

PRODUCTS & SERVICES

TREND REPORT

Eric Hoegen, director of group sales at AMAC Aerospace, shares some of the interior trends the completion centre is seeing of late

AMAC AEROSPACE

Q WHAT TYPES OF PROJECTS AND AIRCRAFT TYPES ARE BEING BROUGHT TO YOU?

We're seeing an increase in the number of narrow-body and wide-body green completions coming into the market, which is related to increased sales by Airbus and Boeing. We see aircraft types with new engines – such as the A320neo and BBJ Max series – coming into the market, which are offering increased performance and range for the VIP sector.

WHAT FACTORS ARE OF GROWING IMPORTANCE TO CUSTOMERS?

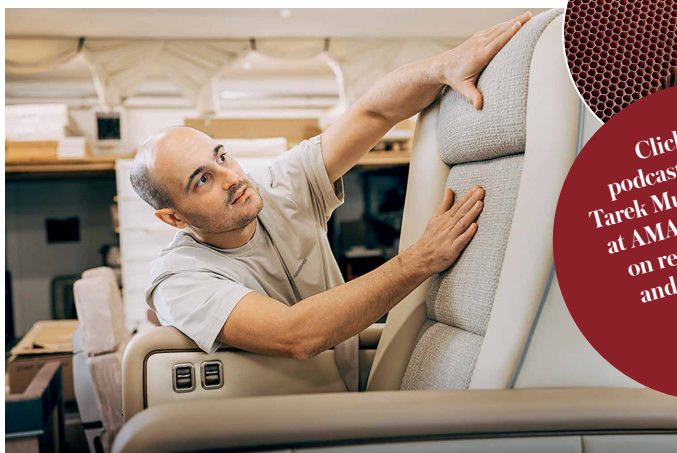
The important factors we see are new and contemporary cabin design with the latest comfort features, such as air humidification systems, satcom connectivity and the latest IFE features. An important factor is the ability to connect and stream from PEDs to the IFE system.

Customers are also interested in low noise levels, particularly in bedrooms, where significant improvements have been made in recent years to reach very low noise levels.

Lightweighting is at the heart of our research and development. We are constantly developing new technologies, including honeycomb panels, to create the lightest cabins on the market, for increased range and lower fuel burn.

WHAT OTHER TRENDS ARE YOU NOTICING FOR INTERIOR EQUIPMENT?

Smaller seat bases are increasingly being used in new projects, as well as larger OLED monitors. We're also seeing non-textile flooring (NTF) being used in addition to the classic wood or stone floors. We're replacing more and more stone and wood with NTF, thanks to the high quality of the latest generation of NTF options. We also



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see a new generation of metal composites and carpet designs.

WHAT SOFT MATERIALS ARE POPULAR?

We see a trend for using more fabric and less leather. We also see new forms of leather, such as perforated leather, and different ways of using it. Combined leather and fabric seats are also popular. In general, we're seeing new materials, especially on the fabric side, also for sidewalls and bulkheads. Wood veneer is staying in VIP cabins, but we also see fabric coverings on surfaces that have previously been wood. There's a big evolution with new materials coming into the market.

ARE PEOPLE'S AESTHETIC TASTES CHANGING?

Aesthetics are moving towards brighter and friendlier looking cabins. We see this particularly in our biggest market, the Middle East. There's a move away from the classic Middle Eastern design with dark woods and gold; all the new generation of leaders actually want European design.

ABOVE: SEAT UPHOLSTERY COMBINING FABRIC AND LEATHER IS ONE NOTICEABLE RECENT TREND

INSET ABOVE: HONEYCOMB PANELS BY JCB AERO, AN AMAC COMPANY

HOW ARE TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES BENEFITTING YOU IN OUTFITTING?

New-generation CMS and IFE systems are becoming lighter and have fewer line replaceable units (LRUs). This means less equipment to install. Meanwhile new OLED screens are much thinner and lighter than before, making it much easier for us to integrate large screens into the design – there's less engineering, stress engineering and calculation.

Technological advances are also helping in the construction of lightweight cabins. We count on this R&D expertise through JCB Aero; we're constantly developing new, lighter panels that are also strong.

We're also benefitting from improved systems. The humidification systems we install today are much better than those in the past, thanks to technological developments by OEMs. ☺

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