



## Riding high: new plane 'saddle' would pack in passengers 新型座椅間距小 廉價航空載更多

A new design for economy class airline seating gives a new meaning to the term "cattle class" — as passengers would sit on **saddle**-type seats, even closer to the person in front than now.

The SkyRider design, unveiled at a trade fair in Long Beach, California, may appeal to budget airlines around the world eager to save valuable extra inches in the back end of planes.

The new seats would decrease the pitch, or distance, between seats to 58cm or less, compared to an average of 70cm, said Italian company Aviointeriors in a statement.

"With a much reduced seat pitch, the SkyRider preserves a comfortable position for the low fare passengers," said the company as the new seats were presented at the Aircraft Interiors Expo Americas trade fair.

The SkyRider "is intended as a new basic class. The passenger's seating position is similar to that of a touring motor-scooter rider," it added.

"This **posture** permits that the overall longitudinal space occupied by the seat with the seated passenger is far less than that of a conventional, very high-density 28 inch (71cm) economy class seat."

Irish budget airline Ryanair's publicity-friendly boss Michael O'Leary has suggested he would even be prepared

to introduce standing-room only sections in his planes, although this would likely be banned by European safety rules.

"We understand that some airline companies would even want to go for a Stand-Up Cabin," said Aviointeriors.

"The SkyRider has been designed and engineered to offer the possibility to even further reduce ticket prices while still maintaining sound **profitability**, which, even with a dual or three class seating arrangement, will allow maximum **certified** passenger capacity of the aircraft." (AFP)

**最**近新推出的經濟艙座椅設計，將名符其實的讓經濟艙變成「牲畜艙」，因為乘客將坐在類似馬鞍的座椅上，距離前座乘客的距離比目前的座位還要近。

新座椅型號名為SkyRider，並於加州長堤的商品展覽會展示。全世界急於從每個座位間距多擠出幾吋，以便節省機艙後段寶貴空間的廉價航空公司，極可能對這項新設計感到興趣。

義大利的Aviointeriors公司透過聲明表示，這款新座椅可縮短前後距離，大約五十八公分，甚至更少，比起正常的平均距離七十公分更短。

新產品在美洲飛機室內設計展覽會上展示的該公司表示，「雖然座位間距縮短許多，但SkyRider座椅依然讓低價乘客能維持舒服的姿勢。」

該公司補充，SkyRider座椅「就像某種新的機艙最基本的配

備。乘客的坐姿就像在小型摩托車上一樣。」

「這個姿勢可以讓整個縱向空間，包括座椅與乘客本身所佔的空間，比起之前的二十八吋（七十一公分）經濟艙座位還要來得小。」

即使這種做法可能遭到歐洲飛安規定的禁止，但是愛爾蘭廉價航空公司瑞安航空，熱中對外宣傳的執行長麥可·奧里瑞表示，他甚至準備好在自己的飛機上推出站座機位。

Aviointeriors公司表示，「我們了解有些航空公司甚至想要設立站座機艙。」

「這款SkyRider座椅設計，就是為了消滅票價的同時，維持良好的利潤。這樣一來，即使航空公司將飛機劃分成兩種或三種艙等，也能保證飛機的載客量。」 (法新社 / 翻譯：吳岱環)

Jenny Carlino, right, a regional manager for the Italian company Aviointeriors, tries out her firm's new SkyRider seat at the Aircraft Interiors Expo in Long Beach on Sept. 16. PHOTO: AFP

九月十六日，義大利Aviointeriors公司區域經理珍妮·卡爾利諾（右），在長堤的美洲飛機室內設計展覽會上，試坐她的公司推出的新型SkyRider座椅。

照片：法新社

### TODAY'S WORDS 今日單字

1. **saddle** /'sædl/ n.

馬鞍 (ma3 an1)

**例**: Lisa fell out of the saddle during her horse riding session. (麗莎在騎馬時從馬鞍上摔下來。)

2. **posture** /'pɒstʃə/ n.

姿勢 (zi1 shi4)

**例**: Improve your posture or you might get back problems. (要改善你的姿勢，不然可能會引起背部問題。)

3. **profitability** /'prɒfɪtə'bɪləti/ n.

收益性 (shou1 yi4 xing4)

**例**: We expect to improve the firm's profitability by the end of the year. (我們希望於年底改善公司的收益。)

4. **certified** /'sɜ:tə'faɪd/ adj.

有執照的 (you3 zhi2 zhao4 de5)

**例**: Mark is a certified diving instructor. (馬克是位有執照的潛水教練。)