

The 21st Century Renaissance of the Transonic Wind Tunnel

Dr. Doug Greenwell, FRAeS
Consulting Aerodynamicist,
AeroDynamIQ Ltd



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Received wisdom is that in this age of digital engineering, wind tunnels are in decline. The imminent demise of the wind tunnel has been eagerly anticipated for over 50 years now ... and yet they have stubbornly refused to die. Indeed, the last 10 years have seen high-speed wind tunnels stage a remarkable comeback; new tunnels are being built, existing tunnels are being upgraded, and mothballed tunnels are being reactivated. In this talk Dr. Greenwell will focus on industrial-scale transonic wind tunnels, discussing the historical development of these facilities and then reviewing their current and near-future status.

Doug Greenwell is a consultant specialising in applied aerodynamics, from wind engineering to high-speed flight. He gained his PhD in delta wing aerodynamics from Bath University in 1993, followed by a varied career spanning 35 years in academic, industrial, and government research and development. He has extensive experience of industrial wind tunnel testing, ranging from low-speed building aerodynamics as Technical Director at RWDI, to transonic flight vehicle testing as Chief Aerodynamicist at ARA.

DGLR / HAW Prof. Dr.-Ing. Dieter Scholz
RAeS Richard Sanderson

Tel.: 040 42875 8825
Tel.: 04167 92012

info@ProfScholz.de
events@raes-hamburg.de



DGLR Bezirksgruppe Hamburg
RAeS Hamburg Branch
VDI, Arbeitskreis L&R Hamburg
ZAL TechCenter

<https://hamburg.dglr.de>
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