



LAX Community Noise Roundtable

Work Program Item A12

Noise Exposure From A320 Family of Aircraft

November 10, 2015



BACKGROUND

- 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?