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AIRBUS CABINS DIMENSIONED FOR THE FUTURE

Airbus cabins are designed to offer airlines and their passengers the highest levels of comfort, services and efficiency. Passenger comfort has always been a major design consideration at Airbus in order to ensure the best possible passenger experience across all its aircraft families. Airbus cabin designs are not only innovative and attractive, but are also being continuously improved to keep offering travellers the quietest, most comfortable and enjoyable journeys.

Passengers at heart, airline in mind

Taking full advantage of the A320's wide fuselage, the A320 cabin offers passengers a more spacious environment and 15 percent more useable overhead stowage volume plus greater loading capability. A320 operators can choose the cabin product that fits their market: from a wider 18-inch seat for improved comfort to a 25-inch aisle for faster boarding and deplaning allowing turnaround times of 20 minutes or less.

Furthermore, the A320 Family's extra cabin width compared to the 737 gives airlines increased flexibility. One practical way to use this flexibility is to offer a wider 20-inch aisle seat in six-abreast economy class. Even with these 20-inch wide aisle seats, the wide A320 cabin allows the other economy-class seats in the row (ie the center and window seats) to be at least as wide (ie 17 inches) as those fitted as standard in the narrower 737 cabin cross-section. Airlines can sell this extra comfort of the Extra Wide Seat for additional revenue without reducing the number of seats in the aircraft.

Across the A330/A340 Family, First and Business Class passengers are rewarded with their preferred window or aisle seats, while in Economy Class the eight-abreast seating layout ensures that no passenger is more than one seat from the aisle.

The greater floor space of the A380 (50 percent more than the 747-400) enables airlines to offer passengers in every class a new unmatched comfort standard. The unique double deck arrangement provides extra seating capacity at the same time as improving the passenger experience. On each deck Economy Class benefits from seats that are at least one inch wider. The A380 cabin architecture allows efficient boarding and deplaning without longer turnarounds. Customers are now operating the A380 as their flagship, carrying more passengers at a new comfort level, in the most eco-efficient way.

Thanks to its extra wide cross-section, the A350 XWB will offer passengers the highest comfort standards and allows the airline to introduce innovative cabin concepts in all classes. The A350 XWB will feature wider seats, wider aisles and with straight sidewalls, will offer more head clearance and more shoulder clearance.

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Breathe Easy, you're flying Airbus

Effective cabin air conditioning is a major factor in maintaining high levels of passenger comfort. Advanced environmental control systems maintain an airy, yet draught-free, environment. The cabin crew have precise control over the temperature in more individual zones of the aircraft throughout the journey, optimizing levels of comfort for passengers at all times. The air in the entire aircraft cabin is completely replaced every two to three minutes and outside air replenishes the cabin air constantly through mixing with the recirculated air.

High efficiency filters remove 99.99 per cent of particulate and organic matter. Together with highly controlled air circulation patterns with no longitudinal flow, even the most miniscule organic materials are efficiently and quickly removed from the cabin. On the ground, Airbus's unique Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) converter keeps cabin air free of Kerosene odours from other aircraft. In the cabin gaseous filters installed in the recirculation system remove odours produced by cabin services, e.g. during meal service, providing an outstanding level of purity to passengers.

Well-Being on-board

Airbus cabins are the quietest cabins in the sky, which greatly contributes to passengers being rested on reaching their destination. The A380 cabin beats previous Airbus standards, this comfort feature being highlighted by the reaction of passengers having flown on the aircraft today.

Airbus was the first to introduce ambient lighting as a factory fit option on a commercial aircraft in 2002, an option that is now more widely adopted. Ambient lighting can now be fitted on all Airbus aircraft allowing airlines to choose form a palette of 16 million colours to create an atmosphere in line with their branding and colour scheme. Pre-defined lighting scenarios use colours, brightness levels and dynamic transitions to provide a pleasant and refined cabin atmosphere in all phases of flight, for example helping passengers to minimise jet lag by simulating sunrise or sunset. On the A350 XWB, the adoption of full LED cabin lighting further enriches lighting control, the variety of scenarios, and the quality of the lighting, so that airlines can "make magic" out of light.

State of the art In-Flight Entertainment

All Airbus aircraft, from short-medium range A320 family up to ultra-long range A380, can be fitted with state-of-the-art In-Flight Entertainment (IFE) systems offering passengers individual screens with audio and video on demand throughout the cabin with access to hundreds of high quality audio and video programmes. In addition, passengers can access other services such as satellite live television broadcasts, safety instructions in their own native language, outside live views from landscape cameras, international news or connecting flight information. The integration of the latest generation IFE platforms into the seat preserves passengers' legroom and also gives them the ability to connect their own Personal Electronic Devices, such as a portable media player or digital camera, to the screen in their seat. Not only can they recharge their devices, but can complement the airline's entertainment offer with their own content, whilst benefiting from the high audio quality headsets and viewing comfort of the larger screens available onboard.

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In-Flight Connectivity, a generation beyond
To respond to the growing market demand for on-board connectivity, Airbus has developed an aircraft connectivity 'platform' that delivers the full breadth of new connectivity services and that is a generation beyond any other available system. Airbus pioneered connectivity and was the first manufacturer to receive certification for its on-board mobile phone system in June 2007. Since spring 2010, Airbus operators have been able to offer worldwide broadband connectivity services via internet and mobile telephony. The Airbus platform is the first connectivity solution available as line fit on Airbus aircraft and can be retrofitted to Airbus and other manufacturers' aircraft.

Thanks to this, passengers can use their own wireless communication devices such as mobile telephones, smart phones, blackberry-type phones, laptops or netbooks to make and receive phone calls, send and receive SMS messages, e-mails with their attachments, or access the internet. Cabin crew can easily manage the service and have the option of selecting a "voice-off" mode to restrict cell-phone usage to data services only (SMS, email, mobile internet). Passengers' feedback shows the service is a tremendous success, further consolidated by the very rapidly expanding market base of the Airbus connectivity solution retained by two thirds of airlines having made a connectivity choice.

The scope of connectivity applications enables airlines to reach passengers personally in flight and to generate ancillary revenues. Thanks to its unique communication management, it also serves airline administrative and operational communications, as illustrated by crew mail, telemedicine, credit card authentication, on board rescheduling of traveller flight correspondences, with more applications to come…

OnAir, a joint venture established by Airbus and SITA, is the preferred Airbus Service Provider, offering a one-stop shop for the airline to establish service agreements with ground operators, obtain the necessary authorizations from telecommunication regulatory bodies, and provide all possible services. OnAir leverages the latest constellation of Inmarsat 4 satellites which deliver worldwide Swift BroadBand connectivity to the widely operated aircraft L band satcom.

Crew rest, optimising revenue space
Across the Airbus families, innovative solutions have been used to provide crew with comfortable and private rest areas while preserving revenue space in the cabin. The brand new A350 XWB cabin features overhead flight and cabin crew rest compartments integrated above galley trolley stowages to maximise installation of revenue seats. On both the A350 XWB and the A380 flight crew rest areas are located so as to allow pilots access without the need to enter the cabin area. The A380 cabin crew rest can be located on the upper or lower deck, depending on each customer's needs.

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