

Press Release

50.000 Flights for the Airbus A340 - 600 EF2 Fatigue Life Test

The Airbus A340-600 EF2 fatigue life test will reach the final test aim with the simulation of 50.000 flights on 16 June 2003 and thus the project will have been successfully concluded.

IABG mbH conducted this test in Dresden on behalf of Airbus-Deutschland GmbH in continuous 3-shift operation, interrupted only by short inspections of the test airframe. Altogether, 50.000 flights with all the loads to be expected relevant to future flight operations have been simulated.

With its 74.8 meters the four-engine Airbus A340-600 is the to date longest member of the Airbus family. The aircraft, which was put into service for the first time in the summer of 2002, offers seats for 380 passengers and has a range of 13 900 km. The test structure consists of a fuselage section of about 33 m and the wings with a wingspan of about 20 m.

IABG has developed a new test control system for the test with which the test speed has been significantly accelerated. Thus statements regarding the fatigue life behaviour of the aircraft structure can now be made even earlier. Other parts of the test program are comprehensive static measurements of the structural loading and damage tolerance investigations.

The test results meet in full the expectations of the development engineers. IABG is thus providing a valuable contribution to the certification of the Airbus A340-600 by the aviation authorities.

Long and successful cooperation in fatigue life testing is being continued with the test on the Airbus A340-600: All Airbus family members (A300, A310, A320, A330/340) have been tested to date by the company with respect to their fatigue life behaviour.

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