On 22 October the British Embassy in Beijing announced the arrival in China of the Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team, the Red Arrows, as part of their Asia-Pacific and Middle East Tour 2016. With a spectacular new routine and the largest overseas deployment for a decade, the Red Arrows are set to entertain audiences at their first ever display at Airshow China in Zhuhai.

Representing the speed, agility and precision of the Royal Air Force, the team is made up of pilots, engineers and essential support staff. Flying British-built Hawk fast-jets, the Red Arrows are a world leading aerobatic display team and have completed more than 4,800 performances since 1965. Innovation and the team’s constant pursuit of excellence are integral to its success. Performing in China will take the number of countries in which the Red Arrows have displayed to 57 across the globe.

Their colourful, dynamic aerial displays of precision, formation aerobatics together with associated events on the ground are a vivid showcase of British engineering, teamwork and creativity.

Wing Commander Martin Higgins, Officer Commanding of the Red Arrows, said: ‘Each member of the Red Arrows is excited by the prospect of the team visiting and performing in China for the first time. The visit showcases the strong links between the UK and China

‘We are honoured to have been invited to perform at Airshow China in Zhuhai and I hope the many thousands of people attending the event will enjoy the Red Arrows’ precision flying, aerobatics and demonstration of the best of British in the air and on the ground.’

The British Ambassador to China, Dame Barbara Woodward added: ‘I am delighted to welcome the Red Arrows to China. The team is renowned for excellence – its impressive displays and world-leading skills represent the best of British innovation. The Red Arrows demonstrate the engineering excellence and skills that are hallmarks of both the Royal Air Force and British industry.’

The Red Arrows strongly support initiatives to encourage interest and careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM). While they are in China they will visit schools and universities to inspire the next generation of pilots and engineers.