

TRAINING STANDARDS SOAR FOR AIRBUS A380 WING TEAM

The development of the world's largest, most advanced and efficient commercial airliner - the 'double decker' Airbus A380 - has called for some fresh thinking about how to move the super-large components.

At nearly 80m long from wing-tip to wing-tip, and a similar size from nose to tail, the A380 incorporates the largest civil aircraft wings ever built.

In common with the Airbus manufacturing philosophy for all of its aircraft, the wings for the A380 are assembled and delivered as complete sections to the final assembly line in Toulouse, France. This obviously presents many challenges for handling and transportation.

The global Airbus Company is the world's leading civil aircraft manufacturer. Its Broughton, Flintshire (near Chester) facility is the company's centre of excellence for wing manufacturing. The site produces wings for all Airbus aircraft and delivers them to its sister sites in France and Germany. The A380 brings new challenges on a massive scale and wing-maker Airbus UK sought to consolidate operator skills throughout the complex and delicate process of production at Broughton.



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Preferred Provider

For the past two years, Mentor has been the preferred provider of all crane and access platform training throughout the 700-acre production site. The company have worked closely with Airbus UK to develop bespoke training courses in operations such as harness protection, slinging, signalling and 'in-jig' crane operation. In total it has delivered industry accredited training courses for over 2,000 operators.

Peter Ford, training partner for Airbus at Broughton comments "Product quality,

employee skills and health and safety awareness are all of paramount importance to Airbus. Mentor has been pivotal in helping Airbus UK rationalise existing skill sets, train employees to handle different roles based on demand and helping to ensure a safe working environment".

Airbus - a European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company (EADS) and BAE Systems joint company - has secured 154 firm orders and commitments for the A380 from 15 customers, including 12 passenger airlines.

TRANSPARENT TRAINING SOLUTIONS FOR SAINT-GOBAIN GLASS

Some customers need extra care in the handling of their training requirements... literally!

Saint-Gobain Solaglas, which employs over 125 workplace transport operators in the UK, is the largest distributor, processor and installer of glass-related products in the country. As such, it places great emphasis on the safe handling of fragile cargo and has relied on Mentor to provide all its workplace transport training needs at 24 of its UK sites for the past three years.

To minimise accidents and control efficiencies across its network of fast-moving distribution operations, the Saint-Gobain Solaglas sites benefit from regular visits by Mentor's trainers. Each, a locally based glass handling specialist, they deliver day-long introductory and refresher courses to ensure that the company's FLT and crane operators are minimising breakages and are safely loading and moving fragile and heavy glass consignments.

"Mentor provides consistent and practical safety training for our sites," commented



MSN Quality and Safety Development Manager, Keren Dennett. "Working as a partnership, we ensure that the skills of our drivers are continuously monitored and developed in line with our own standards of excellence. For additional peace of mind, Mentor even reminds us when further training is required and provides advice on our legal responsibilities and equipment".

With a 140 year history of expertise in glass and glazing in the UK and Ireland, Saint-Gobain Solaglas is organised into six primary operating divisions: MSN (Manufacturing and Supply Network); Contracting; Architectural; Artglass; Windowcare and Ireland. The company is a key supplier to the construction, renovation, white goods, furniture and domestic housing industries.
