



Flying team with the golden touch

AN engineering consultancy is flying high after winning a top award for its contribution to the development of a 'super-jumbo' aircraft.

Rotherham-based Bennett Associates has received the Institute of Materials' gold award for its work in the industrial application of materials on the 555-seater Airbus A380, which is due to make its maiden flight next year.

The institute chose the team responsible for the manufacture of the top skins of the A380 wings, which measure around 40 metres from wing-tip to fuselage.

Bennett Associates was appointed by Airbus UK to design tooling and handling systems on the wing skins and to project-manage their construction and installation.

Bennett has also been involved in a number of major projects, including the Channel Tunnel, the Gateshead Millennium Bridge, the Falkirk Wheel and a new lifting bridge near Canary Wharf, London.

□ *Bennett Associates' high-flyers (left to right) managing director Nick Cooper, Richard Burgess and John Wadsworth, who led the company's Airbus 380 team.*