



Stanisław Kutnik



## New Aircraft Passenger Stairs with drive from WCBKT S.A.

WCBKT S.A. for over 50 years has been providing airport ground handling equipment (AGHE) developed and manufactured in the company. At the moment, it is the only Polish manufacturer that can comprehensively service Polish airports, starting from AGHE systems, through hangar and airport equipment, and ending with fully equipped modern technological lines for cargo terminals.



**A**GHE systems and hangar-airport equipment produced by WCBKT S.A. meet all required quality and safety standards and standing certificates.

The offered standard products, as well as products made for individual customer orders, as part of hangar and airport equipment, are:

- » airport passenger stairs – for passenger traffic, built on a steel frame, protected against corrosion and with increased strength;
- » service platforms – for maintenance and repair works;
- » luggage trolleys – for transporting luggage, made of materials in accordance with the customer's requirements, equipped with rolled tarpaulins or a tarpaulin stretched to the sides, protecting the load surface against weather conditions;

Aircraft passenger stairs with drive.



**LSP3 VIP passenger stairs serving planes of the Chancellery of the President, the Senate and the Sejm (lower chamber of Polish Parliament).**



- » trailers and racks for pallets and containers – for transporting cargo and securing it in air transport;
- » technological lines for cargo terminals – for efficient handling of cargo in transport, including, among others, mobile racks for



**MAU service platform at a Boeing 737-800 passenger aircraft.**



Chopin Airport at Wirażowa Street 35 in Warsaw and in the Warsaw sorting plant of Poczta Polska at Łączyny Street 8, where part of the cargo delivered from foreign airports by land is transported.

Stairs manufactured by WCBKT S.A. for handling passenger traffic is used by the handling company LS Airport Services S.A.

MAU service platforms are used by LOTAMS Aircraft Maintenance Services.

LSP3 VIP passenger stairs dedicated to Boeing 737-800 government aircraft and MAU service platform manufactured at WCBKT S.A. are used by the 1st Transport Aviation Base (1. BLTr) in Warsaw.

WCBKT S.A. supplies, develops and manufactures aircraft ground support equipment (AGHE). The company also specializes in the development and delivery of comprehensive hangar and airport equipment for both the military and civilian markets in Poland and abroad.

Power supply units manufactured by WCBKT S.A. were used, among others, to secure the service of the Air Force One aircraft during the US President's visit to Poland and the Antonov An-124 Ruslan and An-225 Mrija heavy transport aircraft.

Hangar and airport equipment is more and more often used at Polish civil airports. It is, for example, equipment for cargo terminals, racks and trailers for pallets and containers, luggage trolleys, as well as passenger stairs and service platforms dedicated specifically for government aircraft and Airbus 320 and Boeing 737-800 passenger aircraft.

Since 2014, the company operates within the aviation domain of Polska Grupa Zbrojeniowa (PGZ), one of the largest defense companies in Europe. PGZ brings together over 50 companies that are the most important for the Polish defense industry, producing innovative systems and solutions used by the Polish Armed Forces and allied formations.

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*Illustrations in the article: Michał Wajnochold, WCBKT S.A.*

transporting pallets and aviation containers, scissor lifts with a load capacity of 7000-8000 kg with service channels recessed in the floor, scales with a lifting capacity of max. 8000 kg, cargo racks with Colson wheelsets, fenders of cargo racks, cable winches, and other systems according to customer needs.

The company owes its current position on the market and the recognition of handling companies primarily to the quality of the products offered and the services provided. This quality is confirmed by acquired and updated qualification certificates.

The recent COVID-19 pandemic has caused major disruptions in many areas of the economy, including airline companies in the area of handling of passenger flights. As a result, there were large personnel shortages to ensure full passenger service. Based on close cooperation with handling companies, the company designed and built passenger stairs with a drive that allow them to be freely maneuvered within the aircraft's positioning area without the use of airport tractors. The stairs made allow for operation by one operator, and not as before by three or even four people, which is very important due to staff shortages after the pandemic.

The operator's console located on the stair drawbar and the operator's panel on the stair cabinet are used to operate the stairs. All functions performed while maneuvering the stairs are performed using the operator's console, while parking activities are performed using the operator's panel. Another novelty is the use of LiFePO<sub>4</sub> lithium-ion batteries with a capacity of 350 Ah, which have much better parameters than traditional batteries, as well

as the use of a clutch that disconnects the hydraulic motor from the wheel and allows for free transport of the stairs without damaging the hydraulic motor.

The currently manufactured stairs have been handed over for testing to the handling company Welcome Airport Services Sp. z o.o. Kraków division, and previously participated in the tests of LS Airport Services Katowice division in Pyrzowice.

Observing the dynamically changing market of the aviation industry, WCBKT S.A. monitors the constantly growing and evolving needs of investors, focuses on improving the quality of the equipment produced, deals with the improvement of existing solutions, and also systematically introduces new products, thus increasing its share in the aviation sector.

Handling companies operating on the Polish aviation market appreciate the high quality of WCBKT S.A. products, their quality and capabilities to adapt to the individual needs and expectations of the customer, as evidenced by the numerous orders completed in recent years.

Among the projects implemented by WCBKT S.A. can be mentioned, among others, a modern roller system for the transport of air pallets, which was placed in the new Cargo 2 terminal in Warsaw and retrofitting with trailers and mobile racks for the transport of air pallets and containers at the cargo terminal in Szczecin in cooperation with the WAIMEA GROUP company. Both investments were intended for the handling agent of the Welcome AS Company.

Modern cargo technological lines have also been implemented in the new headquarters of the Air Cargo Exchange Department of Poczta Polska, which is located in the cargo zone of