Nobius 3.0: An Upgraded Experience for Open-Plan Workspaces

With the increasing adoption of the Activity-Based Working (ABW) model, open-plan offices have become the mainstream design in modern workplaces. However, the accompanying noise issues have a significant impact on employees' physical and mental well-being. Research shows that most open-plan office areas have noise levels ranging between 50-55dB, with high-traffic zones reaching peaks of nearly 70dB. This high-decibel environment is particularly detrimental to employees who require deep concentration. It affects focus, causes fatigue and stress, and leads to emotional fluctuations — all of which undermine work experience and overall organizational productivity.

Studies also indicate that sensitivity to noise varies across industries, roles, and office zones. For instance, professionals in high-tech and financial sectors place a premium on quiet environments, with noise sensitivity rates reaching 75% and 63%, respectively. These roles—such as R&D and finance—require prolonged periods of intense focus, making them especially vulnerable to background noise disturbances.

In addition, different office zones demand different acoustic standards. Meeting rooms and focus areas require superior sound insulation for privacy and reduced distractions, while collaboration zones can tolerate lower acoustic isolation to encourage interaction. Flexible acoustic solutions are therefore essential to meet diverse workspace needs and enhance overall efficiency.

Beyond noise control, the overall work experience is deeply influenced by the human-centric design of the space. At the heart of user-centric design is a focus on employees' physical and mental health. An ideal office should offer both comfort and flexibility. According to WELL Building Standards, at least 25% of workstations should feature height-adjustable desks, allowing employees to alternate between sitting and standing. This promotes better physical health and focus. WELL standards also advocate for adjustable lighting systems to reduce eye strain and increase comfort. Furthermore, adequate privacy and visual separation in open spaces help reduce distractions, allowing employees to concentrate better and experience greater job satisfaction and happiness. A layout that combines flexibility with thoughtful design not only meets health-oriented building standards but also improves productivity and work experience.

In response to the growing demands of open-plan offices, Novah has upgraded the Nobius acoustic pod series to deliver enhanced performance and a more human-centric design, redefining the modern workspace experience.

1. Comprehensive Soundproofing Performance

Nobius 2.0 acoustic pods provided a Class B rating (ISO 23351-1, sound insulation index of 25.5dB), effectively eliminating 80–90% of ambient noise in open offices and addressing basic noise control needs. However, with rising expectations for acoustic privacy, Nobius 3.0 steps up with a Class A rating (ISO 23351-1, sound insulation index of 30dB), effectively blocking

over 95% of workplace noise. This enhanced acoustic performance provides a significantly quieter environment, ideal for focus-intensive tasks.

2. Exceptional Lighting Experience

Nobius 3.0 features a signature arched skylight, blending human-centric design with modern aesthetics. This transparent skylight introduces natural light into the pod, eliminating the sense of enclosure and enhancing interior brightness and openness. Natural light is widely recognized as the best source of illumination for its benefits on circadian rhythms and mental health. Research from the U.S. shows that workplaces with ample natural light reduce eye strain by up to 51%, and also help lower the incidence of headaches. Additionally, a Cornell University study found that natural light can reduce stress levels by about 10%.

By improving brightness and psychological well-being, the skylight enhances users' concentration. According to the *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, openness in spatial design increases focus by 15% and reduces error rates by 20%. Combined with adjustable artificial lighting and ventilation, Nobius 3.0 delivers consistent, optimal illumination throughout the day.

3. Human-Centered Interior Design

The Nobius 3.0 interior is designed with health and comfort as top priorities. The upholstered wall panels adopt a modular and detachable structure, with height-adjustable support slots for sit/stand desks, allowing users to customize the space for different postures and working styles. Ergonomic sofas contour to the human body, easing discomfort from prolonged use. The pod is equipped with magnetic soft-close handles for smooth access and concealed wheels at the base for easy relocation, supporting flexible workspace planning.

4. Smart Occupancy & Space Efficiency

A motion-sensing occupancy light automatically turns on when the pod is in use and switches off shortly after the user leaves. This intelligent system makes pod availability clearly visible to surrounding colleagues, reducing interruptions and maximizing usage efficiency. Research shows that occupancy indicators can help save an average of 58.5 minutes of employee time per pod per day, significantly enhancing workplace efficiency.

5. Energy-Efficient & Eco-Conscious Design

The transparent skylight allows 70–90% of natural daylight to enter the pod, reducing reliance on artificial lighting—especially during daytime hours. This design cuts lighting usage by 2–4 hours daily per unit, resulting in 20–30% annual energy savings, or about 30–60 kWh per pod per year.

Manufactured in China, Nobius 3.0 upholds eco-conscious principles throughout its lifecycle. Approximately 72% of materials used are sustainable or recyclable, including recycled

aluminum, eco-friendly acoustic panels, and high-durability fabrics. In alignment with ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) goals, the product uses reusable and recyclable packaging materials during production and transport, minimizing waste from disposable packaging.