

Jane's Airport Review

IATA seeks to guide Mexico City project

Frits Njio, Miami

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) is to provide technical and operational support for design and construction of the New Mexico City International Airport, under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Mexican Ministry of Communications and Transportation.



Mexico City will continue to experience aviation capacity problems until its new international airport opens in 2020. (Foster + Partners)

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The MoU was also signed by the Mexican Directorate General of Civil Aeronautics (DGAC) and Grupo Aeroportuario de la Ciudad de Mexico (GACM), operator of both the existing and future airport.

"We will be working with the government and shareholders to ensure that the [new] airport meets the needs of airlines," Peter Cerda, IATA Americas regional vice-president, said on 7 June during the signing ceremony.

Gilberto Lopez Meyer, head of DGAC, said the MoU would "allow the Mexican government to understand and adopt global best practices in the design of large-scale hub airports".



IATA aims to ensure that the new airport for Mexico City "meets the needs of airlines", said Peter Cerda, IATA Americas regional vice-president. (IATA)

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Cerda noted that new infrastructure is urgently needed in the Mexican capital. "However, the new airport will not be operational before 2020 and the current Mexico City International Airport is almost at its capacity," he said.

The MoU includes a slot management study, to help the existing airport to provide maximum capacity. IATA will continue to work with local authorities to ensure slots are optimised and global best practices are implemented in accordance with the organisation's guidelines. "Whatever actions may be taken, capacity shortages won't be solved overnight," Cerda said. "It is necessary to manage scarce runway resources."

The New Mexico City International Airport is designed by Foster + Partners; local architecture practice FR-EE, led by Fernando Romero; and Netherlands Airport Consultants (NACO).

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