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March 2004

## **ROLLS-ROYCE CENTENARY 1904-2004: AN INTRODUCTION**

### **Introduction**

- One hundred years ago marked the first historic meeting between Henry Royce and the Hon Charles Rolls at the Midland Hotel in Manchester, UK which led to an agreement and formation of the world famous Company. The exact date of this historic meeting was 4 May 1904.
- The Rolls-Royce centenary invites us to look back in time at our heritage and accomplishments, to consider where we are today and what developments are possible in the future.
- If we consider how far the world has developed in the last century – with paradigm shifts in the fields of technology, science, medicine and travel, we can only speculate about what the next 100 years may hold in terms of advancing technologies.
- From the advent of the television, to air and car travel, telecommunications; telephones and mobile technologies, space travel, marine and submarine travel, medicines, defence systems – the world has changed immeasurably between 1904 and 2004.
- Whilst Rolls-Royce is proud of its past, we are confident that we can rise to the ever-changing challenges posed by the next century, built on the firm foundation of the Company's first century of innovation.
- The Rolls-Royce Group plc is now a separate company from Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Limited, which is now owned by the BMW Group and opened for business in January 2003.

### **The Rolls-Royce centenary**

- This year we celebrate and honour Rolls and Royce, whose vision led to the dawn of a new era in engineering that was to transform the modern world.
- Since its launch, the Rolls-Royce name has become synonymous with the values of integrity, reliability and innovation associated with a wide range of products in Aerospace, Marine and Energy sectors. Today as a company and an industry leader, we look confidently towards the next hundred years.
- Throughout 2004, Rolls-Royce plans to celebrate its centenary with a series of special events for customers, partners from education and industry, as well as employees, families and friends. Events are planned in the UK, Germany, Scandinavia, North America and the Far East.
- The centenary celebrations are set against a backdrop of significant achievements; Rolls-Royce is one of the world's largest aerospace companies with more than 35,000 employees in 48 countries.

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## Rolls-Royce Today

- Today Rolls-Royce is a world leader in gas turbine technology for civil and defence aerospace, marine and energy propulsion engine systems. We have achieved this through our in-house capabilities; our strong international partnerships; technology partners; our continuing commitment to investment and by growing our aftermarket services business.
- The Company has built a broad product range enabling it to provide reliable, fuel-efficient and innovative gas turbine power for a wide range of applications.

- **Leading technology**

At the heart of today's Rolls-Royce is the gas turbine. Technologies and processes which can be applied initially in one market and are then used across our other business sectors. In the last five years we have invested over £3 billion in research and development.

- **Broad customer base**

Rolls-Royce powers 500 airlines; 4,000 corporate, utility aircraft and helicopter operators; 160 armed forces; 2,000 marine customers and energy customers in 120 countries. Rolls-Royce has more than 35,000 employees in 48 countries.

There are over 54,000 Rolls-Royce gas turbine engines providing power in the air, on land and at sea worldwide.

- **Civil aerospace**

Rolls-Royce has successfully developed its civil aerospace business, based on a broad portfolio of engines for international, national and regional airlines and corporate operators.

We power over 30 civil aircraft types from small executive jets through to large passenger aircraft. We have customers in 41 of the world's top 50 airlines.

- **Defence aerospace**

Rolls-Royce is the world's second largest defence engine supplier providing approximately 25 per cent of the world's military engines. Our product portfolio covers all major market sectors including transport, helicopters, combat, trainers and tactical aircraft.

We are participating in two of the world's new major combat aircraft development programmes: Eurofighter and the Joint Strike Fighter.

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- **Marine**

Rolls-Royce is a global leader in marine propulsion, engineering and hydrodynamic expertise, with a broad product range and full systems integration.

More than 2,000 commercial marine customers and over 50 navies use our propulsion systems and products.

- **Energy**

Rolls-Royce is a world leader in the onshore and offshore oil and gas industry and a growing force in the global power generation market.

We have supplied more than 5,000 units to customers in nearly 120 countries and are investing in new products and capabilities for the future. Our gas turbines are used for gas compression, power generation and oil pumping.

## **The future**

- Rolls-Royce is focusing on the technology it needs for the future – with a structured research and technology programme that will target the engineering challenges the company will face over the next 20 years.
- Technologies are being developed and will be applied in 5, 10 and 20-year timescales. (For more information on this programme see additional 'Vision' factsheet).
- The next 100 years in gas turbine technology is going to be as challenging, new and exciting as the past century. (for further information on future gas turbine technologies, see Whittle lecture press release, February 2004)

# INFORMATION



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