

IN THE EVENT OF AN INCIDENT

Rescue stairs help on board of an aircraft

A medical emergency, smoke in the cabin, or an evacuation - in the event of an incident on board an aircraft, action must be taken quickly. Rosenbauer has improved its rescue stairs for this purpose. A CAN system helps.



*When it comes to operations on or around the runway, time is of the essence
(Source: Rosenbauer)*

The company developed the Aircraft Interior Access Vehicle, better known as rescue stairs in order to be able to come to the aid of passengers and crew in the event of an emergency. The vehicles have been designed to arrive on the scene of the emergency quickly and dock with the aircraft equally fast, explained the company. This is not only to enable evacuations in a controlled manner, but also to allow firefighting and rescue teams access.

The E5000 and E8000 rescue stairs have already proven to be vehicles that are equipped for such scenarios, said the company. The crew can select the respective type of aircraft, in order to automatically extend the rescue platform to the correct height. The approach to the aircraft is supported by aids, such as distance sensors, camera imaging, and an overhead window, to ensure the view in every scenario. The platform can be adjusted to match the

aircraft fuselage, and the side rails can be manually docked onto it. This makes alignment easier and ensures gap-free and secure access, explained the company.

Due to technology, the platform and steps are held in a horizontal position regardless of the incline of the staircase. This means that both evacuations and access by rescue teams can be undertaken.

Operation

The operating concept of the rescue stairs has been revised and the latest lighting technology integrated. The crew is now given a 10-inch touchscreen display, both in the driver's cab and on the rescue platform, through which the rescue stairs can be controlled. With the RBC LCS (logic control system) operating system from Rosenbauer, the rescue stairs fit into the company's product family. The operating system is based on CAN technology. This enables all extinguishing systems, electronic body components, and fire-fighting equipment, such as the generators or power generators installed in the vehicle, to be controlled and the operating states to be read out.

The fitting of the operating system enables crew members to switch between the different vehicle types. The control panel in the driver's cab is also mounted on a swivel arm that can be rotated to either the driver's or passenger's side. Not only the operation has been overhauled, but the CAN system has also been implemented on new, future-proof control units, explained the company. With these modules, it was possible to simplify the control architecture and reduce complex dependencies – true to the motto "less is more", they added.

Optics and lighting

Also, the scene and staircase lighting systems have been improved. Instead of the previous LED spotlights, the latest LED light strip technology is now used, which ensures more homogeneous and improved illumination of the steps and the surrounding area. This further increases the safety of passengers and emergency crews, especially when operating in the dark. The rescue stair's rear has also been given a facelift: the lighting has been adapted to the appearance of the rest of the fleet, and thus fits into the vehicle range.

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