



## **Saudi Arabian Airlines increases its order for Thales's Topseries In-Flight Entertainment system now covering A320 Single Aisle aircraft**

**Aircraft Interiors, Hamburg 31 March 2009** – Thales, a leader in In-Flight Entertainment systems, is pleased to announce that Saudi Arabian Airlines has selected Thales's TopSeries digital single aisle system for its fleet of forty-two A320 aircraft. The system for the airlines' new A320 aircraft includes a newly designed architecture that support interactive digital audio using an Ethernet passenger control unit which directly connects to the systems broadband network. Passengers in economy will enjoy improved audio control, high fidelity sound and the ability to watch a wide variety of video programming and engaging cabin-wide interactive games.

Today, the airline is already a major Middle East customer for Thales with the TopSeries system on twenty-two B777 aircraft. *"We have been working with Thales for several years now and their systems and people are what our airline needs to satisfy our passengers. We are pleased with Thales's high standard for quality products and services,"* said Ghassan Alsadeg, General Manager of Aircraft Engineering of Saudi Arabian Airlines. Beyond the new entertainment services in economy, the airline will offer business class passengers full audio and video on-demand capability on their A320 aircraft. Providing in-seat on-demand capability continues to be a growing trend on single aisle aircraft, with Saudi Arabian Airlines taking a leadership position in their region of the world.

*"Being selected a second time by a customer is a true measure of airline satisfaction. Thales is pleased to share Saudi Arabian Airlines' vision and we look forward to supporting them for many years to come,"* said Alan Pellegrini, Vice President and General Manager of Thales's In-Flight Entertainment Systems business. The airline will take delivery of its first A320 in the fall of 2009.

### **Thales's IFE Systems**

Thales entered the In-Flight Entertainment (IFE) business in the late 90s and today employs 700 + dedicated professionals with decades of IFE experience. Its IFE headquarter office is located in California with regional offices in France, China and Singapore. Thales is the fastest growing IFE supplier with over 1,000 aircraft commitments in just 5 years. Thales offers a comprehensive in-flight entertainment solution covering four main areas:

- TopSeries Inflight Entertainment Systems
- TopConnect Suite of Connectivity Solutions
- TopEffects Digital Media and Services
- TopServices Global Service and Support

For more information about Thales's In-Flight Entertainment Systems visit [www.thales-ifs.com](http://www.thales-ifs.com) .

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# THALES

## About Thales

Thales is a leading international electronics and systems group, addressing Aerospace and Space, Defence and Security markets worldwide. The Group's civil and military businesses develop in parallel and share a common base of technologies to serve a single objective: the security of people, property and nations. Thales's leading-edge technology is supported by 22,500 R&D engineers who offer a capability unmatched in Europe to develop and deploy field-proven mission-critical information systems. The Group builds its growth on its unique multidomestic strategy based on trusted partnerships with national customers and market players, while leveraging its global expertise to support local technology and industrial development. Thales employs 68,000 people in 50 countries with 2008 revenues of €12.7 billion.

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