

North America 2016: Mesa Airlines CEO says carrier could go public

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CEO states that the airline's credentials are strong while noting market difficulties.

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Mesa Airlines could complete a public offering as one of a number of options to raise liquidity in the future, the airline's CEO has said.

Jonathan Ornstein said the carrier is assessing a number of different options. He said: "One of our big goals as we go forward is to continue to grow and finance the business and provide liquidity to our investors, and we've looked at a number of different transactions to do that."

Ornstein said that the airline's credentials are strong enough to support a public offering, but noted current difficulties in the market. He said: "We think we have the numbers to support going public, but the environment has been difficult."

Mesa Airlines was formerly a public company, having completed its initial public offering (IPO) in 1987, when it operated 11 aircraft. However, in 2010 the airline entered Chapter 11 bankruptcy and emerged from the process as a private airline.

The airline was awarded a Deal of the Year award on Monday night at the annual Airfinance Journal Deals of the Year Awards ceremony. The winning deal was Mesa Airlines' \$245.9 million inaugural enhanced equipment trust certificate (EETC), which closed last year. The deal prefunded 10 E175 aircraft that the airline had on order.

To see all of Mesa Airlines' recent and historic deals visit [Airfinance Journal's Deals Database](#).