

SYNOPSIS

Owner and Operator:	Germania Fluggesellschaft mbH
Aircraft:	Boeing 737-700, registration D-ABLB
Date and time of incident:	Thursday, 07 January 2016 at 14:46 ¹
Site of incident:	Runway 03R at the Gran Canaria Airport
Persons onboard the aircraft:	2 flight crew, 3 flight attendants and 135 passengers, none injured
Type of operation:	Commercial air transport – Scheduled – International – Passenger
Date of approval:	31st May, 2016

Summary of the incident

On 7 January 2016, a Boeing 737-700, registration D-ABLB and callsign GMI6129, operated by Germania Fluggesellschaft mbH, was preparing to make a flight from the Gran Canaria airport (GCLP) to the Friedrichshafen airport (Germany).

The aircraft was cleared by the local controller (LCL) in the GCLP -TWR to cross runway 03L and line up and wait on 03R. The aircraft's crew reported that the red lights on the stop bar located at S4 were turned on. The LCL controller again cleared the crew to line up and wait, and then to take off.

At that moment there was surveying work being conducted on runway 03R/21L, and there was a vehicle on the strip of this runway. As a result, once GMI6129 started its takeoff run on runway 03R, the LCL controller instructed it to cancel the takeoff.

The investigation concluded that the most probable cause was the controller's loss of situational awareness, as he mistakenly instructed the crew of GMI6129 to enter and then take off from runway 03R, despite knowing it was dosed. This loss of situational awareness seems to have been caused by having his attention focused on another aircraft that had taken off previously, and to the entry into effect of a complex helicopter recovery procedure that required considerable coordination.

¹ All times in this report are in UTC unless otherwise specified. To obtain local time, add 1 hour to UTC time.