It's the cabin that counts, and what counts in the cabin is the electronics

by Kirby J. Harrison

There was a time in the completion and refurbishment industry when customer demand drove technology. Now, says Hawker Beechcraft’s VP Brian Howell, it’s the near-light-speed progress of technology that’s driving customer demand for cabin equipment.

Completion and refurbishment centers today are faced with customers who are more tech-savvy and more demanding than they used to be. They keep up with the latest software and equipment in the commercial world, and when they’re handed over anywhere from the continental U.S. and most of southern and central Alaska. Older and more established companies are not sitting still. Honeywell and IAI have signed an exclusive agreement under which Honeywell will develop, produce and distribute the onboard hardware to enable users to connect to IAI’s Global Xpress network. Made public in May, the agreement came hardly a month after an announcement that Rockwell Collins and Honeywell will introduce Global-Capacity to introduce high-speed broad- band after 2014 with IAI’s Global Xpress had been “discontinued.” As a result, Rockwell Collins will offer IAI’s satellite solution on a “technological and competitive basis.”

While customer demand is increasing, the industry is also facing challenges. Wireless and satellite connectivity will soon be available to all airlines, and the question is how to design for the future. “The goal should be a flexible environment,” says Honeywell’s Pat Sullivan, “so that a single aircraft can be configured, reconfigured and modified on an ongoing basis.”

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basic in-flight high-speed Internet connection support for cabin equipment.

Data in-flight high-speed Internet connection support for cabin equipment.

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Shedding a Little Light in the Cabin

Avionics Cabin Interior lighting system.

When you think about watching a DVD or streaming Internet content, you’re usually sitting in a comfortable recliner and are not likely to be thinking about the light coming from your screen. Now, consider the cabin of a jet airliner. While the aircraft systems are sophisticated, the lighting systems are often simple and predictable.

One of the key elements in today’s modern business jet is the lighting system. It’s not only used for reading and relaxing, but also to create a cabin ambiance of choice. In fact, lighting is one of the most important factors that contribute to the overall comfort and satisfaction of the passengers.

The lighting systems in today’s business jets are designed to be versatile and customizable. They are not only used for basic tasks like reading and relaxing, but also to create a specific ambiance. For example, some jets have a “sunset/sunrise” mode capability, which gradually changes the light levels to simulate the natural light changes of the day.

Another important aspect of lighting in modern business jets is its energy efficiency. LED (light-emitting diode) lighting is becoming increasingly popular due to its energy efficiency and long lifespan. In addition, LED lighting is also considered to be more environmentally friendly compared to traditional lighting systems.

There are also some innovative lighting systems that are designed to be more interactive. For example, some systems allow passengers to control the lighting from their smartphone. This is not only convenient, but also enhances the overall passenger experience.

In conclusion, lighting is an important aspect of modern business jets. It is not only used for basic tasks, but also to create a specific ambiance. It is also designed to be energy efficient and interactive. As technology advances, we can expect to see even more innovative lighting systems in the future.