

BUSINESS LINK  
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## FIRST FRUITS OF ROTHERHAM FIRM'S INPUT INTO

### AIRBUS SUPER-JUMBO



Recent completion of the first full set of wing skins for the new Airbus A380 'super-jumbo' marks a significant landmark for Rotherham-based engineering consultants Bennett Associates.

The A380 will be the world's largest passenger aircraft, measuring nearly 80 metres long from nose to tail, when it makes its first flight next year, carrying 555 passengers - 140 more than today's biggest aircraft. The main wings, which measure 45 metres along the leading edge, will be built at a new factory

recently opened at Broughton, North Wales, before being transported to France where the aircraft are assembled.

Bennetts was responsible for the top wing skin production system at the new factory, which forms and handles panels of aluminium alloy from 5mm to 25mm thick, 23 metres to 33 metres long and up to 2.5 metres wide. As well as designing the equipment, they also managed its manufacture and installation, completing the £7.7 million project on time and under budget.

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