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A low-weight, rigid and space-saving design was the aim on Saint Louis Designs' latest development, a stowable arm table for divans

1-3: Saint Louis Designs' stowable arm table for divans, which is in development

The challenges involved in designing stowable divan arm tables suitable for VVIP interiors are well-known in the industry. Typically the goal is to produce a lightweight but rigid table mechanism that deploys from and stows smoothly into the divan arm pocket.

In an attempt to respond to the wish list of several completion centers, Saint Louis Designs modified its original vertical table mechanism to allow extreme articulation combined with severely limited stowage space.

During deployment, the table will rise from the divan arm via a compound slide. To achieve ease of deployment, Saint Louis incorporated its patented counterbalance system. The tabletop will have a concealed bearing system, enabling 8in of slide travel once deployed. In the action

of stowing, the table is designed to glide and not drop into its stowed position. The mechanism will weigh approximately 7 lb, not including the tabletop.

The company says extensive research and testing was required to source commercially available bearing systems, to achieve a smooth and reliable motion with minimal weight. Throughout development, the mechanical components were designed with a focus on ease of manufacturing.

Saint Louis Designs says its patented cabin interior latches and mechanisms have evolved as a result of its ability to address customer requests and to continually improve its existing products. "Our products were developed by thinking along new lines, free from conventional approaches and traditional choices of materials," says Carole Tower, president, Saint Louis Designs. "We welcome mechanical design challenges."

As well as divan tables, the company's products include touch and secondary latches, pushers, limited travel hinges, electric and manual custom lifts, and various sizes of spring-deployed cup trays. The company is ISO 9001:2008 certified.

Saint Louis Designs

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