LAX/Community Noise Roundtable

Aviation Noise News Update

March 14, 2018

Shuster Drops Push to Privatize Air Traffic Control Function

House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster announced that he is ending his effort to privatize the FAA's air traffic control function

- Although supported by President Trump, Shuster recognized he did not have enough votes to get the proposed legislation through the House

- In addition, Shuster's proposal was opposed by the Senate, which had support for a long-term FAA reauthorization bill that did not include the ATC privatization provision

- Shuster said, "Although our air traffic control reform provisions did not reach the obvious level of support needed to pass Congress, I intend to work with Senator [John] Thune [R-S.D.] and move forward with a reauthorization bill to provide long-term stability for the FAA."

- The Aircraft Owners and Pilot Association and National Business Aviation Association had lobbied heavily against Shuster's proposal

(http://thehill.com/policy/transportation/375931-shuster-drops-push-to-privatize-air-traffic-control)

FAA Proposes Moving Night Flights Away from Lake Arrowhead Community

At a meeting hosted by the Lake Arrowhead Municipal Advisory Council, FAA Regional Administrator Dennis Roberts announced proposed flight paths to move nighttime noise away from the Lake Arrowhead community

- On April 27, 2017, a new nighttime flight path for aircraft arriving at Ontario International Airport, which places aircraft directly over the Lake Arrowhead community, was implemented as part of the Southern California Metroplex project

- Roberts indicated that air traffic controllers will have to manually implement the proposed route as it could take up to two years for the FAA to implement a new procedure, which is must undergo environmental review

- Roberts said, “The administration is doing everything we can to provide you short-term relief as much as possible. We continue to look at options and alternatives that we might be able to do.”

(http://www.aviationpros.com/news/12394047/faa-proposes-moving-night-flights-away-from-lake-arrowhead-community)

Boeing to Sell Flying Taxis in the Next Decade

Boeing made progress toward this goal last year with the purchase of Aurora Flight Sciences, which is developing a flying taxi for Uber Technologies Inc.

- With respect to the timing of flying taxis, Boeing CEO Dennis Muilenburg said, “I think it will happen faster than any of us understand. Real prototype vehicles are being built right now. So the technology is very doable.”
- A study by Deloitte concluded that two to five seat electric passenger drones could be on the market within the next two years
- However, certifying passenger-carrying drones and approving their autonomous flight capability could take the Federal Aviation Administration several years as no standards for this technology currently exist

Image Credit: Aurora Flight Sciences

(http://www.chicagotribune.com/business/ct-biz-boeing-flying-taxis-20180305-story.html)

Airlines Achieve Record Passenger Levels in 2017

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) reported that the worldwide average aircraft load factor in 2017 was 81.4 percent; an increase of .9 percent over 2016 levels

- In 2017, the demand for air travel grew by 7.6 percent worldwide, while North American air travel grew at a more modest rate of 4 percent
- IATA noted that the US airlines load factor during the first ten months of 2017 was 82.54 percent with load factors on domestic flights at 84.54 percent and 80.82 percent for international flights
- A healthy economy and low ticket prices drove air travel in 2017, but increasing fuel costs may result in lower levels of travel in 2018
- Alexandre de Juniac, chief executive officer of IATA, said “While the underlying economic outlook remains supportive in 2018, rising cost inputs, most notably fuel, suggest we are unlikely to see the same degree of demand stimulation from lower fares that occurred in the first part of 2017."

(https://www.usatoday.com/story/travel/flights/todayinthesky/2018/02/01/airlines-set-record-filling-seats-planes-2017/1087532001/)

Battery-Powered Regional Aircraft to Fly in 2019

Eviation Aircraft has selected Kokam to provide lithium polymer batteries to power its full-scale nine-passenger electric aircraft, named Alice, in 2019

- The Kokam batteries are expected to provide Alice with a 650 nautical mile (nm) range at a cruise speed of 240 knots and an altitude of 10,000 feet
- Eviation CEO Omer Bar-Yohay said, “We are claiming 1,000-km range [540-nm] so as not to overpromise, and the Alice will have that range from the get-go.”
- Alice is being designed to replace piston- and turboprop-powered aircraft such as the Cessna 402, Beechcraft King Air, and Pilatus PC-12 on routes less than 500 nm
- Electric aircraft are expected to be quieter than the piston, turboprop, and turbofan-powered aircraft they replace and will have zero emissions

Image Credit: Eviation Aircraft

(http://aviationweek.com/future-aerospace/batteries-ready-power-electric-regional-aircraft-says-eviation?NL=AW-05&Issue=AW-05_20180306_AW-05_444&sfvc4enews=42&cl=article_2&utm_rid=CPEN1000001683118&utm_campaign=13917&utm_medium=email&elq2=311588525b934af0a412f5874eb21f59)