

JETBLUE ANNOUNCED AS LAUNCH CUSTOMER FOR THOMPSON AERO SEATING VANTAGESOLO BUSINESS-CLASS

News / Airlines, Manufacturer



JetBlue unveiled a reimagined version of its Mint experience featuring a bespoke version of the revolutionary VantageSOLO from Thompson Aero Seating: the world's first fully flat bed for single-aisle aircraft.

The new seats are part of JetBlue's first major design overhaul of Mint, which will launch on the airline's highly anticipated London flights this summer. A smaller layout will debut on a limited number of flights between New York and Los Angeles in 2021.

Fully customised

An entirely customised version of Thompson Aero Seating's original Vantage seat, JetBlue's Mint suites on its current Mint aircraft have been so successful since their introduction in 2014, that JetBlue has entrusted Thompson Aero Seating as its partner for this next evolution of its Mint product. The VantageSOLO was originally conceived by creative design agency Factorydesign for AIX 2015. Since then, it has been developed by Thompson Aero Seating specifically in response to the rapidly emerging medium- to long-range market now being serviced by a new generation of single-aisle aircraft.

All-suite doors

Initial discussions began with JetBlue in mid-2016 and the programme was awarded at the end of that year. Thompson Aero Seating has been working with the JetBlue team since that time to realise a fully bespoke version of the VantageSOLO seat. This includes all seats having suite doors – the first all-suite-door business-class cabin on an A321.

Ground-breaking innovation

Neil Taggart, Vice President & General Manager at Thompson Aero Seating, said: “We are proud to be the first in the market who acknowledged the single-aisle trend. The arrangement of the VantageSOLO is quite ground-breaking on this type of aircraft. From

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only a 33” seat pitch, it offers a fully-horizontal flat bed with direct aisle access for every seat. For JetBlue’s reimagined Mint, we have configured this with a fully functioning suite door, offering an exclusive business class seating experience normally only the reserve of a wide body cabin.”

Sophisticated styling

Collaborating under AVIC Cabin Systems (ACS), AIM Altitude worked with Thompson Aero Seating to seamlessly integrate the premium front-row monuments. The forward monument has self-service water and snack options, as well as fold-down tables and tablet stowage. In addition, an articulating guest seat is linked with the movement of the VantageSOLO seat to create an expansive sleeping or lounging surface. Featuring smooth lines and sophisticated comfort, the monument includes a rear-facing padded monitor panel and vertical pull-out table above an outboard sofa. The surface styling features unique trim and finish colours and materials, including a fully bespoke feature light and customised thermoplastics from Kydex.

The bespoke styling and features for JetBlue include:

Comfort/ergonomics

- Unique mattress comfort technology from “Tuft and Needle” incorporated into the seat cushions supplied by Sabeti Wain
- Personal and additional stowages including a laptop drawer
- Suite Number Light with Do Not Disturb functionality
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Enhanced Front Row featuring:

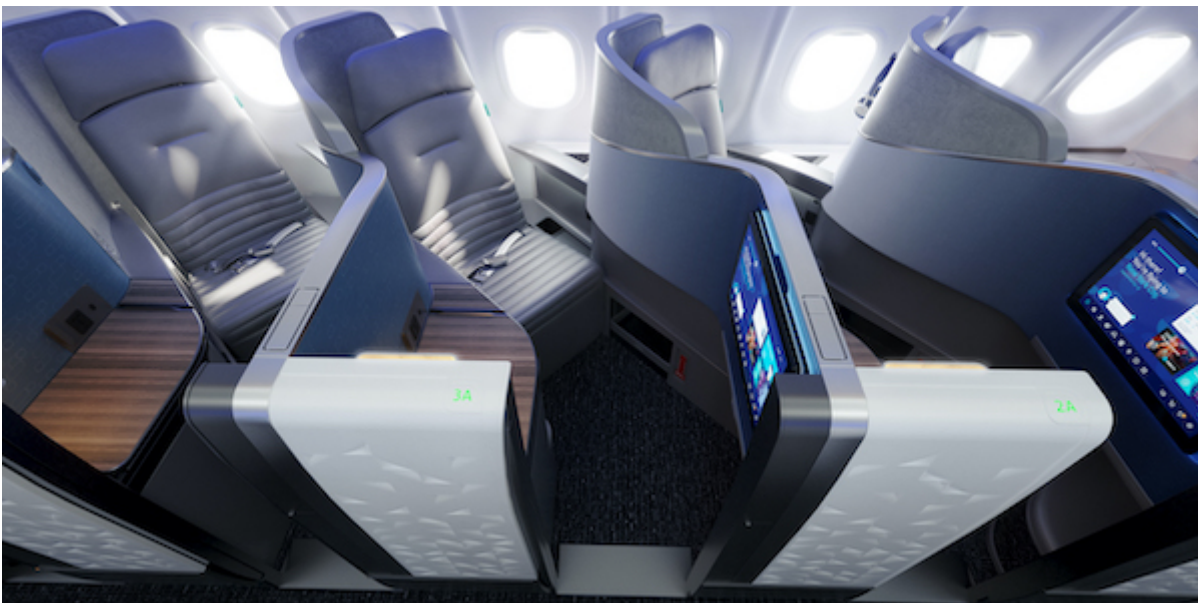
- o An electrically actuated guest seat that translates into bed mode at the same time as the main seat to provide an increased sleeping surface
- o A large executive table for enhanced dining or working

Technology & Aesthetics

- Integration of wireless charging functionality
- Customised lighting including integration of Polystone feature light and custom-colour reading light from Beadlight
- Pressure-formed 3D suite door panels
- Customised thermoplastics (Kydex) with unique Mint graphics

Exclusive and distinctive

Andy Morris, VP Commercial of AVIC Cabin Systems concluded: “We have very much enjoyed working once again with the team at JetBlue to bring to market this industry-leading product to their popular Mint experience. The seat and monuments include a huge array of exclusive and distinctive features, offering JetBlue’s customers real added value. The resulting suites are quite remarkable for a single-aisle aircraft.”



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