



Thales Next Generation In-Flight Entertainment System Brings New Innovation to Airlines

WAEA Long Beach, CA, September 14, 2010 – Thales, a leader in In-Flight Entertainment (IFE) and connectivity systems, features its next generation TopSeries system at the 31st World Airline and Entertainment Association Conference. The system is a seat-centric, modular product designed to be the most flexible, reliable, and highest performance Thales IFE offering ever.

Built on the technical excellence of earlier TopSeries platforms, the new system shows brilliant Thales innovation at the passenger seat. Its high definition displays have smooth, sleek lines making the product appearance much like high-style home electronics, and its unique architecture adds intelligence into the display eliminating the seat box for even greater passenger space and comfort. Screens are available in sizes from 11 inch class to 23 inch class with a popular touch screen navigation capability much like today's smart phones. Monitors are available in a range of colors with three different configurations – monitor only, monitor with passenger interface modules, and monitor with passenger interface modules and a reader for chip-and-pin and smart cards. On the face of the display are buttons for passenger services, home, power and volume control. Displays have high capacity local storage for maximum system reliability, exceptional viewing angles and can accommodate a privacy filter and tilt mechanism. The modular design of the display increases serviceability and reduces cost of ownership. The product is extremely thin and lightweight.

What's more, the new TopSeries system offers a revolutionary Touch Passenger Media Unit (TouchPMU) that creates a new category of seat controllers. Unique to the industry, the device is a handheld 3.8 inch touch screen LCD display that provides system control and delivers entertainment and communication capabilities much like the in-seat monitor. The unit runs on Android® open source, web-based software that will eventually host thousands of applications similar to consumer devices. "The system is a major step forward representing a highly innovative blend of industrial design, hardware resources and application development. We are confident that the system's reduced weight, lower cost of ownership and user enhancements will truly be a compelling solution for the industry," said Alan Pellegrini, Managing Director for the Thales In-Flight Entertainment business.

Traditionally known for its light weight design, the TopSeries system makes a quantum leap with its new architecture targeted to weigh 30% less than earlier configurations. With power savings at the same 30% target, cost savings will be significant. At the head-end are high capacity, reliable solid state digital servers (known as DSU-D4) that provide redundancy and no single point of failure. Servers incorporate aircraft interface functionality which enables Thales to reduce the head-end footprint. For commonality, the DSU-D4 can be used as a Communications server for air-to-ground connectivity services.

Customization will be possible through the use of a Software Development Kit (SDK) and the TouchPMU Android® operating system. Also, the system's personal interface modules can be integrated into the display or stand alone. The assembly has four equally sized cut-outs to accommodate up to four interfaces (audio jack, USB, Composite video, Composite Audio,

NEWS

DIRECTION DE LA COMMUNICATION | CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

THALES

PED interface and barcode reader). With this design, an airline can add, subtract or exchange interfaces in a time and cost effective manner.

The new TopSeries system is planned for a 2013 roll-out on advanced OEM platforms. The system is truly the next generation TopSeries platform that takes advantage of its proven quality today and embraces new design, maximum reliability, ease of maintainability and greater flexibility for tomorrow.

About Thales

Thales is a global technology leader for Defence & Security and Aerospace & Transport markets. In 2009, the company generated revenues of 12.9 billion euros with 68,000 employees in 50 countries. With its 22,500 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.

In the In-flight entertainment market for over 10 years, Thales serves nearly 60 world airlines and maintains a strong global presence with offices in the United States, UK, France, Germany, Singapore, and China. For more information about Thales In-Flight Entertainment Systems visit www.thales-ifs.com.

Press Contacts

Natasha Harvey
+ 33 1 34 81 40 50
natasha.Harvey@fr.thalesgroup.com

Lori Krans
+1 949-923-0976
lori.krans@us.thalesgroup.com

NEWS

DIRECTION DE LA COMMUNICATION | CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS