



## PRESS RELEASE

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### IFALPA salutes Airbus on first flight of the A380

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The International Federation of Airline Pilots Associations (IFALPA) welcomed news of the first flight of the Airbus A380. "The A380 is a wonderful new aircraft and will feature a number of technological advances" said IFALPA President Captain Dennis Dolan. "We congratulate Airbus for this remarkable achievement" he continued. "The maiden flight of the world's largest aircraft is without doubt a significant milestone in the history of commercial aviation and promises to begin a new era of global travel. This aircraft incorporates many new technological innovations that will make flying more enjoyable as well as safer for passengers and flight crews".

However, IFALPA does have some concerns about the ground operation of an aircraft of such unprecedented size. Dolan went on to point out that there are operational issues at many airports, which the A380 will serve, that need to be resolved to ensure that the aircraft operates to the highest level of safety. "Any concerns we have regarding the introduction of the A380 are not with the aircraft itself but rather the practicalities of its operation at airports which do not meet current ICAO operating standards". There are relatively few airports whose layout currently complies with the international standards required for Code F aircraft operations, as laid down in ICAO's Annex 14, which governs the operation of aircraft with wingspans of 65m or more. There are many potential safety issues that may be raised by the ground movement of such a large aircraft. "Our fear is that a number of these marginal airports will, for commercial reasons, seek waivers to the Annex 14 requirements to allow A380 operations" explained Dolan.

While ICAO advises that individual states carry out evaluations of existing facilities to determine alternative measures and restrictions, IFALPA has concerns that short term economic pressures will overcome operational prudence, which could prove costly in terms of safety in the longer term.

#### *Notes to Editors*

*The International Federation of Air Line Pilots' Associations represents in excess of 100,000 pilots in more than 95 countries world-wide. The mission of IFALPA is to be the global voice of airline pilots, promoting the highest level of aviation safety and security world-wide and providing services, support and representation to all of its Member Associations. See the Federation website [www.ifalpa.org](http://www.ifalpa.org)*

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