AIRBUS GROUP | Technology Licensing

New partnerships expand the outreach of Airbus Group Technology Licensing

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Three new agreements underscore the growing scope of the Airbus Group's licensing activity, with their diverse technologies involving physical training and re-education originally developed for space travel, electrical connectors to be used in the automotive industry, and structural health monitoring.

The three agreements were highlighted during today's ILA Berlin Air Show at Berlin Brandenburg Airport, where members of Airbus Group's technology licensing team and managers from the new partner companies were present.

"These accords are particularly important, as they widen the range of technologies being licensed and involve very diverse activity from across the Airbus Group and its business units," explained Wulf Hoeflich, the Head of Airbus Group Technology Licensing. "They literally cover patents and know-how that go from ground level to Earth orbit."

Eduard Haider, the CEO of Haider Bioswing (center), explains benefits of his company's licensing agreement for technology developed by the Airbus Space and Defence business unit. Christof Otte, Haider Bioswing's Director of Training and Therapy Systems (at right) also attended today's ILA Berlin Air Show signing ceremony, which was led by Wulf Hoeflich, the Head of Airbus Group Technology Licensing.

One of the agreements will enable German-based Haider Bioswing GmbH to develop balance training technologies for patients in such applications as health care and fitness. Based on a training console developed by the Airbus Defence and Space business unit for astronauts aboard the International Space Station, this technology can be applied for down-to-Earth uses that include rehabilitation after accidents and trauma – including fall-related injuries suffered by the elderly.

Advantages of the technology include enhancing the scope and effectiveness of training, thereby reducing treatment cost and duration for patients while also increasing benefits of long-term

results.

Auto-Kabel CEO Jens Schumacher (fourth from left) and Oliver Kastrop, Auto-Kabel's Plug & Twist connectors project head (third from right), are joined at today's ILA Berlin signing ceremony by representatives from Airbus, the Airbus Group Technology Licensing team and the Airbus Corporate Technical Office.

The second licensing agreement spotlighted today at the ILA Berlin Air Show is for innovative Plug & Twist electrical connector technology, originally developed by Airbus for aircraft applications and now licensed to Germany's Auto-Kabel Management GmbH – which has tailored it for electrical solutions in the automotive, trucking and agricultural vehicle sectors. Using a simple plug-and-twist action to provide force- and form-fitting contact, Plug & Twist provides high-performance, reliable and durable contacts in high-current connections that are resistant to vibration, corrosion or other environmental influences.

With the increasing move to more-electric vehicles in the automotive industry, Plug & Twist technology offers the ability to create highly reliable and long-lasting electrical connections. Auto-Kabel has worked closely with Airbus experts in developing, adapting and testing the Plug & Twist technology for the production and operational conditions of surface transportation.

The health monitoring system licensed for use by Integrated Systems Development (ISD) is shown at the ILA Berlin Air Show by Constantin Papadas, ISD Managing Director (at left) and ISA Senior Engineer Dimosthenis Fragkopoulos. This system was developed by the Airbus Helicopters business unit and Airbus Group Innovations.

Airbus Group's third technology underscored at the ILA Berlin Air Show involves structural health monitoring, which is licensed to Integrated Systems Development of Greece. It is based on a technology originally developed for use in composite rotor blades by the Airbus Helicopters business unit and Airbus Group Innovations – the Airbus Group network of research facilities, scientists, engineers and partnerships.

The structural health monitoring concept involves a small system that incorporates sensors, a control unit, battery and transmitter – which is designed to be installed between the layers of a composite structure, enabling its structural integrity to be monitored in highly demanding applications.

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