

PRESS RELEASE 18 September 2011

Dr. Philipp Rösler, Federal Minister of Economics and Technology of Germany, visited ETW. Dr. Rösler and his delegation were especially interested in ETW's role of supporting aircraft development from science to realisation.

Cologne - During the DLR "German Aerospace Day" on 18 September 2011, the German Federal Minister of Economics and Technology Dr. Philipp Rösler visited the European Transonic Windtunnel ETW in Cologne, Germany.

ETW is the worldwide leading wind tunnel for testing aircraft at real flight conditions serving both research and industry. This facility is supported by the four associated nations Germany, France, UK and the Netherlands. Aircraft performance and their flight-envelope limits can be accurately predicted with unique quality at ETW much earlier than flight testing of a first prototype. As an industrial development tool ETW has contributed significantly to programmes such as Airbus A320, A350, A380 or Dassault Falcon 7X. Bridging the gap between laboratory and real-flight testing, ETW accelerates innovation from science to realisation, supports the competitiveness of European aeronautics and contributes to the development of sustainable air transport.

Identified by ACARE¹ as a strategic facility for Europe, ETW successfully serves as a research infrastructure in various European and national projects. Currently ETW is engaged in the EU funded FP7 ESWIRP programme aimed at optimising research infrastructures, to improve the quality of their simulation and to facilitate access to researchers and academia.

Completing his technical tour of the transonic wind tunnel, Dr. Rösler was impressed to be informed that the cryogenically operated ETW is able to provide data matching in-flight results of modern large transport aircraft with a unique accuracy of better than 99%.

ETW is an indispensable tool to safeguard the overall competitiveness of the European aeronautical industry in the long term. This high-tech facility enables scientists and industry to meet today's and future needs for low-emission air transport by providing a unique capability in Europe to develop and validate innovative, sustainable solutions. In times of rising dynamic cycles of innovation, the investment in research and innovation is vital to sustain the opportunities for further technological development and the creation of high-grade jobs.

"The ETW is a significant strategic research facility for the European aeronautical industry. The special competences of this institution and its workforce are recognised worldwide. It is very important that the associated nations are working closely together to safeguard the future of the ETW", commented Dr. Rösler on his visit.

¹ Advisory Council for Aeronautics Research in Europe, <http://www.acare4europe.com>



EUROPEAN TRANSONIC WINDTUNNEL



A380 model in the test section of the European Transonic Windtunnel ETW, from left to right: Prof. Rolf HENKE (DLR), Prof. Dr. Johann-Dietrich WÖRNER (DLR), Parliamentary State Secretary Peter HINTZE (BMWi), Dr. Guido DIETZ (ETW), Minister Dr. Phillip RÖSLER (BMWi), [Hi-Res Left](#) and [Hi-Res Right](#) available at etw.de

European Transonic Windtunnel ETW

Wind tunnels, using scaled down aircraft models, are the major source of aerodynamic design data for new aircraft projects. Wind tunnels are indispensable tools for aerodynamic research and aircraft development, and complement the most powerful computers.

ETW, the European Transonic Wind Tunnel, was designed, constructed and is operated by the four European countries France, Germany, Great Britain and The Netherlands based on a non-profit policy. Its location in Cologne, Germany, is right in the middle of Europe.

European researchers and engineers harness ETW's capabilities for advancing aeronautical science into aircraft innovation by accessing real-flight conditions in this cutting edge ground-test laboratory.

ETW is the worldwide leading wind tunnel for testing aircraft at real flight conditions. Aircraft performance and their flight envelope limits can be accurately determined with unique quality at ETW long before flight testing of a first prototype. This enables significant reduction in the technical and economic risks associated with the development of new aircraft. Manufacturers from all over the world take advantage of the exceptional features of this high-tech facility enhancing the performance, economic viability, and environmental friendliness of their future aircraft.

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