

What's Up

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Industry

Key Congressional leaders have suggested that renunciation of the U.S.-U.K. bilateral might accelerate resolution of the “intolerable present situation.” Last month’s “breakdown” in talks between the two sides has prompted a bipartisan call for action, including sanctions against the U.K. Other less severe measures suggested by House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bud Shuster (R-Pa.) and ranking minority member Jim Oberstar (D-Minn.) include: revocation of slots and exemptions at slot-controlled U.S. airports held by U.K. carriers; prohibition of flights by the Concorde, which currently enjoys exemption from noise restrictions, to the U.S.; and the elimination of exemptions or permits under the bilateral to prohibit flights by British carriers to the U.S. In a briefing Shuster said, “We hope it doesn’t come to that [renunciation].” The Transportation Committee will hold hearings on February 15 about the U.S.-U.K. issue.

(Aviation Daily, Feb. 4)

After the breakdown of official talks in London, aviation representatives from the U.S. and U.K. continued informal discussions into the weekend. Among the issues at stake are the resumption of Pittsburgh-London service and a “mini-deal” to expand transatlantic services at London Heathrow and Gatwick airports. Meanwhile, Federal Express has let the U.K. know that it intends to discontinue service at Prestwick, Scotland, because of inaction by the British government on allowing it fifth-freedom rights from Prestwick and London Stansted.

(Aviation Daily, Feb. 1)

ATR, the French-Italian consortium that manufactures turboprop aircraft, remains confident about the future market for its planes despite the strong demand for regional jets. The group expects to sell 60 to 70 aircraft per year over the next decade and hopes to capture half of the worldwide market share. ATR has sold two-thirds of this year’s production capacity, and last year received 30 orders for its ATR 42-500 and ATR 72-500 aircraft. It has also remarketed 52 second-hand planes.

(Aviation Daily, Jan. 31)

Aviation Weather Information (AWIN), a new on-board avionics application that provides real-time graphic aviation weather information to pilots, made a successful debut on a FedEx MD-11 revenue flight. Developed under an agreement with the NASA Aviation Safety program to provide more and better weather information to pilots along national and northern and western Pacific routes, AWIN provides color weather graphics and integrates textual meteorological reports, aircraft present position, and flight plan information into a single workstation. A consortium led by Boeing Phantom Works in Long Beach, Calif., and NASA Langley Research Center designed the system.

(Aviation Daily, Jan. 27)

The Business Travel Coalition complained in a recent letter to DOT Secretary Rodney Slater that the \$10-per-segment fuel charge announced by airlines last week is an “outright abuse of market power.” BTC Chairman Kevin Mitchell said, “In what other industry can a supplier increase a buyer’s prices by \$3 million without even a single phone call, a meeting, negotiations . . . Airlines malign customers in this imperious manner simply because they can.”

(Aviation Daily, Jan. 26)

American

The carrier announced that it will begin daily nonstop flights between Chicago O’Hare and Rome’s Fiumicino Airport, and shift the Chicago-Zurich service to Dallas/Fort Worth on June 1. American plans to add a second daily nonstop between New York JFK and Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport on May 1. “All of these services will give our customers greater flexibility and more reasons to fly American to Europe,” said Mike Gunn, executive vice president-marketing and planning.

(PRNewswire, Feb. 1)

American and Cathay Pacific agreed on a code-share plan that they want to implement in two steps this summer if they receive government approval. Under the plan American would place its “AA” designator on Cathay Pacific’s flights between the U.S. and Hong Kong and intra-Asian service into and out of Hong Kong. Cathay would place its “CX” code on American and American Eagle’s domestic flights beyond Cathay’s U.S. gateway cities, as well as flights between the U.S. and several Latin American destinations.

(Aviation Daily, Jan. 26)

American Eagle

The regional affiliate of American Airlines plans to introduce new regional jet service to the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport. Beginning February 21, the carrier will operate four daily roundtrips between DFW and Milwaukee, and two daily roundtrips between DFW and Cedar Rapids, Iowa. On March 2 American Eagle will launch two daily roundtrips between DFW and Fort Wayne, Ind. The carrier will operate all the flights with 50-seat Embraer ERJ-145 aircraft.

(PRNewswire, Feb. 4)

American Eagle will institute nonstop service between Chicago O’Hare and Chattanooga, Tenn. on April 3. The carrier will operate three daily roundtrips (two on Saturday) using Embraer ERJ-145 aircraft. The DOT had allocated five O’Hare slots held by Trans State Airlines to Eagle when the former announced plans to exit, effective February 8.

(Aviation Daily, Feb. 2)

American Eagle has taken the first step in what will be quickly expanding regional jet service at Boston Logan Airport. The carrier began new service to Columbus, Ohio with three daily roundtrips, and replaced four of 14 daily turboprop flights to Philadelphia with jets. Both routes will be flown with new 37-seat Embraer ERJ-135 jets. “This new jet service from Boston Logan marks the beginning of our expansion in the Northeast, particularly in Boston, thanks to our acquisition of Business Express Airlines,” said American Eagle President Peter M. Bowler.

(PRNewswire, Jan. 24)

Atlantic Coast Jet

The regional jet carrier, planning to operate primarily in the Northeast in April as the Delta Connection under a 10-year fee-per-departure arrangement, received tentative DOT certificate authority. The carrier is owned by AC Holdings, proprietor of Atlantic Coast Airlines, which has on order aircraft for ACJet's use, including 25 Dornier 328JETS. Delivery of those jets is scheduled to begin in March.

(Aviation Daily, Feb. 1)

Atlantic Southeast

The Delta Connection carrier, a wholly owned subsidiary of Delta Air Lines, will inaugurate regional jet service between Columbia, S.C. and Dallas/Fort Worth on May 1. ASA will operate three daily roundtrips, using the 50-passenger Canadair Regional Jet. Also on May 1, ASA will use the CRJ to operate three daily roundtrips between DFW and Lubbock, Texas.

(PRNewswire, Feb. 3)

Delta

The airline and Air France announced that they will offer daily, nonstop code-share service from Paris to both Lisbon and Porto, Portugal. The service, scheduled to begin March 1, will be provided by Air France-operated aircraft from the Charles de Gaulle International Airport in Paris.

(PRNewswire, Feb. 1)

Delta and AeroMexico want approval to code-share in the Chicago-Mexico City and Los Angeles-Guaymas, Mexico markets. The plan is to have AeroMexico fly twice-weekly nonstops on the Chicago-Mexico City route in B-757-200 aircraft starting March 3, and for Aero Mexico to begin two flights a week between Guaymas and Los Angeles on April 20 using MD-82 aircraft.

(Aviation Daily, Jan. 26)

Delta plans to start its first nonstop service between Atlanta and Rio de Janeiro on June 1. Delta will operate three flights a week using the B-767-300ER aircraft.

(PRNewswire, Jan. 20)

Frontier

The more than 320 flight attendants at Frontier will find out in March whether the Association of Flight Attendants, AFL-CIO, will represent them. Ballots for the election to determine whether the AFA will be the bargaining representative will be mailed on March 3 and counted on March 31.

(PRNewswire, Feb. 4)

Horizon

The carrier has become the first authorized by the FAA to take off and land when local ground-based navigational aids do not work. Horizon received the authority because of a sophisticated dual flight management system installed in its Dash 8 Q200s, including an on-board Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver and an on-board inertial reference system. Ken Heninger, Horizon's director of flight operations, said, "Now, because of Horizon's pilot training, equipment and the FAA certification, we can operate to and from airports when navigational aids are temporarily down using our own equipment." FAA approval will phase in over a 60-day operating period while Horizon Air crews will be acquiring experience with the new procedures.

(Business Wire, Jan. 27)

Legend

The Dallas-based startup plans to launch service from Love Field in Dallas on February 29. On that date it will operate five daily roundtrips to Los Angeles and four daily roundtrips to Washington Dulles. On March 9, Legend will begin one daily roundtrip to Las Vegas. Although American and the City of Fort Worth continually tried to block the service, and Texas District Judge Bob McCoy of Fort Worth has ruled that such service would violate the Wright Amendment and city bond covenants, the DOT says it will intervene in any efforts to block Legend's startup.

(Aviation Daily, Jan. 27)

Mesa Air

Mesa has contracted with Embraer to acquire 36 ERJ-145 regional jets, which can seat 50 passengers. Deliveries are scheduled to begin in the first quarter of this year and continue through 2002. Mesa also has options for 64 more aircraft with the right to convert deliveries into 37-seat ERJ-135s. The company operates as US Airways Express in the East and Midwest, America West Express in the Southwest, and independently as Mesa Airlines in Colorado and New Mexico.

(PRNewswire, Jan. 27)

National

The carrier has begun to serve Miami as its eighth city since it began flying last May. Yesterday, National started offering two daily roundtrips between Miami and Las Vegas using B-757s.

(Aviation Daily, Jan. 27)

Pan Am

The airline will begin jet service to Bangor, Maine on March 1 in B-727-200 aircraft. The service will connect Bangor and Portsmouth, N.H., and Sanford/Orlando, Florida.

(Aviation Daily, Feb. 1)

Southwest

The carrier said that it will raise fares to cover rising fuel prices, but that the increase of \$2-\$4 each way depending on mileage will be less than the \$10 one-way and \$20 roundtrip surcharges that other major airlines have announced. Bestfares.com Editor Tom Parsons noted that "this move was necessary to keep [Southwest's] low fares in place while still maintaining a profit."

(Aviation Daily, Jan. 26)

Sun Country

The airline has asked the DOT for an exemption from high-density restrictions at New York JFK to enable it to offer a daily roundtrip to Minneapolis/St. Paul. Sun Country wants two slots for nonstop service to begin in May using B-727 aircraft configured for 170 seats.

(Aviation Daily, Feb. 3)



United

United and British Midlands asked the DOT for reciprocal U.S.-U.K. code-share authority, which would expand their present arrangement which has United code-sharing on British Midland flights between London and several U.K. and European points and between Birmingham and East Midlands and Brussels. The new plan, slated for a March 26 start, would have United's code on several additional U.K. and European points from London, Manchester, and East Midlands.

(Aviation Daily, Feb. 2)

Vanguard

This month will see the departure of William A. Garrett, Vice President of Finance and Chief Financial Officer, and Russell Winter, Vice President of Marketing and Planning. "Bill and Russell played a major role in helping Vanguard emerge from its start-up airline status. During their tenure the airline grew significantly and recently celebrated its fifth anniversary of service. The airline continues on its growth plan," said Robert J. Spane, President and Chief Executive Officer of Vanguard.

(PRNewswire, Feb. 4)
