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# THE *A1* STEAM LOCOMOTIVE TRUST

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**PRESS INFORMATION - PRESS INFORMATION - PRESS INFORMATION**

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## **ROLLS-ROYCE TO SPONSOR NEW STEAM LOCOMOTIVE NAMED 'TORNADO' Smokebox delivered to Works**

The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust, the registered charity that is building the first new mainline steam locomotive in Britain for almost 40 years, today announced that Rolls-Royce plc has joined its growing list of sponsor-partners. The Trust is raising £1.6 million to build a new ex-LNER Peppercorn Class A1 60163 *Tornado*, named after the RAF fighter-bombers used in the 1990/91 Gulf War. Coincidentally, Rolls-Royce builds the RB199 jet engines that power the Tornado jet.

Rolls-Royce will be helping the Trust by machining parts of the new locomotive's three sets of motion at its Hebburn works. The motion is the metal rods that connect the locomotive's three cylinders to its six 6'8" driving wheels. The Trust estimates that when completed, *Tornado's* motion will have cost around £190,000 at full commercial rates.

In addition, Rolls-Royce will be seconding a graduate trainee to the Trust to develop an apprentice training programme for implementation jointly with the Darlington Partnerships at the Trust's 'Darlington Locomotive Works'. Rolls-Royce will also be donating surplus machinery to the Trust for use in the Works.

Philip Clifton, Operations Director of Rolls-Royce Transmission and Distribution, commented:

"We are delighted to be able to support such an ambitious project as that to build a new steam locomotive in the 1990s. Like Rolls-Royce, the A1 Steam Locomotive Trust prides itself on being the Best of British Engineering. We are pleased to be able to help the Trust with its machining requirements and to help train the engineers of the future in the North East. We look forward to working with the Trust over the coming years."

David Champion, Chairman of The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust, added:

"Rolls-Royce is recognised as the cream of engineering in the North East. The Trust couldn't wish for a better sponsor-partner to work with on the machining of *Tornado's* motion and the development of the Works' apprentice training programme. We are actively seeking additional sponsors and covenantors to enable the locomotive to be completed by 2000."

more follows...

### **Smokebox Delivered to Works**

The smokebox barrel of the new steam locomotive, the first part of its boiler, was delivered to Darlington Locomotive Works on Tuesday 24 March 1998 for fitting to the locomotive's frames. The smokebox door is currently being manufactured by pioneer covenantor Ian Howitt. The door's fittings were paid for through the Trust's dedicated covenants scheme.

Other recent construction activity includes:

- Materials for the manganese linings of the locomotives cannon boxes and between the axle boxes and horn guides have been donated to the Trust by James Fairley Steels of Birmingham.
- Gordon Best of the Trust's Engineering Team is currently working with design specialists at Avesta Sheffield on the detailed alterations of the Tender drawings to make them suitable for Stainless Steel construction.

During April the Trust will be placing orders for *Tornado's* axles and tyres. It is hoped that the completion of this order, along with that soon to be placed for the crank axle, will enable the Trust to start the assembly of the wheelsets in September.

### **Darlington Locomotive Works**

Several pieces of equipment for the Works have recently been donated to the Trust in addition to that promised by Rolls-Royce. Richard Spencer of has donated three full sets of welding equipment and a fourth set has been placed on indefinite loan to the Trust by HM Young Offenders' Institute Deerbolt of Barnart Castle, along with an air compressor; the Alne Valley Railway project has loaned a large lathe to the Trust until its own workshops are completed; Holset of Huddersfield has donated, and refurbished, a 28" radial drill; and Ian Howitt has donated a forklift truck for use in the Works.

The Trust is still seeking further equipment for the Works, the most urgent requirement being steel shelving and racking for the stores room to accommodate all of the recently donated hand tools.

### **Dedicated Covenants**

The Trust's Dedicated Covenant scheme continues to be highly successful, with existing Covenantors having already funded most of the items so far made available. This month the Trust is seeking to complete the funding of the crank axle. It already has ten dedicated covenants in place and is now looking for an additional ten, each made up of a donation of £800 or an extra covenant of £10 per month.

**Countdown to Completion**

On 1 January 1998, The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust committed itself to completing *Tornado* by 27 September 2000 - exactly one thousand days from that date. The new express passenger steam locomotive, the first to be built in Britain since 1954, is already half completed, with the mainframes, wheels, cylinders and cab all finished. The date 27 September 2000 will be the 175th anniversary of the opening of the Stockton & Darlington Railway in 1825, the world's first public railway. Completing *Tornado* in 1,000 days will involve raising around £750,000 through deeds of covenant and industrial sponsorship. This represents over £30 per hour or £750 per day being raised during this period.

The countdown now stands at 895 days to go.

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