



MXVISION AVIATIONSENTRY®

CASE STUDY

ALCOA INC.

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

With \$20.3 billion in annual revenues, Alcoa is the world's leading producer of primary aluminum, fabricated aluminum, and alumina. Alcoa's aluminum products and components are used worldwide in industries ranging from construction to sports and recreation to consumer products such as Reynolds Wrap® aluminum foil. Alcoa's 127,000 employees work out of locations in 40 countries.

Corporate pilots in Alcoa's San Antonio, Texas, offices transport nearly 2,500 passengers a year between company operations in North America, Costa Rica, and South America.

THE CHALLENGE

"We fly 521 miles of the Gulf of Mexico," said Greg Epps, chief pilot in Alcoa's San Antonio office, "and that's some of the worst weather I've seen in my life with the thunderstorms and hurricanes that brew this time of year."

The region's volatile, often severe weather can pose not only a safety threat, but also scheduling headaches for Alcoa executives and employees needing to conduct business. Corporate pilots must have the most accurate weather information available to make sound go/no go decisions and suggest alternative routes and destinations.

Before installing a DTN/Meteorlogix system, Alcoa pilots relied on Internet weather reports to inform their decision-making. But because the information wasn't live, Epps said he recognized that not having real-time data was posing a safety issue.

THE DTN/METEORLOGIX SOLUTION

After comparing the radar pictures from MxVision AviationSentry® to what they'd been finding on the Internet, the Alcoa pilots unanimously agreed that DTN/Meteorlogix was a superior solution. The company purchased an MxVision AviationSentry system two years ago, and now six staffers use it daily for flight planning.

RESULTS

"We could really have had a catastrophe by using the old system," Epps said, referring to the delayed weather reports off the Internet. "You could take off and have a thunderstorm move directly overhead or into your flight path."

With MxVision AviationSentry's real-time radar pictures and up-to-the-minute forecasts, Alcoa's aviation department can schedule safely around weather events while still maintaining passenger productivity. "Our people are pretty flexible," Epps said. If weather gets in the way, "We'll change locations. Instead of going to Torreon, Mexico, we may just decide to do business in Monterrey for the day, then do Torreon the next day."



meteorlogix

Having compared the DTN/Meteorlogix system to competing weather systems in use at various FBOs, Epps said that MxVision AviationSentry is “so much easier and user-friendly.”

When asked if he would recommend the product to other businesses, Epps said, “I have many times. I’ve recommended it to the FBOs that don’t have it, so they could look into getting one.”

THE CLIENT’S VIEW

“We used to use other products that had a 20-minute loop, so the data could be 20 minutes old. Well, thunderstorms brew very rapidly, and 20 minutes makes a big difference. This is real-time, and that’s really a big plus for us.”

Greg Epps, chief pilot, Alcoa Inc

DTN/Meteorlogix, DTN’s brand of commercial weather services, delivers industry-specific weather management capabilities for its customers to manage business risks, maximize personal safety and minimize financial loss.

DTN/Meteorlogix is the official forecaster of the PGA TOUR and Champions Tour.

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