

# Press Release



Leverkusen,  
July 27, 2016

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Inflatable seat cushions with Covestro films boost comfort of aircraft seats

## Like floating on air

### Ultra-lightweight solution in the solar-powered aircraft Solar Impulse

It's true that flying is the fastest form of transportation, but over long distances it can be pretty exhausting. Aircraft seats with air-filled cushions are helping to ease the strain. They offer passengers much greater comfort than conventional seats using foam and are also exceptionally light. Lantal, a Swiss supplier serving the aviation industry, has developed a sophisticated system that uses films made of thermoplastic polyurethane (TPU) from Covestro.

Air travelers can individually adjust the firmness of their seats or backrests as desired, simply by further inflating the cushions or releasing air from them. The extremely elastic and flexible TPU films ensure that the pressure inside the cushions is optimally distributed. "It's with innovations like this that we want to make the world a brighter place," says Wolfgang Stenbeck, Product & Application Manager for specialty films at Covestro. "In addition to developing the material, we also supported Lantal with our processing know-how."

### An efficient solution

Lightweight seats benefit not only airlines, but also the environment. That's because when compared with conventional foam cushions, weight savings of up to three kilograms per seat can be achieved in business class, and as much as five kilos in first class. "That saves fuel and reduces CO<sub>2</sub> emissions," says Andreas Gühmann, Technology Director for Pneumatic Comfort Systems at Lantal. "And the system requires zero maintenance, which helps to further reduce operating costs."



Airlines also are using the seats to better position themselves in a ferociously competitive market – in the knowledge that such a high degree of comfort is valued particularly by customers for the more expensive seating categories.

Considering these advantages, it's no wonder many top airlines are choosing seats with the pneumatic comfort system (PCS) from Lantal. The technology has already demonstrated its impressive reliability during years of use in 170 aircraft.

### **Endurance test passed**

Swiss aviation pioneers Bertrand Piccard and André Borschberg completed a very grueling endurance test in the seat aboard their Solar Impulse solar-powered aircraft. The trans-Atlantic flight from New York to Seville alone took over 70 hours. Covestro is an official partner in the project, and the company's development of the innovative, sustainable material was an important contribution to the first around-the-world flight powered by the energy of the sun.

*Be sure to visit us at the K 2016 plastics trade fair from October 19 to 26 in Düsseldorf, Germany, Hall 6, Stand A 75. Find more information at <http://www.k2016.covestro.com/>.*

### **About Covestro:**

With 2015 sales of EUR 12.1 billion, Covestro is among the world's largest polymer companies. Business activities are focused on the manufacture of high-tech polymer materials and the development of innovative solutions for products used in many areas of daily life. The main segments served are the automotive, electrical and electronics, construction and the sports and leisure industries. Covestro, formerly Bayer MaterialScience, has 30 production sites around the globe and as of the end of 2015 employed approximately 15,800 people (full-time equivalents).

*This press release is available for download from the Covestro press server at [www.covestro.com](http://www.covestro.com). A photo is available there for download as well. Please acknowledge the source.*

Find more information at [www.covestro.com](http://www.covestro.com) and <http://www.lantal.com/europe/de/aircraft/produkte/sitz/pneumatisches-komfortsystem/>.

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