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For Immediate Release

**Wright Redux Association Attempts First Public Flight of
Replica 1903 Wright Flyer at Museum of Science and Industry**

CHICAGO (Sept. 20, 2003) – The Wright Redux Association of Glen Ellyn, Ill., attempted to re-create the Wright brothers' first flight at Kitty Hawk today on the Museum of Science and Industry's front lawn. The *Spirit of Glen Ellyn* attempted three flights, but never became airborne due to wind speeds of only six miles per hour. The Flyer requires a wind speed of at least 12 miles per hour to successfully lift off the ground. The Wright brothers' first successful flight at Kitty Hawk was 120 feet in 21-mile-per-hour winds.

The Wright Redux Association did complete 10 successful flights, including two with the replica engine, as part of the FAA certification process. This was the group's first public attempt. "Like any aircraft, the *Spirit of Glen Ellyn* requires certain conditions to fly," said Mark Miller, Wright Redux Association co-founder. "What happened today was a perfect example of the trial and error that the Wright brothers experienced 100 years ago."

The Wright Redux Association built the body of the 40-foot, 605-pound biplane and Packer Engineering built the engine. For nearly four years, dozens of volunteers spent an estimated 16,000 hours building the Flyer with time and services donated from more than 30 companies. The team worked from blueprints from the Smithsonian and went to great lengths to use the same materials and engine that the Wrights used.

"*Spirit of Glen Ellyn* is a tribute to the pioneers of flight, who embodied the kind of scientific creativity that the Museum seeks to inspire in guests every day," said Mark Hayward, director of collections and exhibits at the Museum of Science and Industry.

More than 3,000 people witnessed the attempts as part of the opening of the Museum's celebration commemorating the centennial of flight that includes temporary and permanent exhibits, movies and programming. *Spirit of Glen Ellyn* will become part of the Museum's permanent collection in a dedication ceremony on Dec. 17, 2003.

The Museum of Science and Industry's mission is to inspire the inventive genius in everyone by presenting captivating and compelling experiences that are real and educational. Located at 57th Street and Lake Shore Drive, just minutes from downtown Chicago, the Museum is open every day of the year except Dec. 25. For more information, call (773) 684-1414 or visit our website at www.msichicago.org.