

September 9-10, 2025

CCH Congress Center, Hamburg, Germany

Tuesday 9th September, 2025
4:00PM – 4:40PM

Fleet dynamics and retirements

Content Summary:

This panel discussion focused on current fleet dynamics and retirement trends in the aviation industry, featuring perspectives from Air France-KLM, Crestone Air Partners and Magnetic Leasing.

The panelists highlighted a significant trend of airlines extending the life of older aircraft due to new-generation engine reliability issues, particularly with GTF and LEAP engines which are experiencing 3-4 times lower reliability than expected. This has created a capacity crunch in MRO facilities with insufficient shop visit slots available. Airlines are responding with three main strategies: acquiring additional engines (leased or used), performing shorter/cheaper shop visits rather than full overhauls, and optimizing green time by swapping engines between aircraft.

The secondary market for midlife and mature engines (particularly CFM56 and V2500) remains strong but appears to be plateauing in terms of pricing. The panel noted regional differences in retirement patterns - American airlines retiring aircraft primarily due to age while European carriers are driven by environmental constraints. USM availability varies significantly between narrow-body engines (where supply is good) and wide-body engines with fewer players. The consensus view was that aircraft retirements will continue to be delayed through the end of the decade due to delivery delays of new aircraft, ongoing engine reliability issues, and airlines' desire to maintain capacity.