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Save the Trident statement

We are a volunteer group who own the last and only full example of a Hawker Siddeley Trident 1c passenger aircraft G-ARPO that is at the North East Land Sea and air museum at Old Washington road ,Sunderland.

We dismantled the Trident at Teeside airport by removing the wings and tail and moved it by road to the Nelsam site in 2011 .It was an aircraft that flew with BEA and BA from 1965 till 1983 .The break down and move of the Trident aircraft was all funded by donations from the public through our website <http://www.savethetrident.org/> as well as sponsorship from many companies in the North East region

We have now restored the fuselage inside and out and have painted it into the Northeast livery an airline that flew Tridents from the Northeast area and was taken over by British airways . We now have it open to the public as well as have school visits and scout and cub visits onto the aircraft which are arranged through the NELSAM's museums educational program. Recently we had East Durham college come and do some filming on the Trident for their course syllabus . This is the only aircraft in around 90 miles circumference that the public can go on and see inside an airliner. For people and families that have never flown before this could be their only chance to go on one and experience inside one.

Inside the aircraft we have themed the aircraft to BKS livery in the front cabin and BA in the rear with two large displays in the rear telling the story of the Trident with picture and literature boards. We also have a TV and DVD player inside the rear showing the Trident story as well as have audio of a virtual flight to Nice, France playing on cd in the front cabin to give the public the experience of what it would of been like to fly on the Trident with air stewardess, and captain dialogue with engine start up , take off and landing. We also have dressed female mannequins showing different stewardess uniforms which were on the Trident. We also have 3 dressed male mannequins in the flight deck representing the flight crew and have audio playing of the take off and landing checks that were voiced by 2 former Trident pilots.

We had a roll out opening in July 2015 to the public of which we had over 40 of its former pilots that flew it attend as well as had a lovely letter of support and good wishes sent from HRH the Duchess of Cambridge whos grandfather flew this aircraft too.

At present we are restoring the wings and tail of which we are looking to reattach in the very near future The aircraft with the wings and tail on is 114 ft long and a 90 ft wing span and is very impressive completed.

With the ongoing talks and assessments that are taking place with the council and NELSAM and the boundaries of the IAMP park over whether the museum will acquire a new lease it leaves our group 'Save the Trident group' very worried about our future. When we enquired to come to the museum back in 2009 we were told and saw site plans that there was going to be a new lease and that the talks were in a very advanced stage with further land going to be allocated in the new lease allowing us to be convinced that we would have a good strong successful future where we can deliver a very good exhibit for the public to come and enjoy.

We very much want to have a future to develop and progress and be able to show our aircraft to the public as a great exhibit. We feel that our aircraft and the museum could have a very good future running alongside the IAMP of which the up to date technologies from the companies coming to the park could be used inside the museum alongside the old. This would knit the past with the present giving the schools and public an amazing up to date experience with the nostalgia of yesteryear as well as would serve as a great venue for future IAMP companies to bring their clients. We are prepared to work with the council and the park if it means we can progress in giving a great exhibit to the Northeast.

It would be very hard for us to move the aircraft again as we raised the money through donations and probably could not raise the donations again. Plus it is a large aircraft that cannot be moved down all roads and would need permission from the Ministry of Transport as it is over width. The Trident would also suffer a lot of damage from the continuous lifting that would be required to move it

As we have said earlier this is the last and only full example of this aircraft left anywhere in the world. There was only 24 of this particular Trident built. It deserves to have a future for people and generations to come, to be able to see a real one and not one on the PC or in books.

We hope you all can support the Trident and give her the future that this great example of British engineering deserves by allowing us and the NELSAM museum to stay, to have a new lease where we can work with the IAMP park and the councils to give the Northeast region a top class museum which gives great family days out as well as boosting tourism and jobs to the region.

Thank you

Kindest regards

Tony Jarrett

Team leader of Save the Trident group

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