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British Airways News Aircraft team is setting a shining example

By Steve Edwards

OUR NEW Aircraft External Appearances team has turned in a sparkling performance as the way the fleet is washed undergoes a major overhaul.

Several months ago, responsibility for the external washing of aircraft at Heathrow moved from Engineering to Aircraft Movements, part of Heathrow Customer Service.

The transfer was the result of a joint proposal and partnership with Trade Union and Management from both areas. Mike Street, Director of Customer Service and Operations, has given it his full support.

The first task was to increase staff — 31 people are now in place and training of the new intake is almost complete.

Where temperatures are low and winds are high, the team hand-cleans our aircraft inside the hangars at the Heathrow Engineering base.

Washing of our aircraft is now also done at Manchester, Johannesburg and Brussels.

With more people available, the number of washes has risen. Before Aircraft Movements took over, between two and five total cosmetic washes were done each month. Now the figure is 70 a month, and will rise again.

A road sweeper has been purchased and upgraded, and fitted with our new van-u-boom. Mobile cleaning crews are in terminal areas to dry clean some areas of aircraft, such as cowlings and doorways.

Protects

A new cleaning product, Amazing Glaze has been approved and is being added to the aircraft exterior.

The glaze protects the paint, giving our aircraft a smarter appearance while making washing easier and increasing the lifespan of the paintwork.

So far 12 Boeing 747s have been glazed all over, and 13 have had some areas glazed.

Simon Emes, Manager Air craft Movements, said: “AEA is committed to being the leader in aircraft external washing.

“The Department accepts it has a major challenge to bring the aircraft fleet back up to the standard required, but our people are up for it!”

If you want to see AEA in action, you're very welcome. Call Steve Edwards on LHR22973 for details.