

Press release

More than 70 Eurowings planes equipped with Lufthansa Systems' BoardConnect Portable over the weekend

As of August 1, Eurowings passengers can enjoy premier entertainment on their own smartphones and tablets

Raunheim, August 3, 2016 – Over 400 songs, blockbuster movies, TV shows, games and numerous audiobooks – Eurowings passengers on business trips and summer vacation alike can now enjoy a broad range of inflight entertainment on their own mobile devices. As of August 1, Lufthansa Systems had completed the biggest go-live of a portable IFE solution for a well-known airline to date. More than 70 aircraft – nearly the entire Eurowings A320 fleet – were equipped with BoardConnect Portable over the weekend. The remaining planes will follow by the middle of the month.

Immediately after boarding, when the plane is still on the ground, passengers can pass the time before takeoff by using the entertainment program. They can decide in advance which features they want to use during the flight and view the latest blockbusters in their entirety even on shorter flights, because the content remains available after landing until the aircraft is at the gate. Along with the entertainment options, including music and audiobook streaming via Napster as well as current films and TV shows, the system called Wings Entertain offers access to the onboard shop, the menu and information about airports and cities. Another popular feature is the Moving Map, which shows the aircraft's current position.

"An innovative IFE solution like BoardConnect Portable fits very well with our business model. With Wings Entertain, we are offering our passengers a modern entertainment platform and thus improving their travel experience," said Oliver Wagner, CEO of Eurowings. "And not only that – thanks to our large partner network and the ability to integrate paid content and marketing campaigns, we can generate additional revenues with the new IFE system."

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BoardConnect Portable is even easier to use and more flexible than the conventional BoardConnect solution from Lufthansa Systems. The advantage of the all-in-one solution is that all of the technical components needed for an IFE system – such as a server and access points – are combined in a single device called Mobile Streaming Unit (MSU). An MSU is about the size of a conventional tablet, weight less than 1.5 kg and can be brought on board easily during regular flight operations.

Since they do not require elaborate cabling, MSUs qualify as non-permanently installed equipment and can be mounted or removed, for example in the galley or in overhead compartments, without affecting other components in the aircraft. This eliminates high costs for hardware, fitting and certification and enables the system to be transferred immediately for further use in leased aircraft as well. An integrated LTE modem allows rapid wireless updates of content while the aircraft is on the ground.

“BoardConnect Portable was unveiled in the fall of 2015, and right from the start there was great interest particularly from niche airlines with smaller fleets,” reported Olivier Krüger, CEO of Lufthansa Systems. “But the flexible use and reliability of the application won over other, larger airlines as well. We are proud that we were able to gain a customer like Eurowings in such a short period of time and install Portable so quickly on the entire fleet.”

Caption (copyright: Manfred Nerlich): Wings Entertain based on BoardConnect Portable enables Eurowings passengers to enjoy a broad range of entertainment on their own smartphones and tablets.

About Lufthansa Systems

Lufthansa Systems GmbH & Co. KG is a leading airline IT provider. Based on long-term project experience, a deep understanding of complex business processes and strong technological know-how, the company provides consulting and IT services for the global aviation industry. Over 300 airlines worldwide rely on the know-how of IT specialists at Lufthansa Systems. Its portfolio covers innovative IT products and services which provide added value for its customers in terms of enhanced efficiency, reduced costs or increased profits. Headquartered in Raunheim near Frankfurt/Main, Germany, Lufthansa Systems has offices in 16 other countries.

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