



Wheely good ideas

The humble trolley can stow away all kinds of surprises. **Stuart Forster** checks out what's new...

Ah, the inflight trolley – who knew so much innovation could be packed into a metal box on wheels?

In our last issue, we spoke to Sergio Gomez, Research and Technology Manager at Driessen Catering Equipment, whose passion for the potential of inflight trolley developments practically leapt out of the page (now there's a man who loves his job!). It got us thinking – in what way is the wider industry moving forward with trolley developments?

Make a splash

In addition to being light in weight, there's a requirement for trolleys to be easily serviceable within a rapid turnaround – factors widely regarded as limiting the scope for innovation.

Despite this, a notable evolution has been achieved by SkyTender Solutions, which has

developed new trolleys that serve hot or cold drinks. The company's product is already used aboard Salam Air flights and several other airlines are conducting final acceptance flights this autumn.

“Our product philosophy is based on three basic pillars: sustainability, profitability and passenger experience,” explains Dr. Thomas Mützel-von Schwartz, COO at Skytender.

“Our beverage trolleys are the SkyBar Splash, serving soft drinks and water; the SkyBar Aqua, serving water only; and the SkyBarista, offering speciality coffees including espressos and lattes from leading brands. They enable our customers to serve a wide variety of high-quality drinks without plastic bottles or cans, thereby reducing waste by 80%, CO2 footprint by 70%, cost per service by 40% and simultaneously free up galley space. In the case of the SkyBarista coffee trolley





Clockwise (from left): Diethelm Keller Aviation's XT2.5+; Egret Aviation's recycler; Tower Cold Chain Advanced Insulated Boxes and inserts; Korita Aviation's Superlight carts



it increases ancillary revenue by doubling the take rate."

SkyTender's trolleys also feature smart products to collect and provide reliable data for supply chain management optimisation, customer marketing plus environmental, social and governance-related reporting.

"For very good reasons, the aviation industry is considered as a conservative industry. Driving and eventually implementing changes needs a long and patient approach," adds Thomas.

Losing weight

Elsewhere, Diethelm Keller Aviation (DKA) has introduced a new series of meal carts, the XT2.5+, developed to meet customer demands for durable, lightweight and easy-to-service galley equipment. They make use of the lightest aviation industry-approved materials.

The top and base panels are crafted from a single slab of high-grade aluminium alloy, creating a seamless frame.

"These trolleys are both lightweight and durable, demonstrating our focus on advanced materials that meet strict aviation standards," explains King Lee, DKA's CEO.

He explains that the adoption of new materials is heavily influenced by cost, requiring innovations to be economically viable to gain airline acceptance:

"Strict aviation standards and the need for durability can limit the use of unapproved or less-tested materials, constraining design innovations."

Korita Aviation has concentrated on reducing weight with a traditional aluminium design.

"Our aim with the new super lightweight range – at 16.1kg for a full-size and 10.1kg for a half-size – is continued weight reduction, which is a key contribution to fuel burn saving for the airline yet ensures the equipment meets the standards expected by our clients," explains Jamie Melleney, Sales and Marketing Manager at Korita Aviation.

Meeting demands

Egret Aviation has new designs available for pre-order with a focus on dealing with onboard waste, including fluids in the full-size trolley. The designs come in response to airlines and airline manufacturers seeking sustainable, recyclable and lighter-weight options.

And what goes into trolleys has seen change, too, with Tower Cold Chain's Advanced Insulated Boxes integrating oven racks, trays and basket drawers. Francisco Azeredo, In-House Sales Manager – EMEA at Tower Cold Chain says: "By optimising space and ensuring secure handling, these have been designed for easy operations flexibility both in the air and on the ground."

May the innovation keep rolling forward! •

