

Optimisation tool to allow crew input into their work allocation

PreferentialBidding

merlot.aero's PreferentialBidding tool is an online mechanism that allows to crew members to have input (bids or requests) into the types of work that they desire to have allocated as part of their monthly roster or crew schedule.

Crew enter their requests via the merlot.aero-CrewPortal web portal and / or merlot.aero-CrewMobile smart phone application. The actual allocation is performed by optimisation as part of the merlot.aero-RosterAssignment, which will also take into consideration airline rules, balancing, previous assignments, training plans, crew constraints and other requirements. The methodology used for incorporating the crew member bids or requests could be via seniority, equalised or hybrid depending on airline requirements.

merlot.aero-PreferentialBidding forms part of the merlot optimisation family of products. Our vision is to provide seamless optimisation to provide users with assisted and automated decision tools across planning and operation functions encompassing.

- **Tactical:** intuitive, easy to use tools to generate (both automatically and user triggered) solutions, to everyday operational and monthly planning 'problems'.
- **Strategic:** powerful, robust analytical tools to perform strategic 'what if' analysis to make empowered informed and accurate strategic decisions.

Engage crew members in roster creation process

Explore the benefits, key features and functionality of merlot.aero-PreferentialBidding:

- Support for various allocation methods from seniority (pure preferential bidding) to equalised creation (via various different methods) to hybrid (combining requests and equalisation).
- Create the most efficient rosters taking into account the entered crew members bids / requests.
- Determine the strength or weight of bids / requests over other operational factors including pairing and reserve coverage.
- Ability to control and configure the types and volumes of different bid / request options made available to crew members.
- Crew members able to enter and prioritise their bids and requests via:
 - web portal,
 - smart phone application.
- Ability to configure different options and periods for different crew groupings.
- Removes the reliance on email and hand written notes for bid / request submission.
- Available as a bureau or 'self-driven' solution.
- Scalable and cost effective.

Employee Request Profiles

Employee Request Profile: Pilot bids

Edit Profile Name: Pilot bids

Request Type

Leave
 Day Off
 Work

General
Leave / Day off
Work subtypes
Work

Subtype	Rename	All dates	Specific dates	Day of week	Allow negative	Match pairings	Active	Enforce limits
Day off	Day Off	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reserve	Stand by	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	All Dates ^x Specific Dates ^x Day Of Week ^x	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Length	Length	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	All Dates ^x Specific Dates ^x Day Of Week ^x	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transit	Transit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	All Dates ^x Specific Dates ^x Day Of Week ^x	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Layover	Layover	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	All Dates ^x Specific Dates ^x Day Of Week ^x	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Start before	Start before	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	All Dates ^x Specific Dates ^x Day Of Week ^x	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Start after	Start after	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	All Dates ^x Specific Dates ^x Day Of Week ^x	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
End before	End before	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	All Dates ^x Specific Dates ^x Day Of Week ^x	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
End after	End after	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	All Dates ^x Specific Dates ^x Day Of Week ^x	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Weekend	Weekend	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pairing	Pairing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	All Dates ^x Specific Dates ^x Day Of Week ^x	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Red eye	Red Eye	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	All Dates ^x Specific Dates ^x Day Of Week ^x	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Work Requests (01/08/2015 to 31/08/2015)...

Select a date:

Aug 3 — 9 2015

Mon 3/8	Tue 4/8	Wed 5/8	Thu 6/8	Fri 7/8	Sat 8/8	Sun 9/8
		DCA		Online Training	Classroom Student YYZ	

New Request:

Designed with the user in mind

The PreferentialBidding process using the CrewPortal and CrewMobile for bid / request entry and RosterAssignment for allocation, has been designed to seamlessly fit as an integral part of the complete end-to-end crew planning process within merlot.aero, as well as providing powerful options for high quality roster solutions:

- **Process integration.** Simply insert the use of merlot.aero-PreferentialBidding between the point in the process where pairings have been created and the majority of pre-planning done, and prior to when planners would normally manually create rosters.
- **Data selection.** Once the bid / request period has started crew members are automatically able to see any existing pre-assignments as well as the created pairings to allow them to make informed choices on what requests / bids to enter.
- **Configuration definition.** Easily able to specify the allowable bid options that are made available to crew members.
- **Bid / Request Variety.** A wide variety of different types of working and day off bid request / options from specific pairings on particular dates, through to criteria based matching over the full bid / request period.
- **Convenient Bid / Request entry.** Crew members are able to enter their bids / requests wherever they are while the period is open, via the web portal and smart phone application. This means the crew member's bids / requests can be seamlessly entered, modified and viewed across both mechanisms.
- **Allocation methodology.** Ability to easily switch between the variety of different methodologies for awarding crew member bids / requests from true PBS (preferential bidding) by seniority to equalisation award (via various different methods) to hybrid (combining requests and equalisation).

Effective management no matter what your requirements

Whether you are planning for a single equipment type from a single base, through to being a multiple base and equipment type operator, the flexibility designed into merlot.aero-PreferentialBidding, provides the capability to generate high quality roster solutions taking into account crew member input across this spectrum. This allows the airline to effectively define sets of bid / request configuration appropriate for each crew grouping to maximize efficiency and crew member satisfaction.

Quantifiable benefits

Making use of merlot.aero-PreferentialBidding will result in your airlines' crew planning department realising the following readily identifiable tangible benefits:

- Having rosters created that explore more potential combinations to grant crew member bids / requests than manual planners ever could.
- Remove the human factor / bias from crew planners needing to make the decisions on which crew members are awarded or denied their bids / requests.
- Ability to define the priority or weighting of the awarding of bids / requests against other operationally objectives (including leaving open time) which can change from period to period. This provides flexibility to help manage seasonal peaks and troughs, and fluctuations in crew member head counts..
- Provides the crew members the ability to be pro-active and to have direct input into the types and placements of allocations in their resulting roster. This increases crew morale as crew have more control over their rosters which affects their quality of life.
- The capability to provide non-monetary life style improvements to crew members by incrementally over time making available additional bid / requests options that provide more variety and / or more specific definition of the types of bids / requests they can enter.
- Overall making use of these mechanisms to achieve increased crew satisfaction and morale, whilst maximising crew utilisation, bounded as appropriate by constraints to make those rosters operationally robust and crew friendly.

Smart airline solutions

merlot.aero is a complete operational management solution offering all aspects of airline resource planning and control to ensure the safety, efficiency and quality of your crew and operational environment. An ideal solution for low-cost, efficient day-of-operations management, merlot.aero enables you to forecast, organise, plan, predict, measure and report to optimise daily aircraft and crew utilisation. It assures control of core operational information that will enable you to effectively manage your business and easily achieve regulatory compliance while maximising your airline's operational efficiency. merlot.aero's modules can be used independently or together to provide a fully integrated airline operations management system for optimum airline performance. merlot.aero is a fully hosted, fully-outsourced solution, providing you the peace of mind with security whilst avoiding unnecessary expenditure on the purchase and support of your own computer hardware and environment.

Talk to us today to arrange an obligation-free trial.

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