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Aviation Occupant Safety Announces That One of Its Partner Companies, Key Safety Systems, Has Received a U.S. Patent for Its Inflatable Safety Restraint Protection System for Side-Facing Occupants

The patented technology is used in AOS's active inflatable passenger protection system, which protects the head and torso areas of side-facing passengers, while further mitigating injury from leg flail.

Sterling Heights, Michigan USA March 31, 2015 – Representatives of Aviation Occupant Safety, LLC (AOS) announced today that one of its parent companies, Key Safety Systems (KSS), has received a U.S. Patent (8,939,465 B2) for “*Safety Restraint Protection for Aircraft Occupants Seated Facing the Side of the Aircraft.*”

The patented inflatable, monument mounted device(s) are used in business and general aviation aircraft cabin applications where passengers are seated facing perpendicular to the aircraft's cabin to protect the passengers' head and torso areas from lateral movement, while further mitigating lateral injury from leg flail.

Tony Nardone, KSS President of Specialty Division and AOS Director explained that these new units were developed in compliance with FAA Policy PS-ANM-25-03.

“At KSS we pride ourselves on the ingenuity of our design and engineering teams that find innovative

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ways to create modern technology products that make travel safer,” he said. “This patent award demonstrates our commitment to continually improving aircraft occupant safety.

“These new passenger restraint units will dramatically reduce lateral movement, while absorbing impact forces from adjacent passenger-to-passenger and passenger-to-cabin structure surfaces,” Nardone said. “These units are already in use aboard a popular mid-size aircraft and now that we have received the patent we can continue selling it to other aircraft manufacturers knowing the technology is accepted and proven.”

“This new technology provides a level of passenger impact safety that has never been available before,” stated David Devine, Director of AOS. “What truly sets it apart is along with the side- and center-located active inflatable side-facing passenger restraint system, (similar to the side airbags on a car), the system features a proprietary system that minimizes the occurrence of injuries from ‘leg flail.’

“Leg flail is a situation where passengers seated laterally can suffer serious injuries because their legs are unrestrained during impacts,” he added. “Our leg flail restraints have proven during tests to greatly minimize occurrences of these types of injuries.”

Devine also explained that during the new system’s development, the engineers worked hard to make sure the location and appearance of the inflating systems would blend into the aircraft’s cabin.

“They are designed to provide maximum occupant safety with minimal impact on the interior’s aesthetics,” he said.

About AOS.

AOS is a joint venture between two global safety restraint industry leaders: Aircraft Belts, Inc., (ABI) and Key Safety Systems (KSS).

“Nobody has more experience in the development and deployment of passive and active passenger restraint systems than our two companies,” Nardone said. “KSS inflatable/airbag products are found in more than 300 models of cars and trucks, and ABI provides aircraft belts and restraints for several aircraft OEM’s.”

“As a partner in AOS, Aircraft Belts is extremely pleased to see the KSS team awarded this patent,” Devine said. “By combining the expertise within the two companies, AOS is the first company to introduce active automotive-technology based bulkhead and seat-mounted airbag products to aviation. We believe that these products will revolutionize aircraft cabin safety.”

“We have been extremely gratified by the amount of interest we have received in our line of crew and passenger restraint systems,” Nardone said. “A number of other business and private aircraft manufacturers are looking for solutions that improve the safety of passengers and pilots through the addition of AOS inflatable occupant protection systems.”

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About Aircraft Occupant Safety (AOS)

AOS is a joint venture between two global safety restraint industry leaders: Aircraft Belts, Inc., (ABI) and Key Safety Systems (KSS). AOS is an aviation industry leader in the design, development, testing and production of new-generation crew and passenger restraint and protection systems. For more information, visit: www.aviationoccupantsafety.com.

About Key Safety Systems

Key Safety Systems (KSS) is a global leader in the design, development and manufacturing of automotive safety-critical components and systems including airbags, seatbelts, and steering wheels. Their products are featured in more than 300 vehicle models produced by over 60 well-diversified customers worldwide. KSS also utilizes their products and technical experience to supply a wide variety of non-automotive businesses including military and commercial vehicles. The KSS worldwide headquarters and USA technical center are in Sterling Heights, Michigan.

About Aircraft Belts, Incorporated

Since 1981 Aircraft Belts, Incorporated (ABI) has been a leader in developing and manufacturing aircraft safety restraints. ABI is an OEM restraint provider to many aircraft manufacturers. The company provides restraints (re-web and new) to Cessna, Gulfstream, Bombardier, Dassault, Embraer, Beechcraft and many other interior completion centers in the aftermarket through their repair station. ABI operates from a 70,000 Sq. foot facility located in the Raleigh/Durham area of North Carolina.