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Astronics to Demonstrate New Connected Aircraft Technologies at APEX Expo

Technologies will explore new ideas for how connectivity can enhance future passenger experiences and airline operations

EAST AURORA, N.Y.--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- Astronics Corporation (Nasdaq: ATRO), a leading provider of advanced technologies for the global aerospace, defense and semiconductor industries, will demonstrate two new technologies intended to improve an aircraft's passenger experience and operational efficiency at the upcoming APEX Expo in Boston, in booth #343, from September 25-27.

This press release features multimedia. View the full release here: https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20180917005170/en/

Astronics is demonstrating new technologies at APEX Expo, including its new Intelligent Bin Solution. (Photo: Business Wire)

Introducing the Astronics Smart Aircraft System

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Throughout the three-day event, Astronics will demonstrate its pioneering Smart Aircraft System technology, which includes the new Intelligent Bin Solution. This patent pending system uses Internet of Things (IoT) connection technologies to detect and report in real time the status of overhead stowage bins, which speeds aircraft boarding processes and reduces passenger stress. The company will preview software applications that provide a visual indication of remaining bin space, even if the bin is closed, to enable cabin and gate crews to quickly direct passengers to available bin locations and know when to start checking bags.

In addition to providing a more efficient boarding process that can reduce costly delays, the bin sensors deliver cabin safety benefits during the flight by detecting outgassing events from hazardous devices, such as lithium-ion batteries, minutes before smoke or fire occurs. With this early detection, a notification is sent instantly to crewmembers who can proactively take action and contain in-flight battery events before they cause passenger alarm and lead to costly aircraft diversions.

"We started researching and investing in wireless sensing technology several years ago in anticipation of airline customer needs," explained Jon Neal, President of Astronics Ballard Technology. "This research has expanded into a comprehensive IoT sensing and wireless mesh system that will help airlines gain valuable insight to drive operational savings in all aspects of flight. We are excited to be previewing it at APEX Expo."

Astronics was recently granted several U.S. patents on the innovative technology with others

pending. The latest generation Intelligent Bin System prototype is currently in laboratory testing with a major airline in anticipation of in-service trials in an operational environment.

Previewing Li-Fi Applications for Aircraft

In a second technology demonstration, PDT, an Astronics Company, will demonstrate some new potential applications for the emerging technology of Li-Fi, in a collaboration with pureLiFi. Li-Fi leverages light to send information, in contrast to Wi-Fi, which uses radio waves. Proven capable of transferring data at an unprecedented several Gigabits per second, Li-Fi could eventually empower passengers to download an HD video in just a few seconds, for example.

“This is a brand new technology and we are exploring ways in which it can improve the passenger, and even crew, experience on an aircraft in terms of connectivity,” said Mark Schwartz, Vice President of PDT. ”Li-Fi may be a future passenger experience delighter and we are excited to explore and discuss these possibilities with it.”

Powered Solutions

Keeping passengers’ electronic devices (PEDs) powered is increasingly important on the connected aircraft as more airlines incorporate a “bring your own device” business model for enjoying inflight entertainment. In support of this, Astronics will demonstrate a myriad of innovations including the recently introduced wireless charging module as well as the new EmPower® USB Type-C outlets and companion in-seat power supply system.

Astronics brings a long history of innovation and successfully introducing new technologies and products to market, including the EmPower passenger in-seat power technology that has had a profound impact on the passenger experience. The new technology explorations plus proven power solutions can provide a foundation for future aircraft manufacturers, airlines, IFE providers and other industry participants to improve experiences for passengers while also improving cost and time efficiencies for aircraft operators.

Astronics will give demonstrations of these and other technologies on-demand throughout the three days of the exhibit. Appointments can also be made by emailing events@astronics.com.

ABOUT ASTRONICS CORPORATION

Astronics Corporation (Nasdaq: ATRO) serves the world’s aerospace, defense and semiconductor industries with proven, innovative technology solutions. Astronics works side-by-side with customers, integrating its array of power, connectivity, lighting, structures, interiors, and test technologies to solve complex challenges. For 50 years, Astronics has delivered creative, customer-focused solutions with exceptional responsiveness. Today, global airframe manufacturers, airlines, military branches, completion centers and Fortune 500 companies rely on the collaborative spirit and innovation of Astronics.

For more information on Astronics and its solutions, visit Astronics.com.

Note to editors: Astronics will be conducting media briefings in the booth on these new technologies plus other news items. Please schedule your appointment by emailing press@astronics.com.

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