

Institute of Physics

LONDON AND SOUTH EASTERN BRANCH REMS SECTION

VISIT TO ASTRIUM STEVENAGE FRIDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2008

This visit has been organised by David Pick

Space plays a crucial role in our daily lives, in security and defence, protecting the environment, scientific and technical advances, telecommunications and a host of everyday services – and where there's space, there's Astrium. Number 1 in Europe and no. 3 worldwide, Astrium employs 12,000 men and women in five countries: France, Germany, the UK, Spain and the Netherlands. 12,000 professionals chosen from among the very best, all passionate about space and driven by the great adventure of our time – bringing the infinite potential of space down to Earth for the benefit of mankind. The guarantor of Europe's access to space as the established leader in space transportation, satellite systems and services, Astrium has for over 40 years been dedicated to bringing you all the space you need – today and tomorrow. It is a mission which resonates with many of the most prestigious names in space – Ariane, the International Space Station, Envisat, Mars Express .See <http://www.astrium.eads.net/company>.

A visit is being arranged to the Stevenage site. This is the home of Astrium and Paradigm Secure Communications. It is located 50km north of London. The site assembled Blue Streak missiles in the 1950s and now houses Astrium's spacecraft design and build facility and the headquarters of Paradigm Secure Communications. There are 1200 employees at this site. The activities include:
structure and subsystem design and build for all Eurostar communications satellites;
prime contractor for science missions such as Beagle 2 Mars lander, Rosetta and Lisa Pathfinder
prime contractor for EO satellites like Aeolus;
the management and operation of the UK MOD's Skynet 5 satellite system.

Astrium is located at Gunnels Wood Road, Stevenage, SG1 2AS. From A1/M take the exit 7 Stevenage/ A602. Follow Stevenage, and then at the roundabout take the first exit to the Industrial Area, which is Gunnels Wood Road (A1072)

The site is also close to Stevenage Railway station.

The visit will start at 10.30 and finish at 16.00. Numbers are limited to 20. The full programme and detailed reporting instructions will be available nearer the date. You will have to take a means of identification such as your passport. Non-UK passport holders will have to give me their nationality and passport number before the visit. I have to send a list of attendees' names, addresses and telephone numbers before the visit also.

REMS mailing January to March 2008

