



## Record-breaking superjumbo may take spring flight to city

THE world's largest passenger airliner — the Airbus A380 which was part-built in Bristol — could fly into the city in the spring.

The 555-seat superjumbo is expected to fly into Heathrow some time before the summer, according to Tony Douglas, BAA Heathrow managing director.

And it is also hoped that the giant plane will be flying into Filton, where its wings and landing gear are built.

Airbus said yesterday that it hoped the aircraft will visit the north Bristol site before June this year.

The Heathrow flight is part of various tests that Toulouse-based Airbus is giving the plane.

The A380's flight into Heathrow will take place before any appearance it might make at the Farnborough Air Show in Hampshire in July.

Singapore Airlines will be the first carrier to put the A380 into passenger service, with the first flight due at the end of this year.

Mr Douglas announced the arrival of the A380 as he unveiled the first in a series of posters about the new plane and Heathrow.

He said: "I am delighted to be unveiling the first of our posters promoting the A380 and to be able to confirm that the first aircraft will land in the UK before the summer.

"I am extremely proud that Heathrow, as the main gateway to the UK, is the airport in which this will take place.

"It has been almost 40 years since the airport welcomed the jumbo (Boeing 747), which makes the arrival of the A380 — part of which has been built in this country — a very special day for the UK and aviation industry."

