

Award shortlists announced ahead of Inflight Middle East

Airlines and suppliers serving the Middle East region have been honoured ahead of the upcoming Inflight Middle East 2018 event in Dubai.

The annual Inflight Middle East Awards celebrate outstanding contributions to passenger experience across the in-flight entertainment, connectivity and cabin technology domains. Each of the seven award categories has been judged by an independent panel of industry experts, who assess each entry against a range of criteria to identify optimal product and service offerings over the past 12 months. Judges have narrowed entries down to a shortlist of 3-6 finalists in each category, before the winners are announced on Wednesday 24 January 2018.

Nominations are open to airlines and suppliers serving passengers across the Middle East and North African network. A record number of nominations were received ahead of this year's ceremony, with the "Inflight airline of the year", "Innovation in commercial airline cabins" and "Content provision" categories proving particularly popular. The wealth of notable advances in the industry during 2017 has produced high-quality shortlists across the board, meaning competition looks set to be fiercer than ever.

Emirates, Etihad Airways, flydubai and SAUDIA are harbouring hopes in more than one category. For the first time, the event also recognises African carriers Ethiopian Airlines and South African Airways. On the suppliers' side, previous winners and finalists such as Panasonic Avionics, Global Eagle and SITAONAIR are joined by a series of newcomers to the Inflight Awards, representing the ongoing innovation and diversification associated with the IFEC and cabin technology sectors.

Inflight Middle East is an official event of Aircraft Interiors Middle East (AIME), offering a regional forum dedicated to IFEC and cabin technology. The awards ceremony will begin at 14:20 local time on Wednesday 24 January 2018, located in the Inflight Workshop arena on the exhibition floor. Along with all Inflight Workshop sessions throughout the day, the ceremony is free to attend for all AIME and MRO Middle East delegates. To register to attend, click [here](#).

Event schedule:

Day one: Tuesday 23 January 2018

- 11.00: Welcome address
- 11.15–12.00: Session 1 – Connectivity
- 12.45–13.15: Lunchtime educational – IFEC market intelligence
- 13.30–14.15: Session 2 – Mood lighting
- 14.30–15.15: Session 3 – Ancillary revenues
- 15.30–16.15: Session 4 – Content provision

Day two: Wednesday 24 January 2018

- 10.45: Opening address
- 11.00-11.45: Session 5 – IFE retrofitting
- 12.00-12.45: Session 6 – Electrical infrastructure
- 13.30-14.15: Session 7 – Passenger accessibility
- 14.20: Inflight Middle East Awards ceremony

For more information on the Inflight Middle East event, including details of organisations participating in the Inflight Pavilion and Workshop, please visit the [event website](#).

Those unable to join the Inflight team in Dubai can follow proceedings live on Twitter ([@inflightmag](#), #InflightME), with the winners announced shortly afterwards on [www.inflight-online.com](#).

Finalists by category

Inflight airline of the year

Emirates
Ethiopian Airlines
Etihad Airways
flydubai
Gulf Air
SAUDIA

Innovation in commercial airline cabins

Astronics
digEcor
Emirates
flydubai in collaboration with JPA Design
SAUDIA
STG Aerospace

IFE system provider

Global Eagle
Inflight Dublin
Panasonic Avionics
SkyLights

Connectivity enablement

Gogo
Inmarsat
Panasonic Avionics
SITAONAIR
Yahsat

Airline IFEC experience

Emirates
Etihad Airways
flydubai
SAUDIA

Content provision

FLYWELL
Global Eagle
Media Carrier
SAUDIA in collaboration with OnBoard
Spitfire

Interior retrofit project

Diehl Aerosystems in collaboration with Etihad Airways
Ethiopian Airlines
South African Airways

About Inflight

Inflight is the world's premier independent provider of news, analysis and dedicated events for the IFEC and cabin technology sectors.

The Inflight media portfolio provide decision-makers in these rapidly evolving markets with an unbiased overview including expert analysis, news on the latest developments, event previews and reports. Inflight magazine, published bi-monthly, reaches an audience of 18,750 industry professionals, including representatives from over 260 operators around the world. The publication is supplemented by a dedicated news website, weekly e-newsletter and widespread social media coverage.

Inflight also hosts its own industry event series, the Inflight Pavilion, Workshop and Awards held annually in the Middle East and Asia-Pacific regions.

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