LAX Community Noise Roundtable

Work Program Item A12

Noise Exposure From A320 Family of Aircraft

November 10, 2015
Researchers in Europe have identified a high-pitched noise from the older A320 family of aircraft as the aircraft descends for landing, caused by air flowing across open cavities under the wing.

The noise can be heard several miles from the runway before the deployment of landing gear.

Researchers have developed a simple solution called the Vortex Generator that solves this particular problem.

The Vortex Generator is a small metal device placed in front of the open cavities that changes the air flow and reduces the noise by 2 to 6 dB.
BACKGROUND

• Airbus is already placing vortex generators on newly manufactured A320 aircraft

• Lufthansa and Air France are retrofitting their existing aircraft that operate in Europe

• According to the USDOT’s Bureau of Transportation Statistics Air Carrier Financial: Schedule B-43 Inventory there were 937 A320 family aircraft in the U.S. fleet in 2014

• August 2014 statistics indicate that approximately 17% of the total arrivals at LAX are comprised of A320 family aircraft
STATUS UPDATE

• LAWA reached out to the Chicago O’Hare Noise Compatibility Commission to find out more about their efforts to encourage airlines (American and United) to install vortex generators on their fleets

• LAWA reached out to the SFO aircraft noise abatement office, Airbus, and Lufthansa to find out more about the cost of installing vortex generators

• LAWA is collecting more information about the vortex generator prior to approaching the airlines operating at LAX about this noise issue
STATUS UPDATE

• LAWA is researching several A320 Vortex Generator Retrofit Strategies to determine feasibility and effectiveness including:
  – Obtaining Congressional funding support
  – Offering reduced landing fees
  – Partnering with an airline willing to serve in a champion role
  – Partnering with another airport and focusing on one or two carriers

• More information to come at a future briefing
Questions?