

Planning for growth

Etihad Airways, the national airline of the U.A.E., commenced operations in 2003 and has since become one of the world's fastest growing airlines. Aircraft configurator Pacelab Cabin provides decision-making support for the carrier's aircraft acquisition and refurbishment projects.



"Etihad Airways-Airbus A380-861" by R. Vandervord, used under CC BY-SA 4.0 / changed original background

Ambitious fleet expansion

In July 2008, Etihad Airways made history by announcing the then largest ever commercial order of more than 200 aircraft at the Farnborough International Airshow. The same year, the carrier's fleet planning department introduced PACE's aircraft configuration software Pacelab Cabin to support investigations of prospective seating arrangements for new deliveries and in-service aircraft.

In 2014, Etihad Airways opted to upgrade to Pacelab Cabin 7, a major functional update including state-of-the-art 3D visualization capabilities, and in the process added new users in the engineering department.

Etihad Airways | Facts & Figures



- » Current passenger fleet: 74 Airbus and 35 Boeing aircraft
- » Aircraft on order by 2025: over 195
- » Passengers: 17.4 million
- » Route network: 115 destinations in 68 countries
- » New cabin product was introduced with first Airbus A380 in late 2014

A tool for professionals

Etihad made Pacelab Cabin their tool of choice because other than multi-purpose CAD software, it provides tailor-made functionality for cabin professionals: Intelligent, rule-driven modeling and positioning lets them quickly set up LOPAs and generate accurate forecasts of seat capacity, PAX/trolley ratio and other key metrics, while the software automatically checks technical feasibility and compliance with FAR/JAR certification standards.

The LOPA view is fully configurable and can be easily adapted to Etihad's engineering standards. The 3D engine provides real-time rendering during the configuration and generates images for reports and other documentation.

High-quality layouts, fewer revisions

Since its introduction, Pacelab Cabin has delivered significant productivity gains and ensured a consistently high layout quality. The cabin studies conducted with Pacelab Cabin support the decision-making process when:

- » Optimizing cabin configurations for maximum revenue;
- » Reconfiguring cabins to meet current market conditions and consistent with Etihad's high product standards;
- » Identifying suitable aircraft types from OEMs or lessors