



AIRBUS COMPLETES FIRST A350F WINGSET IN BROUGHTON

News / Manufacturer



Airbus celebrated a major milestone at its Broughton site after finishing the first ever set of wings for the new A350 freighter aircraft (A350F). The wings for the A350F have been designed similarly to the A350 so can be built in the same line, allowing for operational and industrial benefits and improvements. Engineered as the world's most advanced freighter aircraft, the A350F is designed to meet the evolving needs of the global air cargo market. Similar to the A350 widebody passenger aircraft, the wings incorporate the latest composite material technology, reducing weight and increasing aerodynamic efficiency.

Airbus is building two A350F test aircraft which will undergo flight tests throughout 2026 and 2027. The wings will soon be transported via Airbus' iconic freighter, the BelugaXL, from Broughton to Bremen for final equipping before being sent to Toulouse to be joined to the fuselage of the first test aircraft.

Head of Widebody Wings at Airbus Broughton, Paul Kilmister, commented: "This is a proud moment for everyone at Broughton, completing the first ever A350F wingset. With almost 1,400 orders for the A350, including 63 A350F, Broughton will continue to play a critical role in the future of the programme, supporting Airbus' growth in passenger and freight markets. The A350F is

poised to shape the future of air freight, offering operators a more efficient, and versatile solution for decades to come.”

The new A350F sets a new benchmark in air cargo offering:

- **Improved efficiency:** At least 20% lower fuel burn and CO2 emissions compared to current in-service freighters
- **Better loading capacity:** The industry's largest cargo door with a 4.3-meter wide opening - making loading easier, faster and safer for ground operations teams
- **Flying further:** A range of up to 8,700 km with up to 111-ton payload.

Airbus Broughton has a rich heritage of wing manufacturing, producing wing structures for Airbus aircraft for over 50 years.



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