



LAX Community Noise Roundtable

Aviation Noise News Update

January 14, 2015

NASA Tests Software That May Help Increase Flight Efficiency, Decrease Aircraft Noise



- **NASA announced in a mid-December press release that its researchers “. . .began flight tests of computer software that shows promise in improving flight efficiency and reducing environmental impacts of aircraft, especially on communities around airports.”**
- **The Airborne Spacing for Terminal Arrival Routes (ASTAR) software will give pilots specific speed information and route guidance to permit more precise aircraft spacing**
- **NASA said, “This type of approach would minimize flight path deviations, allow more efficient use of existing airspace and possibly reduce noise over communities surrounding airports – all of which could lead to reductions in commercial flight delays.”**



Airbus Eyes New Engines, Stretch for A380

- Airbus' CFO, Harald Wilhelm, commented on the possible end of the A380 production at a Global Investor Forum in London
- Airbus' CEO, Fabrice Bregier, quickly sought to allay concerns by indicating that future improvements to the A380 will ensure the aircraft remains in production for years to come
- Bregier said, "Yes, we will one day launch an A380neo. And I will tell you a secret—we will one day launch a stretch of the A380."
- Even though Airbus had no new orders for the A380 in 2014, with 175 aircraft currently on order, it will take six years for Airbus to fill those orders at its current production rate of 31 aircraft per year



(Photo Credit: Airbus)

Airlines/Airport Groups Lobby for FAA Reauthorization Bill



- **The current FAA Funding bill, which among other things, provides funding for noise compatibility projects such as sound insulation programs, FAR Part 150 studies, and aircraft noise control research as well as the NextGen program is set to expire on September 30, 2015**
- **Industry Groups such as the Airports Council International – North America (ACI-NA), the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE), and Airlines For America (A4A) have begun lobbying the new congress for a new multi-year funding bill**
- **The industry groups believe the Republican controlled congress will not be an impediment for passage of a new bill**
- **The airlines are interested in the implementation of NextGen system capabilities and oppose an increase in the Passenger Facility Charge (PFC)**
- **The airport representatives are interested in an increase in the PFC so that they can begin to tackle the issue of aging airport infrastructure**



Uber Expands Into Helicopters

- The car service company Uber expanded its per-seat helicopter ride sharing services to Los Angeles, Melbourne, and Cape Town
- Uber broke into the helicopter ride sharing market in 2013 partnering with Blade and Liberty Helicopter service in New York
- The New York service has continued with Uber customers paying about \$500 per seat for a ride from New York City to the Hampton's
- Over Labor Day, Uber teamed with Orbic Air, out of Bob Hope Airport, to offer air tours of Los Angeles and Malibu
- The Malibu flights included options for a “unique safari tour of the Malibu Wines property featuring a wine and cheese tasting, safari ride and the opportunity to feed safari animals.”



(Photo Credit: Orbic Air)

LAX Sets Record for Passenger Volume in 2014



- **LAX handled approximately 70.7 million passengers in 2014 exceeding the previous record of 67.3 million passengers set in 2000**
- **The terrorists attacks of 9/11 and the recession impacted LAX's passenger traffic in the early and late 2000s**
 - **The number of passengers dropped roughly 18% to about 55 million by 2003**
 - **After an upturn in passengers, the economic downturn reduced the volume to 56.5 million in 2009**
- **Annual aircraft operations at LAX declined by approximately 200,000 from 2000 to 2014 as the average aircraft size is much larger now**
 - **That is, the airlines at LAX are carrying more people using fewer aircraft**

Sustained Low Oil Prices; Uneven Effects On Aviation



Independent market analyst Brian Foley indicates that if it is sustained, the aviation industry may be affected by the recent 50 percent drop in oil prices

- **Some of the possible effects may include:**
 - **Airlines delaying the purchase of new-fuel efficient aircraft, which could negatively impact aircraft manufacturers,**
 - **Creating opportunities for new entrants that might use older aircraft to start their operations, which could increase competition,**
 - **An increase in general aviation aircraft sales and flying, and**
 - **A reduction or elimination of fuel surcharges levied by cargo carriers.**
- **Boeing's CEO noted that oil must remain below \$70 per barrel for a sustained period to threaten Boeing's aircraft orders**
- **Oil dropped below \$70 per barrel late last year and at \$45 per barrel is now trending well below it**



'Climb Via' Clearances Continue To Confuse Pilots

Use of the phrase “climb via” a particular departure route is a critical part of implementing NextGen departure procedures

- **The new phraseology was implemented “to emphasize the need to look at the arrival or departure plate to comply with vertical, lateral and speed restrictions”**
- **When used properly, the use of the phrase “climb via” is intended to reduce pilot/controller radio communications and save time**
- **However, the National Business Aviation Association (NBAA) estimates that there is only a 10 to 20 percent compliance rate due to the manner in which air traffic controllers issue the clearance and the way pilots respond to the clearance**
- **As a result of the NBAA’s input, the FAA has agreed to restructure the way controllers issue, receive, and confirm “climb via” clearances**

Airliners Lift U.S. Aerospace Industry to \$228B in Sales



The US aircraft manufacturers shipped 725 transport-category aircraft in 2014 compared to 648 the previous year

- **This is the sixth consecutive year that aircraft sales have increased**
- **Orders from foreign countries represent 72 percent of the aircraft backlog**
- **In order to meet the demand, “Boeing plans to increase the capacity and production rate at its 737 plant in Renton, Wash[ington] . . .from 42 airplanes per month to 47 in 2017”**



(Image: Boeing)