

787 to have to new handheld lights

When the 787 finally takes to the skies sometime this summer with All Nippon Airways, it will have among its standard equipment a handheld flashlight that until recently had changed little in the 30 years.

But as is often the case, development of a new aircraft spurs technological and product advancement throughout the industry.

The company that makes the flashlights was known for years as DME Corp. Astronics purchased the company in 2009 when its owner Luis Mola retired. In addition to the flashlights the company makes first aid kits, emergency locator beacons and survival kits for aircraft emergency rafts and light harnesses for aircraft slides. Another division of Astronics makes the Empower power to the seat system, while another division makes cabin emergency lighting.

Carl Hooper sales and marketing manager for the Aircraft Emergency and Survival Products division of Astronics in Fort Laud-

erdale, Florida said early in development of the 787, Boeing came to the company with a bulleted list of desires for its inflight flashlights. Boeing wanted several improvements, including the use of LED technology for a lighter weight product. Hooper says the company has long held a nearly 90 percent market share for in-cabin flashlights, which are installed at a ratio of one for each flight attendant on the aircraft.

"LED's are changing every year," said Hooper. "They're getting brighter and more reliable and we've incorporated that into our product."

The division of Astronics went to work, and developed a smaller version of the light that can fit in the original wall mounts, positioned throughout the aircraft. The new light, dubbed the Air Lite 1E, came in approximately one pound lighter than its predecessor. Depending on the aircraft, that could mean a savings of anywhere from \$75 to \$500 per

Approximately 2,000 Air Lite 1E flashlights are in service in airlines around the world.

year in fuel costs, Hooper has calculated.

Up to six of the flashlights can be found on single-aisle aircraft, however the A380 could have between 16 and 18 flashlights. With approval by Airbus as well, Hooper said the Air Lite 1E made its first appearance in the industry in the aisles of the A318 and A321.

So far, Hooper estimates that approximately 2,000 Air Lite 1Es are flying on aircraft around the world. "We are working with a lot of the airlines to try and convert the flashlights just because of the weight savings and technology," said Hooper.



INFLIGHT PERIPHERALS
IFPL

Connecting your passengers

Noise Cancellation Audio Jacks



Audio Jacks



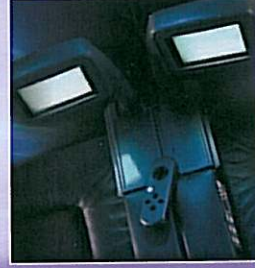
Dataports



iPod Docking Stations



PCU's and Monitor Arms



IFPL is a design and manufacturing company able to supply passenger interface and seat peripheral products to meet the demands of today's travellers

IFPL holds EASA approval 21G and supplies PMA parts through its distributors in the Americas

IFPL Bloomsbury Park, Manners View, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 5FA
Tel +44 1983 822611 • Fax +44 1983 825993 • enquiries@ifpl.com

Visit us at Aircraft Interiors Expo Hamburg: Stand #6C12

