

■ Since 1965 OMK has produced design-led solutions for the furniture industry. Working with the world's leading architects, operators and specifiers, the company has supplied more than 350 transport terminals worldwide.

OMK's experience has made it the go-to supplier for bespoke seating solutions. During the design phase of Jeddah's new King Abdulaziz International Airport (KAIA), Saudi Arabia's General Authority for Civil Aviation (GACA) turned to OMK to design a bespoke seating solution for the airport, which opened to the public in May 2018.

Being an important Hajj destination, the airport has been designed to accommodate more than 80 million passengers annually. GACA needed to provide a seat with a luxury aesthetic that could also withstand the rigors of the airport. OMK's design team developed a molded polyurethane version of its Trax High Back model, which carries a 25-year guarantee, supplying 15,000 seats in a six-month period. The success of this project has fueled an

expansion into the MENA region, which has seen the company supply seating, over the last 18 months, to Medina's Prince Mohammad Bin Abdulaziz Airport, Dubai Airport, Bahrain International Airport and eight airports in Egypt. In recognition of this continued success as a British exporter, OMK won a Queen's Award for Enterprise in 2016, the highest official UK accolade for a business.

**Product development program**

To celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> year, in 2016 OMK launched an innovative new seating system, Flite, having identified a need to increase seating capacity within gate rooms to accommodate the new breed of passenger aircraft, such as the A380. Flite has a compact footprint, providing a 10% increase in seating density over other products on the market.

Being intended primarily for high-traffic areas meant that as well as being compact, the seats needed to be easily maintained. According to OMK, Flite is the first seat on the market to

use an identical interchangeable seat and back panel, available in either molded polyurethane or saddle-stitched coach hide, both carrying a 25-year guarantee.

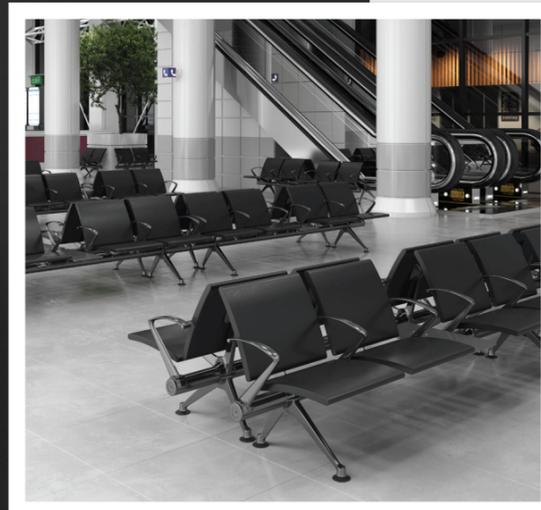
Reducing the number of components has eliminated the need for pre-assembly and halved the time required for on-site assembly, resulting not only in a further cost saving but in less disruption to a live airport. Flite has already been supplied to numerous international airports, including JFK, London Gatwick and Dubai.

**Versatile modular system**

Whereas Flite offers high-density seating, airports that are looking for flexibility and a wide range of options will focus on Trax. Originally designed in 1989, this award-winning seating system has undergone a number of design changes and is now available in four chassis options, which, when combined with the extensive range of material finishes and accessories, adds up to more than 77,000 combinations. All components can be retrofitted,

# BREAKING NEW GROUND

INNOVATIVE SEATING DESIGN IS TRANSFORMING THE PASSENGER EXPERIENCE AT AIRPORTS ACROSS THE GLOBE



ABOVE: Flite Compact Seating System is designed to increase seating capacity in gate rooms by 15%  
LEFT: Flite power arm enable easy maintenance with interchangeable modules



ABOVE: Trax High Back in moulded polyurethane at Jeddah's new King Abdulaziz International Airport  
RIGHT: Seville bench is perfect for ancillary areas



enabling customers to upgrade their seats without the full cost of replacement, as demonstrated recently by Hamburg Airport, which upgraded its upholstered seats to molded polyurethane by simply changing over the panels. Airports are not limited to changing the materials and accessories; chassis upgrades including the high back and leg rest can also be retrofitted to add comfort. Specialist features including PRM solutions and power delivery are also available, the latter being a key consideration when developing Flite.

After successfully retrofitting power and intelligent USB charging into Trax, OMK's design team ensured that Flite was designed from the ground up to incorporate power. The resulting power arm uses standard replaceable modules, making it future-proof. The custom profile of the extruded beam was optimized to act as a conduit for the bespoke wiring loom, which has connections at each arm, making removal simple.

**Reclaim, platforms and shelters**

Originally commissioned to complement Nicholas Grimshaw's futuristic design for the British Pavilion at the Seville Expo 1992, OMK's Seville bench system has since gone on to win numerous

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design awards, including Millennium Product. The bench is bidirectional and is therefore ideal for use in baggage reclaim and on rail platforms. Made entirely from aluminum, it can be placed in external areas such as smoking shelters. There are three standard supports, enabling the bench to be floor-fixed, wall-mounted or free-standing. All are available with or without armrests. Custom mounting options can be designed to fit with any railing or cladding system.

**Seating evolution**

As a design-led company, OMK is continually looking to identify future requirements for

seating. Providing the right type of seating for each area of the airport is key to satisfying the needs of every passenger, both now and in the future. In a departure from beam seating the company will be launching a new concept seat in 2019, designed for mixed use areas, such as international departure lounges and arrivals concourses.

OMK also offers its clients spatial planning and passenger flow analysis. To cater for multiple passenger profiles, products across the range can be combined to create a multi-use area; this approach can be applied to gate rooms as well as retail areas. ■