

PRESS RELEASE

Comfort, Design and Technical Innovation in Focus

Kiel Brings Fresh Perspectives to Passenger Interiors at InnoTrans 2026

Nördlingen, September 2026 - At this year's InnoTrans in Berlin, Kiel will present its portfolio of seating solutions for modern rail transport. The focus will be on high levels of passenger comfort, ergonomic and flexible seating concepts, as well as technical developments tailored to the diverse requirements of regional and long-distance rail services.

- Alongside comfort and functionality, weight optimisation, modularity and ease of maintenance play a central role in Kiel's product development. High-quality materials, contemporary design language and solutions that provide greater personal space, comfort and privacy demonstrate the wide range of possibilities for creating modern passenger interiors.

- This year, Kiel is also deliberately taking a different approach to design. Instead of the darker colour schemes commonly used in public transport, selected seating models will be presented in an unusually light and bright design concept. In doing so, Kiel not only showcases potential configuration options, but also demonstrates how strongly colour, materials and form can influence the perception of both an individual seat and the passenger environment as a whole.

After all, a seat is perceived not only through its functionality. Design creates atmosphere, shapes the character of an interior and can give a vehicle its own distinctive identity. The light-coloured presentation is therefore intended as a deliberate source of inspiration - bold, unconventional and not necessarily intended as a concept for immediate series production, but rather as an invitation to rethink familiar design conventions in public transport.

LIHOK – Premium Comfort with Enhanced Privacy

With the LIHOK, Kiel offers a premium seating family for long-distance rail travel that combines sophisticated design, natural materials and a high level of passenger comfort. The LIHOK is available in three different versions, allowing it to be tailored to a wide range of vehicle, comfort and interior design concepts.

A defining feature of the entire product family is its refined, contemporary appearance, shaped in particular by the use of wood. Wide seat cushions and backrests provide generous freedom of movement and a high level of comfort, even on longer journeys. Different upholstery options for the seat, backrest and headrest also allow the passenger interior to be customised in line with individual design requirements and operator specifications.

The LIHOK 480 Privacy occupies a distinctive position within the product family. Its specially developed continuous wooden shell shields the seat from behind and prevents direct views from the row of seats behind. This creates a clearly defined personal space, offering passengers a significantly higher level of privacy and a greater sense of seclusion. At the same time, the premium wooden shell becomes a defining design feature, combining the seat's elegant design language with the use of a natural material.

The LIHOK 480 Privacy also places particular emphasis on personal space. Its increased seat width provides passengers with additional room and enhances comfort, particularly on longer journeys. The comfort concept is further complemented by a separate seat cushion depth adjustment, allowing passengers to adapt their seating position to their individual preferences. In this way, the Privacy version combines generous proportions with seating ergonomics designed specifically around passenger comfort.

The LIHOK family also features combined backrest and seat inclination adjustment and, depending on the chosen configuration, can be equipped with a range of additional features including folding armrests, a backrest-mounted folding table with cup recess, USB charging facilities and further functional options.

By combining premium design, natural materials and a high level of passenger comfort, the LIHOK is positioned as a sophisticated seating solution for modern long-distance trains. The LIHOK 480 Privacy extends this concept by adding greater personal space and effective visual shielding, creating a particularly private and comfortable environment for rail travel.

The product documentation states that the LIHOK complies with the requirements of UIC 566 and EN 45545.

STREAMLINE – Lightweight Design, Comfort and Modularity for Long-Distance Rail Travel

Designed for modern long-distance rail travel, the STREAMLINE combines a high level of passenger comfort with lightweight construction, structural stability and a consistently modular product concept. The seat is available in different comfort configurations for both First and Second Class and can be adapted to a wide range of vehicle concepts and operator requirements.

At the heart of the STREAMLINE is a full-magnesium frame construction that combines stability, functionality and low weight. An innovative joining technology for the seat frame takes into account the demanding technical requirements of modern rail transport. At the same time, the modular design allows individual components to be replaced quickly and economically – a key advantage in terms of maintenance, servicing and different equipment concepts.

The STREAMLINE is also consistently designed with longer journeys in mind. Its ergonomically developed seat geometry, combined with triple-density foam, provides a high level of seating comfort. Backrest and seat inclination adjustment is included in both comfort classes. Depending on the chosen configuration, additional features such as an adjustable footrest, folding armrests and various table solutions are available.

To accommodate different comfort and service concepts, the STREAMLINE can be equipped with a wide range of additional features. These include a backrest-mounted folding table with cup recess, smartphone table, USB charging facility, waste bin, centre console with power socket and seat reservation display, as well as a reading light in the corresponding First Class configuration.

With seat widths of 500 mm in First Class and 450 mm in Second Class, together with various seating configurations ranging from single and double seats to optional facing double-seat arrangements and three-seat combinations, the STREAMLINE also offers a high degree of flexibility for interior planning.

Its combination of lightweight magnesium construction, high passenger comfort, modular design and ease of maintenance makes the STREAMLINE a versatile seating solution for modern long-distance trains. The seating system complies with the requirements of UIC 566, NF F31-119 and EN 45545.

MATCH G3 – New Generation of Modular Seating Solutions for Rail Transport

The MATCH G3 represents the new generation of Kiel's modular passenger seating system for regional and long-distance rail services. Building on the proven MATCH concept, the new generation combines a high level of seating comfort and modern functionality with a significantly weight-optimised design. In this way, the MATCH G3 addresses both the requirements of modern rail vehicles and the economic requirements of operators.

A key focus of the development process has been passenger comfort. The generously proportioned shoulder area of the backrest cushion provides passengers with greater freedom of movement. The comfort concept is complemented by backrest and seat inclination adjustment as well as a wider folding table, providing additional surface space during the journey. Different headrest variants and an optional privacy panel also allow the passenger interior to be tailored to individual requirements.

The modular product concept enables flexible adaptation to the specific requirements of vehicle manufacturers and operators. Various armrest solutions, together with optional features such as a footrest, power socket, USB connection or cantilever mounting, further extend the range of possible applications. At the same time, the service-oriented design allows the upholstery components to be replaced easily, supporting economical operation throughout the product life cycle.

A major advancement compared with the previous MATCH G2 model is the significant reduction in weight. A fully equipped double seat is approximately 12.5 per cent lighter, while without additional equipment the weight saving is approximately 15.3 per cent. The reduced use of materials lowers the vehicle weight and can therefore also contribute to greater resource efficiency and a reduced carbon footprint.

By combining a high level of seating comfort, modular construction, weight optimisation and a wide range of equipment options, Kiel is consistently advancing the proven MATCH concept. The MATCH G3 is designed for economical, comfortable and future-oriented use in both regional and long-distance rail services.

Kiel Flex System – Flexible Space Utilisation for Varying Passenger Numbers

Kiel Seating Solutions presents the Flex System, a variable seating solution for urban public transport. The system allows the passenger interior to be adapted flexibly between seated and standing use, depending on vehicle occupancy and passenger demand.

Especially in urban public transport, the requirements placed on the vehicle interior can change significantly throughout the day. During peak periods, additional standing space is needed, while at times of lower occupancy the demand for seating and passenger comfort increases.

- The Flex System offers the following adjustment options: first, the seat cushions are folded upwards; the entire seating unit can then be moved towards the vehicle side wall. This reduces the floor space occupied by the seating system and increases the available space for standing passengers.

When passenger demand is lower, the seating unit can be returned to its regular position and used as a seat again. This enables transport operators to adjust the ratio of seating to standing capacity according to demand, without permanently defining the vehicle interior for one specific type of use.

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With the Flex System, Kiel Seating Solutions responds to the growing demand for flexible and efficiently utilised vehicle interiors in public transport.

BETALINE – Comfort and Flexibility for Long-Distance Rail Travel

The BETALINE is a versatile seating system for long-distance rail travel, combining ergonomic passenger comfort with a high level of functionality and flexible equipment options. Available for both First and Second Class, the seat can be adapted to different vehicle concepts and operator requirements thanks to its modular design.

A distinctive feature of the BETALINE is its combined backrest and seat inclination adjustment with a guided headrest. During adjustment, the headrest follows the movement of the seat, supporting an ergonomically coordinated seating position. Eleven adjustment positions are available in First Class and nine in Second Class. Pronounced headrest wings create an additional sense of seclusion, providing passengers with greater privacy and a more restful environment, particularly on longer journeys.

The ergonomic design and high-quality upholstery provide a high level of seating comfort. Depending on the vehicle concept and the required level of equipment, the BETALINE can be configured with a wide range of features. These include adjustable footrests, folding tables with an optional cup recess, folding armrests and grab handles. Further options such as USB charging facilities, power sockets, seat reservation displays, storage solutions and waste bins allow the seat to be tailored to the respective application and service concept.

The modular system also provides a high degree of flexibility when designing the passenger interior. In addition to single and double seats, optional facing double-seat arrangements and three-seat combinations are available. This allows the BETALINE to be configured specifically for different long-distance rail requirements, both in terms of comfort level and functional equipment.

Combining ergonomic adjustability, versatile equipment options and sophisticated design, the BETALINE offers a comfort-oriented seating solution for modern long-distance trains. According to the product documentation, the seating system meets the requirements of UIC 566 and EN 45545.

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