



AIRBUS

Airbus Case Study

Since its first aircraft delivery in 1971 Airbus has grown to become one of the world's leading aircraft manufacturers, and today consistently captures approximately half of all orders for airliners with more than 100 seats. Airbus' global presence encompasses 38 sites worldwide employing 57,000 people within training centres, design offices, spares centres, industrial facilities, and a headquarters in Toulouse, France. Airbus' Wing and Pylon Centre of Excellence is led from the UK, with wing and fuel system design and landing gear integration undertaken at Filton, which as an integral part of the organisation employs over 6000 people. Direct, indirect and induced employment supports approximately 37,000 jobs within the South West, where Airbus sources 40 per cent of its supplies.



Links with neighbouring communities are integral. Airbus actively promotes skills development through collaboration with academia and Government bodies, and our award winning apprenticeship programme has trained over 6000 apprentices in three decades.

This year Airbus' single-aisle A320 family celebrates 20 years since its first commercial flight, whilst the high-technology 525-seat A380 is driving standards for eco-efficiency with a 17 per cent reduction in fuel burn per seat compared to its closest competitor, and its recent participation in an alternative fuel research programme, making it the first commercial aircraft to fly with a synthetic liquid fuel processed from gas.

Airbus' commitment to Filton and eco-efficiency has driven a £12 million research centre for the development of lightweight, high-strength composite materials, enhancing skills such as those used in the design and assembly of the metallic/composite hybrid wings used for the A400M, military transport aircraft. Such skills will undoubtedly continue to support Bristol's vibrant economy and provide a strong foundation for future growth.

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