DESIGNER OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST PASSENGER JET VISITS THE UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA

General characteristics
Flight crew: 2
Capacity: 555 in 3 classes or 850 passengers in one class, with up to 66.4 tonnes (146,400 lb) of cargo in 38 LD3s or 13 pallets, 152.4 tonnes (336,000 lb) of cargo (158 t option)
- Powerplant: 4 x 311 kN (70,000 lbf) turbofans. Either Rolls-Royce Trent 900 or Engine Alliance GP7200, 4 x 340 kN (76,500 lbf)

Dimensions
- Length: 73 m (239 ft 6 in)
- Wingspan: 79.8 m (261 ft 10 in)
- Height: 24.1 m (79 ft 1 in)
- Wing area: 845 m² (9,100 ft²)

Weights and fuel capacity
- Typical Operating Empty Weight: 276,800 kg (610,200 lb), 252,200 kg (556,000 lb)
- Maximum takeoff: 560,000 kg (1,235,000 lb)
- Maximum fuel: 310,000 litres (81,890 US gal)

Performance
- Normal cruise speed: 0.85 M (approx 902 km/h, 560 mph or 487 kt)
- Maximum cruise speed: 0.89 M
- Range: 15,000 km (8,000 nautical miles)
- Service ceiling: 13,100 m (43,000 ft)

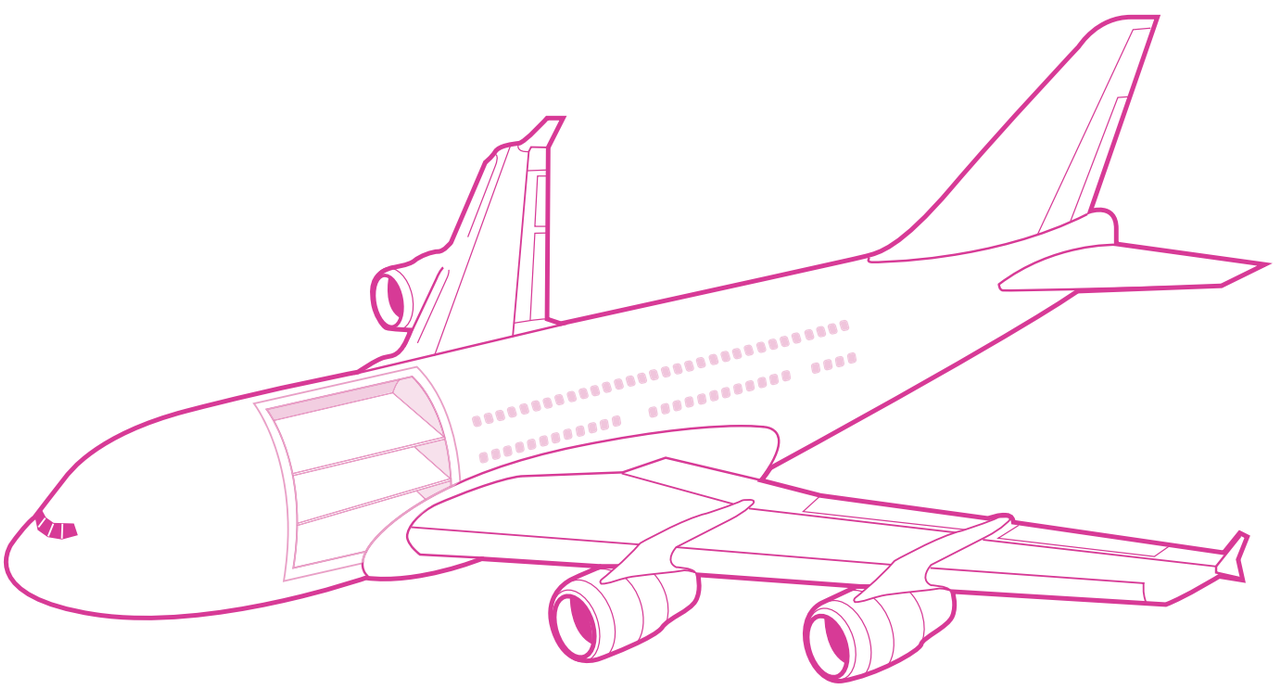
With a wingspan of 80 metres, 560 tons maximum take-off weight, two passenger decks and seating for 555 people, the Airbus A380 is the largest passenger aircraft ever built. Although the final assembly of this airborne giant is taking place in Toulouse, France, specialists from all over the world are involved in its design and construction. One of the key members of this team is Dr Frank Ogilvie, a former South African.

Ogilvie, who is Aerodynamics Director and Deputy Head of Overall Aircraft Design for the Airbus A380, matriculated from John Orr Technical High School in Johannesburg in 1961. He subsequently entered an apprenticeship at Hawker Siddeley Aviation in the UK and went on to obtain further degrees in Aeronautical Engineering from the University of Hertfordshire.

As part of a visit to the country of his birth, Ogilvie presented a public lecture at the University of Pretoria on 23 March, which was attended by 380 professionals and students. The title of the enticing lecture was "The anatomy of an airliner: challenges and solutions."

Leon Liebenberg

→ *1. Dr Frank Ogilvie delivering a talk at the University of Pretoria, entitled "The anatomy of an airliner: challenges and solutions."*



→ *2. Diagram of the Airbus A380, the largest passenger plane in the world. It is expected that the A380 will be in full commerical use by the year 2010.*