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## The Airlander, an update

This document was written by John Fuller and was originally published by Worthing and District SME in their newsletter in the Summer of 2016.

In the summer of 2014 Newsletter (issue number 126) I published an article on modern airship development and described a new type of airship that was being built in this country in the old airship hangars at Cardigan. I have now heard from Hybrid Air Vehicles that the final assembly of the Airlander has been completed which included a multiuse cabin which will permit demonstrations of the wide range of roles the Airlander can undertake. These include surveillance, monitoring, communications, cargo and aid delivery, and passenger roles.

The Airlander now enters into a ground testing phase before being rolled out of the hangar and its first flight. The chief test pilot David Burns says, "I'm extremely excited and looking forward to taking Airlander on what I'm sure will be a very successful first flight". The remainder of 2016 will see an extensive flight test programme consisting of 200 hours of test flights over a number of months, and then a series of trials and demonstrations with prospective customers.

The photographs show some of the features of Airlander, and illustrate how the company has grown into a workforce of 120 employees developing this exciting technology.

