

First of retrofitted Emirates A380 enters service

- A Monitor Desk Report

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Dubai: The first Emirates A380 to be completely refurbished under the airline's US\$ 2 billion retrofit program has been deployed on the Dubai-London Heathrow service.

The fully refreshed A380 features Emirates' latest products and interiors across all cabins, including 56 Premium Economy class seats on the main deck, and new colour palettes evident in the carpeting and wall panels. On the upper deck, First and Business Class seats sport Emirates' latest cream-coloured leather upholstery and lighter-toned wood finishing, similar to the airline's 'game changer' product. Emirates' signature ghaf tree motif also features prominently throughout the interiors, including hand-stencilled panels in the First Class Shower Spa.

The next Emirates A380 aircraft lined up for its make-over is expected to be completed by the end of this month. By 2024, all 67 A380s assigned for refurbishment will have returned to service. Emirates will then begin work on its 53 Boeing 777s earmarked for this project. The airline expects to complete the program in 2025.

To deliver the largest known aircraft refurbishment program in aviation history, Emirates recruited 190 new project personnel, and is working with 48 major

partners and suppliers who have also hired hundreds of skilled workers.

Teams of engineers and technicians have worked round the clock, taking apart the entire interior of the A380 and refitting the parts again in a carefully planned and tested sequence.