

Airbus and Altran win Crystal Cabin Award with printed electronics technology

AIX Expo 2018, Hamburg, 11 April 2018 – Airbus in cooperation with Altran has won the 2018 Crystal Cabin Award with printed electronics in the Material & Components category. Printed electronics is a new digital technology using conductive inks to print routes for data and power transmission to replace current harnesses.

Massively reducing the part count leads to a reduction of weight and manufacturing cost as well as a simplified architecture, while allowing for last-minute customisation. To make this future technology fly, a joint Airbus and Altran project team has developed a demonstrator for a first use-case on an A320 – the printed Info Panel. This cabin interior panel displays passenger related safety and comfort information. The new concept could replace the current electrical harness with printed circuits on a flexible foil, making the first step to a harness free aircraft.

Geoff Pinner, Head of Cabin & Cargo Programme Airbus, said: "Winning one of the aviation's 'Oscars' together with Altran for printed electronics shows that we are continuously pushing the latest in innovative cabin design solutions and innovate for our customers and passengers worldwide. I congratulate the team on their fantastic job and on their well-deserved success."

Sébastien Renouard, Group VP AeroSpace Defense & Railway Altran, said: "We are thrilled and delighted to have won the Crystal Cabin Award for the first time as it underlines our constant drive for innovation and cooperation spirit with our customers to develop the next generation technologies. Printed Electronics is an outstanding example for applying disruptive technologies and revolutionise cabin design."

In the future printed electronics technology could be introduced to the areas of cabling for air conditioning, data transmission and lighting.

The Crystal Cabin Award is the leading international award for excellence in aircraft interior innovation, sponsored by the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg. 91 concepts from 18 nations entered their latest innovations in the competition across eight categories.

About Airbus

Airbus is a global leader in aeronautics, space and related services. In 2017 it generated reported revenues of € 67 billion - or € 59 billion restated for IFRS 15 - and employed a workforce of around 129,000. Airbus offers the most comprehensive range of passenger airliners from 100 to more than 600 seats. Airbus is also a European leader providing tanker, combat, transport and mission aircraft, as well as one of the world's leading space companies. In helicopters, Airbus provides the most efficient civil and military rotorcraft solutions worldwide.

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