

INTRODUCTION

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The Royal Aeronautical Society has previously hosted a number of conferences concerned with the sustainable development of aviation but this is the inaugural conference organised by the Air Travel – Greener by Design group. The intention is that this will now be an annual event to bring together everyone with an interest in meeting the challenge of sustainable aviation.

Greener by Design is unique because, for the first time, all the interested groups have been brought together, from manufacturers right through to operators, trade associations, learned societies and environmentalists. It is not a lobby group, its aim being rather to provide good quality information on aerospace and the environment to assist in meeting the challenge of allowing aerospace to develop at its natural economic rate, while at the same time not putting an undue burden on the environment. Ever cleaner, ever quieter aircraft is one of the core aims. We want to provide solutions to the problems rather than be a problem in our own right. These are big challenges but nonetheless, based on the history of aerospace in the past, where we've had equally large challenges, we believe we can find solutions to this one.

We also want to have an effect on opinion formers so we get solutions that have the best chance in the long term of providing a sustainable aerospace sector. We don't want quick fix solutions that may appeal for a year or two, but turn out to be the wrong ones. And we want to provide good solid data upon which these solutions are based. Overall we want to provide holistic solutions that encompass operational, technological and market-based options.

We want to get something positive out of this conference so we have allocated a considerable amount of time to discussion, and more specifically what Greener by Design should do next. We've got some pretty good ideas, but we want this conference to point the way ahead from your perspective as well. We want to have a number of projects which we can get on with in order to influence policy both by government and other agencies.

In parallel with the conference, the Royal Aeronautical Society is launching a new web site – www.greenerbydesign.org.uk. This will contain the latest information on sustainable aviation, the proceedings of the conferences and publications produced by Greener by Design. Our aim is that it will provide the definitive archive of documents on the subject.