



### Automation is moving from manufacturing to the daily work at aircraft maintenance



Robotics have in many aircraft manufacturing sites become a standard element. Several development projects are taking place in order to improve the use of robotics in industrial applications, one example is production of aerospace components. An important feature is to enable the robots to work side by side next to humans, without separating barriers between them. The goal is for the robots to take over monotonous jobs and free up their co-workers for more value-added work.

We can now see that this automation trend has spread to aircraft maintenance. With the increased competition, ergonomic challenges for workers and quality demand, airlines and maintenance companies are turning towards automation to maximize efficiency and lower the total cost of washing the aircrafts

### Automation within aircraft maintenance

Many working tasks in aircraft maintenance are ergonomically strenuous and physically demanding. People are working in tight spaces, have difficult working conditions and are often required to use considerable strength. Aircraft external cleaning, a part of aircraft maintenance, is one of these challenging tasks. It takes many hours of man power to wash a wide-body aircraft. All the washing is done regularly by hand with long rods and brushes attached to them.

Today automation is starting to bring relief. The use of washing robots, which work semi-autonomously, bring the much needed help to the washing crew. Customers in Middle East and Scandinavia are gaining new benefits when including the automation as part of external cleaning.

The Aerowash robotic washing system brings improved working conditions to the personnel as well as reduces the time for washing and the need for additional working tools. We can clearly see an improved efficiency of the external cleaning maintenance function.

The Aerowash has been developed in close co-operation with the aircraft maintenance segment and thus is built from the demands and requirements of the maintenance environment.

Maintenance departments, who are the first runners-up in taking automation as part of the maintenance procedure, can clearly see the value it brings. Automation is emerging to the aircraft maintenance segment and is being accepted and welcomed from floor level to managers and airline owners.

