



Press Release May, 2003

“We came first” – Hannover Airport supports the “Jatho Project”:

The first motorized flight worldwide started in Hanover.

It all began in Hanover: The first motorized flight – on August 8, 1903, Karl Jatho started for his first maiden voyage with his self-developed motorized glider, four months earlier than the Wright brothers in North Carolina, USA.

Together with the Association for the History of Engineering and Industry, Hannover Airport wants to change history, where the Wright brothers are granted the honour of having been the first to fly a motorized aircraft. And while the United States celebrates their heroes on numerous websites and with a party allegedly worth a few million dollars, the Hanoverians this time want to beat them.

On August 18, 2003, a huge Jatho exhibition is planned to open to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first motorized flight as well as any times later, a true to the original replication of the motorized glider is to take off. “We want to change the first 100 years of history, says Norbert Senfleben of the Association for the History of Engineering and Industry.

Prominent companies have been found to support the Jatho Project. The General Automotive Club of Germany in Lower-Saxony, of which Jatho was been a founding member, has already confirmed its support.

Also in the planning stage is not only to show the exhibition, which does not only entirely focus on the person Jatho, at Hannover Airport, but also on other German airports.

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A possible "Jatho song", a "Jatho film", a "Jatho homepage (www.jatho-erstflug.de) ", as well as a roadshow could contribute to the fame of Karl Jatho and would introduce him to a greater public.

On top of this, the media would be informed in detail about the actual facts of this historic matter.

The background of the current historic dispute:

On December 17, 1903, the brothers Orville and Wilbur Wright covered a distance of 36 metres in 12 seconds with their biplane. It didn't have its own undercarriage and had to be shot up in the air by a catapult. The Hanoverian Jatho however started with his motorized glider approximately four months earlier than the Americans. The wings of his aircraft were fabric-covered and had its own undercarriage, equipped with a 12-horsepower Buchet-engine. This first 'jump in the air', which took it as far as 36 metres in an altitude of approximately one metre, was closely followed by other flights within the following three months. These took him as far as 60 metres and timewise, took place before those of the Wright brothers. How pioneering these first flights really were began to show when Jatho, within the following 10 years started to experiment with 50- to 100-horsepower engines. Finally, in 1913, he was the first to fly a circle over Hanover with his famous steel-hawk, the "Jatho-Stahltaube".

**It is now necessary to honour where honour is due:
A Hanoverian came first!**

Please visit us at:

www.hannover-airport.de

www.jatho-erstflug.de