SOUTHWEST AIRLINES SIGNS MOU WITH ARCHER AVIATION TO DEVELOP OPERATIONAL CONCEPTS FOR AIR TAXI NETWORK

News / Airlines, Manufacturer

Southwest Airlines and Archer Aviation signed a MOU to develop operational plans for electric air taxi networks utilizing Archer eVTOL aircraft at California airports where Southwest operates. Southwest is the Golden State's largest air carrier, operating at 14 airports across the state. Archer Midnight aircraft is designed to transform urban travel, replacing 60-to-90-minute commutes by car with estimated 10-to-20-minute electric air taxi flights. The goal of Archer aircraft is to offer a safe, low-noise, cost-competitive transportation option with no direct emissions.

Southwest and Archer intend to collaborate on a concept of operations that lays the foundation for integrated electric air taxi networks that would support California airports and the surrounding communities that Southwest serves. This collaboration will include partnering with Southwest employees and respective unions, including SWAPA, to maintain and improve efficient operations. This is a key step toward potentially offering Southwest customers an airport transport service that saves time by streamlining the door-to-door passenger journey.

Paul Cullen, Vice President Real Estate at Southwest Airlines commented: "Southwest is eager to explore the convenience Archer's air taxis could provide Customers flying Southwest at airports in busy urban areas. We've proudly served as California's largest carrier for nearly 25 years, and

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integrating Archer’s electric aircraft into the travel journey potentially gives us an innovative opportunity to enhance the experience of flying Southwest. We look forward to collaborating with Archer as we assess future commercial activities in California and other Southwest locations.”

Dee Dee Myers, Senior Advisor to Governor Gavin Newsom and Director of the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development stated: "Archer's collaboration with Southwest to introduce air taxis in California showcases our state's dedication to climate innovation and advanced technology. This initiative is designed to help revolutionize clean transportation with zero-direct emission and affordable options, enhancing the passenger experience, and supporting California's climate action goals.”

Nikhil Goel, Chief Commercial Officer at Archer stated: “With Archer’s Midnight aircraft, passengers will be able to fly above traffic to get to the airport faster. By putting together Southwest’s impressive network of airports in California and their frequent intrastate flights with our planned network, Southwest customers could someday complete door-to-door trips like Santa Monica to Napa in less than three hours.”

Archer and Southwest plan to collaborate over the next few years as eVTOLs take flight. Combining Archer’s aircraft and planned urban air mobility network with Southwest flights could offer an enhanced experience for the first and last miles of the customer travel journey.

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