

aviationbusinessnews.com VOLUME 9 • ISSUE 4 • SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2020

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ne way that airlines are trying to reduce the risk of Covid-19 is through the use of antimicrobial surfaces. Lonseal is doing its bit with designing aircraft flooring that helps to resist germs.

The floor has the highest exposure to microbes of any part of any facility and, while it is expected that healthcare facilities choose a flooring material that is germ-resistant, the manufacturer believes that the same should hold true for aircraft interiors.

"When walking into an airplane, you shouldn't have to wonder if you are in a clean environment. It is up to the airline to make sure that everything is as clean as possible; by having an antimicrobial flooring system in place, an aircraft will be that much closer to that goal," observes Lonseal marketing manager Lace Greene-Cordts.

"Antimicrobial protection is an investment that gives the airplane owner the peace of mind to continue operations, safe in the knowledge that people in their aircraft have an added layer of protection."

As a solution, the company is offering its GreenMedic flooring,





Above and below: Lonseal's vinyl flooring comes in a variety of colours and textures, providing antimicrobial protection throughout an aircraft, from bathrooms to galley areas

a high-grade antimicrobial component which is already used in the construction of most of Lonseal's aircraft sheet-vinyl floor offerings. It impedes the growth of microorganisms, which then provides long-term protection from a spectrum of unwanted bacteria and viruses.

As the antimicrobial properties are added within the formulation of the product, and not as a top layer, Lonseal claims that this will provide airline floors with a great deal more protection than normal.

Lonseal also maintains that the seamless surface works well as a first line of defence against the invaders simply because it does not offer a good place to hide and breed. Adding the antimicrobial formulation doubles that protection and makes it near impossible for most microbes to survive on or in the floor for long.

Antimicrobial protection is an investment that gives the airline peace of mind

concept phase. For example, for thermoplastic materials and their assembly, welding instead of using a joining fastener offers a high potential for recycling, not only at the end of an aircraft's life, but also during production."

He explains that the pressure to become greener and focus on climate change does not stop with the aviation industry and its processes.

"The drive to bring materials based on renewable resources into the market comes from our responsibility at FACC to look at a cleaner world. But the materials are only one part. Our job is to rethink the whole value chain, from material delivery, storage, production and final shipping, to our customers. What counts to us is the global footprint."

Forward thinking

When talking about future trends within the industry, Adam says that cabin design and robust manufacturing processes in the materials used to create interiors are essential for future concepts.

"The inner cabin is the place where people come together and spend a lot of their time travelling from A to B. A clean environment and a feeling of safety and comfort are highly relevant criteria for customer satisfaction."

He believes that digitalisation will play a big part in future cabin design. "It gives the passenger the opportunity of the enhanced experience during the flight and more satisfaction.

"The aerospace industry was always a front-runner in terms of new technology, and now we have a great opportunity to develop cleaner and more sustainable technologies to enable an eco-friendly way of travelling around the globe." **G**