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Condor and Lufthansa Systems take off with the next generation of in-flight entertainment

World premiere at ITB: In-flight entertainment via WiFi

On-board entertainment is an important part of an airline's service for tourists and business travelers alike. At the ITB, Lufthansa Systems presents BoardConnect, its cost-efficient new in-flight entertainment (IFE) system which opens up a new world of opportunities for on-board communication. Condor will be the first airline to install BoardConnect on its Boeing 767 aircraft.

The innovative infotainment system is based on a WiFi network which passengers can log on to through seat-back screens or their own laptops, tablet PCs, smart phones or other WiFi-enabled devices to access a wide range of video and audio on demand, games and other content. BoardConnect also makes it possible for airlines to offer new forms of customer communication, information and services. New services can generate additional revenues for airlines, and airlines can also customize their contact with each passenger.

"In-flight entertainment is an important part of the travel experience and a way to stand out from the competition, particularly in the tourism industry," said Rainer Kröpke, Head of Project Management and Marketing at Condor Flugdienst GmbH. "BoardConnect opens up entirely new possibilities for us. In addition, the system costs much less to install and operate than other solutions."

Unlike conventional IFE systems, BoardConnect does not need to be wired into every seat. The cabin of a Boeing 767, for example, will only need five access points which are connected to a central server.

"The system is much easier to install because there is no wiring required. It can be integrated during a regular maintenance check, so there's no need for extra downtime," said Dr. Jörg Liebe, CIO of Lufthansa Systems AG. "BoardConnect is also very reliable and gives airlines maximum flexibility as regards cabin rearrangement, the integration of new technologies and the development of new services."

The elimination of wiring and data distribution hardware can lead to weight savings of nearly half a ton for a Boeing 767-300. This reduces annual fuel consumption by around 20 tonnes per aircraft.

To create this pioneering IFE solution, Lufthansa Systems drew on its experience with the Mobile Infotainment System which it developed for cruise ships. The technology behind BoardConnect is not restricted to the aviation industry; it can also be used on other forms of public transportation, such as trains, buses and ferries.

On aircraft equipped with broadband Internet access, passengers can also surf the Web, send and receive e-mail and interact with friends on social networks. Airlines can also provide individual passengers with information about their connecting flights or offers tailored personally to them.

To find out more about BoardConnect, please visit us at the Lufthansa Systems booth in hall 6.1.

Note to editors:

Condor Flugdienst GmbH was founded in 1956 and is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Thomas Cook, one of the world's leading travel companies. Every year some six million passengers fly with Condor to over 70 destinations in Europe, Asia, Africa and America. The fleet of this holiday airline consists of 34 modern and environmentally friendly aircraft: twelve Airbus A320s, thirteen Boeing 757-300s and nine Boeing 767-300s. All Boeing planes are maintained by Condor Technik GmbH, and maintenance of the Airbus fleet is handled by Condor Berlin GmbH. Both are wholly-owned subsidiaries of Condor Flugdienst GmbH.

Lufthansa Systems provides consulting and IT services for selected industries and has a leading position in the global aviation industry. The wholly-owned subsidiary of the Lufthansa Group offers its customers the entire range of IT-services, including consulting, development and implementation of industry solutions as well as operations. At its headquarters in Kelsterbach near Frankfurt/Main, Germany, the company operates one of the most modern data centers in Europe. Lufthansa Systems has offices in Germany and 14 other countries and employs about 3,000 people. In business year 2009, Lufthansa Systems recorded revenues of EUR 605 million. For more details, see www.LHsystems.com.

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Note to editors: Photos of BordConnect or Condor aircraft are available on request.