engineers' Press Office on 020 7304 6877 or email media@imeche.org.uk
- The Institution of Mechanical Engineers was established in 1847 and has some of the world's greatest engineers in its history books. It currently has about 100,000 members, representing mechanical engineers involved in a diversity of fields such as the automotive, rail, aerospace, medical, power and construction industries.
- Entrance to the Royal Air Force Museum is FREE. Royal Air Force Museum Grahame Park Way, London NW9 5LL www.rafmuseum.org