There are three different methods of obtaining an ATC clearance before departure via datalink:

1. ACARS - PDC  
   **OK**

2. ACARS - DCL  
   **Better**

3. CPDLC - DCL  
   **Best!**

CLD = Clearance Delivery  
CTOT = Calculated Take Off Time  
FPR = Flight Plan Route  
CDA = Clearance Delivery Acknowledgment  
ATC COMM = CPDLC  
ACARS = Aircraft Communication Addressing Reporting System  
AOC = Aeronautical Operational Control  
PDC = Pre-departure Clearance  
DCL = Departure Clearance
ACARS - PDC

1. ACARS - PDC
   (US, Canada, China)

2. PDC Request

3. Data Link Service Provider

4. PDC

ONE-WAY DELIVERY SERVICE

Message sent to Datalink Service Provider

No acknowledgment of departure clearance request is provided

Acknowledgment feature is inoperative

Operator

Contract

Data Link Service Provider

PDC

Regulatory Body ATC

PDC versus CDL
ACARS - DCL

Two-way conversation between crew and ATC

Message sent directly to ATC

ATC acknowledges receipt of departure clearance request

ATC knows that you received the clearance

Operator

Contract

Data Link Service Provider

1. DCL Request

2. DCL

ACARS

Select LS to Acknowledge

Manually load flight plan into FMS
CPDLC - DCL

- Two-way communication with ATC
- High integrity message and data
- Cleared route can be downloaded directly into FMS
- Subsequent changes to the clearance are possible, must first logon to CPDLC

Operator

Contract

Data Link Service Provider

ATC

Initial clearance or revised clearance

DCL Request

Log on established

DCL

Select LSK to automatically load flight plan into FMS

Accept

Reject

Standby

PDC versus CDL

4 / 6

12/22/16
- Three ATC clearance options:

  **Cleared As Filed**

  **CPDLC DCL**

  **Cleared, but not as filed**

  **Cleared, with changes**

  **> DCL had been accepted**

- **FANS Network**

  **Logon during pre-flight**

  **New route can be loaded directly into FMS**

  **Clearance revisions due weather/traffic**

  **DCL can be sent automatically to aircraft**

- **ATC page MCDU**

- **30 minutes < ETD = “ATC comm established”**

- **Clearance can be amended < take-off**