

VOYAGER NEWS

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FSTA MEETS CONTRACT MILESTONE



The Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft (FSTA) programme reached the final establishment phase milestone on 30th September 2016 with the achievement of Full Service Date (FSD) on time and on budget.

The FSD landmark completes an eight-year delivery phase for the programme, under which AirTanker has delivered 14 A330-200 aircraft, which are known as Voyager in RAF service. The fleet of nine core and five surge aircraft operates in both the military and civil leasing sectors.

The FSTA programme has been delivered through the largest Private Finance Initiative of its kind in the defence sector; a 27-year contract through to 2035. ■

VOYAGER EXCELS IN F-35 AAR TRIALS



Voyager performed exceptionally well in Air-to-Air Refuelling (AAR) clearance trials for the F-35 (Lightning II) in the United States. The trials were completed ahead of time and proved a great success.

Gary Palmer, the Voyager PT Leader, could not have been more effusive in his praise for the way the 'Whole Force' worked together to make this happen.

The trials included flights to assess both the wing pods and the fuselage refuelling unit. Data gathered will feed into the certification of both aircraft, scheduled by the end of 2016. From that point, Voyager will be qualified to perform AAR for the F-35. ■



APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME LAUNCHES

AirTanker has launched its first ever Aeronautical Engineering Apprenticeship scheme with six apprentices starting their journey in the industry in September.

The Aeronautical Engineering Apprenticeship lasts for two years and will give the students a strong grounding in aviation-related disciplines. They will spend the first nine months completing a foundation phase at Cotswold Airport near Cirencester, followed by 15 months of practical training with AirTanker at RAF Brize Norton.

The scheme is a positive opportunity for the next generation of engineers to begin their careers, while AirTanker will be nurturing the skills it needs for long-term success. ■

CELEBRATING WOMEN IN ENGINEERING

National Women in Engineering Day is dedicated to encouraging a new generation of female engineers. ATrS colleagues Rebecca Roberts and Liz Roberts give their impressions:

Rebecca says: "My advice to girls thinking about their future career would be to keep an open mind. Consider the subjects you study; maths and the sciences are important. Be confident and with the right support, you can do it."

Liz comments: "I've been part of the last three aircraft acceptance teams out in Madrid, (where the A330 is converted to the military Voyager configuration by Airbus Defence and Space), which helped to increase my technical knowledge and it's made me even more determined to get my B2 licence." ■

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