

AIX 2026 points to next era of cabin innovation



AIX 2026 marked its 25th edition in Hamburg

Aircraft Interiors Expo ([AIX](#)) 2026 brought the aircraft interiors industry to Hamburg from April 14 to 16, reaffirming the cabin as a key driver of airline differentiation.

Attendance increased year-on-year, with more than 12,500 attendees and nearly 500 exhibitors across three days. The event brought together 185 airlines and a broad mix of international suppliers, reflecting the continued globalization of the cabin sector.

"AIX is a high-quality event, both in terms of its exhibitors and the calibre of attendees it attracts," said Mingchuan Xiao, Deputy Manager at Fellat Air Lease Co. "It is a key destination for us to explore the next generation of innovation in the industry, as well as an important opportunity to connect with OEM partners. It is always a valuable experience and a great place to attend to stay at the forefront of what's coming next."

Exhibitors also reported strong engagement throughout the show, with a focus on airline discussions and program-driven conversations.

"This has been our best show to date. The quality of airline enquiries has been particularly strong this year, and there's a real sense that the event continues to elevate across every aspect: bigger, better, and more dynamic each time," said Kevin Crowder, New Product Development Manager, and Carey Briggs, Head of PR and Marketing, [Mirus Aircraft Seating](#).

AIX 2026 also marked the show's 25-year milestone. Eight exhibitors returned for the 25th time: [Collins Aerospace](#), formerly B/E Aerospace, [Belgraver](#), [Botany Weaving Mill](#), [CELSO](#), [Lantal Textiles](#), [Rohi Stoffe](#), [Tex Tech Industries](#) and [Percival Aviation](#).

"AIX and Percival have grown alongside each other over the last 25 years," said Chris Bench, Managing Director of Percival Aviation. "While it started small 25 years ago in Cannes, it is now the biggest event we attend, and a truly massive opportunity for networking."

The show also welcomed 93 first-time exhibitors, signaling continued growth across the aircraft interiors supply chain.

Across the show floor, AIX 2026 highlighted momentum in premiumization, lightweight design, modular cabin architecture and certification-driven retrofit strategies.

Among the major airline announcements, [flyadeal](#) confirmed its two-class A330-900neo cabin strategy ahead of entry into service from 2027, marking the carrier's planned long-haul debut.

Seat innovation remained a key theme. [Thompson Aero Seating](#), [Unum Aircraft Seating](#) and [PriestmanGoode](#) and [Geven](#) unveiled premium seating concepts focused on privacy, flexibility and configurable layouts. [Mirus Aircraft Seating](#) and [ZIM Aircraft](#) Seating showcased lighter-weight seating platforms designed to improve efficiency and recyclability.

Mirus also announced a major commercial win, with [easyJet](#) selecting its Kestrel seat for 237 A320neo and A321neo aircraft.



AIX attendees explore seating concepts on the show floor in Hamburg

In materials, retrofit and certification, [SIMONA Boltaron](#) and Geven expanded their partnership across

multiple aircraft applications. [ALOFT AeroArchitects](#) announced a 737 retrofit supplemental type certificate program under its MOSAIC concept, supporting more modular and scalable cabin upgrades.

IFEC also remained central to AIX 2026. The IFEC Zone featured 77 exhibitors across connectivity, entertainment and onboard digital solutions.

“With inflight connectivity now becoming a given across much of the aviation industry, the discussion has shifted from ‘how do we get passengers connected?’ to ‘what do we do now that they are?’” said Colin Carter, Chief Executive Officer, [CineSend](#).

Major IFEC announcements reflected the category’s shift toward content, commerce and cabin intelligence. [ZIPAIR](#) revealed a fleetwide deployment of MacBook Pro as its inflight server platform integrated with [Starlink](#) connectivity. [Thales](#) introduced its FlytEDGE Aura seatback IFE system, while [Burrana](#) and Seamless Digital showcased e-paper seatbacks as dynamic advertising surfaces. [IdeaNova](#) also launched an offline-first AI platform designed to deliver personalized entertainment and shopping experiences onboard.

AIX 2026 also reinforced the growing geographical diversification of cabin innovation, with APAC and MENA accounting for 17 percent and 14 percent of attendees respectively. The show included participation from emerging-market airlines, lessors and manufacturers, including [Jamco](#), [ZIPAIR](#) and India’s first seat manufacturer, [Timetooth](#).

Alongside the exhibition, the [Passenger Experience Conference](#) and CabinSpace Live program explored trends shaping cabin development, including premiumization, sustainability, accessibility, certification challenges and digital passenger experiences.

Archana Dharni, Event Director, AIX, said the event reflected the strength of the aircraft interiors community as it looks toward the next 25 years.

“The event was truly a celebration of everything the aircraft interiors industry has to offer, but what stood out most was the strength of the community coming together to shape the next 25 years,” Dharni said. “It was fantastic to see the industry’s momentum on full display, with so many brand-new product launches, significant airline representation and the very latest innovations on show.”

AIX 2027 will take place April 6 to 8, 2027, at the Hamburg Messe.