



· The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust ·

NEW STEAM FOR THE NEW MILLENNIUM

## PRESS INFORMATION – PRESS INFORMATION - PRESS INFORMATION

PR03/05

Saturday 23 July 2005

### **FIRST 'DUCHESS' FROM KINGS CROSS FOR 41 YEARS**

#### **Steam-hauled train takes more than 400 supporters to see new steam locomotive under construction**

The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust, the registered charity that is building the first new mainline steam locomotive in Britain for over 40 years, is today running a special train, *The Talisman*, from London's Kings Cross station to Darlington to see under-construction steam locomotive *Tornado*. The ex-LNER Peppercorn class A1 Pacific No. 60163 *Tornado* is being built by the Trust in its Darlington Locomotive Works and is due to be completed by November 2007, provided that a further £385,000 is raised towards its construction costs. To-date the Trust has raised and spent over £1.5m.

*The Talisman* is being hauled by LMS Princess Coronation class steam locomotive No. 6233 *Duchess of Sutherland* and it is 41 years since a locomotive of this type hauled a train along the East Coast Mainline from London's Kings Cross station. This class of locomotive worked the heaviest express passenger trains on the rival West Coast Mainline from the 1930s to the 1960s and No. 6233 *Duchess of Sutherland* has twice hauled the Royal Train in recent years.

Mark Allatt, chairman, The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust, added:

"The Trust is delighted to be running its first special train from Kings Cross today, carrying more than 400 supporters to see *Tornado*. Not only are we expecting a first-class day out but we are hopeful that the sight of our under-construction locomotive will encourage our supporters to help us finish *Tornado* by participating in our bond issue or sponsoring a component. We are now calling on all those interested in seeing *Tornado* in steam in 2007 to help us to bridge our £385,000 funding gap."

The A1 Trust is building Peppercorn Class A1 Pacific No. 60163 *Tornado* at its Darlington Locomotive Works and when complete it will be used on charter trains operating on Network Rail. Significant progress has been made on the construction of *Tornado*, with over £1.5m raised to-date through deeds of covenant, commercial sponsorship and through a bond issue. In order to complete *Tornado* as quickly as possible - by November 2007 - the Trust needs to raise £385,000 on top of its existing pledges.

**Timings of *The Talisman***

*From London:*

Kings Cross - 0630

Peterborough - 0740

Water in Peterborough Yard and depart 0830

Doncaster RMT 0955 (for water)

Doncaster - 1045

York - 1113 to 1115

Darlington - 1153.

*From Darlington:*

Darlington - 1620

York - 1705 to 1707

Doncaster - 1738

Don RMT – 1748 -1828 (for water)

Peterborough Yard - 1947 - 2027

Peterborough - 2032-2034

Kings Cross - 2142

- ENDS -

