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## Prepare for take-off: Ex-RAF jet fighters head for auction

24 June 2014 | Jan Richter

*Proper, ex-terrain jet fighters are rarely seen for sale. On July 26, however, two former Royal Air Force jets, one of which includes a quasi-airworthy Harrier GR3, will go under the gavel at Silverstone Auctions' Silverstone Classic sale...*



While the more modern [1988 Panavia Tornado F3](#), the last of the Cold War's multi-purpose bombers, is described merely as a static display piece (good luck explaining that one when you get home), the [1976 Hawker Siddeley Harrier GR3](#) jump jet allegedly *could* once again take to the skies. It's not currently airworthy but, owing to its superb condition, 'there is serious potential for a future return to flight project'. After retiring from service in 1990, the GR3, incidentally the most powerful of the first-generation Harriers, has been preserved in 'time-capsule' condition. It was even kept hydraulically

and electronically live until last year. Inevitably, all weapons have since been removed. Boo. Both aircraft will go to auction with no reserve – to estimate the market value of such objects, according to Silverstone Auctions, is virtually impossible.

*Photos: Silverstone Auctions*

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