

# BRITISH AIRWAYS ENGINEERING COMPLETES A380 TRIALS

BRITISH AIRWAYS  
ENGINEERING



British Airways Engineering has successfully completed trials of its newly converted A380 facility at Heathrow. The final stage of testing was completed when Airbus flew in a 'superjumbo' to put the hangar through its paces.

The refurbishment to the four-hangar complex - a landmark 1950's listed building - means the airline is ready to welcome the A380 to its engineering base.

Slotting the giant aircraft's 24 metre high tail fin into the hangar was the biggest challenge to overcome. More than 138 tonnes of steelwork was added to the roof to create an 'eyebrow' for the tail to pass through.

The upgraded facility means that British Airways will be ready to maintain its fleet of A380 aircraft, due to begin arriving next year, as well as A380s for other carriers

The new facilities also incorporate an innovative docking solution that can accommodate 10 wide-bodied aircraft types including the Airbus A380 and the Boeing 787 types.

Modifications on a second bay are due to begin in April 2012.

Garry Copeland, British Airways' director of engineering, said: "The trial was a great success and a huge step in preparing our engineering base for the future".

"Our engineers can't wait for the A380 to join our fleet, and they now have a state of the art facility in which to maintain it."