

# FIRST TYPHOON FLIGHT IN RSAF LIVERY



In December 2005, the Saudi Arabian and UK Governments announced the signing of an Understanding Document that aimed to establish a greater partnership in modernising the Saudi Armed Forces. This paved the way for the acquisition of 72 Typhoon aircraft, and the transfer of technology, investment and training, confirmed on 17 September 2007.

BAE Systems, which has had a presence in Saudi Arabia since 1973, is one of the largest companies in the industrial sector and currently employs 4,700 people.

A Typhoon fighter aircraft in the full two-tone grey livery of the Royal Saudi Air Force (RSAF) was flown at BAE Systems' Warton Aerodrome in Lancashire, North West England in October. This milestone marks the start of an initial test flight programme for RSAF Typhoon aircraft being assembled at Warton.

Directly linked to Saudi Arabia's acquisition of Typhoon, the Company is making significant progress on agreeing a partnered support approach. This will offer significant levels of opportunity for Saudi industry, specifically through the development of an engineering and manufacturing footprint and a Centre for Arab Excellence.

## Saudi Pilots Get Their Wings

As part of the Salam programme BAE Systems is training a number of pilots to fly Typhoon. The first tranche of pilots will be trained in the UK some of whom will become instructor pilots in KSA.

Colonel Mohammed Abdullah Al Shahrani and Major Methwed Wassam Al Qahtani, who are the first

pilots to undergo this training, received their graduation certificates from the Commander of the Royal Saudi Air Force, His Highness, Lt. General Abdulrahman Bin Fahd Al Faisal At RAF Cosford on the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2008.

The Commander, who was on an official visit to the UK, took the opportunity to meet up with a number of RSAF personnel undergoing training in the UK.

