Aerospace Big Data Barcelona

Next generation of MRO efficiency

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Barceló Sants Hotel

FlightGlobal

Borja Dosal Roiz

Avionics Lead Engineer, Engineering Fleet Management

Etihad Airways

SPEAKER SPOTLIGHT

60 Seconds with...

In the run up to the conference, we are conducting a series of interviews with some of our esteemed speakers to give our readership a taste of what to look forward to in their session as well as share some insights on predictive maintenance and what the future holds...
We put the spotlight on our airline speaker, Borja Dosal Roiz, Avionics Lead Engineer, Engineering Fleet Management at Etihad Airways

Please briefly introduce yourself and outline your role and areas of focus

My name is Borja, I am from south Spain and love watersports. I have worked for a few airlines in Spain and abroad before I moved to sunny Abu Dhabi in order to take care of the Avionics Engineering of Etihad Airways fleet.

My colleagues and I are responsible for evaluating or proposing modifications to the component and airframe manufacturer in order to make the aircraft safer and more reliable. As the aircraft is a complex machine, we divide the Engineering into groups and each one will concentrate in a different section, such as Engines, Structures, Interiors, etc. In our case, we focus on the avionics, which involves systems e.g. the Navigation, Communications, Electronics, etc.

In your view, what are some of the most exciting opportunities and benefits airlines are yet to unlock with predictive analytics and IoT in maintenance?

As an airline our priorities in the operation of the aircraft are safety, customer satisfaction and on-time departure. In order to ensure a good on-time departure we have to reduce the operational interruptions or delays to the minimum.

Delays can be produced by several reasons: Late arrival of connecting passengers, airport or air space congestion and technical issues. Predictive maintenance will allow airlines to reduce technical delays by predicting the failure of the component, hence commanding its removal before it fails on the aircraft.

What can delegates look forward to in your session?

In my session I will provide a firsthand overview of Etihad´s experience in terms of predictive maintenance in a funny and easy to understand language.

I will present real pictures taken during the system installation in our Etihad fleet followed by some real case studies, but I will stop here so I make sure you will attend my session to find out.

Moreover, I will be open for questions during my session and after it, so people are most welcome to come and ask.

In your opinion, what makes this event a 'must-attend' and what are you looking forward to at the conference?

On one side, Big Data and predictive maintenance is an emerging opportunity that we "the airlines" have to reduce the operational interruptions produced by technical issues.

Wouldn't you use a tool that will make the passenger happier and reduce the operational cost of your aircraft?

On the other side, as an airline I am always interested to know what other airlines and key players in the industry have to say. This event is the perfect platform to hear and share the good and bad experiences from the aviation industry.

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Any game-changers in the fore-seeable future?

Aside from Big Data, I see a huge potential in Radio Frequency ID and the use of drones in aviation.

The aircraft is composed of millions of different parts and sometimes it is difficult to identify them or extremely time consuming to do so. The use of Radio Frequency ID will save huge costs and improve maintenance.

Drones can be used to perform physical inspections on the aircraft structure and evaluate the aircraft fuselage damage. Sometimes, the access to certain parts of the aircraft require certain equipment or infrastructure that is not available in all airports or maintenance facilities. So, the utilization of drones for these tasks will reduce time and cost.