

Buy on the fly... SAA installs new system

South African Airways (SAA) will this week become the first airline globally to install the SatAuth (Satellite Authorisation System), which will allow for secure credit card transactions anywhere in the skies.



(Image: Wikimedia Commons)

"The system, first installed on the airline's cabin trainer for testing in May last year, will not only allow secure credit card transactions anywhere in the skies but also provide pin-point accurate aircraft tracking services for operational purposes. South African Airways Technical (SAAT) developed the testing and engineering procedures for airline maintenance facilities around the world."

SAA today installed the device on one of its Airbus A340-300 aircraft at the SAAT maintenance facility in Kempton Park, Johannesburg.

"SAAT engineers worked closely with the developers of the solution," said SAAT CEO Musa Zwane on Monday.

The system will allow for secure credit card transactions at any point and real-time positioning of any flight, anywhere, impacting fuel saving interventions in-flight as well as providing full visibility of actual flight paths versus planned routing at any time. SatAuth is the first product of its kind, developed in South Africa.

SAAT will manufacture all major aircraft components required for installation of SatAuth in accordance with the international Aviation Certification standards required for installation.

"This provides SAAT with substantial commercial impetus with a new revenue stream. The installation is the first of its kind in the world and marks a new milestone in South African avionics engineering; it's another affirmation of the quality, skill and expertise that SAAT offers in terms of its aircraft maintenance and overhaul facilities," said Zwane.

SAA plans to install SatAuth across its entire long-haul fleet over time.