



## ICAS 2002

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## Market Drivers and Innovation behind the Airbus Products





Contents	
An Air Transport vision	
Our Market drivers	
Using the new technologies	
	G Airbus

At any one time when we are to set the course for the future, we should first check that the objective is clear: not using whatever is available, but using it because it serves the objective. In the field of technology integration in airliners, we think the we should first ask the market to tell us what the main drivers are, then ask the Engineering Community about the technical opportunities that are at hand.

But, prior to make a decision, we should be animated by a vision: our aim, our responsibility, our contribution to the needs people have to move around the planet.





Dreams are authorized to build-up the vision. Some people have contributed to make dreams come true, and in the field of aviation, Herr Otto Lilienthal is certainly one person we should remember. Like others, he has not spared efforts, putting his engineering skills in the adventure, spending all his money, and at the end, giving his life.





Dreams can remain dreams. When looking at what the "experts" believed in 1970 the air Transport industry would look like in year 2000, they were pretty definite!

Look at what happened in fact. Sometimes, the chains of the past are too heavy to allow us to imagine the ruptures that could happen. Sometimes, the rupture scenario is pushed in such a way that it would pre-suppose that all the environment also is subject to a rupture. In the pictures shown, there was absolutely no vision of the environmentalist pressure around the world that makes the air transport vehicle an "unfriendly" neighbor.

So, we need to enlarge our horizons.



Contents	
An Air Transport vision	
Our Market drivers	
Using the new technologies	
	G





We all believe that air transport has become part of mankind way of life. Untrue!

Only a small portion of the world population "enjoys" the aircraft as a mean of transportation. There is room for improvement in our domain, before we will see the aircraft take part in everyone's life.

Growth, expansion is a buzz word in our industry. We will have to pay attention to the way we allow that growth to happen, and the consequences of such growth. Please note that as the economic development is determining the access to the airplane, the airplane operating cost is the prime issue here.





And people, they are so diverse! Different reasons for travel, meaning different expectations, different ways to enjoy the journey, different ways to look at the airplane. We believe that, in spite of the concurrent development of telecon supports, people will want to continue going around the planet.

To those who put the telecon and the air journey in a competitive situation, I might simply note that we are now asked to develop telecon means...aboard the airliners: the more you travel....the more you communicate...the more you communicate...the more you travel.

Another aspect that we have to consider when imagining the next vehicles and their interiors, access...is the population structure: the age distribution is changing, as is the size of the people.





There is also the "silent" passenger, I mean the freight. A significant contributor to our industry, that is diversifying, and participate to the globalisation of the economy. Air transport of goods contributes to accelerate it. Speed and cost efficiency are the keywords here.





Just as an example, the pc on which I am working for this presentation comes from all over our planet. Flying one way, sometimes flying back and forth, just to make that little piece of equipment : it would be inconcievable to have the elements shipped from harbour to harbour, wasting time and increasing cost and risk.





Opening one magazine and retaining the keywords that some leaders of the airline industry are using when asked about their business: money, costs, revenues... I t is all there. The economic efficiency of whichever airplane we deliver to them will determine success or failure in a very competitive market. We believe that our airplanes will be evaluated around their economic efficiency, that is their overall life cycle cost and their earning power capabilities.





We said earlier that more people wanted to travel, and that the market is always more competitive. The airlines see, and they contribute to it, a down trend in their unit revenue. They put tremendous efforts in the parallel reduction of their unit costs. Some operators are now adays referred to as "low-cost".

The airplanes we will deliver over the coming years and decades will have to integrate the picture of the cost-revenue equation. As we do not believe that a significant portion of the passenger community will accept to see the ticket prices to go up.





Flying is certainly exciting, but not for everybody... Airport neighbors don't seem to enjoy it. And they are more and more numerous.

Besides the airport neighborhood context, there is the growing concern that we share about the respect of the Environment and the aim of protecting a greener planet.

Air transport has a high degree of visibility, sometimes out of proportion with it real contribution in noise and emissions. It is a fact, and our airliners will need to be exemplary with their environment signature.



## Answering the demand with the right tools



Life would be simple if one solution would fit everyone. This is not the case: diversity in demand, in geographic conditions, in markets require us to propose, at any given moment, a set of airplanes each responding to one set of requirements.



Contents	
An Air Transport vision	
Our Market drivers	
Using the new technologies	
	G





In facing the challenge of diversity and the need to address the cost/revenue elements, the environment and the passenger service issues, we will have to integrate simultaneously aerodynamics, structure weights, noise reduction, manufacturing cost reduction, while offering a better space for the end customer.





Starting with the aircraft weight, weight being one enemy of the aircraft performance, new materials and new structural concepts contribute to reach our targets. Significant testing is needed to validate the new materials before the decision is made to apply them.





This is the case with Glare, a hybrid material that is selected for some of the fuselage panels of the A380















It has been an Airbus tradition to introduce new technologies step by step, as new airplane programs or new variants were under study.









We estimate that welding techniques could lead to about 10% in weight reduction while delivering a 20% reduction in production costs. As an example, the panel riveting speed goes from typically .15 or .25 meter per minute up to 8 to 10 meters per minute.



## Full-Scale demonstrator: Resin Film Infusion (RFI)



A380 rear pressure bulkhead produced with resin film infusion technology using a non-crimped fabric as textile preform. A340-500/600 bulkhead is manufactured with prepreg tapes. The advantage of CFRP design is a weight reduction of 27% compared to Al-design.

Another composites manufacturing technology is resin transfer moulding. One of the difficulties with "conventional" composites manufacturing, using pre-impregnated material - "prepreg", is that because the component is cured in an autoclave on a tool, all tolerances are thrown to the other surface.





A careful cost/advantage analysis has to be conducted before the application of composites is made.





Here we see 2 Airbus facilities for the welding of both stringers to skins, and frame sections to skins.

Quality control is ensured through rigorous in-process monitoring

The tooling is also very simple and flexible, a holding fixture is all that is required.

Lasers are not only used to cut and weld parts, but increasingly for measurement.

Flexibility in tooling is a key objective within AIRBUS, especially for the A380 programme, and the use of laser measurement helps to make major strides towards this goal even in major assembly stages.









Going to a moving line concept on a sub-assembly like the A320 wings allows for a reduction of production costs and delays by more than 10%. This concept, we feel, is very appropriate for an airplane part that is insensitive to customer customization.





Operating costs reduction and added airplane productivity is obtained through a refinement of the aerolines. Improving the airflow on the surface is one area for research, here above shown in actual flight testing on an A320. The way the wing works evolves with the addition of wing tip devices, whether wing fences, or winglets. Each wing design must be tested with different shapes to determine which gives the best result overall.

Airbus has now launched a technology programme entitled Aircraft Wing with Advanced Technology OpeRation (AWIATOR). It is contributing 60% of the 80 million Euro budget. A large variety of technologies will be investigated, developed and flight-tested on Airbus' flying testbed A340, MSN001. AWIATOR aim is to achieve a five to seven per cent reduction in drag, a two per cent reduction in fuel bum in long-range operation, and a noise reduction of 2 EPNdb. The programme will look at new devices to reduce the aircraft wake, new airbrakes, very large wing tip devices, new devices for flow control..

Alongside Airbus engineering teams in Europe, more than twenty industrial partners in Europe and Israel as well as European research institutes will jointly work to develop and validate the sophisticated technologies. They will be supported by a number of European universities and test centers.









This is an example of research being conducted on lift surfaces .





All systems can be the target for innovation. New technologies in electrical supply and distribution, in hydraulic supply, in water and waste that matters so much (weight, comfort, aircraft dispatch reliability). Full scale testing must be in place years before the airplane is put in service.





The Airbus approach in the domain of cockpît innovation is to retain the much airline praised inter-operability (Crew cross qualification between families of airliners) while introducing on the last generation the new technologies that enhance the safety, the crew procedures, the crew awareness, its comfort, etc.





- Access for several users of various applications and services:
  - Flight crew
  - Cabin crew
  - Passengers
- Communication media

Existing ones: VHF/HF/ Satcom

New ones: Gatelink

High Speed Data communication through satellites

- Ground network Airport / Airline / Ground operation center
- End to end service provider: from the airline to the aircraft including content:

- weather maps

-e-mail and internet connections for passengers

<u>Conclusion:</u> Wide scope Many potential users Many players





The aircraft external noise is an area that receives close attention and benefits from extensive research. Although the engines are the principal source of noise at take-off, the airframe contributes significantly during approach, a phase that concern significant populations around airports.

Outlined above are the main sources on which we are working: landing gears and high lift devices.





When it became apparent that the market expected that an airplane like the A380 due to enter service in 2006 had to pass the stringent noise requirement of London Heathrow airport (QC2 at take-off), a significant redesign of some areas of the airplane/engine combination was initiated. There was a cost in weight and performance, however the noise performance level was considered as having the n°1 priority.













One could think of using the fuselage and the tail to shield the engine noise from reaching the ground. This is one configuration that the Airbus Future projects organization works on when looking for the lowest possible noise signature.





Don't forget the passenger who, by the way, is paying for the trip. He keeps changing, getting bigger, heavier (in most cases), more demanding, and wants to carry more stuff along... We will need to accommodate his numerous requirements.





The air journey is not a complete pleasure: the body suffers, the brain and the heart, because of the stress. What can we bring to the passenger to relieve the tension, guarantee his health (air quality, enough volume, some freedom of movement, etc).





The passenger does not want to be disconnected. The air journey is not a journey on a cloud. He/she has left a place, certain people, he/she is going to meet with other people in another place. He/she is leaving, or he/she comes back, leading to a different set of feelings.





Whether in materials, in connections, or in cabin volume uses, new technologies allow for less weight, better flexibility//convertibility, or new opportunities.



And beyond in time ? Product Line of 2020 ?			
++			
SMALLER ?	FARTHER ?		FASTER ?
	(	CHEAPER ?	BIGGER ?
	GREENER	?	() Airbus

Where do we go from now? We will keep the eyes and ears open to make sure the market drivers are well understood and not overlooked. As far as we can see, we are convinced that the Air Transport industry shall be governed by economic efficiency and environmental concern.





