

Press Release

The Crystal Cabin Award 2017 for a groundbreaking collaborative research effort

“Smart Cabin Reconfiguration” is honored with a highly coveted award

SCHWAEBISCH HALL, Germany. The “Smart Cabin Reconfiguration” concept, a collaborative research effort between Airbus, THK and Recaro Aircraft Seating, was given the Crystal Cabin Award 2017 in the “Passenger Comfort Hardware” category at the AIX in Hamburg. The innovation from Recaro is called Flex Seat. With a simple sliding seat concept, seat pitch can be increased for passengers when flights are not fully occupied. To this end, the proven and award-winning SL3510 economy class seat for short- and medium-haul flights is simply folded up, and the front seat rows are then pulled apart like an accordion to increase the seat pitching. This results in significantly more space for passengers.

“We are delighted to receive the Crystal Cabin Award for this advanced cabin configuration concept, to which we made a decisive contribution with our innovative Flex Seat,” says Dr. Mark Hiller, Chief Executive Officer and Shareholder at Recaro Aircraft Seating. “With this groundbreaking solution, we provide airlines with a high degree of flexibility in cabin utilization. At the same time, it significantly enhances passenger comfort.”

The principle behind the innovation is impressively simple: thanks to an additional carbon fiber structure, three seats in a row of Recaro's proven SL3510 lightweight seat can be folded up simultaneously. Three hand movements are enough to lift up the seat row, release the floor locking mechanism and push the front seats apart along a rail system. This simple mechanism hardly requires any additional components, and it can be operated entirely without tools and with very little effort. The cabin crew can therefore flexibly adjust the seating configuration between flights – depending on actual passenger volume – and ensure more legroom.

Ease of operation, low weight, outstanding reliability through the entire seat lifecycle, along with minimal maintenance requirements were at the center of the development of the new Flex Seat from Recaro. As an absolute lightweight in the cabin, the classic SL3510 seat, weighing in at only 9.1 kilograms, not only saves fuel during the flight, it also ensures additional legroom and enhanced passenger comfort.

Recaro Aircraft Seating develops creative ideas and customized solutions for the aircraft cabin – and these ideas offer clear insight on what will be possible in the future. Customer Service, Flex Seat, Wellbeing, antibacterial solutions and I-Seat are Recaro's five new stars that meet the airlines' wishes for customization – while perfectly reflecting the dynamic evolution of the aviation sector.

In 2017, the Crystal Cabin Awards were presented for the 11th time at the Aircraft Interiors Expo, the world's leading trade fair for cabin equipment and onboard systems, in Hamburg. The awards honor outstanding products and concepts for the aircraft cabin, which provide customers with fundamental advantages in terms of development, production and marketing. In the past, Recaro has

been the recipient of several awards with its cutting-edge solutions, and this current award once again underscores the company's position as a trendsetter in the sector.



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Alexander Schulz, Seat Architecture Airbus

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Recaro Aircraft Seating is a global supplier of premium aircraft seats for the leading airlines worldwide. The company has close to 2,000 employees, including more than 1,000 working in Germany. It operates plants in Germany, Poland, South Africa, the U.S. and China as well as service centers in Europe, the Americas, the Middle East, Asia, and Australia. Based in Schwaebisch Hall, Germany, Recaro Aircraft Seating generated sales of 409 million euros in 2015. The company ranks among the world's top three aircraft seat manufacturers.

Recaro Aircraft Seating is part of the Recaro Group, which includes the Recaro Holding based in Stuttgart, as well as the independently operating Recaro Child Safety division (child car seats) in Marktleugast, Germany.

Recaro Automotive Seating is a product group of Adient and uses the Recaro brand under a license issued by Recaro Holding.

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