

"MICHELIN Air X" chosen for Airbus A380 aircraft on All Nippon Airway's new Hawaii route

Following a rigorous selection process, Michelin radial tires have been chosen for the Airbus A380 aircraft which All Nippon Airways will introduce on their new Hawaii route. The chosen tire will be the "Michelin Air X" which features the Michelin patented Near Zero Growth technology.

NZG technology was first used for Concorde tires and is designed to ensure minimal tire growth. Aircraft tires have very high inflation pressures (20 bar) compared to other tires, such as passenger car tires (2.5 bar), to carry the high aircraft weights. At the high take-off and landing speeds an aircraft tire can 'grow' due to the high centrifugal forces. NZG minimizes tire diameter growth, and consequently tires become more durable and resistance to foreign object damage.

The combination of Michelin Air X tires and NZG technology reduces overall operational costs compared to a standard radial tire. This result is achieved through an increased number of landings (up to 30% more), improved fuel efficiency and exceptional damage resistance. NZG technology also increases tire robustness and reduces fuel consumption, leading to lower CO₂ emissions.

This is the first time that the Japanese airline is flying the Airbus A380, the world's largest double-decker commercial airplane in the world with 520 passenger seats. The new fleet has been called "Flying Honu", meaning "Flying Sea Turtle" – turtles are loved in Hawaii as sacred creatures – and all 3 aircraft feature paintings of the sea, sky and sunset of Hawaii.

ANA has purchased three A380 aircraft, and the first of these aircraft will be introduced on Narita-Honolulu route from May 24, 2019.

Michelin, the leading tire company, is dedicated to enhancing its clients' mobility, sustainably; designing and distributing the most suitable tires, services and solutions for its clients' needs; providing digital services, maps and guides to help enrich trips and travels and make them unique experiences; and developing high-technology materials that serve the mobility industry. Headquartered in Clermont-Ferrand, France, Michelin is present in 170 countries, has more than 117,400 employees and operates 121 production facilities in 17 countries which together produced around 190 million tires in 2017. The Group has a Research and Development Center located in Europe, North America and Asia. (www.michelin.com)