

**5 October 2009**

## **Dare devil scientists support Wiltshire Air Ambulance**

Adrenalin junkies at the Defence Science Technology Laboratory (Dstl) have risen over £6,000 for Wiltshire Air Ambulance by abseiling down the organisation's tallest building.

On Friday 2 October, over 50 members of staff donated and raised sponsorship money to take part in the abseil. Frances Saunders, Dstl's Chief Executive, was one of the first to take the plunge: "I'm a fan of extreme sports so I literally jumped at the chance to take part. More importantly we're helping to raise money for an extremely important local charity that relies totally on public support to run this crucial service."

The abseil was organised by Major Don Johnstone, one of Dstl's military advisors, and Brenda Hinton, Dstl's charity coordinator. Don said: "I have been totally overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of our staff – I never expected so many to want to take part! We're still collecting sponsorship money so the final amount may well exceed our total so far by several hundred pounds. The generosity of our staff has been immense and so I would like to thank all those who participated, helped with the arrangements and donated to this worthy cause."

The abseil was part of a week long charity drive for the Wiltshire Air Ambulance. Other activities running throughout the week included cake sales, quizzes and a book store. Two members of staff will also be taking part in tandem parachute jumps to further add to the final total. Their jump was due to take place Saturday 3 October at Netheravon, but was delayed due to the weekend's poor weather.

ENDS

For more information contact the Dstl press office on 01980 658088, 07766 134768, [press@dstl.gov.uk](mailto:press@dstl.gov.uk).

For more information on Wiltshire Air Ambulance please visit [www.wiltshireairambulance.co.uk](http://www.wiltshireairambulance.co.uk)

Notes to editors:

**Dstl**

The Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) is a centre of scientific excellence for the Ministry of Defence (MOD). Its 3,500 strong workforce includes some of the nation's most talented and creative scientists with the brief to ensure that the UK Armed Forces and Government are supported in-house by the very best impartial scientific and technological advice. Dstl's position at the heart of the MOD means that its advice is trusted by governments, academia, industry and international partners. It offers timely and accurate advice at all levels of military planning and operations, both overseas and on the home front. For more information please visit [www.dstl.gov.uk](http://www.dstl.gov.uk)