

Massive plane debuts with giant smile

The Airbus Beluga XL, a new generation of super-transporter sporting a bigger "bubble" than its Beluga ST predecessor, is undergoing test flights ahead of its planned entry into service in 2019

Beluga XL A330-700L
(baseline A330-200 airliner)



◀ Plane named after bulbous-headed beluga whale

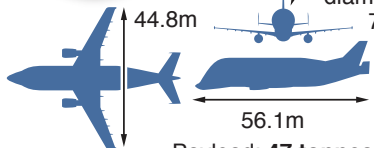
Rolls-Royce
Trent 700 engines



Beluga XL measures six metres longer and one metre wider than predecessor, offering 30% more capacity

Beluga ST

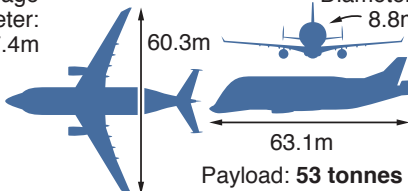
Fuselage
diameter:
7.4m



Payload: 47 tonnes

Beluga XL

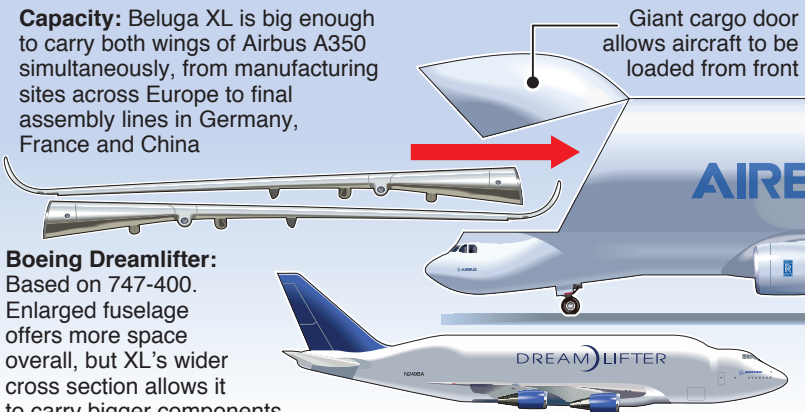
Diameter:
8.8m



Payload: 53 tonnes

Capacity: Beluga XL is big enough to carry both wings of Airbus A350 simultaneously, from manufacturing sites across Europe to final assembly lines in Germany, France and China

Giant cargo door allows aircraft to be loaded from front



Boeing Dreamlifter:

Based on 747-400.
Enlarged fuselage offers more space overall, but XL's wider cross section allows it to carry bigger components

