

New Eco-Home for Alpha Charlie



Manchester Airport unveiled its most environmentally friendly building to house the aviation icon “Alpha Charlie” Concorde G-BOAC.

The 2574 sq m Concorde Visitor Centre, which will display the former British Airways flagship Concorde G-BOAC, was opened by British Airways Chief Executive, Willie Walsh and Manchester Airport Group’s Chief Executive, Geoff Muirhead CBE, at an exclusive event in the Aviation Viewing Park.

Hurst Building Services were selected to provide the centres mechanical and electrical systems in line with Manchester Airports environmental building policies.

“The Concorde Visitor Centre is the first new building on the airport site to comply with strict construction standards as part of Manchester Airport’s commitment to having carbon neutral operations by 2015,” said Geoff Muirhead CBE. “The new building is not only home to a unique piece of aviation history but it is also an important visual statement of our future low carbon ambitions”.

Since the launch of Manchester Airport’s environment plan in 2006, all designers are tasked to ensure that new buildings are carbon efficient, which is why the Concorde Visitor Centre includes technologies such as biomass heating to be fuelled by willow grown on the airport site. The hangar also utilises rainwater harvesting, solar panels capture the sun’s energy to heat the water system and high efficiency lighting illuminates Concorde.



Commenting on the opening, Willie Walsh, British Airways Chief Executive, said:
“Manchester Airport was one of 60 high profile locations worldwide that originally bid to give a home to a retiring Concorde. It gives me great pleasure to see the culmination of that bid today in this magnificent new exhibition area and visitor centre.”

Construction of the Concorde Visitor Centre began in December 2008 to protect the historic and much-loved aircraft from the elements and has taken the effort of a variety of partners including other companies from The Hurst Group to bring it on line in a short space of time.

The new visitor centre also includes a corporate hospitality suite, an education centre for local schools and a glass-walled visitor restaurant alongside Concorde, with views of Manchester Airport’s runways.



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