

AEROMEXICO LAUNCHES NEXT PHASE OF ADVANCED AIRCRAFT TOW OPERATIONS

For several years, Aeromexico has managed aircraft tow operations for their hub at Mexico City International Airport on PASSUR ARiVA software. This collaborative workflow management solution allows the airline to create a daily tow schedule for advance planning, then manage each individual aircraft tow through each step of its operational milestones. The Tow Manager solution has been a core contributing factor in Aeromexico’s status as a global On Time Performance leader.

In summer 2024, Aeromexico launched the next phase of its advanced aircraft tow operations at Mexico City International Airport. Aeromexico ground crews have now been certified on all the airline’s aircraft types and variants to activate the aircraft transponder during all aircraft tows. Transponders are now mandated “on” for all tow operations.

This new Standard Operating Procedure ensures that all aircraft tows are visible in real time on the PASSUR ARiVA visualization platform. Every single aircraft tow in the complex, congested Mexico City Airport operation is managed on ARiVA, with multiple stakeholders collaborating in real time – including Mexico air traffic controllers (SENEAM) and the airport operator (AICM) – enabling each to perform their role in the airfield operation without the need for repetitive radio communications, phone calls, texts or emails.

Through the day, aircraft can be added to the tow list (or removed) as needed. Tow operators manage tow operation “milestones” on their wireless mobile devices tablets from the cockpit by activating a sequence of “aircraft states” through a simple “electronic flight strip” interface – including creating a distinct “Tow ID;” indicating the start and end point of the tow; tracking the maintenance, tow team, and ATC tower components of the tow; and then tracking the actual tow status in real time. Once completed, airline operators can then use the ARiVA software to transfer the flight into a Departure Manager (DMAN) stat for further departure sequencing.

"PASSUR is an important contributor to Aeromexico's award of #1 On Time Performing Airline in the world. Our optimized aircraft tow operation, managed by Aeromexico's skilled ground operations team on the PASSUR ARiVA platform, is an essential component of that outstanding achievement – part of a larger integration of the ARiVA platform into Aeromexico's operations. We are very pleased with the Aeromexico-PASSUR partnership."

Juan Carlos Almanza, Director of Mexico City International Airport Operations/Underwing for Aeromexico.

The Mexico City tow program is an adaptation of standard ARiVA capabilities, with collaborative input by the Aeromexico team. It ensures that tows are executed at exactly the right time, avoiding disruption of active flights, and supporting the most efficient delivery of the airline’s schedule.

At a large, complex, high-demand airport like Mexico City International, with a lot of physical constraints, aircraft tows are essential for freeing up gates and repositioning aircraft. The tow operation is a key component of

the airline’s on-time and turn-time performance – and of its commitment to fuel conservation and reduced carbon emissions.

Recently, Aeromexico was named “the most on-time airline in the world”¹. The Aeromexico tow operation, managed on the PASSUR ARiVA platform, is an essential component of that outstanding achievement. Aircraft tows are just one part of Aeromexico operation powered by ARiVA, which is also used to support gate optimization, taxi time optimization, and network integrity.

The successful implementation of the latest phase of the Aeromexico Tow Operation builds on the multi-year partnership between Aeromexico and PASSUR. Both organizations are proud to collaborate on this innovative pairing of operational excellence and technology leadership.

¹. Cirium Aviation Analytics, 2024



Below: one of the many highly configurable ARiVA layouts Aeromexico hub operations teams use to optimize airfield operations at Mexico City International Airport: left-side of the screen, a summary of all scheduled tows for the day (arr./dep.); center and right, live maps of the near-in airfield and ramps; bottom, dynamic interface to manage and track real-time tows through each operational milestone.

