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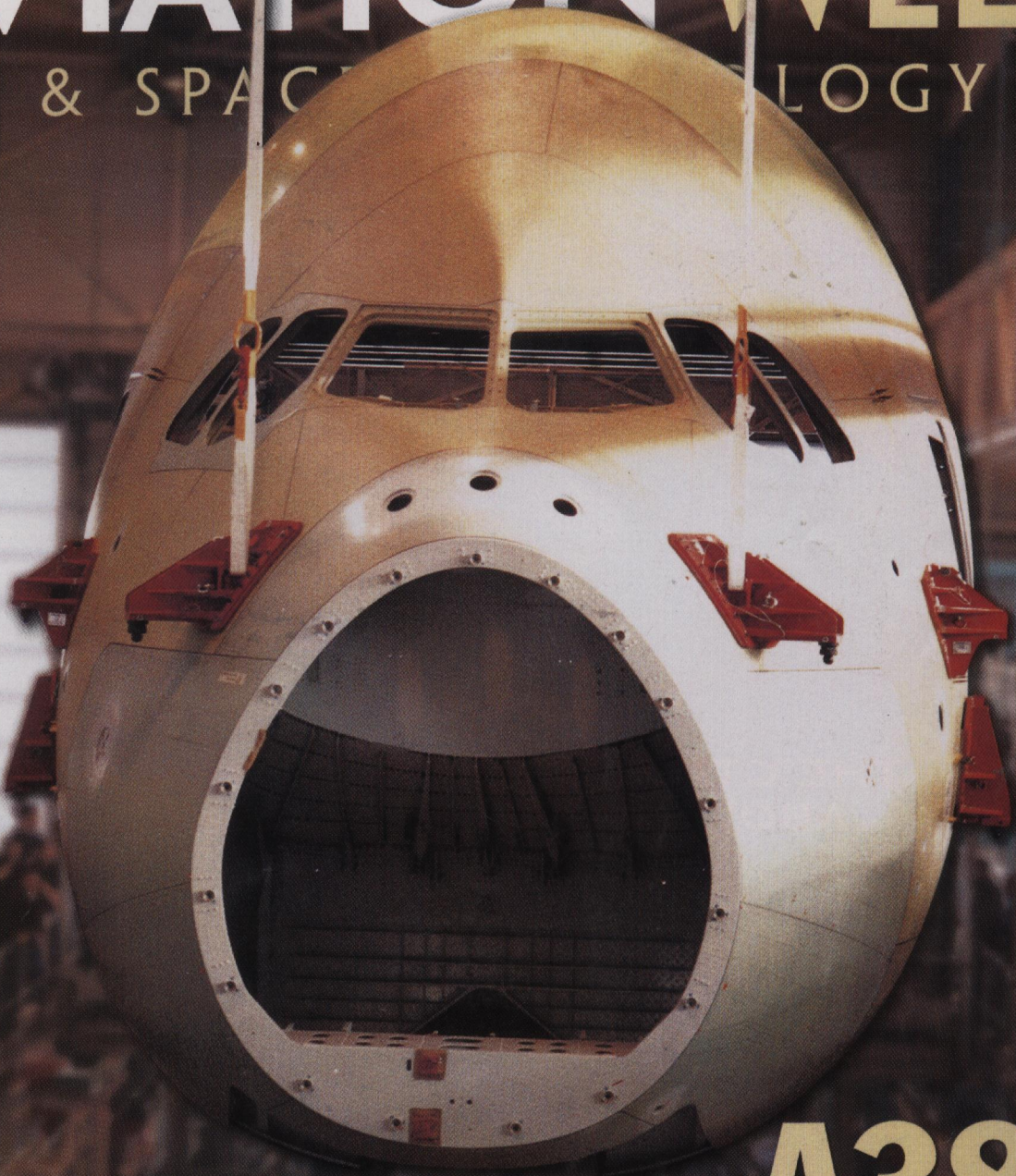
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AVIATION WEEK

& SPACE TECHNOLOGY

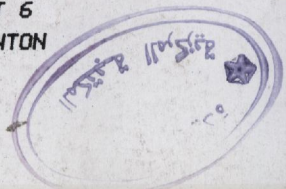


A380

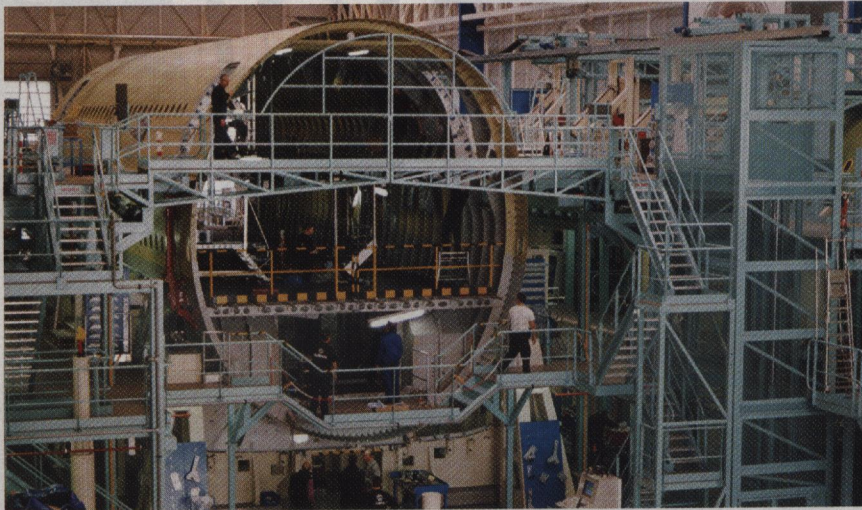
A Colossus Takes Shape

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- 21** JAXA buoyed by H-IIA solid rocket motor burn test results

- 21** Virgin Atlantic GlobalFlyer prepares for first flight
- WORLD NEWS & ANALYSIS**
- 24** Europe, U.S. bury the hatchet over Galileo
 - 25** India rethinking joining Galileo satellite nav system
 - 26** NASA 'water' find will shape exploration plans for decades
 - 27** NASA to use Pentagon paradigm for its missions
 - 28** Host of companies contribute to Mars Rover program
 - 29** Rosetta launch revs up Europe's space plans
 - 30** Test flights could demo pulse detonation engine potential
 - 32** Fuel efficiency, cost reduction drive engine-makers' tests
 - 34** Eurofighter partner nations trying to 'meet in the middle'

ABOUT THE COVER

The first Airbus A380 mega-transport is scheduled to roll out this December and take its maiden flight in January 2005. The program, Europe's biggest aviation undertaking, is gaining momentum and production is underway (see p. 40). The No. 1 A380's nose section and center fuselage were joined recently at Airbus' St. Nazaire, Brittany, facilities and will be conveyed later this year to the final assembly line in Toulouse (Airbus photo).

AIR TRANSPORT

- 35** United Airlines enters another make-or-break period
- 38** U.S. custom agents at foreign airports—tests to begin soon

A380 UPDATE

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59 Long-range strike capability pros, cons.

58 Next step in directed infrared countermeasures systems development nears.

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46 A380 marks new supply chain; U.S. content at 50%

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52 Australia's tanker nod could alter EADS-Boeing rivalry

53 New requirements reshape UAC programs worldwide

54 Smiths Aerospace tapped for Boeing 7E7's electronics

55 Singapore Airlines eyes A380 as MRO market revives

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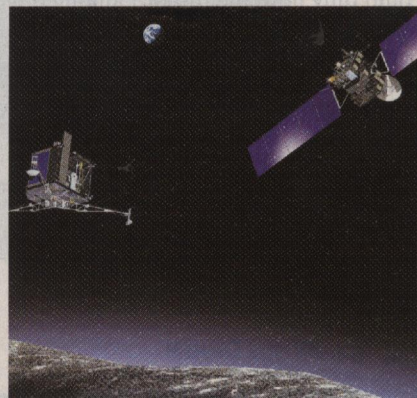
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