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PEMEX, Protexa form Partnership to Manage Air Fleet

by LADB Staff

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On March 9, the state-run oil company PEMEX announced formation of a partnership with Mexican transportation and engineering company Grupo Protexa to manage the oil company's airline fleet. According to PEMEX officials, the partnership with Protexa is one of several alliances with the private sector to help PEMEX increase efficiency and reduce operating costs. Under the agreement, Protexa will own a 51% share of the new air services enterprise, while PEMEX will hold the other 49%.

PEMEX officials told La Jornada that Protexa was one of five companies which submitted bids seeking the partnership with PEMEX for air services. Protexa, which operates a cargo and executive transport service in southeastern Mexico, will operate the PEMEX fleet of 32 helicopters and 19 airplanes, located principally at sites in Campeche, Tabasco, Veracruz, and Tamaulipas states, and in Mexico City. Meanwhile, PEMEX continues to leave open the possibility of hiring foreign companies for other support services, to the extent allowed by the Mexican Constitution.

For example, in late February, Ramon Guerrero, director of the PEMEX representative office in Houston, Texas, said the company has initiated discussions with several Texas-based companies to provide such services as construction and maintenance of pipelines and storage facilities, and accounting and other financial services. He told reporters that at least ten companies in the Houston area have expressed interest in offering their services to PEMEX.

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