



Thales introduces new TopSeries Interactive IFE Features for Single Aisle Aircraft and Regional Jets

November 18, 2008 – Irvine, CA. - Thales, a world leader in In-Flight Entertainment systems, now offers an all digital TopSeries system that can be configured by class of service as an interactive audio only system, interactive overhead video system or full functioning in-seat AVOD system. The first installation is scheduled for 2009 on an Airbus A320 aircraft.

As an interactive audio only system passengers can select up to 280 channels of high fidelity audio programming using a newly designed Ethernet Passenger Control Unit (ePCU). What is unique about the ePCU is its direct connection to the system network, which eliminates the seat electronics box providing more leg-room, lower system weight, and reduced power consumption. By adding digital overhead video capability, passengers will enjoy watching entertainment programs through high-resolution widescreen smart displays. In combination with the interactive audio system, the overhead video system supports new onboard capabilities such as interactive electronic surveys, multi-player games and route-specific programming. At the high-end of the system's capability is Audio and Video On-Demand (AVOD) functionality with a wide range of content choices, high-speed broadband network and personal widescreen displays. There is something for everyone with this all-digital system.

"Our goal for this system is to offer a cost-effective, flexible system that airlines could select for their smaller aircraft. We look forward to rolling out this new TopSeries product next year with a leading Middle East carrier," said Alan Pellegrini, Vice President and General Manager of Thales's In-Flight Entertainment business. This system leverages proven TopSeries technologies currently flying on world airlines today and standardizes equipment across an entire fleet. Thales' all digital system is a flexible system that enables airlines to configure their IFE system in accordance to the needs of their passengers.

About Thales

Thales is a leading international electronics and systems group, addressing defence, aerospace and security markets worldwide. Thales's leading-edge technology is supported by 22,000 R&D engineers who offer a capability unmatched in Europe to develop and deploy field-proven mission-critical information systems. To this end, 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. The group builds its growth on its unique multi-domestic 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 2007 revenues of €12.3 billion.

For more information about Thales Inflight Entertainment Systems visit www.thales-ifs.com .

Press Contacts

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

Lori Krans
+1 949-790-2512
lori.krans@us.thalesgroup.com

NEWS

DIRECTION DE LA COMMUNICATION | CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS