



INTERNATIONAL
FIGHTER

**30
YEARS
YOUNG**

Defence **iQ**



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The 30th anniversary of the maiden flight of the first Eurofighter development aircraft, DA1, was celebrated earlier this year.

The flight took place at DASA (now Airbus) in Manching on 27 March 1994. Peter Weger, the company's chief test pilot, made the historic flight in the prototype aircraft, which had Rolls Royce Spey engines rather than the EJ200 engines, which were adopted later in the development. Crowds gathered at DASA's site in Manching to witness aviation history being made as DA1 took off. The aircraft — with the 98+29 serial number — was flown in a restricted envelope with limits on the speed and the angle of turn.

Eurofighter CEO Giancarlo Mezzanatto said: "The 30th anniversary is a special landmark, and while we rightly celebrate the people who dedicated their careers to creating an incredible aircraft, we can also look forward with excitement. The aircraft they helped develop continues to go from strength to strength. That is their legacy. "Eurofighter Typhoon has established itself as the backbone of European defence and a fundamental asset for our air forces. At the same time, the Eurofighter programme has played a pivotal role in fostering the fighter industry in the UK, Germany, Italy and Spain and will continue to do so for many years. The product vision is to keep Typhoon operationally effective for another 30 to 40 years."

DA1 aircraft remained in service, aiding the early development programme, until 2005 — a full 11 years on from its first flight. It is now on display at the Flugwerft Schleißheim in Munich.