



F-35 Lightning II assembly facility

The proposed expansion of the operational floor space in the F-35 Lightning II assembly facility, in support of the aircraft build rate increase, is at an advanced stage of design. Planned to be constructed in two phases, the initial phase will see the floor space double in size to 11,528 square metres and on completion of phase 2 the facility will cover 22,928 square metres.

The building will be temperature controlled, with a flexible infrastructure to house both assembly jigs and machine tools. On-site construction of the Phase I extension is scheduled to commence in January 2010.

Site transformation programme

As part of the ongoing site transformation programme, several existing buildings have been identified for demolition on Samlesbury site, with the initial phase scheduled to commence before the end of 2009.

Sponsorship in the local community

BAE Systems has made a £2,000 donation towards the refurbishment of the Mellor Brook Community Centre.

A registered charity, the centre currently has approximately 1500 people a month using the facilities. The centre is mainly used by young people including, for example, the Cubs and Brownies organisations as well as a Toddler Group and Dance and Drama class.

Bus service

BAE Systems in partnership with Walton's coaches now has three bus routes in operation. Running from Lea and Penwortham in Preston and from Lytham St Annes, the buses are proving popular with those who use them. The company continues to promote alternative methods of transport to and from the workplace in order to minimise the environmental impact on the local community.

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Samlesbury site

development update September 2009



It's been a busy summer at Samlesbury and it now seems a long time since we celebrated the completion of the Phase 1 development in May.

In the last few months a significant number of employees have relocated to Samlesbury and both of our new office buildings are now occupied.

Our focus is now switching to Phase 2 of the development and the investments we are making to establish Samlesbury as the hub of our airframe-engineering and manufacturing activities.



This newsletter will give you an overview of current and future activities. Once again, I hope you find this update useful and please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any issues or concerns.

Dave Holmes
Director of Investment and Infrastructure Services

New office buildings occupied

Both of the new office buildings (608 & 609 buildings) at Samlesbury are now occupied, providing our International and F-35 Lightning II teams with modern, flexible accommodation. The buildings which contains state-of-the-art conference facilities, also provide the levels of integration needed to deliver a number of internationally important aircraft and support programmes.



Rapid progress on new machining facility

In August, the fitting of a "golden bolt" marked the latest phase in the development of the new F-35 Lightning II machining facility at Samlesbury.

Over a ten week period over 700 tonnes of steelwork has been manoeuvred into place on the 9,000 square metre facility. The ceremonial golden bolt brought to a close the structural phase of the build, prior to the walls and roof being put into place.

The work on the building is scheduled to be completed in March 2010, ready to receive the hard metal machines that will become operational in September next year.



Building extension work underway

Infrastructure work to support the extension of 1 Building at Samlesbury is currently underway.

This extension to 1 Building will be an Advanced Forming and Fabrication Facility – 127 Building, and will comprise of a purpose built manufacturing facility for super plastic forming/ diffusion bonding as well as a machining facility for the manufacture and assembly of F-35 Lightning II nozzle bay doors and key Typhoon products.

Construction of the 4,700 square metre facility is expected to commence in January 2010 and will be completed early 2011.



Opening of new MEST facility

The new Materials Engineering Support Test (MEST) facility, costing in the region of £1.9m, was completed ahead of schedule and on budget in August.

The facility includes seven state-of-the-art laboratories and world-class office space for 50 engineers. Investment in new technology includes a stand alone high powered microscope costing £250K.

The MEST team, who were previously housed in ageing buildings at Warton and Samlesbury, are responsible for a range of engineering testing which includes support to the RAF's frontline aircraft.