

Around Boeing



Let there be light

Natural light now illuminates the factory floor at the Everett, Wash., site through six skylights installed as part of the multiyear Future Factory project. A total of 35 skylights will be added to the factory roof over the next two years. Natural light was recommended by workshop participants when the Future Factory team was defining its vision and strategy. To see more skylight photos and learn more about Future Factory, visit its site on the Boeing intranet at <http://futurefactory.web.boeing.com>.

GAIL HANUSA PHOTO

PHANTOM WORKS OPENS AUSTRALIAN BRANCH

Phantom Works last month formally opened its new Australian branch, employing about 30 senior engineers, scientists and researchers in Melbourne and Brisbane. The branch will better support Boeing's businesses in Australia and partner with researchers there on the development of mutually beneficial technologies.

"We seek the best of the best, and that's why we're establishing a branch of Phantom Works here in Australia," said John Tracy, Boeing chief technology officer and senior vice president of Engineering, Operations & Technology, at a ceremony commemorating the opening.

Ongoing and new technology work areas will include composite resin infusion, light robotics for manufacturing and precision coatings, aging aircraft maintenance, applications of advanced unmanned air vehicles, network-centric operations and aerospace environmental applications.

AUSTRALIA, CANADA TAKE DELIVERIES OF C-17S

Australia and Canada last month took deliveries of their latest C-17 Globemaster III military airlifters.

The Royal Australian Air Force's fourth C-17 arrived March 11 at the RAAF Amberley air base. "Australia's four C-17s have been delivered on time and on budget," Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Geoff Shepherd told attendees at a ceremony for the aircraft's arrival.

Meanwhile, the Canadian Air Force took delivery of its third C-17 at a ceremony at Boeing's Long Beach, Calif., C-17 final assembly facility. "In the very short time that we've had with the two C-17s, it's been an unstoppable string of results, and we thank you for that," said Canadian Air Force Col. Chris Coates during the event. Canada is scheduled to receive its fourth and final C-17 from an existing contract early this month.

MODIFICATIONS BEGIN ON FOURTH DREAMLIFTER

The fourth 747-400 passenger airplane being modified into a Dreamlifter—the primary means of transporting major assemblies of the 787 Dreamliner to the final assembly site in Everett, Wash.—was moved last month into the hangar at Evergreen Aviation Technologies Corp. in Taiwan.

For the next few months, the team will perform required structural repairs and maintenance and prepare and stabilize the airplane for the modification's structural removals.

This airplane is scheduled to begin transporting parts for the 787 Dreamliner in 2009. Two Dreamlifters currently are in service and modifications on a third are nearly complete.

BOEING AMONG CANADA'S BEST DIVERSITY EMPLOYERS

For its efforts to support an inclusive and diverse work force—such as providing BlackBerry's to many deaf employees to enhance communications among co-workers, encouraging ongoing education, and helping foreign-trained workers complete educational equivalency programs—Boeing Winnipeg recently was named one of Canada's Best Diversity Employers.

The annual award, given by national newspaper consortium Mediagroup Canada Inc., recognizes corporate initiatives to include and engage women, minorities, people with disabilities, and other employee groups.

The Boeing Commercial Airplanes division in Winnipeg designs and fabricates complex composite components for all models of 7-series aircraft including shear ties, pylons and landing-gear doors for the 787.