

BLOCKED WASTE LINES — NO PROBLEM

The latest automated blockage removal system avoids disassembly and reduces aircraft downtime

The use of a vacuum toilet system guarantees a high level of comfort and hygiene for the passengers of an aircraft. As long as the toilets are kept clean, there are absolutely no hassles.

However, a blocked waste line not only causes inconvenience for all airline passengers in-flight, but also leads to high costs for the airline, particularly if it creates an AOG (aircraft on the ground) situation. However, the solution to this problem is now available to airline maintenance crews. Through thorough research of this maintenance issue, in partnership with a well-known European airline, Test-Fuchs engineers have developed an autonomous waste-line blockage remover, that can be used on both the ramp, and within the hangar. This is known as the Vacuum Toilet Blockage Removal System (VTBR), mounted on a towed-trolley.

This diesel or electrically powered trolley serves as an all-purpose tool to clear and remove pipeline blockages for vacuum-lavatory systems. When a waste line blockage is reported by aircrews, the VTBR is towed to the aircraft in question and when connected, removes the obstruction by using system compatible negative pressure. Nappies, milk jugs, passports, false teeth and other solid waste is removed in record time. The entire operation takes as little as 30 minutes and can be completed concurrently, while passengers embark or disembark from the aircraft. The aircraft can continue its operation without delay and an unscheduled maintenance stop is avoided, as well as additional spillover effect cost or customer dissatisfaction.

The clearing procedure also avoids disassembly of the complete waste line, providing a significant saving on maintenance time and costs. Another advantage is that the maintenance team does not have to dig into the dirty problem itself,



they simply have to connect two hoses to the waste line system, one before and one after the blockage. After connection, maintenance crews start the VTBR engine and the unit generates negative pressure in the circuit. When the recommended pressure is reached, the operator opens a valve and the blockage rapidly moves towards the unit. During the operation, waste is gathered in a tank and disposed of in an authorized waste receptacle at a later date, because the tank is large enough for several successive operations. The VTBR is already certified by Airbus and can be applied on all of its aircraft.

The VTBR is an airline's answer to avoiding expensive AOG situations due to waste line blockages. It keeps the passengers happy and the environmentally friendly application

1 // The Vacuum Toilet Blockage Removal System is connected via two hoses

2 // The System can be powered electrically or by diesel

is a real highlight for the maintenance crew. It is the smart emergency solution for high-speed maintenance on the ramp.

Test-Fuchs has eleven locations in eight countries worldwide covering America, Europe and Asia, providing local sales and support for international customers. Remote support makes troubleshooting easy, and ensures experts can deal with issues immediately, reducing downtime and saving the customer money. Products range from ground support equipment to test stands to portable test equipment. \\\

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