

# ONSITE



*PLANNING FOR SUCCESS*

## 'Comment'

PLANNING FOR SUCCESS

Jeff Mountain, Warton Site Director, gives us his views on our theme for this month.



Planning is by definition about the future.

Doing all we can to make sure the future is successful can be much harder in these uncertain times. For most of us the past has been characterised by a measure of relative security and certainty that is unlikely to ever return. Encouragingly, however, significant adjustments in our attitudes and approach to the way we undertake our work is now taking good hold throughout the organisation.

Everywhere past assumptions are being looked at and tested for their relevance today. Departments and individuals are seeking better ways to make their contribution and provide a service to the rest of the organisation. Sometimes this can seem to result in an excess of initiatives and indeed not properly handled, some attempts at change can become at best a chore or at worst destructive.

To be successful in planning for the future the importance of starting with the right frame of mind probably cannot be overstated.

The practices and, in some cases, values that have served us well in the past are not as effective in coping with the issues that face us today and in the future. As individuals, as well as an organisation, we need to ask whether or not we have correctly come to terms with change in all its manifestations and thereby made ourselves ready to be part of the successful future.

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FRONT COVER by Warton Graphics Department.



Some of the crew from the High Speed Wind Tunnel with the 30,000th run anniversary cake, kindly donated by Gardner Merchant

## 30,000 AND STILL BLOWING STRONG

A lot of publicity has been given recently to the opening of the new 4.0m 'low' speed wind tunnel at Warton. But in comparison, its sister tunnel, Europe's largest industry-owned 'high' speed wind tunnel (HSWT) has steadily and without fuss reached a major milestone, its 30,000th run.

The Tunnel located on South Side was commissioned in 1960 and is particularly useful in being able to cover subsonic, transonic and supersonic flow regimes in a single facility - not possible in any other European complex. The Tunnel operates in much the same way as blowing up a balloon and releasing the air after pinching the nozzle - with the wind tunnel model being in the nozzle.

However, it takes 20% of all electricity used by the Warton Site over a period of 50 minutes to replenish the vessels with the 15 tons of air needed for a 20 seconds run.

Currently the HSWT is busy testing a new technology 1:15 scale Hawk model built at Brough. EFA and NCA (Next Combat Aircraft) research also provides a major part of their workload.

Jack Kitching, the only remaining member of the original 1960 Wind Tunnel Team, said, 'I have been involved from run 1 to 30,000. 34 years in the same building could be a record, I have heard people get less for murder', laughed Jack, 'I am proud to have been part of the success of the Wind Tunnel.'

## SHUTTLE PILOT VISITS WARTON

'Manned Space - Today and in the Future' was the lecture given by Colonel John E Blaha (USAF) to a packed audience in the Warton Lecture Theatre recently.

Colonel Blaha had, only days before, brought the Space Shuttle Atlantis back from a nine-day trouble free mission to deploy a Tracking and Data Relay Satellite and conduct physiological experiments for long duration manned flights.

The local branch of the Royal Aeronautical Society (RAeS) intercepted Colonel Blaha who was on his way to give the same lecture to a specialist group of test pilots at Hamilton Place, the head office of the RAeS.

Following the lecture, Dave Gardner, Technical Director, MAD, and President

of the RAeS Preston Branch presented Colonel Blaha with a model of EFA and received a commemorative plaque in return.



Dave Gardner, left, with Colonel John E Blaha, NASA Shuttle Pilot