

Avtech 2007

Three conferences - Three cities - One theme!!

Avtech 2007 is a thematic conference being organised by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority with an aim to further aviation safety by bringing manufacturers, maintainers, operators and the regulator together.

The conference presentation will revolve around new technologies in propulsion systems, new applications of existing technologies and of course, issues relating to the continuing airworthiness of engines.

Please note these dates in your diary and get your seat(s) reserved by CASA. Admission to Avtech 2007 is absolutely free.

Perth - WA

Monday - 12 March

Royal Aeroclub

www.racwa.asn.au

Brisbane - QLD

Wednesday - 14 March

BrookWater Golf Club

www.brookwatergolf.com

Sydney - NSW

Thursday - 15 March

St George Rowing Club

www.stgeorgerowing.com.au

All enquiries and requests for reservations should be directed to **Obaid Soomro**, Airworthiness Engineer, Propulsion & Systems, CASA -

Phone: 02-6217-1236

Fax: 02-6217-1914

Email: obaid.soomro@casa.gov.au



Australian Government

Civil Aviation Safety Authority

TO COIN A BLAZE



Observe the three small discs in the picture - a copper disc, a thin "brassy" looking disc with identification markings, and a 5 cent piece for comparison.

The small thick copper disc was discovered in the control head of a fire extinguisher system during overhaul. It is an unapproved part which had turned a safety system into a potential bomb.

Not so long ago, so one story goes, a new British aeroplane landed in Darwin and began to soak up the sunshine. While parked and basking in its new environment, a highly destructive explosion occurred in the aeroplane.

At first, suspicion fell on the possibility of saboteur. The "bomb" turned out to be a ruptured high-pressure container for a new safety device - a fixed fire extinguisher system designed to

put in-flight engine fires out.

The high temperatures, partly caused by heat soak in the new environment, drove the internal pressure of the bottle's gaseous content beyond the design limit, causing a violent explosion.

The design requirements for fixed fire extinguishers - and similar systems using gas stored under high pressure - in aircraft since then include a safety pressure blow-out device in the control head to relieve the pressure if necessary.

The safety device for this system is a thin disc carefully designed to rupture and ease the pressure.

The thick copper disc found in the control head would not have ruptured on cue. It turned the bottle into a potential bomb.

- Roger Alder, airworthiness specialist.

ADVERTISEMENT