



Insight

Allianz Coffee Catch-up Guide to: The world's largest aircraft

Broking business is busier than ever, and staying on top of the latest insurance and risk management buzzwords can sometimes fall by the wayside. So, harking back to the coffee shop origins of insurance, Allianz is offering a series of short and snappy insights that pull on our commercial expertise. A perfect way to catch up on what's hot!

On this week's agenda: the Airlander 10 – the world's largest aircraft. We hope the following comes in handy next time you're awaiting a cappuccino in your local coffee house and a fellow coffee customer turns to you and says...

Coffee Customer: *Did you know that the world's largest aircraft had its first flight this spring?*

You: The Airlander 10? Yes. A cross between an aeroplane, airship, helicopter and hovercraft, the new vehicle floats using lighter than air technology. 60 feet longer than an Airbus380, the Airlander 10 is bigger than a football pitch and has a cargo capacity of 10 tons – hence the name.

Coffee Customer: *If it's so big, how does it work?*

You: The craft has no internal or external structure. Instead, it's shell (envelope) is made of an anti-UV, -leak and -strike, triple ply,

Teflon-like material. This makes it strong, durable and repairable. Helium provides 60% of the lift, aided by aerodynamic lift and engine propulsion. Beyond its base (or footprint), all it needs to operate is 100m rectangle of clear space and has the ability to take off vertically, even in 35km cross winds.

Coffee Customer: *So what are the potential uses?*

You: The craft is greener and quieter than any existing air transport. It has the ability to carry loads, such as passengers, for up to five days without landing or to operate in a unmanned environment for 15 to 20 days. Plus, with the ability to land on ice, sea and sand, it has so many potential applications in transport, communications, intelligence and surveillance. For example, used as a communications relay station, it could provide and improve infrastructure to extremely remote areas. Bulk transport to and from inaccessible

locations could also be feasible with the craft providing logistic and reconnaissance support that could be invaluable to the military.

Coffee Customer: *So is this just the start for Airlander?*

You: The Airlander 10 model is currently undergoing its testing phase. Following a successful first flight in spring 2016, it encountered a few problems on its second flight in August 2016. Based in the UK, the company behind the beast, Hybrid Air Vehicles (HAV) have plans for an Airlander 50 capable of carrying 50 tons of cargo. 200 and 500 models also aren't beyond reason, so the future potential for heavy lifting and freight transport is definitely worth keeping an eye on.

At this point, your drink will be served and you can smile modestly knowing that your coffee catch up went well.



Insurance implications at a glance:

- Game changing technology and manufacturing processes require holistic insurance covers to encourage public confidence around safety.
- Independent aviation experts predict the hybrid aviation market to be worth \$50bn in the next 20 years – a valuable sector to insure.
- Underwriting and broking expertise needed as the product develops and further exciting opportunities arise.