

Unprecedented privacy using the Beckhoff Control Panel

Napcabs: Relaxing cabins for travelers at Munich Airport

Anyone who has to fill in a lengthy stopover at Munich Airport can make use of the convenient cabins from Napcabs GmbH, Germany, for sleeping, relaxing or working in peace. The passenger in transit can book and operate a Napcab simply and conveniently using a Control Panel from Beckhoff.



After security check, Napcabs help create privacy at Lufthansa's terminal 2 in Munich Airport.

Napcabs were invented by five students from the Technical University of Munich, Germany. They developed the approx. 3.5 square meter cabins for a student project with the aim of creating some privacy, in particular for passengers on intercontinental flights. In 2007, the students' business plan won the Innovation Competition held by UnternehmerTUM, the center for innovation and start-ups at the Technical University of Munich. In addition to UnternehmerTUM, Munich Airport, Lufthansa, b. a. Werbung, OSRAM, PLAN 3 and Joka, Beckhoff also provided support for the start-up, so that the idea has become a highly marketable product after only a year.

Since July 2008, passengers have been able to rent Napcabs after security check at Lufthansa Terminal 2

in Munich Airport. Protected from the hustle and bustle of the world outside, travelers can put up their feet and relax with music, movies or lighting and sound effects. The passengers can also use the built-in table as a desk and access the Internet with their own laptop using UMTS.

The customer gains access to a Napcab using the CP6202 15-inch Beckhoff touch panel from the "Economy" series. The traveler can learn how the Napcab works and is able to check in and out using the screen. On check out, the traveler can pay conveniently by credit card. A CP6203 19-inch Beckhoff touch panel from the Economy series is also installed in the Napcab. The user can access all the Napcab functions from this. He or she can select various movies or types of

music, adjust the sound levels and lighting as desired or switch on the timer for a wake-up alarm. The Panels are connected via DVI/USB to the controls – which have been developed in-house – for light, entertainment, checking into and out of the Napcab and to additional services. For example, immediately after a customer checks out, the airport's cleaning team is automatically alerted.

"The Napcabs can be occupied 24 hours a day and are used by a wide range of customers. They therefore need to be very efficient and robust," explained Michael Krause, managing director of Napcabs. "The selection of high-quality components was a top priority for us. But the design also has to be right in order to fit with the concept as a whole. The Control Panels



A customer uses the CP6203 19-inch Beckhoff touch panel to select movies or music and to adjust the sound level or lighting.

from Beckhoff convinced us on every score. They are attractive on account of high reliability, simple operability and elegant design.”

After the pilot phase at Munich Airport, Napcabs GmbH will furnish other German and international airports with the 3.5 square meter cabins. “Our existing customers confirm that we have our finger on the pulse of the future with Napcabs,” reported Michael Krause, looking ahead with enthusiasm. “As soon as we go into full-scale production, the control system for the Napcabs will need to be even more professional. For controlling the temperature, light, access, entertainment, Internet access and for integration of additional services, we plan to install Beckhoff Industrial PCs with the TwinCAT control platform and the Building Automation library. We also want to implement functions such as dimming the light or opening the door cost-effectively and reliably using Beckhoff Bus Terminals.”