FRENCH BEE AND AIRBUS ARE WORKING TOGETHER TO REDUCE FUEL CONSUMPTION AND CARBON EMISSIONS FROM A350s

Dear All,

We are happy to announce that Airbus launched today the Fello'fly project with partners including our company French bee! The official launch of this project should have taken place last March, but due to the Coronavirus crisis, it has been postponed. Today, it's official, French bee will collaborate with Airbus and directly contribute to the work targeted at reducing the overall impact of civil aviation on our environment and to demonstrate the operational feasibility of this promising performance research project on the energy performance of commercial flights.

What is exactly the Fello'fly project?

The Fello'fly project involves flying long-haul planes V-shaped very close, like migratory birds. These formation flights make it possible to take advantage of the wake phenomenon: the planes located at the rear, quite close, will take advantage of the groove created by the aircraft in front to propel themselves using less energy.

This flight practice could reduce overall fuel consumption by around 5-10% per trip. According to Airbus, the implementation of fello'fly by wide-body aircraft on a global scale could generate a reduction of 1.5 million tonnes of CO2 emitted each year. We are particularly proud and happy to be associated with Airbus to participate in this innovative work based on biomimicry techniques. We wish to actively contribute to the efforts of the aviation sector in terms of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. This starts with the choice of our A350 fleet, but also our wish to always be innovative and agile.

On this project led by Airbus, French bee and SAS Scandinavian Airlines will bring their expertise in flight operations. Two air navigation service providers in the UK and the French Air Navigation Services Directorate (DSNA) as well as NATS (UK’s leading provider of air traffic control services) and Eurocontrol will share their knowledge of air navigation, defining how two planes can be safely linked together, while minimizing the impact on current procedures. This collaboration will help define a safe and realistic Concept of Operations (CONOPS) to shape future regulations for these flights.

We will surely keep you updated of the progress of this project and the advances it will bring to our industry and to which we are actively and enthusiastically contributing.

Best Regards,
Marc Rochet
The flights follow each other like swarms of birds (copyright@Airbus)