



Issue 18

May 1998

Aviation Sub-Group Newsletter

BAe's 'Virtual University' Is Set For Take-Off

A new 'corporate university' is set to become one of Britain's richest higher education institutions rivalling famous and ancient seats of learning.

British Aerospace is launching its 'virtual university', promising an annual budget of £200m over the next decade.

The university, given the go-ahead last year, has established a 'founding consortium', which includes Oxford and Cambridge.

York, recently revealed as Britain's top provincial university, is also listed among the partnership institutions.

Students will be offered a wider range of courses than conventional institutions - from an MSc in aircraft engineering to a 'strategic leadership' programme run by the Royal College of Defence Studies or a 'top management' programme organised by the government's

Airbus News

Airtours has signed a firm contract for two R-R Trent 772-powered A330-200s for delivery in April and June 1999.

Kuwaiti conglomerate Mohamed Abdulmohsin Al Kharafi has become the first announced customer for the Airbus Corporate Jetliner. Powered by International Aero Engines V2527s, the A319CJ will be configured to carry 30 passengers.

Defence

British Aerospace is working on an air-frame modification kit for the Eurofighter EF2000 which will significantly increase its combat radius in the strike role. The company is developing upper fuselage conformal fuel tanks, as well as larger underwing tanks, which will give the aircraft an unrefuelled combat radius in excess of 2780km.

Meanwhile, Eurofighter has successfully carried out a series of refuelling trials whilst DA2 achieved Mach 2 for the first time. Separately, DA7 has made the first missile launches (an AIM-9L Sidewinder) and DA3 carried external wing-mounted fuel tanks.

Did You Know?

Mobile phones and laptop computers are not the only equipment which can interfere with airborne radio signals. Electronic games, portable CD players and electronic dictionaries are all capable of disrupting such equipment as autopilot, nav aids etc.

The Civil Aviation Authority is considering new rules for carry-on luggage after receiving some recommendations from the Bureau of

Local News

The Royal Saudi Air Force (RSAF) has decided to replace its F-5 & RF-5 fleet with F-16C/Ds. The RSAF has a requirement for around 100 aircraft, but the initial order could be as low as 36.