

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
January 28, 2004

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## **Secret Service – New AerScreen Provides An Integral Part Of Lufthansa’s New interconti.innovation Project**

**Kent, Ohio, USA** – Passengers boarding Lufthansa’s Airbus A340-600 wide body planes are in for a pleasant surprise. They will experience an interior ambiance worthy of the finest corporate headquarters, with a distinctive colour scheme accentuated by indirect lighting. As they board and deplane, they will proceed past the galley completely disguised by the new décor – hidden behind a pull-down screen called AerScreen, developed by Schneller, Inc.



GalleyScreen™ pulls down easily to cover the galley area from ceiling to counter level.

The four-foot-wide by five-foot-tall screen is a key part of the new entry concept designed by London-based Priestman-Goode for Lufthansa’s intercont.innovation program. Incorporating a low curved ceiling pelmet, mood lighting and the AerScreen, the new design ensemble will greet passengers with a light, open and welcoming entrance.

“Normally it’s like entering a restaurant through its kitchen – but this changes all that, creating an immediate visual impact that carries into the rest of the interior décor,” said Luke Hawes, Director at Priestman-Goode.

AerScreen, which fits into a metal frame that is integrated into the galley housing, covers the galley area from ceiling to counter level. But it would have to do much more to fulfill its interior design role.

“We wanted the screen to accent the brand image with dramatic lighting effects – halogen backlighting through its perforated surface, and soft front lighting to showcase the Lufthansa logo printed on the screen surface,” said Hawes.

The surface, printed with a rich blue background and brighter blue for the logo image, had to be scratch-resistant and easy to clean.

It would prove to be an intriguing design and engineering challenge for Schneller who was already developing decorative surface materials for bulkheads, galleys and lavatories for the A340-600 cabin.

“Schneller is experienced in solving unusual problems and when we presented the design concepts, they had a clear vision of a product that did not yet exist,” said Hawes.

Schneller knew they would have to develop a material that would be flexible, lay-flat and dimensionally stable to roll up easily in the screen mechanism, yet durable enough to last for thousands of repetitions.



Close up of the perforated GalleyScreen shows how halogen backlighting and soft front lighting display a subtle Lufthansa logo.

“Complicating that was providing a material that would let some backlighting show through to passengers,” said Chris Schoonis, managing director for Schneller Sarl, Paris, France. To achieve that effect, Schneller created a precise pattern of perforations in a specially coated fiberglass-reinforced laminate.

“We had to expand our own palette, experimenting with a variety of new materials and constructions with different perforating methods to achieve the one that satisfied all our criteria,” said Schoonis.

Schneller subjected the perforated and printed screen to extensive testing to assure it would meet all requirements for durability, surface integrity and compliance with regulations. Ultimately, prototype samples were sent to Britax-Sell, the manufacturer of the galley for installation and further testing. AerScreen proved to be very tough, passing the 1,500-cycle test conducted by Britax-Sell.

Being commercially produced now by Schneller, AerScreen will be installed in all A340-600 aircraft beginning this November, on schedule.

“The solution put the finishing touch to our entryway design,” said Hawes, “one that is totally unique in the industry.”

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