TOBT Definition:

The Target Off-Block Time (TOBT) is the time that an Aircraft Operator or Ground Handler estimates that an aircraft will be ready, all doors closed, boarding bridge removed, push back vehicle available and ready to start up / push back immediately upon reception of clearance from the Tower.

Aim of TOBT:

The aim of the TOBT is to provide a timely, accurate and reliable estimate of an Actual Off-Block Time (AOBT) to the community as a whole. Providing a TOBT will result in the flight receiving a Target Start up Approval Time (TSAT).

TOBT Process:

The following TOBT process will apply in Dublin Airport:

- The first TOBT will be defaulted with the Estimated Off-Block Time (EOBT) at (-)90mins
- TOBT can be adjusted as often as necessary until the TSAT has been issued, i.e. at TOBT (-)40mins
- Once the TSAT is issued at (-)40mins, the TOBT can be updated up to three times (up to a defined time before TSAT (to be determined)) without losing priority in the pre-departure sequencer. If a fourth update is required the flights TSAT will be removed and the flight will get re-sequenced
- TOBT's require updating if they differ by +/(-)5mins from the previous declared TOBT

TOBT Responsibility:

The Aircraft Operator or their agent is responsible for updating the TOBT. Airlines must ensure:

- the nomination of one person responsible for TOBT updates on an operational delay or shift
- the entry, update and if necessary deletion of TOBT's (directly or indirectly into the Airport Operations System (AOS))
- the communication with the relevant airline (ATC flight plan / person responsible for the EOBT) and
- the coordination of internal working procedures to comply with published TOBT's

Deviations from TOBT & EOBT:

If the TOBT deviates from the EOBT of the ATC flight plan by more than 15 minutes, the airline must initiate an additional flight plan delay message. This new EOBT must be based on the last and valid TOBT anticipated as the departure time. This is as per current procedures.
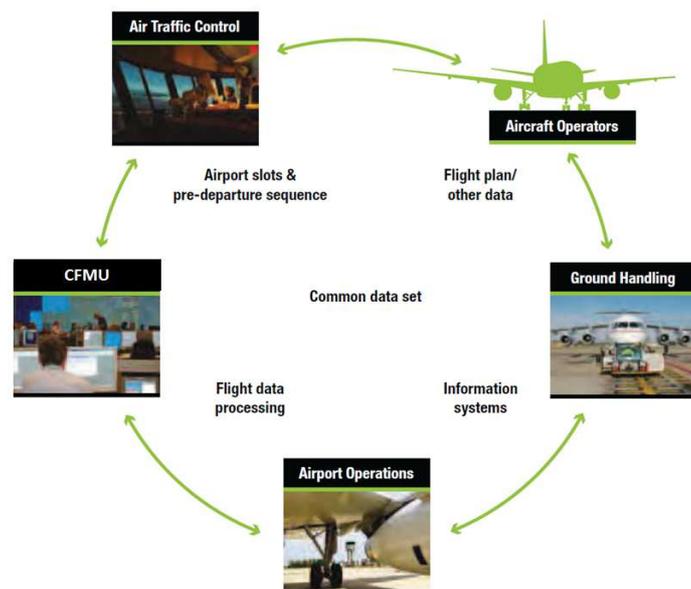

Image 1: Common data sharing between all CDM partners

Important TOBT facts:

An accurate TOBT is a pre-requisite for ATC to establish a push back / pre-departure sequence. Emphasis is put on the need for the Aircraft Operator to integrate his own strategy to compute a TOBT related to the flight. Following the receipt of the TOBT, the ATC system will calculate and provide the Estimated Taxi-Out Time (EXOT) based on the predicted traffic load, gate / stand location, runway in use, and waiting period at the holding position, etc.

An inaccurate TOBT leads to disadvantages for further sequencing and / or Calculated Take-Off Time (CTOT) allocation of regulated flights. Therefore, the TOBT shall be adjusted as early as possible. Timely accurate and stable TOBT will enhance your operation from Dublin Airport.

Target Take Off Time (TTOT) derived from the TOBT prediction and sequencing processes are sent to CFMU. As a result of this, aircraft operators will benefit as they receive a more flexible CTOT assignment, compared to non-CDM airports.

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EUROCONTROL website: http://www.euro-cdm.org/

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