



Jet Engine Voted 'Greatest Aviation Innovation Of First 100

October 8, 2003 - Eclipse Aviation announced today that the jet engine is the people's greatest aviation innovation of powered flight's first 100 years...but not by much. Since more than 16,000 people voted online or in person at one of six Countdown to Kitty Hawk pavilions, the jet engine won by three tenths of a percent—37.4 percent to 37.1 percent—over the Wright Flyer.

Eclipse announced the voting results at the National Business Aviation Association's (NBAA) Meeting & Convention in Orlando, Florida, where the Albuquerque, New Mexico, development of the 500 jet is a sponsor of EAA's Countdown to Kitty Hawk presented by Ford Motor Company. The pavilion, which includes aviation exhibits and the world's most authentic 1903 Wright Flyer reproduction, was built by Eclipse and its sponsoring partners, including NBAA, Parker Aerospace, Mecanica Management, Avidyne, Aerazur, EDS, Seamech, and QualPro Strategies.

Eclipse's Greatest Aviation Innovations of the First 100 Years exhibit highlighted the following innovations with interactive displays in the Countdown to Kitty Hawk pavilion:

- ✦ Jet Engine - The biggest advance in propulsion. (37.4%)
- ✦ 1903 Wright Flyer - Pointed the way for all successful aircraft that followed it. (37.1%)
- ✦ Piper Cub - The plane that introduced thousands of people to the joy of flying and became a synonym for small plane. (7.5%)
- ✦ Boeing 747 - Proved those wrong who doubted there would be enough passengers to make a "jetliner" profitable. (4.6%)
- ✦ Air Traffic Control (ATC) Technology - Introduced a unified system of air traffic control.
- ✦ Douglas DC-3/Boeing 247 - The first modern airliners. (3.4%)
- ✦ Sikorsky VS-300 Helicopter - Made vertical flight a reality. (2.2%)
- ✦ Controllable Pitch Propeller - Unlocked the key to getting full performance potential from a piston engine. (1.6%)
- ✦ Learjet - Revolutionized business aviation and became synonymous with "business jet".
- ✦ DeHavilland Comet & Boeing Dash 80 - Set the performance benchmark for the jet age. (1.1%)

"Eclipse is committed to revolutionizing the future of air transportation in the next century. We sponsor the Greatest Aviation Innovations program which highlights and honors major aviation innovations for the first century of flight," said Vern Raburn, Eclipse president and CEO. "Through our program, we are celebrating 100 years of aviation history and the spirit of innovation exemplified by two bicycle makers from Ohio."

"There can be no doubt that the introduction of the jet engine was one of the great turning points in aviation history."

history of flight,” said Dr. Tom Crouch, senior curator of aeronautics with the Smithsonian Space Museum, and one of the judges in the competition that identified the top 10 civil for voter consideration. “Independently invented by Dr. Hans von Ohain in Germany and in Great Britain, turbojet propulsion inaugurated the era of mass commercial air transport.

Earlier this year, judges for the Greatest Aviation Innovations program selected the 10 that have most significantly benefited travelers by decreasing travel time, increasing comfort and improving air safety. In addition to Crouch, the other panelists included Richard Co magazine; Scott Spangler, Editor in Chief, EAA Publications; Jack Olcott of the National Association; Michael Fopp of the Royal Air Force Museum; and Sir Peter Masefield, avi



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Media interested in receiving credentials for EAA's re-enactment of the Wright brothers' historic flight at the First Flight Centennial Celebration in Kitty Hawk, N.C., should contact Jonathan Rhudy at jrhudy@crtr.com or 804-675-8132.