



Thales reinforces its leading position in connectivity with the launch of a state-of-the-art demonstrator suite

Crawley, UK, 4 March 2010 – Thales is pleased to announce the launch of its brand new Connectivity Suite at its facility in Crawley UK. This unique demonstration area will allow airlines and partners to experience first hand the different options in connected airborne solutions that Thales offers.

The newly unveiled Suite allows visitors to engage with cabin applications such as WiFi, VoIP (voice over internet protocol), GSM and IFE web portal connectivity, and cockpit safety applications such as voice, data and Electronic Flight Bag, in real-time through the INMARSAT Swift Broadband satellite network.

The purpose behind this cutting-edge demonstration area is not only to showcase a growing number of connectivity applications and capabilities but also to allow airlines to use the area to work with business partners and customer focus groups to refine the connected experience in a live environment using real systems. These include revenue generation or differentiation opportunities, such as real-time validation of passenger credit cards to protect against fraud, or real-time “Connected IFE” applications such as alerting ground personnel of passenger needs, providing live news updates, seat back email, SMS and duty free shopping.

“Connected IFE is the new direction for this market,” said Alan Pellegrini, head of Thales In-Flight Entertainment Systems. *“More and more airlines are coming to us asking for this capability, because they want to set themselves apart from the competition and vastly improve the in-flight experience for their passengers.”*

Thales introduced its TopConnect brand to bring together the company’s TopFlight SATCOM (TFS) product, IFE system, connectivity applications and related third party services. The TopConnect system offers affordable broadband using Inmarsat’s SwiftBroadband and is smaller, lighter and more cost effective than any other offering in service today. Thales has received more than 300 orders for shipsets of the SwiftBroadband hardware.

Thales is the fastest growing IFE developer in the world and holds approximately 45% of the global market. Thales TopSeries is flying on over 1000 aircraft with more than 50 airlines worldwide.

About Thales

Thales is a global technology leader for the Aerospace and Space, Defence, Security and Transportation markets. In 2009, the company generated revenues of 12.9 billion euros with 68,000 employees in 50 countries. With its 25,000 engineers and researchers, Thales has a unique capability to design, develop and deploy equipment, systems and services that meet the most complex security requirements. Thales has an exceptional international footprint, with operations around the world working with customers as local partners. www.thalesgroup.com

Press Contact

Natasha Harvey
Tel. + 33 1 34 81 40 50
Mob. + 33 6 74 94 23 81
Mail: natasha.harvey@fr.thalesgroup.com

NEWS

DIRECTION DE LA COMMUNICATION | CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS