Internship with Airbus GmbH, 2013
Michael Houtman, Mechanical Engineering Concentration

About Airbus GmbH
Airbus is a subsidiary of EADS, recently renamed Airbus Group, which is a coalition between countries all throughout Europe (Germany, France, Spain, UK). Airbus designs, manufactures, and sells commercial, cargo, and military aircraft all over the world. Airbus’ largest facilities are in Hamburg, Germany and Toulouse, France. Currently, Airbus’ largest competitor is Boeing, whose 787 competes with the A380 and A350 XWB. The A380 is currently the largest flying commercial aircraft and the A350 XWB is the newest Airbus extra wide body (XWB) aircraft. The first flight of the A350 XWB was during my internship on June 14th, 2013. The A350 is unique because it is composed of over 50% composite material.

About Bremen
I rented an apartment in Bremen and primarily biked to work and around town. Bremen holds a landscape and elevation similar to the Netherlands with large, flat open spaces (and a harsh headwind) for biking. Bremen is located in the north of Germany, has a population of 500,000 people, and has a picturesque old town square and steeple. Because of it’s relatively small size and location to Hamburg, Bremen has an Airbus plant consisting of 3500 people. This is the second largest Airbus facility in all Germany. This small facility is primarily responsible for the high lift systems of aircraft wings and has a testing facility for the A400M cargo loading system.

About the Internship
I interned in Bremen, Germany with cargo transport division of Airbus. This internship lasted from June to August. I lived in Bremen for the duration of the summer. My duties consisted of participating first-hand in team meetings, writing Airbus documents, presenting innovation reports, and undertaking continual research on a large innovation topic. This was to decrease overall fuel consumption via the use of composite material. In addition to working in Bremen, I was also given the opportunity to work at the Hamburg Airbus facility for 6 days with MAP A380 Troubleshooting and A320 Single Aisle manufacturing. Here I assisted the installation of the cargo loading system of the A320 aircraft, as well as assisting in the troubleshooting of finished A380 before sent to the customer.

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