

Porter invests in Economy with Dash 8-400 cabin upgrades

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Porter Airlines is upgrading its Dash 8-400 cabins with LED mood lighting, reading lights and new carpeting

[Porter Airlines](#) unveiled its upgraded De Havilland Dash 8-400 fleet this summer, reinforcing the airline's focus on comfort, hospitality and consistency across its aircraft types.

All 29 Dash 8-400 aircraft are being refreshed with the latest generation of [Expliseat's](#) TiSeat 2V, along with updated cabin lighting, reading lights and carpeting. The first upgraded aircraft are already in service, with the full fleet expected to be completed this fall.

In an August interview, Kent Woodside, Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer at Porter Airlines, told *PAX Tech* that refresh responds directly to passenger feedback and reflects Porter's wider approach to the onboard experience.

"Our passengers told us that seat comfort is a meaningful part of their experience, even on shorter regional flights," Woodside says. "Updating seats, along with other cabin upgrades, will noticeably refresh and modernize the overall environment."



Kent Woodside, Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer, Porter Airlines

Porter's Dash 8-400 fleet operates regional routes in Eastern Canada and the U.S., with Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport ([YTZ](#)) serving as the airline's Dash 8 hub. From the downtown airport, Porter is continuing to build frequency and connectivity, offering travelers more options than any other airline, Woodside says.

Refresh ramps up

The cabin refresh centers on Expliseat's TiSeat 2V, which Woodside describes as the world's lightest aircraft seat in its category. The latest generation introduces a series of refinements designed to improve comfort and convenience for passengers, while supporting operational efficiency for the airline.

The seats feature redesigned cushions, custom-developed to Porter's specifications, along with updated tray tables and an integrated Personal Electronic Device holder for hands-free viewing. First-row seats have also been redesigned with tray tables that provide additional personal space.

LED technology with mood lighting and reading lights, as well as refreshed carpeting is also part of the refresh. Woodside says these changes align with Porter's continuing commitment to provide an elevated Economy service offering.

The airline's cabin configuration and legroom remain unchanged. Porter operates its Dash 8 fleet with 78 seats, including 32 inches of legroom in PorterReserve and 30 inches in PorterClassic. The aircraft's two-by-two layout offers an Economy experience with no middle seats.

Understanding regional realities

Porter is positioning the upgrade a step in its effort to bring a more premium feel to regional flying, even on shorter sectors where aircraft size and operating requirements can create design constraints₂

“Porter is known for providing a globally recognized flying experience, and we will continue prioritizing comfort and genuine hospitality as part of our standards,” Woodside says. “We are pleased to be the first Canadian airline operating with enhanced Dash 8 cabins.”

For Porter, the design and selection process required balancing passenger comfort, durability, operational efficiency and the realities of a regional aircraft environment.

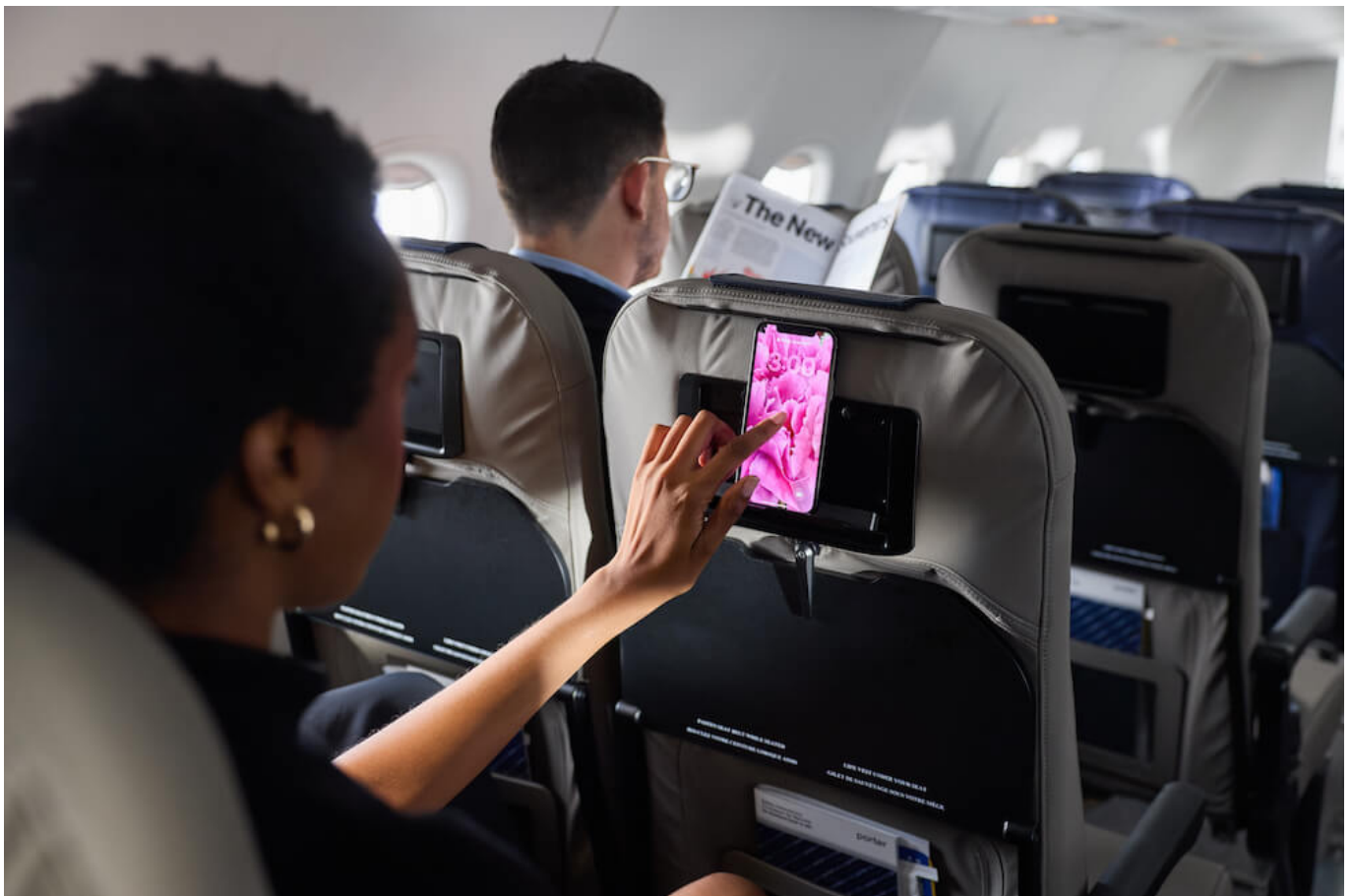
Woodside says the airline’s existing relationship with Expliseat helped guide the process.

“We have a long-standing partnership with Expliseat, and they understood the balance we were looking for in the new seat design,” he says.

The TiSeat 2V uses carbon fiber and titanium materials to significantly reduce weight. Woodside says the lighter seat supports lower fuel consumption and reduced CO₂ emissions throughout the life of the aircraft. A lighter aircraft can also help extend range and reduce Maximum Takeoff Weight constraints.

The project brought together Porter’s internal maintenance expertise with Expliseat’s seat design and engineering capabilities.

“Porter’s Maintenance team was essential in the planning and implementation of this important project,” Woodside says. “They worked closely with Expliseat to find a solution that would enhance the passenger experience and improve operational efficiency.”



A comprehensive cabin refresh across its Dash 8-400 fleet with the latest generation of Expliseat's TiSeat 2V featuring redesigned cushions, updated tray tables and an integrated Personal Electronic Device holder for hands-free viewing

Keeping Economy consistent

According to Woodside, Porter already sees strong overall passenger satisfaction scores for its Dash 8 fleet, and the upgraded cabin builds on that foundation.

“This investment is just another way we are continuing to invest in Economy travel,” he says.

It also supports Porter’s broader strategy of delivering a consistent passenger experience across its entire fleet, the Dash 8-400s and Embraer E195-E2s. The airline has continued to emphasize features such as complimentary beer and wine served in glassware, no middle seats and a hospitality-focused service style.

“Porter has led the way in bringing Economy travelers an elevated flying experience across both our Dash 8 and Embraer E195-E2s,” Woodside says, emphasizing the “genuine care and hospitality” Porter delivers on all flights.

As the reinvigorated Dash 8-400s continue entering service, Porter is bringing a more modern cabin experience to its network, while maintaining the features that have long defined its premium passenger experience.