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# Showdown looms with EasyJet founder

EasyJet's battle with its founder and biggest shareholder, Stelios Haji-ioannou, will come to a head on May 22, when the results of an investor vote on the airline's strategy to stick with a plan to buy more planes will be made public.

Since the coronavirus pandemic brought air travel to a halt and forced easyJet to park up all its planes, Haji-ioannou has publicly criticised easyJet's management and called for it to scrap a £4.5bn order with Airbus for 107 new jets.

But easyJet wants to stick with the order, saying it is important for its future growth, and arguing the company has taken steps to bolster its finances, meaning it can survive the crisis and still take the new planes.

Haji-ioannou, whose family owns just over a third of easyJet's shares, has called for shareholder votes on the removal of the low cost airline's chief executive, chairman, chief financial officer and another director, in an escalation of a long-simmering row with management.

Fellow shareholders will now have their say. They will vote ahead of a general meeting which will likely be held as a webcast. The results will be announced at the meeting on May 22.

EasyJet chairman, John Barton, urged shareholders to vote against Haji-ioannou's resolutions, calling the meeting itself "an unnecessary distraction".

