



SOUTH YORKSHIRE ENGINEERS WIN TOP AWARD

Rotherham-based engineering consultancy Bennett Associates has won a top award from the prestigious Institute of Materials for its contribution to the development of the Airbus A380 'super-jumbo', which is due to make its maiden flight next year.

The Institute awards its Gold Medal for important contributions to the industrial application of materials. This year it chose the team responsible for the manufacture of the top skins of the A380 wings, which will measure around 40 metres from wing tip to fuselage. The aircraft will carry 555 passengers.

The process used to produce the four skins for each wing, known as creep age forming, had never been used before on this scale. The skins panels also had to be formed to very precise tolerances.

Bennett Associates was appointed by Airbus UK to design the tooling and handling systems for the wing skins and project-manage their construction and installation at a new factory in North Wales. This equipment cost £7.7 million.

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