PRESS RELEASE

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Wright Electric Begins Engine Development Program for 186 Seat Electric Aircraft

- Wright Electric has unveiled design concepts for a 186 seater electric plane motor development program this week and set out a timeline for its testing program
- Wright airline partner easyJet welcomes this important milestone which is a crucial step on the path to electric commercial aircraft
- Wright Electric announces that it is working with BAE Systems to help to accelerate the new technology
- Wright is moving its headquarters to Albany, NY, to take advantage of the extraordinary local engineering talent

Wright Electric announced today the start of its electric propulsion development program for its flagship 186 seat electric aircraft, named Wright 1.

In order to achieve the commercial flight capability of the Wright 1, a 186 seat electric aircraft, Wright is engineering electrical systems at the megawatt scale by building a 1.5 MW electric motor and inverter at 3 kilovolts. These components will form the powerplant of Wright's revolutionary Wright 1 aircraft and pave the way for a future of zero emissions flight worldwide.

Wright intends to conduct ground tests of its motor in 2021 and flight tests in 2023. The company expects entry into service of its flagship Wright 1 in 2030. The motor and power system development program is the next step towards building its narrowbody class aircraft. Wright will be simultaneously conducting tests on its fuselage to improve aerodynamics. Numerous government agencies in the United States are funding research into electric aviation including NASA and Air Force Research Laboratory.

On January 30, Wright demonstrated a preview of its electric motor at its press event in New York, NY. Wright also announced that it is moving its headquarters to Albany, NY to take advantage of the world-class engineering talent there.

easyJet, Europe's leading airline and partner to Wright Electric, welcomed this announcement as easyJet has a long tradition of efficient flying. Through their dedication to choosing efficient aircraft and their approach to flying them, they've already become more efficient than many airlines. Since 2000, easyJet has reduced the carbon emissions for each kilometer flown by a passenger by over one-third (33.67%) and has a target to reach a 38% reduction by 2022. easyJet also became the first major airline to offset the fuel from all of its flights. Their priority is to continue reducing their carbon footprint in the short-term while they support the development of innovative technology to accomplish their long-term goal of carbon-free aviation, which Wright is making possible.

Johan Lundgren, CEO of easyJet, commented:

"This is another crucial step for our partner Wright Electric to move towards the introduction of commercial electric aircraft and it is exciting to see their ambitious timeline for testing and entry into service.

"Battery technology is advancing at pace with numerous US government agencies now funding research into electric aviation– all of these developments help us to more clearly see a future of more sustainable operations.

“We know it is important to our customers that we operate as sustainably as possible – our carbon offsetting programme has been positively received by our customers and we have now offset more than nine million passenger journeys – but we are clear this is an interim solution until new technologies become available and we can see more clearly than ever a future that is not exclusively reliable on jet fuel.”

Jeffrey Engler, CEO of Wright Electric, added:

“Wright Electric is dedicated to bringing low-emissions 186 seat electric planes systems to market. Wright Electric’s mission is to make commercial aviation greener, and our megawatt engine program is the next step in making our mission a reality.”

Matt Rogers, founder of Incite.org, commented:

"This is a milestone for Wright Electric and for the future of aviation," said Matt Rogers, founder of Incite.org. "Addressing the climate crisis requires innovation and partnership, especially in the hardest areas to decarbonize. Wright Electric's progress demonstrates how both new and established aviation leaders can come together to pave the way for low-emissions travel and set an example for others."

Ehtisham Siddiqui, Vice President and General Manager of Controls and Avionics Solutions at BAE Systems, commented:

“We are discussing collaboration opportunities with Wright Electric on the development of flight controls and energy management systems for its electric aircraft,” said Dr. Ehtisham Siddiqui, Vice President and General Manager of Controls and Avionics Solutions at BAE Systems. “Our new development builds on decades of experience in both domains, as we strive to help shape the future of flight.”

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About Wright Electric
Wright Electric is a leader in the future of sustainable, lower emissions air travel. The U.S.-based company is building electric planes to lower carbon emissions, fuel costs, noise, and runway takeoff time. Wright Electric’s mission is to make all flights low emissions within 20 years and was founded in 2016 by a team of aerospace engineers, powertrain experts, and battery chemists.

About easyJet
easyJet is Europe’s leading airline offering a unique and winning combination of the best route network connecting Europe’s primary airports, with great value fares and friendly service.

easyJet flies on more of Europe’s most popular routes than any other airline and carries more than 100 million passengers annually – more than 16 million travelling for business. easyJet flies over 334 aircraft on 1061 routes to 159 airports across 36 countries. Over 300 million Europeans live within one hour’s drive of an easyJet airport.

easyJet aims to be a good corporate citizen, employing people on local contracts in eight countries across Europe in full compliance with national laws and recognising their trade unions. The airline supports a number of local charities and also has a corporate partnership with UNICEF which has raised over £13m for the most vulnerable children since it was established in 2012.

The airline takes sustainability seriously and is the first major airline to operate net-zero carbon flights across its whole network. The airline is achieving this goal by offsetting the carbon emissions from the fuel used for all of its flights. The airline sees this as an interim measure until new technology becomes available to de-carbonise aviation. In the meantime, easyJet will continue to support innovative technology, operate efficiently and aim to fill most of its seats. Since 2000 easyJet has reduced the carbon emissions for each kilometre flown by a passenger by over one-third (33.67%) and has a target to reach a 38% reduction by 2022.

Innovation is in easyJet's DNA – from our launch over almost 25 years ago when we changed the way people fly to the present day where we lead the industry in digital, web, engineering and operational innovations to make travel more easy and affordable for our passengers. The airline was recently named as Britain's Most Admired Company of 2019 in the transport sector. Britain's Most Admired Companies study is the longest-running annual survey of corporate reputation in the UK.

About BAE Systems
BAE Systems provides some of the world's most advanced, technology-led defense, aerospace, and security solutions. The company employs a skilled workforce of 83,200 people in more than 30 countries. Working with customers and local partners, BAE Systems develops, engineers, manufactures, and supports products and systems to deliver military capability, protect national security and people, and keep critical information and infrastructure secure.