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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Centennial Wings Inspires Young People at RIAT 2018

The Centennial Wings Sting S4 aircraft will for the first time be on display at a public airshow, providing an inspiring example at the Royal International Air Tattoo (RIAT) of what can be achieved by young people. In 2016, the Air League, Boeing UK and RAF Air Cadets joined forces on the date of Boeing's centenary to launch the programme, Centennial Wings, with a completion date in 2018 – the RAF's own centenary. The programme's aim was to construct an ultralight aircraft to be completed in the RAF100 year. The project saw some 70 Air Training Corps (ATC) cadets from Northern Ireland work together to complete the project.

John Steel QC, chairman of the Air League, commented: "The Air League is a leading provider of inspirational programmes in the STEM arena for young people wishing to develop a career in aviation and aerospace. Through participating in scholarships, bursaries, flight taster days, lectures and company visits, amongst other Air League activities, many young people have seen their career soar. The Air League very much looks forward to supporting Boeing in their next Centennial Wings project, which is set to be announced at RIAT 2018."

The Centennial Wings project has provided hundreds of hours of hands-on plane building experience for Air Cadets from 17 Squadrons across Northern Ireland. Led by Sqn Ldr RAFAC Aaron Coulter, the aircraft is now complete with flight testing and certification by the Light Aviation Association to be completed over the coming month. The intention is that Centennial Wings will enable many Air Cadets to learn to fly over the years ahead. The Centennial Wings aircraft will be flown with the RAF Flying Clubs' Association (RAFFCA), an organisation that has had close links with The Air League for decades. The project has involved collaboration of many volunteers including Ulster Aviation Society, LAA inspectors and mentoring from Boeing engineers.

Notes to Editors:

The Air League was formed in 1909. The Air League's mission is to generate national understanding of the importance to the UK of aviation and aerospace and to excite young people's interest in these areas by helping them to become involved.

The core objective of the Air League is to be "an influential champion for the future growth of aviation and aerospace in the UK". The Air League is committed to being at the forefront of influencing public policy by taking a leading role in the debate on aviation and aerospace in the UK.

The Air League fosters interest in the whole field of aviation, aerospace and defence, particularly in developing young people and providing opportunities for the less advantaged.

The Air League supports the UK's aviation and aerospace communities through the Leading Edge, Air League in Parliament, receptions, lectures and policy papers which articulate the advanced technologies and crucial industry skills which are vital to the economic success of the UK.

The Air League is also the UK's largest provider of flying scholarships and bursaries. Over the past decade, Scholarships worth over £2 million have been allocated to young people across the UK. The Leading Edge is designed for members aged under 35 years and complements the Air League Trust's formal scholarships and bursaries programmes and acts as a wider network for people interested in flying or wanting to pursue a career in aviation.

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