



# F-35 Lightning II Program

Public Affairs Release – 2014 09 30

## AUSTRALIA'S FIRST F-35A TAKES TO THE SKIES

**FORT WORTH, Texas**, September 30, 2014 – Australia's F-35A Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter made its inaugural flight on Sept. 29, marking a significant milestone for the Royal Australian Air Force's F-35 program. The aircraft was flown by an industry test pilot through a series of functional checks during initial sortie that lasted two hours. The aircraft, known as AU-1, is scheduled for delivery to the Royal Australian Air Force later this year, and will be assigned to Luke Air Force Base, Arizona. Australia and partner countries will use the jet for F-35A pilot training.

The F-35 Lightning II aircraft provides the Royal Australian Air Force with an advanced international, multi-role fighter that will serve as a cornerstone for future international security and stability.

