



Deutsche Gesellschaft
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ROYAL AERONAUTICAL SOCIETY
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VDI

Verein Deutscher Ingenieure
Hamburger Bezirksverein e.V.
Arbeitskreis Luft- und Raumfahrt

Invitation to an RAeS lecture in cooperation with the DGLR and VDI

The world's first true rocket aircraft - the Heinkel He 176

Douglas Downer-Smith



Lecture
followed by discussion

Entry free !
No registration !

Date: Thursday, 1st October, 18:00

Location: HAW Hamburg

Berliner Tor 5

(Neubau), Hörsaal 01.12



Germany 1939 - the Heinkel He 176 flew and was the first aircraft specifically designed for liquid fuel rocket propulsion. This was a true milestone of flight and just a few weeks before another milestone, the first flight of a turbojet aircraft – the Heinkel He 178. Both of these flights were made by the same pilot. Despite sparse archival evidence, how this aircraft came into existence against the backdrop of the rise of rocketry in pre-war Germany is covered, especially as regards relationships between those involved – Ernst Heinkel, the Luftwaffe and the pilot, Eric Warsitz.

The probable performance of the aircraft is explored using animation and aircraft design software. Pre-war film of aircraft rocket propulsion experiments will be shown for comparison.

Douglas Downer-Smith is an electronics engineer with a life-long interest in aviation. This has resulted in a special study of the jet and rocket aircraft of World War II. Researching some of the lesser known aircraft of this period is challenging yet rewarding and he is in contact with leading researchers in Germany and the USA. He has travelled to Germany and Switzerland in search of reliable records and archives. More recently, he was involved with a Canadian film company in the production of a forthcoming series called "Secret Planes - Mysteries of History".

RAeS Richard Sanderson
VDI Hannes Erben
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<http://hamburg.dglr.de>
<http://www.raes-hamburg.de>
<http://www.vdi.de/2082.0.html>

und  Luftfahrtstandort
Hamburg
<http://www.luftfahrtstandort-hamburg.de>

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