# STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT AND AIRLINE MANAGEMENT

MBA AVIATION AND TOURISM MANAGEMENT FRANKFURT UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

Georg Theis March 2022

### **COURSE OVERVIEW: MARCH 2022**

Monday, 14 MAR	Tuesday, 15 MAR
Geopolitical Disruptions from a Strategic Perspective & First Day of Presentations	Second Day of Presentations
Shortterm Impacts of Geopolitical Events	Pitch "BerlinAir" (0900-1030)
Dealing with Uncertainties from a Strategic Perspective	Pitch "Air Europa" (1100-1230)
Lunch	Lunch
Pitch "Wanderlust Air" (1330-1500)	Pitch "FlyU Airlines" (1330-1500)
Pitch "Elizajet Airline" (1530-1700)	Learnings

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## **SCHEDULE**

Pitch	Presenters	Date	Time
Wanderlust Air	Theresa Johnson Dennis Pietrzik	Monday, March 14th	13:30-15:00
Elizajet Airline	Elizabeth Agboola Zureidis Castillo	Monday, March 14th	15:30-17:00
Berlinair	Luisa Dröse Jan Höra Toni Jahn	Tuesday, March 15th	09:00-10:30
Air Europa	Bruno Barrera Harjinder Kaur Shiro Yanagibayashi	Tuesday, March 15th	11:00-12:30
FlyU Airlines	Simona Fritsch Asma Sirine Mario Tramer	Tuesday, March 15th	13:30-15:00

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## LEARNINGS

- 1. Principles
- 2. Jetblue
- 3. Maxjet
- 4. Norwegian
- 5. Breeze

#### 1.1. PRINCIPLES

- > The plural of aircraft is aircraft ©
- The Airline Industry is a mostly saturated business, niches are hard to find
- The Airline Industry is asset heavy and thankfully highly safety regulated, which also presents a barrier for new entrants
- With Network Planning, you can get a lot of things right, but also a lot of things wrong. Each long haul flight leg has 150-250 K in Revenues and Cost.
- Incumbents tend to fight back
- Technological Disruptions, Traffic Rights Changes, really bad incumbents, substantially lower labor costs, etc. could nonetheless pose new opportunities

#### 1.2. PRINCIPLES: REVENUES AND MARKET

- > Purchasing Factors are Price, Price, Price, Schedule, Frequent Flyer Program
- > Think in Origin & Destination Markets, not single flights
- > You probably will need differentiated cabin classes (C, PY, Y) to maximize revenues
- For Business Travellers, frequency is key
- Don't forget the challenges of distribution. Being relevant and known with 5-10 aircraft takes a lot of marketing effort, especially at the out-stations
- Beware of seasons, cyclical downturns, Chicago in February. Load factors and yields will be lower. Don't plan full year with your ideal standard week
- Seats are perishable goods. If you don't fill them on a specific flight, they are gone and you cannot recoup the lost revenue
- Food is overrated in Economy Class. Friendly Staff is much more important!
- In the end, airlines are exchangeable for the customer. Yield premiums will not save you if your costs are out of line

#### 1.3. PRINCIPLES: COSTS AND OPERATIONS

- > Scale is key in this business. New entrants have the challenge of reaching a sensible size quickly (while avoiding to grow to fast)
- Buying the wrong aircraft type can be fatal. You will be stuck with those costs for a long time, even with leases (usual duration 10 yrs).
- The shorter derivative of a type (A319, A330-800, 787-800) is less economical on a per seat base. There needs to be a very good reason in terms of demand and trip cost rationale to choose these aircraft
- Managing costs is prerequisite for success. It is a daily chore
- Building a stable operations with very few aircraft is highly challenging
- Commonality is important: many airlines are successful with just one fleet type
- > You need a very experienced operations team to start an airline

#### 1.4. SHORTHAUL VS LONGHAUL

- > Shorthaul and Longhaul are completely different animals
- > Shorthaul can work point to point, Longhaul generally requires substantial feed
- ➤ US Domestic is not comparable to Intra-European
- Longhaul has a multitude of regulatory components. It took Southwest numerous years to fly internationally, merely to Mexico (with short haul aircraft).

#### 2. JETBLUE



- > Founded in 1999 by Dave Neeleman (Southwest, Westjet, Azul, TAP, Breeze...)
- > Jetblue calls New York its home. They started out with one aircraft type (A320)
- They started in a time when legacy carriers were saturated, costly and not service oriented
- ➤ Their planes introduced "Live TV"
- They later added an additional aircraft type and connections, causing growing pains
- In the mid 2010's, they introduced "MINT class" on transcont, a full flat business class seat
- They have now commenced transatlantic travel with A321LR.

#### 3. MAXJET



- Maxjet, similar to EOS, launched an all business LCY-JFK service
- Maxiet thought that this was exclusive enough to lure customers
- For range reasons, the aircraft required a stopover in SNN (with U.S. immigrations)
- Maxjet just had one departure per day. If the aircraft had a technical issue, customers would need to travel from London City to London Heathrow to catch an alternative flight on another airline
- The model was not sustainable

#### 4. NORWEGIAN



- > Norwegian started as a successful shorthaul airline
- In comparison to SAS, they had modern planes, an efficient cost structure and a fresh brand
- Norwegian later added longhaul aircraft. They were unlucky to run into Dreamliner's teething pains, requiring expensive substitute charter aircraft that didn't serve their customer promise
- They served markets such as OSL-OAK which required heavy feeding. This reduced their shorthaul aircraft's productivity.
- To find more dense longhaul markets, they introduced additional hubs, requiring additional AOCs and crew bases.
- Too fast, too much.

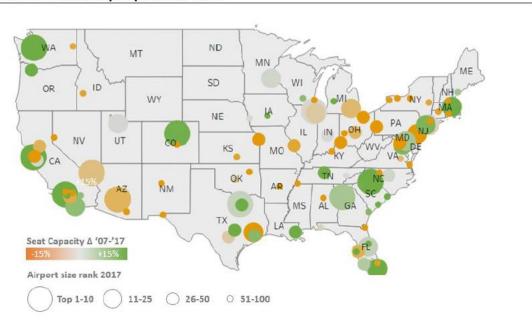
#### 5. BREEZE



Breeze is a new entrant air carrier that plans to bring low-cost, nonstop services to midsize markets abandoned by our current air transportation network. As major airlines have consolidated and concentrated their efforts at fortress hubs, entire segments of the country have seen their air travel options diminish -- reachable only through connections and the corresponding increased travel times. As a result, smaller cities have suffered through a sustained reduction in service as depicted below: Breeze will introduce nonstop service to these neglected, forgotten markets. By flying a smaller plane with a lower trip cost, Breeze believes there are hundreds and hundreds of city pairs crying out for nonstop flights. Each market Breeze serves will realize significant public interest benefits from the introduction of its low-fare, highquality service.

#### US airlines focused on hubs abandoning secondary cities

#### Change in Domestic Service by Airport 2007-2017



Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics

Breeze Aviation Group, Inc Exhibit T-2: Forecast Pre-Operating Cash Requirements

Months Pre-Launch	Inception Through <u>Launch -7</u>	<u>Launch -6</u>	<u>Launch -5</u>	Launch -4	Launch -3	<u>Launch -2</u>	Launch -1	<u>Total</u>
Pre-Operating Expenses (Accrual)								
Proving Runs	-	-	-	-	-	89,521	89,521	179,042
Salaries, Wages & Benefits	1,972,144	725,460	1,249,053	987,623	1,177,254	1,207,193	1,330,906	8,649,635
Facilities Rent	129,068	45,400	45,400	45,400	45,400	45,400	45,400	401,468
Aircraft Maintenance	-	-	-	-	-	35,500	35,500	71,000
Aircraft Rent	-	-	-	-	-	208,000	208,000	416,000
Depreciation & Amortization	-	-	5,892	10,982	18,389	26,909	36,020	98,192
Sales & Marketing	778	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	90,778
Consulting	1,578,983	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	2,178,983
Travel	202,648	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	382,648
Insurance	1,100	-	-	15,400	15,400	30,800	30,800	93,500
Recruiting	1,299	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	91,299
IT (non-capex)	96,546	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000	1,596,546
Other Operating Expenses	191,130	59,043	85,517	73,470	83,322	102,666	109,307	704,456
Total Pre-Operating Expenses	4,173,696	1,239,903	1,795,862	1,542,875	1,749,765	2,155,990	2,295,455	14,953,546
Other (Income) / Expense								
Interest Expense	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Income	(31)				_			(31)
Total Other Expense	(31)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(31)
Total Expenses	4,173,664	1,239,903	1,795,862	1,542,875	1,749,765	2,155,990	2,295,455	14,953,514
Cook Adinatoranta								
Cash Adjustments Depreciation & Other Non-Cash Expenses	(26.220)	(26.220)	(42.220)	(424.240)	(420.747)	(224.227)	(240.240)	(DEC 400)
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	(36,328) 4,050	(36,328) (13,503)	(42,220) (31,431)	(131,310) (10.659)	(138,717) (11,699)	(231,237) (12,314)	(240,348) (15,115)	(856,488)
Other Working Capital Adjustment Pre-Operating Expenses - Cash Basis	4,141,386	1,190,072	1,722,211	1,400,906	1,599,350	1,912,438	2,039,991	(90,671) 14,006,355
Fre-Operating Expenses - Cash basis	4,141,300	1,190,072	1,722,211	1,400,900	1,599,550	1,912,430	2,039,991	14,000,333
Capital Expenditures								
Aircraft Pre-Delivery Deposits	10,345,167	967,686	969,288	970,890	1,062,780	1,182,195	2,249,781	17,747,787
Aircraft Induction	-	441,875	441,875	618,625	618,625	618,625	1,629,881	4,369,506
Leasehold Improvements	50,000	-	-	-	-	-	40,000	90,000
IT	-	61,553	84,455	122,623	189,418	212,319	212,319	882,687
Initial Provisioning	-	-	-	-	-	1,000,000	1,000,000	2,000,000
Ground Support Equipment & Station Open	-	-	-	-	-	500,000	500,000	1,000,000
<u>Other</u>		2,000,000	100,000	100,000	1,100,000	100,000	1,500,000	4,900,000
Total Capital Expenditures	10,395,167	3,471,115	1,595,618	1,812,138	2,970,823	3,613,139	7,131,981	30,989,981
Total Pre-Operating Cash Requirements	14,536,553	4,661,187	3,317,829	3,213,045	4,570,173	5,525,577	9,171,972	44,996,335
Cumulative Cash Requirements	14,536,553	19,197,739	22,515,569	25,728,613	30,298,786	35,824,363	44,996,335	

#### Breeze Aviation Group, Inc Exhibit T-3: Forecast Income Statement

Month of Launch	1	2	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	9	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	Total
Operating Revenue Passenger Revenue Charter Revenue Other Revenue Total Operating Revenues	336,000	774,900 	1,377,600	706,595 2,116,800 7,066 2,830,461	1,536,433 2,142,000 15,364 3,693,797	2,196,321 2,192,400 21,963 4,410,684	2,545,436 2,268,000 25,454 4,838,890	4,292,974 2,343,600 42,930 6,679,504	5,193,471 2,419,200 51,935 7,664,606	6,383,441 2,494,800 63,834 8,942,076	7,861,380 2,520,000 78,614 10,459,994	10,609,280 2,520,000 106,093 13,235,372	41,325,331 23,505,300 413,253 65,243,884
Operating Expenses Aircraft Fuel Salaries, Wages & Benefits Aircraft Rent Aircraft Maintenance Landing Fees, Ground Handling & Other AC Depreciation & Amortization Sales & Marketing Other Operating Expenses Total Operating Expenses	72,390 1,332,198 312,000 42,600 39,162 116,917 100,000 266,144 2,281,411	162,878 1,462,096 416,000 95,850 81,927 130,034 400,000 302,144 3,050,928	289,560 1,582,611 520,000 170,400 140,149 144,376 600,000 335,038 3,782,133	659,255 1,852,178 624,000 381,534 283,616 169,369 275,473 363,021 4,608,446	892,702 2,039,561 728,000 512,227 373,361 205,202 155,781 390,042 5,296,874	1,111,716 2,234,047 832,000 634,861 453,537 250,891 180,356 423,700 6,121,108	1,219,219 2,348,470 936,000 695,023 541,662 289,017 97,900 434,862 6,562,153	1,628,438 2,598,242 1,040,000 924,115 721,177 319,393 163,286 475,890 7,870,540	1,787,932 2,725,235 1,144,000 1,013,468 851,935 367,099 200,426 506,881 8,596,976	2,094,293 2,979,812 1,352,000 1,184,965 952,699 405,177 239,063 549,668 9,757,676	2,372,106 3,351,004 1,560,000 1,340,531 1,104,996 452,834 294,366 612,362 11,088,199	2,983,596 3,917,917 1,664,000 1,682,815 1,395,741 504,996 394,735 687,643 13,231,443	15,274,084 28,423,370 11,128,000 8,678,389 6,939,963 3,355,303 3,101,385 5,347,393 82,247,887
Operating Income (Loss)	(1,945,411)	(2,276,028)	(2,404,533)	(1,777,986)	(1,603,077)	(1,710,424)	(1,723,262)	(1,191,036)	(932,370)	(815,601)	(628,205)	3,929	(17,004,004)
Other (Income) / Expense Interest Expense Other Income Total Other Expense							<u>-</u>					<u>-</u>	
Net Income (Loss)	(1,945,411)	(2,276,028)	(2,404,533)	(1,777,986)	(1,603,077)	(1,710,424)	(1,723,262)	(1,191,036)	(932,370)	(815,601)	(628,205)	3,929	(17,004,004)

#### BREEZE FLEET

"A220-300 aircraft:

Breeze entered into a definitive agreement with Airbus on December 27, 2018 for the purchase of sixty (60) firm order Airbus A220-300 aircraft (the "A220s"). Breeze secured this order with a substantial deposit payment and has since commenced making pre-delivery deposit payments (PDPs) on these aircraft. The first of the A220s is scheduled for delivery in April-2021, the second in June-2021 and approximately one per month thereafter."

They agreed to Sale&Lease Back Arrangements with GE Capital for the first 18 aircraft

#### THANK YOU

- This concludes this course. Thank you for your
  - ► Enthusiasm & Energy
  - Inspirational and Creative Strategic Proposals
  - ▶ Dedication and Focus
  - ➤ Sharing your Experiences
  - ➤ Your Feedback
  - ➤ Joint Laughs
  - If you have any questions, concerns, etc, please get in touch: georg.theis@gmail.com
  - ➤ All the Best to you personally and for your continued academic success!