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CO-INVENTOR OF JET ENGINE
TO BE INDUCTED IN NATIONAL AVIATION HALL OF FAME

DAYTON, Ohio, June 11, 1990--Hans von Ohain, senior research engineer in the University of Dayton Research Institute and the co-inventor of the jet engine, will be inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame on Saturday, July 21, at a black-tie dinner at the Dayton Convention Center.

This year's inductees also include aviation pioneer Elrey Jeppesen, test pilot Major General Robert A. Rushworth and escape system designer Robert M. Stanley.

As a graduate student in physics at Germany's University of Goettingen, von Ohain envisioned designing a propellerless plane that could fly higher, faster and smoother by using a gas turbine engine rather than piston ones. One other man shared von Ohain's vision. Working independently in England, Frank Whittle, a Royal Air Force officer, received a patent on a jet engine design in 1930--six years before von Ohain's patent--but the British Air Ministry blocked its development for so long that the engine was not tested until 1941. Although von Ohain is credited with the first flying engine, he and Whittle share honors for its invention. The first flight of a turbojet-powered aircraft was made August 27, 1939, at Heinkel Airfield near Rostock, Germany.

After World War II, the U.S. Army Air Corps recruited von Ohain to work at Wright Field in the area of propulsion and energy. He retired in 1979 as chief scientist of both the Aerospace Research Laboratories and the Air Force Aero Propulsion Laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Today, he devotes one day a week to research in UD's Research Institute.

During his career, von Ohain published more than 30 technical papers, registered 19 U.S. patents and received many honors and awards for his work. He is enshrined in the International Aerospace Hall of Fame and the Engineering and Sciences Hall of Fame.

Tickets are $75 for the 29th annual enshrinement dinner. To make reservations, call (513) 226-0800 by July 13.

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