

Thursday, July 30, 2009

Problems with the 787 - revisited

I've lost my fear of flying a while ago, but in the light of the disclosures about the 787 in this article it's a good question, if this fear will haunt me again. At least in a certain type of aircraft. The Seattle Times reported in "Boeing 787 wing flaw extends inside plane", that the 787 hadn't problems with delaminating wings at ultimate load (limit load + 50 % of limit load). No, the problems occurred right above limit load (the maximum load the wing will experience in airline service). Ouch.

At least this gives a good explanation, why Boeing delayed the test flight. The Seattle Times further reports: Because the wing test fell short of the ultimate load target, the plane could have flown only under restrictions that would have severely limited the usefulness of a test flight.

It also helps explain why Boeing canceled the first flight planned for the end of June.

Posted by Joerg Moellenkamp in Aviation, English at 15:31

Did you read the comments ?

That one is quite - let's say - disturbing:

http://community.seattletimes.nwsources.com/reader_feedback/public/display.php?thread=158389&offset=100#post_651768

Seems like boeing can "harvest" now the crop of their cost cutting seeds.

Not sure if management thought about quality and engineering skills when they spoke about Return on investment.
Anonymous on Jul 30 2009, 21:02