



Deutsche Gesellschaft  
für Luft- und Raumfahrt  
Lilienthal-Oberth e.V.



ROYAL AERONAUTICAL SOCIETY  
HAMBURG BRANCH E.V.



**VDI**

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

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

## Saunders-Roe and the Princess Flying Boat

Bob Wealthy,  
Solent Aeromarine Enterprises

Lecture  
followed by discussion

Entry free !  
No registration !



**Date:** Thursday, 3rd June, 18:00  
**Location:** HAW Hamburg  
Berliner Tor 5  
(Neubau), Hörsaal 01.12



The talk presents background to the formation and evolution of the Saunders Roe Company at Columbine Works, East Cowes. The origins of the "large flying boat" concept are traced that resulted in a UK Government contract being placed in 1945 with Saunders Roe for design and construction of the SR45 Princess, with BOAC as a somewhat reluctant "customer". Design, development and construction of the Princess and the facilities employed at East Cowes in the course of the project are described together with the build up to the first flight and flight test programme. The reasons for the eventual demise of the Princess are identified that eventually led to all three Princess craft being scrapped in the 1960s, despite various efforts to find an alternative use. Some relics of Saunders Roe and the Princess project that remain in existence are identified. However, the Saunders Roe Company faded from view when it lost its independence in 1958 following acquisition by the Westland Group

*The lecturer has an interest in the history of the British aviation industry with special attention to the companies in the Solent Region. He was born on the Isle of Wight and the Saunders Roe Company was a major part of Island life through to the late 1950s. This and regular attendance at Farnborough Shows influenced his continuing interest in the subject of aviation which has continued on and off to the present day.*

*Now retired from the defence electronics industry he worked in the emerging field of space systems on a number of technology and scientific research satellite projects and spent the last 10 years as a systems engineer with the Skynet 5 Military Satellite Communications System project with the EADS Astrium Company that had acquired the consolidated parts of the UK'S space industry from BAE Systems. He now spends more time on aviation heritage research and shares some of the knowledge that he has gained about past achievements in aircraft engineering.*

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VDI Hannes Erben  
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DGLR / HAW Prof. Dr.-Ing. Dieter Scholz

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**VDI, Arbeitskreis L&R Hamburg**

<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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