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THE *A1* STEAM LOCOMOTIVE TRUST

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A1 TRUST ORDERS FIRST MOTION COMPONENTS FOR NEW STEAM LOCOMOTIVE

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 it had placed orders for the first motion components for *Tornado* with John Hesketh & Son Ltd of Bury. The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust is raising £1.6m to build a new Peppercorn class A1 No. 60163 *Tornado* at its Darlington Locomotive Works through Deeds of Covenant for 'the price of a pint of beer a week'.

This first tranche of forgings include the slide bars and several parts of the reversing gear for the locomotive's three sets of Walschaerts motion. These components will be delivered in June and will then require extensive machining before they can be assembled and fitted to the locomotive.

David Champion, chairman of The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust, commented:

"The order of the first parts of the motion means that work is now being done on every major section of *Tornado* remaining to be completed. Over the coming months orders will be placed for all of the remaining motion components, many of which are still available as dedicated covenants for supporters to fund."

Since each batch of motion parts will require a tensile test to be conducted on a sample cut from one of the forgings, the Trust intends to order all the components from a particular material at the same time.

Sponsorship

Nickerson Fuel Oils (a division of Total Oil) has generously offered to supply lubricants to the Trust, starting with a quantity of machine oil for use in the machine tools at Darlington Locomotive Works. The next delivery will be several drums of grease to pack the roller bearing axle boxes for the locomotive. Additionally, specialist technical support for lubricants suitable for steam locomotive operation has been offered.

more follows...

Construction Update

Work to enable *Tornado* to be wheeled continues. It is the first time that this very specialist and expensive job has been done on a brand new mainline steam locomotive since the completion of British Railway's last steam locomotive in 1960:

- all of the major components are now at Riley & Son (Electromech) Ltd of Bury for assembly of the wheelsets. It is planned to press the two 3ft 8in Cartazzi (trailing) wheels onto their axles by the end of next week and the machining of the bogie axles is now almost complete and will be followed by the pressing of the four 3ft 2in wheels onto their axles over the next three months
- Heskeths has delivered six forgings for the roller bearing abutment rings. These rings have a 45° bevelled face, which abuts against the collar on the axle. They have also completed the forgings for the trunnions, which form the horn faces on the crank axle boxes
- William Cook Cast Products at Burton upon Trent has cast the cannon and crank axle boxes.

Other recent construction activity:

- the smokebox door assembly is nearing completion at the workshops of Ian Howitt Limited at Crofton near Wakefield and will be delivered to Darlington Locomotive Works along with the rear smokebox ring by the end of March.

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