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For more information contact:  
Kevin Hazaert, EAA Communications  
(920) 426-6521  
[khazaert@eaa.org](mailto:khazaert@eaa.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **LARGEST FLYING AIRSHIP IN THE WORLD HEADING TO EAA AIRVENTURE 2011**

*Public flights on massive Zeppelin NT will be available for purchase*

EAA AVIATION CENTER, OSHKOSH, Wis. — (June 2, 2011) — The largest flying airship in the world – The Farmers Airship, a Zeppelin NT owned and operated by Airship Ventures – is headed to EAA AirVenture 2011, where it will offer 45-minute scenic flights over the AirVenture grounds and Winnebago land for purchase.

The 59th annual edition of “The World’s Greatest Aviation Celebration” is scheduled for July 25-31 at Wittman Regional Airport in Oshkosh.

Airship Ventures, based out at Silicon Valley’s Moffett Field in California, is touring the Farmers Airship throughout the country this summer for the first time in partnership with Farmers Insurance. Flying since 2001, Zeppelin NTs have carried more than 80,000 passengers. The Farmers Airship is the fourth and most recent Zeppelin NT to be built and has been offering scenic “flightseeing” tours above California since 2008.

“Crossing the country with our partners Farmers Insurance we’ve brought the joy of the Zeppelin experience to dozens of communities and events, but I am not sure we’ve ever experienced one quite like AirVenture,” said Alexandra Hall, Airship Ventures CEO. “We’re thrilled to be bringing the first Zeppelin to sail the U.S. skies in more than 70 years to Oshkosh and celebrate aviation alongside so many enthusiasts and fans.”

At 246 feet in length, the airship is 15 feet longer than a standard Boeing 747, and 50 feet longer than the largest blimp currently operating. The gondola accommodates one pilot, one flight attendant, and up to 12 passengers, with luxury features including huge panoramic windows, onboard restroom with window, and a 180-degree rear observation window.

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“No matter how many times you’ve been to AirVenture, there is always something new to see and experience,” said Tom Poberezny, EAA and AirVenture chairman. “We are delighted to welcome Airship Ventures and the Farmers Airship to the one place in the world where all forms of aviation come together.”

With a top speed of 77 miles per hour and maximum flight range of 500 nautical miles, the Zeppelin NT is able to land, exchange passengers, and take off again in under five minutes – all within a 600-foot diameter landing area. The ship’s maneuverability is due in large part to its innovative propulsion system, utilizing three 200-horsepower, variable pitch, vectoring engines manufactured by Lycoming. Able to work independently of each other, two engines are mounted on the side of hull, with the third mounted at the rear – powering two propellers, one for lift and one for thrust.

The engines are mounted to a light yet rigid framework, composed of triangular carbon-fiber frames, and three aluminum lengthwise beams braced by polymer cables. This distinguishes a Zeppelin from “blimps,” which maintain their shape entirely due to the internal pressure from contained lifting gas.

Like blimps, the Zeppelin NT uses non-flammable helium for lift, contained in a tear-proof outer envelope composed of high strength multi-layer fabric – manufactured by ILC Dover, the same company that creates the fabric for NASA space suits.

The Farmers Airship will be based at Pioneer Airport during AirVenture. Public tours aboard the Farmers Airship will be offered for \$399/person July 22-31; tour duration is 45 minutes. To purchase tickets in advance, call 650-969-8100 ext. 111 or e-mail [reservations@airshipventures.com](mailto:reservations@airshipventures.com).

AirVenture 2011 is filled with must-see features and attractions all week, including the week-long Centennial of Naval Aviation celebration, tribute days dedicated to aviation legends Burt Rutan and Bob Hoover, as well as the widely popular Night Air Show and Daher-Socata Fireworks capping off “Super Saturday” presented by Southwest Airlines on Saturday, July 30.

Advance purchase admission tickets at a discounted rate as well as camping for all dates are now available at [www.airventure.org/tickets](http://www.airventure.org/tickets).

EAA AIRVENTURE OSHKOSH is The World’s Greatest Aviation Celebration and EAA’s yearly membership convention. Additional EAA AirVenture information, including advance ticket and camping purchase, is available online at [www.airventure.org](http://www.airventure.org). EAA members receive lowest prices on admission rates. For more information on EAA and its programs, call 1-800-JOIN-EAA (1-800-564-6322) or visit [www.eaa.org](http://www.eaa.org). Immediate news is available at [www.twitter.com/EAAupdate](http://www.twitter.com/EAAupdate).