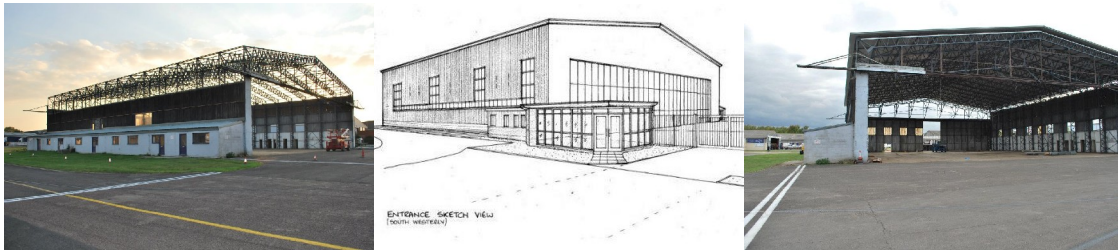


PRESS RELEASE – 25th October 2011

WARTIME HANGAR HAS MAJOR MAKEOVER



With Plymouth and Filton airports both facing imminent closure, Gloucestershire Airport at Staverton is bucking the regional trend and investing in the future whilst making the best of its historic past. The last remaining wartime hangar is undergoing a major refurbishment in preparation for growth in new business.

Hangar SE3 was erected in 1941 and served as a storage facility for the Gloster Aircraft Company. As Hawker Typhoon and Armstrong Whitworth Albemarle aircraft rolled off the production lines at the nearby factory at Brockworth, they were test flown and landed at Staverton, prior to delivery into squadron service. Throughout the 1950's & 1960's Smiths Industries operated their fleet of test aircraft from the hangar developing cutting edge technologies such as 'blind landing', which are still at the forefront of modern day aviation.

Despite its age, the steel frame of the hangar is in exceptional condition. Engineers confirmed that some structural repairs and corrosion treatment were required, but the lattice structure has stood the test of time and, having been treated with a modern materials and paint, is set to last well into the 21st century. New glass doors and modern office facilities will complete the 21 000 sq feet makeover, which is scheduled to be complete in early 2012.

The work is being undertaken by Skypark UK, who over a number of years have developed several hangars within the Airport's property portfolio. They own Staverton Flying School which, despite today's tough economic climate continues to go from strength to strength. Skypark MD, Steve Williams said: - "SE3 was due to be demolished and replaced with a new soulless tin shed, however once refurbished the character of the building will not be lost, the striking modern exterior will be supported on the original internal metal frame which forms the heart of this historic building."

Airport Head of Operations, Darren Lewington added: -"With the Runway Safety Project now finally underway, Gloucestershire Airport has a great future. There's an immediate need for high quality hangarage and this facility will be second to none. This is the largest, tallest hangar at the Airport, capable of housing a wide range of aircraft types."