



FRANK WHITTLE

Innovator (1907 - 1996)

Whittle was an English Royal Air Force (RAF) air officer, and the inventor of the turbojet engine. He patented his designs for an engine that would create enough thrust to take aircraft to dramatically increased speeds in 1930, but due to lack of support he was wasn't able to develop and test the designs until 1941, when the first English jet-powered aircraft flew on May 15th. Meanwhile a German physicist named Hans von Ohain (1911 - 1998) was also working on designs for jet engines. Ohain's first design wasn't completed until 1937, but his operational jet engine-powered plane was the first to fly, on Aug. 27, 1939.