حكومة دبي
GOVERNMENT OF DUBAI

هيئة دبي للطيران المدني
Dubai Civil Aviation Authority

ViaDubai

عبر دبي

Monthly Newsletter issued by Dubai Civil Aviation Authority

Issue 95 October 2022

Metaverse Magic

Emirates boosts flights to South Africa

Routes connecting DXB among the world's busiest

Dubai flies the world's first flying car during GITEX Global

Tourist arrivals in ME reached 76 per cent of 2019 levels

Air cargo showed its value during the pandemic

DCAA and Etisalat signs MoU

Hong Kong Airlines to restructure US$6.2 billion debt

World's first eVTOL jet launched

Etihad Airways joins Aerospace Xelerated

CONTENTS

GOVERNMENT OF DUBAI
هيئة دبي للطيران المدني
Dubai Civil Aviation Authority

In 2007, the functions of the Department of Civil Aviation were restructured. Accordingly, the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority (DCAA) was established as a regulatory body, by a decree of H.H. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, Ruler of Dubai, on proclamation of law No. 21 of 2007, as amended by law No. 19 of 2010, to undertake development of Air Transport Industry in the Emirate of Dubai and to oversee all aviation-related activities.

ViaDubai

Via Dubai is the official bilingual monthly newsletter of DCAA, designed to highlight the initiatives and developments in the aviation industry and act as a knowledge-sharing platform for all the stakeholders and aviation professionals.

General Supervision
Mohammed Abdulla Ahli

Coordinator
Balqis Aljunaibi

Marketing Manager
Fahed Mohammed

E-mail: **viadubai@naddalshiba.com**

Legal Disclaimer

The views expressed in the articles are of the writers and not necessarily belong to DCAA. We take all reasonable steps to keep the information current and accurate, but errors can occur. The information is therefore provided as is, with no guarantee of accuracy, completeness or timeliness. The DCAA or Via Dubai does not warrant or assume any legal liability or responsibility for the quality, accuracy, completeness, legality, reliability or usefulness of any information. Via Dubai does not endorse or recommend any article, product, service or information mentioned in the newsletter. Any perceived slight of any person or organisation is completely unintentional.

Advertise with us

Editorial, Production, PR & Marketing
Nadd AlShiba PR and Event Management

NADD ALSHIBA
PR & EVENT MANAGEMENT

P.O. Box 182173 Dubai, U.A.E.
Tell: +971 4 252 7959
info@naddalshiba.com
www.naddalshiba.com



Message from the President 4

62 Years of Achievements In Aviation

Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum



Message from the Director General 5

Keeping pace with technological changes

Mohammed Abdulla Ahli

UAE News

Emirates boosts flights to South Africa 12



GITEX hosts first public flight of Chinese flying car 13



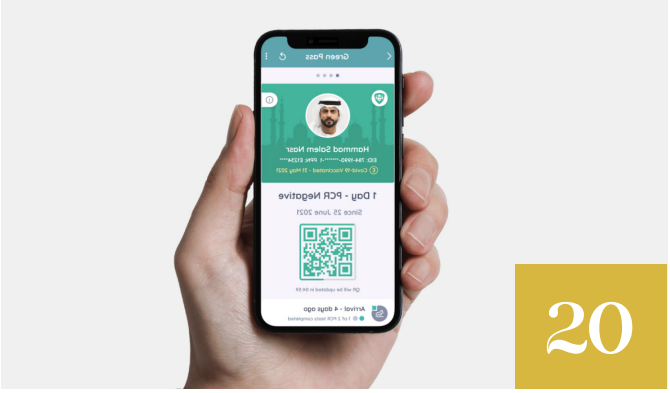
AD gets ME's first engine accessory repair centre 14



Etihad Airways joins Aerospace Xelerated 15

Alhosn Green Pass needed only in tourist spots and hotels in AD

The validity of the Green Pass on the UAE's official Alhosn app for the Covid-19 registry has been increased from 14 days to 30 days. The National Emergency Crisis and Disaster Management Authority (NCEMA) announced changes to the validity period of 'green status' on the Alhosn app.



20



24

First-ever all-electric aircraft makes its maiden flight

The world's first all-electric aircraft 'Alice' took to the skies for the first time in September-end creating history in the Aviation sector. Several countries have been taking major steps to reduce carbon emissions from every possible mode of transport.



28

Heart Aerospace reveals hybrid-electric aircraft design

Swedish electric aircraft manufacturer Heart Aerospace has revealed a new design for its hybrid-electric aircraft, the ES-30, dropping previous plans to develop the ES-19 electric plane.



29

Our Vision

The World Airport, Dubai

Our Mission

To achieve leadership and ensure sustainability in the field of safety, security and environmental protection in the civil aviation sector and to support an attractive investment environment for the aviation industry .

Toll Free:80083222
Contact number:+97147770000
Email: info@dcaa.gov.ae
Fax:+97142244573

DCAA website: www.dcaa.gov.ae
Working hours: Monday - Thursday (07:30AM to 03:30PM - GMT+4), Friday (07:30AM to 12:00 PM - GMT+4)
Location: Dubai International Airport, Terminal (1), Level (1), Gate no. (4), (Arrivals Side)
P.O. Box:49888 Dubai - United Arab Emirates

Facebook: Dcaadubai Instagram: Dcaadubai Twitter: Dcaadubai YouTube: Dcaadubai LinkedIn: Dubai Civil Aviation Authority Snapchat: Dcaadubai

62 Years of Achievements In Aviation



In 1960, when the first airport opened in the Emirate of Dubai, the world was at the cusp of airports becoming the nucleus of our lives. In just 62 years, DXB transformed itself from being a facility with a sandy runway to the world's top for international passengers for the eighth successive year.

Right from those days, Dubai International Airport continued its journey of amazing achievements till it became an international centre for global air traffic given its unique infrastructure and services provided to passengers, and it attracted more than 90 international carriers providing connecting flights to more than 240 destinations around the world.

The leadership of Dubai International Airport is the result of a vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai, who realized it in the early 1970s when he began the supervision of the civil aviation sector. Civil aviation played an important role in linking Dubai with the rest of the world and providing an opportunity for it to play a distinguished role in serving the industry that supports the global economy and brings together the entire mankind.

The qualitative steps taken recently by Dubai and its aviation sector contributed towards advancing the aviation sector's recovery post-pandemic and the expansion of global air traffic movements, and instilled confidence among its stakeholders, especially after the resounding success of Expo 2020 Dubai and other global events like Dubai Airshow, Airport Show and the just-concluded GITEX that the city hosted very impressively and successfully.

We continue making rapid and big achievements, as has been the case over the years, and marching forward in the progressive journey in line with the vision of making Dubai the airport for the world. We have revised our business expectations with the number of international passengers that our airport will be dealing 62.4 million this year, far from the 58.3 million passengers predicted earlier.

We are on the right path towards the desired goals 62 years after opening our first airport in Dubai, relying on technical capabilities, efficient human resources and team work - the secrets of behind our success and remaining in a leadership position.

Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum

Keeping pace with technological changes



The rapid developments that the world is witnessing due to the fast pace of changes in Information Technology, Metaverse, Blockchain, Internet of Things, Digital Economy and other domains, have been opening opportunities for the decision-makers in most economic sectors, including the civil aviation, to improve performance, enhance safety and security, and reduce operational costs.

Thousands of people got deep insights into the fast-changing world of technology at GITEX Global-2022 which ran recently for its 42nd edition in Dubai, with amazing success, with over 5,000 companies from different countries of the world participating. This confirmed the importance of Dubai as a major player in the era of Information Technology and the ambitious digital transformation movement led by the UAE.

Civil aviation is one of the most prominent sectors that will benefit from this major transformation as it not only helps accommodate the expected significant growth in global air traffic in the coming years but also ensures the aviation industry maintains its safety track records and the security of passengers at a time when hacking attempts have been increasing.

At the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, we are quite aware of the importance of keeping pace with the developments in the digital age and the need to absorb and use modern technologies in the aviation domain to ensure our superiority and maintain leadership and dynamism to serve the world and provide the best services to passengers using our two airports.

Living in a world that is changing fast each passing day calls for working diligently, in coordination with our strategic partners, by utilizing the most advanced technologies to achieve our sky-high ambitions.

Mohammed Abdulla Ahli

DCAA and Etisalat signs MoU

The Dubai Civil Aviation Authority (DCAA) and Emirates Telecommunications Corporation (Etisalat) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to define procedures to enable effective monitoring of the obstacle lights or warning lights for aircraft installed on telecom towers. The deal had been signed by His Excellency Mohammed Abdulla Ahli, Director-General of DCAA, and Abdullah Salem Al Mana, General Manager for Dubai Region at Etisalat. It aims to achieve air navigation safety and provide safer aircraft movements within the emirate. The coordination between both organisations will lead to providing and updating their databases and establishing appropriate channels of communication to exchange and update information. The Authority is keen to strengthen its partnership with organisations by signing cooperation agreements to constantly seek to develop and improve the services it provides to be of global standards.

هيئة دبي للطيران المدني

Dubai Civil Aviation Authority

etisalat by e&



Dubai flies the world's first flying car during GITEX Global



Dubai added another feather to its crown of achievements by operating the world's first two-seater flying car during GITEX Global-2022. Under the supervision of the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority (DCAA) and Dubai Air Navigation Services (dans), and in cooperation with the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry and strategic partners, officials conducted the first electric Vertical Take-off and Landing (VTOL) flight of X2, developed by Xpeng Aeroht, at the test site at Skydive Dubai. The unmanned vehicle had a top speed of 130 kph and ascended to a height the equivalent of three storeys high. The DCAA and the ANSP oversaw all the tests required for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV). This was a unique step in the region towards the regulation mechanism for the drone sector to operate in the airspace following safety and security regulations, and towards making the emirate a hub for futuristic technologies. X2 had been equipped with an intelligent flight control system and autonomous flight capabilities. It is scheduled to be mass-produced and delivered in 2024.

The Authority approved the trial operations as it fulfilled the key criteria of Dubai SkyDome, an initiative designed to open the path for commercial drone use. Dubai SkyDome is set to be virtual airspace for unmanned aircraft. The ANSP is working towards creating an integrated system and an ideal environment that supports new technologies in the airspace and ensures the safety and security and safety of the airspace. The aviation sector is continuously developing in the UAE to achieve the vision of wise leadership to be a global leader in future technologies.









Dubai Civil Aviation Authority participates in GITEX Global-2022

The Dubai Civil Aviation Authority (DCAA) participated in the GITEX Global Week-2022, one of the world's leading ICT exhibition Dubai government uses as a platform to showcase its initiatives and successes. During its participation, the Authority pre-sented several of its Smart and innovative services and systems that contribute effec-tively towards the integrated system for government work.

This year's participation had fruitful results, including the signing of an MoU between the DCAA and Etisalat aimed at ensuring air navigation safety in the Emirates of Dubai. The DCAA Stand had been visited by several VIPs and specialists to learn about the various services of the Authority, including the Dubai Paperless Strategy. Dubai Digital Authority honoured the DCAA for achieving 100 per cent results in the Dubai Paper-less Strategy. The Authority advanced its services and automated operations through electronic link-ing with 16 government and semi-government departments, using Blockchain technol-ogy. The electronic link saves effort, time and money for customers to complete a va-riety of services, and also supports the Dubai Paperless Strategy. By using Artificial Intelligence, officials can get to know the opinions and observations of customers and linking the website with the internal system (Back Office) helps quickly respond to cus-tomers for any inquiries.

Officials displayed the 'DCAA Synergy', an integrated smart system for managing strategic and operational plans, distributing tasks to departments and administrative units, controlling and following-up performance indicators and providing necessary reports according to the indicators set to serve the decision-making accurately and ob-jectively. Its dashboard allows viewing the monthly reports on the performance of the civil aviation sector and various indicators of the Authority's services, and cumulative data to facilitate the process of analysis and comparisons between previous and current results.

Using Progressive Web App (PWA) technology enable customers and employees to use the external website and the internal 'Synergy' system on smart devices. Development of the Content Management System (CMS) for the Authority's website and the Synergy system is updated according to the Authority's Matrix along with the inspection and control system. The Exhibition contributes towards consolidating the reputation of the UAE and its position on the map of innovation and creativity, along with helping the development of smart technology for companies and investments from across the world. At the closing ceremony, the DCAA had been honoured for its effective partici-pation and activities during the exhibition.











His Excellency Lieutenant General Dhahi Khalfan Tamim
Deputy Chairman of Police and General Security in Dubai



His Excellency Omar Hamad BuShehab, Executive Director of Mohammed bin Rashid Housing Establishment



The signing of MoU between Dubai Civil Aviation Authority and Etisalat



His Excellency Major General Talal Belhoul Al Falasi, Director General of State Security Department in Dubai



Honouring of DCAA by the Dubai Digital Authority at the end of GITEX Global-2022



Dubai Digital Authority honours DCAA for 100 per cent implementation of Dubai Paperless Strategy



Metaverse Magic

Dubai aims to be among the world's top 10 metaverse economies as the fully immersive internet is projected to generate US$5 trillion in value by 2030.Metaverse, the newest technology where one is able to access Augmented and Virtual Reality and interact with all sorts of environments using persistent avatars and innovative digital technology, has taken the world by storm.

The fully immersive internet technology had its origin in 1838 when scientist Sir Charles Wheatstone outlined the concept of 'binocular vision' - where one combines two images — one for each eye — to make a single 3D image. American science fiction writer Stanley Weinbaum published a book in 1935 in which the main character explores a fictional world using a pair of goggles that provided sight, sound, taste, smell and touch. The term 'metaverse had been used first in a 1982 novel, Snow Crash, as a virtual place where characters could go to escape a dreary totalitarian reality.

In 2010 came the VR headset with its 90-degree field of vision and use of computer processing power. Four years later, Sony and Samsung created their own VR headsets, and Google released its first AR glasses. Microsoft headsets hit the market in 2016 giving mixed reality (AR and VR) for the first time. With HoloLens, one can create a holographic image in front of us, then put it into the real world and manipulate it using augmented reality. Swedish furniture giant IKEA joined the metaverse mix in 2017 with an innovative app which allowed selecting a piece of furniture and viewing what it looks like in one's home or office. In 2020, Apple added Light Detection and Ranging (Lider) to iPhones and iPads, creating better

depth scanning for better photos and AR, and also paving the way for mixed-reality headsets in the future.

Facebook changed its name to Meta in 2021, indicating its focus on shaping the future of the metaverse. The two companies launched smart glasses or highly portable virtual reality headsets that look like sunglasses. Apple is currently working on headsets that could potentially replace our smartphones as the interface into the metaverse of the future. This year, the world continued seeing enormous advances in immersive experiences, opening up a world of opportunities and growth through the 3D Internet. The combination of AR and VR has been of significant benefit to airports, airlines and other players in the air transport industry. A combination of AR and VR is being used to simulate weather patterns; cloud formation; and turbulence in a flight path which could alert the flight crew before taking off.

The International Society for Optical Engineering says Rockwell Science Center is investigating novel human-computer interface techniques for enhancing situational awareness in future flight decks. The new vision of the flight deck includes AR in weather information, surrounding air traffic and information on terrain. Hong Kong International Airport has its own Digital Twin, where airport staff use a live 3D simulation to plan and determine where passengers, gates and aeroplanes should be located and directed. The Digital Twin is also being used at Schiphol in Amsterdam, San Francisco International and Vancouver airports. The Digital Twin is a virtual replica of every aspect of airport operations and alerts airports to anticipated problems on a 24-hour basis and flags operations staff.
Emirates Airlines plans to invest US$10 million to build its signature brand experience in the Metaverse.
All the biggies like Singapore Airlines, Lufthansa and Qantas are also trying to get a piece of the metaverse.
Qatar Airways has launched QVerse, a virtual reality program that allows passengers to look inside the aircraft from the comfort of their homes. The experience starts with a virtual tour of the premium check-in area and ends with a detailed display of the cabin.
Also, the airline launched the first Meta-human cabin crew to engage customers and to provide virtual tours of the business and economy class. Airbus and Boeing are looking at ways to streamline production by creating digital replicas of aircraft and using these to run tests and simulations. This means they would be able to gather data and results without needing to accumulate flight hours on a physical trial aircraft, saving costs and mitigating safety risks to the test crew. Airbus and HeroX also held a crowdsourcing competition called “Metaverse and the Future of Flight,” seeking innovative ways to use the metaverse to reimagine and elevate the traveller experience.

A report by global consultancy company McKinsey says more and more consumers and businesses are using metaverse today and in the future, its value-creation potential will be of immense magnitude. “The metaverse is still being defined, both literally and figuratively. Yet its potential to unleash the next wave of digital disruption seems increasingly clear, with real-life benefits already emerging for early adopting users and companies.” The American consulting company said its bottom-up view of consumer and enterprise use cases suggests it may generate up to US$5 trillion in impact by 2030— equivalent to the size of the world’s third-largest economy today, Japan. It may have a market impact of between US$2 trillion and US$2.6 trillion on e-commerce by 2030.
A report on the global metaverse market in the travel and tourism industry until 2026 says it is poised to grow by US$188.24 billion during the five years ending 2026.

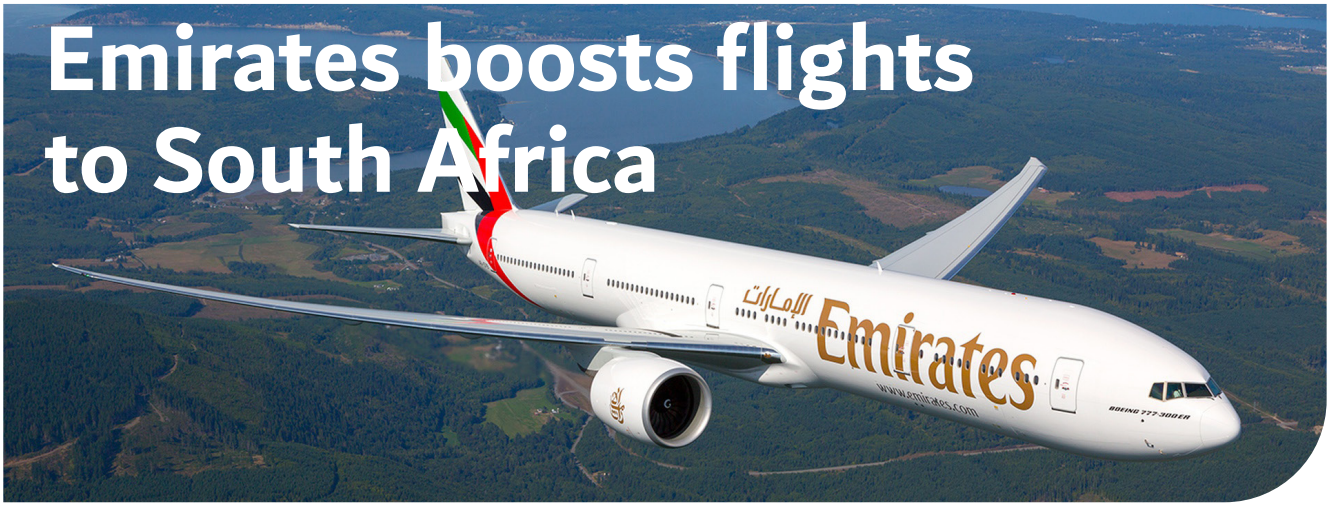
Dubai aims to be one of the world’s top 10 metaverse economies as airlines and airports among others race towards utilizing the fully immersive internet peppered with Augmented and Virtual Reality

> **“ Dubai aims to be one of the world’s top 10 metaverse economies**

even as the cutting-edge Web 2.0 technology gets further developed. It has the potential to generate up to US$5 trillion in value by 2030. The UAE hopes the metaverse can add $4 billion to its annual GDP and 40,000 jobs to its workforce by 2030. In its bid to become one of the world's top-10 metaverse economies, Dubai wants to attract 1,000 companies specialising in blockchain and related technologies, helped by eased visa rules for freelancers, entrepreneurs and creatives.

The UAE has already introduced a law governing virtual assets and a regulatory body for cryptocurrencies. One of the UAE's early private-sector metaverse projects to colonise Mars a century from now. Metaverse users can now buy tickets to join a virtual shuttle carrying settlers to the red planet. The Dubai Metaverse Strategy is aiming to create 40,000 virtual jobs in the next five years, as the city aims to become one of the top 10 global metaverse economies. The Metaverse Strategy also aims at attracting over 1000 companies in the significant field of blockchain and metaverse.
Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality are the two main enablers of the metaverse, and it has created 6,700 jobs, along with contributing US$500 million to the economy of the UAE. In March, the UAE adopted its first law to regulate crypto assets as it works towards developing and establishing UAE and Dubai’s position as vital players in orienting the future of virtual assets globally. VARA has entered into the metaverse with the establishment of its Metaverse HQ, making it the first regulator to have a presence in the emerging digital space.
His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, called it a ‘bold move’ that will usher in a new era.

Emirates boosts flights to South Africa



Emirates Airlines will bring new travel opportunities, choices and convenience for customers travelling to and from South Africa with additional services to Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban. The ramp-up of flights is part of the carrier's ongoing commitment to support South Africa's economic and tourism recovery through enhanced connectivity across all gateways. The airline's latest move also reaffirms South Africa's strategic importance on its network, prioritising service expansion and rebuilding its capacity to unlock further growth potential. The airline will expand its schedule to and from Johannesburg with three daily flights from the first day of March 2023. Cape Town will be served with double daily services starting from the first day of February 2023. Emirates will also be adding two more flights to Durban, making it a daily operation from the first day of December 2022. Reintroducing the new flights between Dubai and the airline's three gateways in South Africa will enhance Emirates' schedule to 42 weekly services. Emirates and the South African Tourism Board signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) earlier this year to jointly promote tourism and boost visitor arrivals to South Africa across the airline's network of over 130 passenger destinations. Emirates has been serving South Africa for 27 years and has connected over 20 million travellers to and from South Africa via Dubai and beyond to its global network, firmly establishing the airline as a long-term partner of South African aviation, tourism and trade.

Source - TTR Weekly

RAK becomes IndiGo's 100th destination

India's leading budget carrier IndiGo has added the Arabian Gulf city of Ras Al Khaimah as its 100th destination, with a direct flight from Mumbai. This will be IndiGo's 11th Middle East destination in the 6E network. Ras Al Khaimah International Airport's chairman Sheikh Salem Bin Sultan Al Qasimi and the Chief Executive Officer of Ras Al Khaimah International Airport travelled on the inaugural flight to Ras Al Khaimah. The 6E network has four Emirates. IndiGo already serves an unparalleled 74 cities and communities throughout India. The new flight will cater to the growing demand for Indian passengers in the region. Air Arabia has been operating out of Ras Al Khaimah International Airport since 2014, providing the Emirate with direct scheduled services to several destinations. Bahraini national carrier Gulf Air started flight services to Ras Al Khaimah International Airport in October first week.



Source - The Economic Times

GITEX hosts first public flight of Chinese flying car

This year's Gulf Information Technology Exhibition in Dubai (GITEX) featured the first public flight of a Chinese tech company's eVTOL two-seater flying car. In its 42nd year, the five-day tech event hosted 5,000 companies across two million square feet of exhibition space, divided into 26 halls. One of the world's largest tech shows, 52 per cent of the exhibitors were new to the show which featured the latest developments and innovations in 5G, artificial intelligence, cloud technology, cybersecurity, FinTech, blockchain, data analytics and smart cities.



The eVTOL flying car display had been a key attraction. XPeng — a tech company and EV manufacturer that designs, develops, manufactures and markets intelligent mobility solutions — has produced the two-seater eVTOL (electric vertical take-off and landing) X2 flying car with the Dubai Chamber of Commerce being its official partner. The X2 is equipped with an intelligent flight control system and autonomous flight capabilities and is the latest generation of flying cars developed independently by XPeng's affiliate XPeng Aeroht. The X2 produces zero carbon dioxide emissions during flight and is designed with low-altitude city capabilities in mind, reaching a maximum flight speed of 130 kilometres an hour. This had been the first global public flight of the XPeng X2. Electric air taxis are emerging as a new segment within the aviation industry, with industry giants Airbus and Boeing among those pouring investments into the eVTOL sector.

A flying "hypercar", capable of reaching a top speed of 220kph at more than 900 metres, was tested in Dubai in November by London-based start-up Bellwether Industries. In June, electric aircraft company Eve Holding, owned by Brazilian plane maker Embraer, and UAE-based charter flight operator Falcon Aviation Services signed a letter of intent for up to 35 flying taxis. With deliveries of the aircraft expected to start in 2026, the partnership will introduce the first eVTOL tourist flights from Atlantis, The Palm in Dubai.

Source - The National

Routes connecting DXB among the world's busiest

Routes connecting Dubai International Airport remained among the busiest in September, with Dubai-Riyadh, Mumbai-Dubai, Dubai-Jeddah and Dubai-London Heathrow among the top 10 international routes, data showed. The Kuala Lumpur-Singapore route kept its spot at the top of the international route ranking this month, with 326,492 seats, just over 10,500 seats each day, aviation data firm OAG said. Dubai-Riyadh was the second busiest international route, with 307,058 seats, moving up one place from last month. Antalya-Moscow Vnukovo, New York JFK-London Heathrow and Cairo-Jeddah completed the top five. The Mumbai-Dubai route had a capacity of 228,794 seats, Dubai-Jeddah saw 223,090 seats, while Dubai-London Heathrow saw a capacity of 221,948 seats. The Dubai-Riyadh route was also the busiest in the Middle East region, followed by Cairo-Jeddah with 257,324 seats. In terms of domestic routes, Jeju-Seoul in South Korea with 1.3 million seats led the charts. DXB remained the busiest international airport in September, with 3,939,224 seats, followed by London Heathrow at 3,394,453 seats, OAG data showed.



Source - Gulf News

AD gets ME's first engine accessory repair centre



Sanad, a global industrial services leader wholly owned by Abu Dhabi's Mubadala Investment Company, has entered into an exclusive framework agreement with Triumph Product Support – Grand Prairie, a leading provider of third-party engine accessory maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) services, to perform engine accessory MRO services on V2500 engines serviced by Sanad. This partnership emphasizes both entities' intent to develop a long-term collaboration and work together to establish the Middle East region's first engine accessory repair and overhaul centre of excellence in Abu Dhabi by 2024. Upon completion, the Abu Dhabi centre aims to provide MRO solutions for V2500, T700 GEnx as well as LEAP engine accessory repairs and overhauls, offering comprehensive Abu Dhabi-based MRO solutions for multiple engine types used by aerospace and aviation industry operators across the Middle East, Africa, Turkey and India. As a leading integrated industrial service provider, Sanad is well positioned to maintain aircraft engines to the highest standards using the latest Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies and provide lease finance solutions that create value and flexibility for its customers and partners.

Source - PR News Wire

Face masks are now optional on EK

Face masks have been made optional on board Emirates Airlines (EK) flights as pandemic rule relaxations have been eased across the UAE from September 28. This includes optional mask-wearing and an extended Alhosn Green Pass validity period. Up until now, mask-wearing on board Emirates flights has been subject to the destination that the plane is getting into. Since September 16, if a country is mask-free, then passengers have been able to remove masks once the plane's doors have been closed for taxi and take-off. However, all flights back into Dubai have required EK passengers to wear face coverings due to it being mandatory, to wear masks in Dubai in indoor settings. The National Emergency Crisis and Disaster Management Authority (NCEMA) says "airlines will decide if wearing face masks will be mandatory or optional." Emirates Airlines said: "Wearing a face mask is optional in the UAE and on Emirates flights.



Source - Hotelier Middle East



Etihad Airways joins Aerospace Xelerated

Aerospace Xelerated has announced Etihad Airways joined as a programme partner for its fourth cohort. Following three successful cohorts led by Boeing and supported by industry partners, this year's programme will be run in partnership with Tawazun Economic Council, the UAE's defence and security acquisitions authority. Startups from anywhere in the world working on digital services and solutions have applied. Etihad Airways will be allowing startups to collaborate and develop a proof of concepts on unique challenge statements proposed by the global brand. Chosen startups will be working alongside Etihad to enable the trial and iteration of their digital solutions.

The airline strategically places innovation at the heart, allowing it to source and trial promising digital technologies for its guests and business. Other partners include the Defence and Security Accelerator (DASA) and GKN Aerospace. Building on the successful participation in Cohort 3, DASA will be continuing to observe and learn how the industry is galvanising innovators to address challenges within their supply chain. DASA will also be working with the cohort participants to provide insight from government stakeholders into how to access and work with the UK's defence and security ecosystem. Startups accepted into the programme will have the option to benefit from a £100K investment from Boeing, with the potential for additional funding from partners. They will also have access to strategists and technical experts from the industry that support developing proof of concept opportunities. Since launching in 2019, startups involved in the three previous Aerospace Xelerated cohorts have gone on to raise over £100 million in additional funding.

Source - Air Traffic Management

EK gets Best Economy Class Airline award

Emirates Airlines, already having over 300 awards under its fold, has won the World's Best Economy Class Airline at this year's World Airline Awards held after two years of virtual award ceremonies. The World Airline Awards-2022 event took place in London. Emirates had been voted third best airline, with Qatar Airways voted in for the first position and Singapore Airlines taking the second position. More than 350 airlines were included in the survey results. The World Airline Awards cover all types of travel classes, with an overall Best by Cabin award, Best Seats by Cabin, Best Lounges and Best Onboard Catering by the cabin. The top 40 airlines in 2022 reflect several changes from earlier year ratings. The Skytrax World Airline Awards are independent and impartial awards decided through international customer voting. Passengers with over 100 nationalities participated in the 2021-22 survey, with 14.32 million eligible entries counted in the results. The survey was also provided in six major international languages. More than 350 airlines are featured in the final Award results.

Source - Global News Wire

Kuwait Airways takes two more rare A330-800s

Kuwait Airways has taken a double-delivery with a pair of Airbus A330-800s joining the fleet. The two jets, ferried from Toulouse, are the carrier's third and fourth A330-800s. Delivered September-end, the two A330-800 aircraft took off from Toulouse, within a few minutes of each other, and touched down at Kuwait International Airport. The total flight duration for the delivery flight was five and a half hours. The two jets are configured in the same manner as the other -800s operated by Kuwait Airways, fitted with 32 seats in business class and 203 in economy class. With this latest delivery of A330-800s, the global fleet in commercial service now stands at a meagre six jets. Kuwait Airways now has four of six, with the other two -800s flying with Uganda Airlines. Despite the Airbus 800's superior range, airlines have overwhelmingly opted for the -900, with over 75 now built of the 262 ordered. All in all, only 11 A330-800 aircraft have been ordered. However, Garuda's commitment to four is in question - as the airline could end up swapping these for the -900. The other will go to Air Greenland and will undergo test flights in the coming months.

Source - Simple Flying



ME airlines well placed for growth, says Boeing

Randy Heisey, Boeing's Managing Director of Commercial Marketing for the Middle East and Africa, and Russia and Central Asia Regions, says governments in the Middle East are well primed to take advantage and further consolidate their lead. The pandemic and subsequent inflation have somewhat dampened the overall market but airlines in the Gulf have weathered the storm better than others. Middle East airlines will require 2,980 new aeroplanes valued at US$765 billion to serve passengers and trade. The bulk of the demand will be fulfilled by single-aisle planes, at 1,580, while wide-body aircraft demand is projected at 1,290 during this two-decade period. Of these, over two-thirds of the deliveries will enable growth, while one-third will replace older aeroplanes. Over the next 20 years, airline traffic growth in the Middle East is projected to increase by an average of 4 per cent per year, compared to the global growth of 3.8 per cent per year. Boeing said traffic (for Middle East carriers) will multiply 2.4 times over the next 20 years, with airlines rapidly growing their origin and destination passengers and serving as key hubs for inter-region connecting passengers. Of the overall fleet availability, Middle East airlines have pushed 93 per cent of aircraft back into service, compared to 92 per cent globally, Boeing said. Airlines in the region are also operating more flights (91 per cent) compared to the global average (83 per cent) when compared to 2019 levels. Middle East airlines have performed exceptionally well in terms of short-haul flights, and are back to 98 per cent of 2019 levels, compared to a global average of 81 per cent. In terms of long-haul routes, regional airlines are at 76 per cent of 2019 levels, two percentage points above the global average.



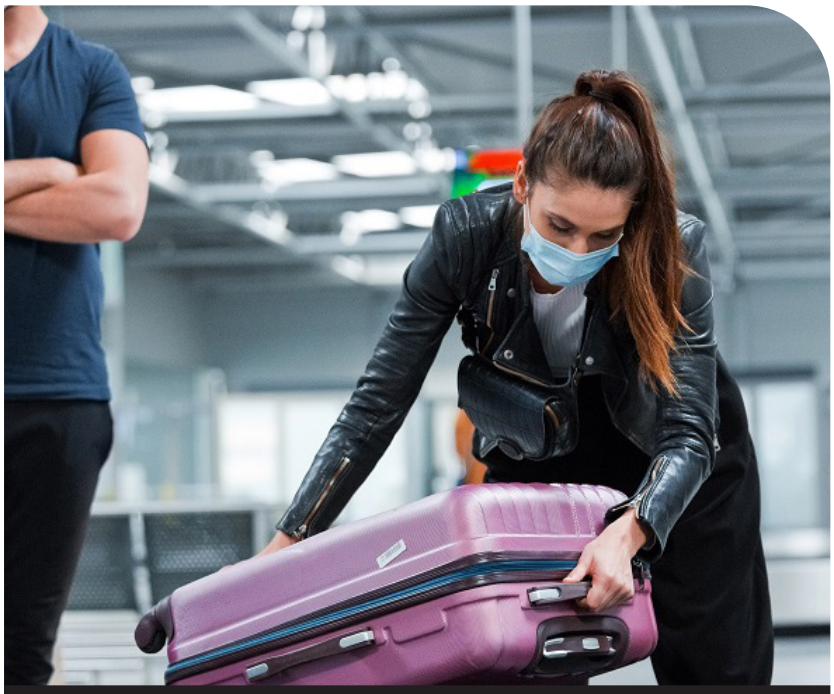
Source - Gulf News

Flights between Kazakhstan and KSA set to increase in 2023

Saudi Arabia and Kazakhstan will increase air traffic and expand the geography of flights. The agreement has been reached during the meeting between Kazakhstan's Minister of Industry and Infrastructure Kairbek Uskenbayev and a delegation from the Kingdom headed by the Minister of Hajj and Umrah, Taufiq bin Fauzan bin Muhammad Al Rabia. Since 2015, SCAT and Flynas began to perform direct charter flights one to two times a week all year round. This year, a 4,000-seat quota for religious pilgrims from Kazakhstan has been allocated and used. From the beginning of 2023, several Kazakh airlines plan to organize regular passenger flights to Saudi Arabia: Air Astana on the route Almaty - Medina with a frequency of two flights a week and Fly Arystan on the route Aktau- Medina with a frequency of two flights a week by A320 aircraft. In September, as part of the 41st session of the Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization ICAO in Montreal, the aviation authorities of both countries signed a Memorandum of Understanding that gives the right to designated airlines on both sides to increase the authorized number of passenger flights.

Source - Qaz Monitor





MEA adopts a cloud-based baggage reconciliation system

Middle East Airlines (MEA) and SITA have renewed a technology contract and moved the airport's baggage reconciliation system (BRS) at Rafic Hariri International Airport in Beirut to the cloud, increasing operational efficiency. This technology will significantly reduce operational costs for the airport and airline, with the server-less design avoiding on-site interventions to refresh, upgrade, maintain, and support multiple obsolete devices, such as servers. By installing SITA's Bag Manager cloud solution, the airport will be able to process around nine million bags per year compared to three million bags in previous years without any significant equipment investment. Airports globally are looking to increase the volume of passengers and capacity and regain lost revenues from the pandemic, with baggage handling presenting a significant obstacle to overcome. The cloud-based technology solution will be pivotal in reducing the number of mishandled bags and supporting quick repatriation of mishandled ones, leading to higher customer satisfaction and decreased costs. SITA Bag Manager tracks every bag loaded onto an aircraft, a unit load device (ULD), or a cart. It scans and evaluates the characteristics of each bag against the flight parameters to ensure bags are loaded onto the right aircraft. SITA has been the provider of BRS at Rafic Hariri International Airport since 2009. MEA is the flag carrier of Lebanon and represents around 40 per cent of the traffic at the airport. Middle East Airline Ground Handing, a subsidiary of MEA, represents 80 per cent of the baggage processing at the airport, while the remaining 20 per cent is handled by the Lebanese Air Transport (LAT) which also installed SITA's cloud-based BRS. Integration with other SITA baggage solutions such as Bag Journey and WorldTracer further helps to reduce the number of mishandled baggage and quickly repatriate any mishandled ones.

Source - WebWire

WestJet orders 42 Boeing 737-10s

WestJet Airlines, the second-largest Canadian carrier operating an average of 777 flights and carrying more than 66,130 passengers per day, has agreed to buy 42 Boeing 737-10 jets, with options for an additional 22 aircraft. The two companies disclosed the deal for the 737-10s, the largest of Boeing's MAX aircraft but no financial details were disclosed. The 737-10 single-aisle, twin-engine jets have improved fuel efficiency and reliability over earlier aircraft, the companies said. The additions will allow WestJet to reduce its carbon emissions while boosting passenger capacity. With its lower fuel consumption and reduced emissions, the 737-10 will further improve the environmental footprint of our fleet, said WestJet Group Chief Executive Officer Alexis von Hoensbroech. The LCC reaches out to over 100 destinations in Canada, the US, Mexico, Europe, Central America and the Caribbean. It had been certified as a 3-Star Airline for the quality of its airport and onboard product and staff service.

Source - MarketWatch



Malaysia Airlines to return six A380

Malaysia Airlines, a unit of Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG), is returning all six of its A380 to aircraft manufacturer Airbus by year-end. The plan was part of a deal made following the airline's recent purchase of 20 new A330-900 neo in August this year. The discussion is ongoing. The aircraft would be delivered to Airbus once the location is decided. There might not be a second-hand market for the A380 after all as there were no solid buyers even after Malaysia Airlines had put up the superjumbo jet for sale for over a year. The airline had in July 2021 issued a tender notice for interested parties to acquire its A380 aircraft and/or components. MAG spokesperson said the group planned to retire and exit the A380 by the end of 2022. Currently, all six A380s are on long-term parking and are not included in the national carrier's network plan. MAG CEO Captain Izham Ismail said in June the aircraft was not included in the airline's fleet anymore due to the higher operating cost as the A380 has four engines.

Source - New Straits Times

Carriers continue increasing ancillary revenues

Even as the pandemic sent airline ticket prices into decline in 2020 and 2021, carriers were able to increase their per-passenger intake of ancillary revenue. The Car Trawler Yearbook of Ancillary Revenue, undertaken by consulting firm IdeaWorks, found the average airline ancillary revenue per passenger in 2021 was US$29.96, up 39 per cent from the 2019 average of US$21.54 per passenger. The study included 75 airlines that disclosed ancillary sales results for 2021. It includes sales of traditional ancillary products such as checked and carry-on bags, reserved seat assignments and Wi-Fi, but also includes loyalty revenue, earned primarily by the sale of frequent flyers points to bank partners as part of co-branded credit card partnerships as well as other non-ticket revenues like commissions from rental car sales.

Substantial income from co-branded credit cards enabled the Big three US airlines to lead the globe in terms of overall ancillary revenue in 2021, IdeaWorks found. American posted US$5.9 billion in ancillary revenue in 2021, including US$4.3 billion in frequent-flyer revenue. Delta earned US$5.8 billion in ancillary sales, including US$4.1 billion in royalty revenue. United brought in US$5.5 billion, including US$3.3 billion from its frequent-flyer program. At $88.21 per passenger, Hong Kong Express achieved the highest figure globally, IdeaWorks said.

Source -Travel Weekly

Hong Kong Airlines to restructure US$6.2 billion debt



Hong Kong Airlines (HKA), backed by the failed Chinese conglomerate HNA Group, aims to restructure HK$49 billion (US$6.2 billion) of debt through UK and Hong Kong courts to stave off insolvency. The carrier is seeking court approval to convene meetings of its creditors and put forward its restructuring proposal, which would include a significant haircut on the outstanding debt. The debt restructuring move will see the airline cut its fleet by more than half. It is seeking orders to convene creditors' meetings to consider and approve a scheme of arrangement in Hong Kong, as well as a UK restructuring plan. Nearly half of the debts are owed to financial and operating lessors, at around HK$22.5 billion. Bank lenders and financial creditors, meanwhile, are owed HK$5.7 billion, while related party creditors are owed about HK$6.8 billion. The first hearing in the High Court of Hong Kong is set for mid-October, while the first hearing in the High Court of Justice of England and Wales will be held at the month-end. The airline hopes the restructuring process will help deliver a "strengthened and de-levered balance sheet, with lower overall gross debt", as well as "rationalised rental payments" on a pared-down fleet of 20 aircraft, a significant reduction from the current fleet of 53 jets. HKA suffered the double whammy of political unrest in Hong Kong in 2019, followed by the collapse in travel demand from the pandemic. Passenger numbers plunged from nearly 6.9 million in the period from February 2019 to January 2020, to around 217,000 in the corresponding period a year later, a drop of nearly 97 per cent.

Source - Bloomberg

China Airlines finalised 16 Boeing-787 order

Taiwan's China Airlines has firmed its order for 16 Boeing 787-9 aircraft with options for another eight. The firmed-up order will allow the airline to cut CO2 emissions by up to 25 per cent China Airlines first announced its intention to place this order in August. It is a welcome boost to the Boeing 787 program as the American aerospace giant has resumed deliveries of the type after an extended hiatus. Signing the order with Boeing, the airline also placed options for a further eight jets, should the need for them arise in the future. China Airlines intends that the order will replace its ageing Airbus A330 fleet. The portion of Boeing aircraft in the China Airlines fleet recently took a hit after the airline retired its last passenger Boeing 747s.



Source - Simple Flying

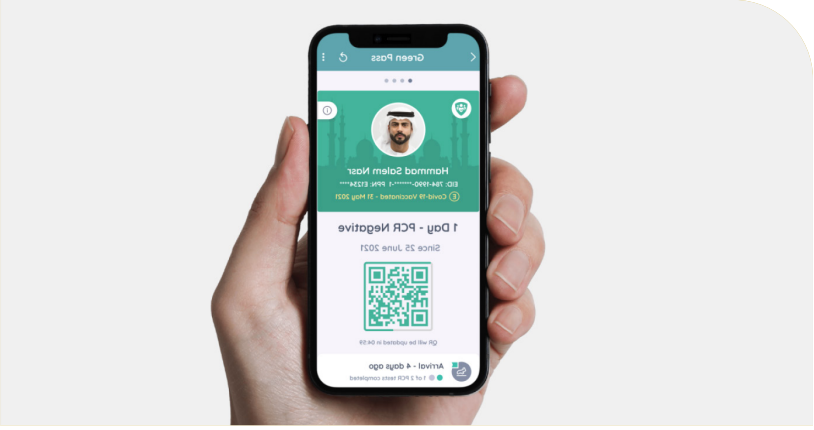
Tourist arrivals in ME reached 76 per cent of 2019 levels

International tourist arrivals in the Asia-Pacific (APAC) region have surged in the seven months to July, but the numbers are still far from pre-pandemic levels, according to the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). The World Tourism Barometer showed arrivals in the APAC region rose by 165 per cent during the January-to-July period this year. "Asia and the Pacific (+165 per cent) saw arrivals more than double in the first seven months of 2022, though they remained 86 per cent below 2019 levels, as some borders remained closed to non-essential travel," it said. The organization said international tourism from January to July posted a 172 per cent increase compared with the same period last year, which is equivalent to 57 per cent of pre-pandemic levels. An estimated 474 million tourists travelled internationally over the period, compared to the 175 million in the same months of 2021. An estimated 207 million international arrivals were recorded in June and July 2022 combined, over twice the numbers seen in the same two months last year. These months represent 44 per cent of the total arrivals recorded in the first seven months of 2022. Europe and the Middle East posted 74 per cent and 76 per cent of 2019 levels, respectively, during the period.

Source -Business World



Alhosn Green Pass needed only in tourist spots and hotels in AD



The validity of the Green Pass on the UAE's official Alhosn app for the Covid-19 registry has been increased from 14 days to 30 days. The National Emergency Crisis and Disaster Management Authority (NCEMA) announced changes to the validity period of 'green status' on the Alhosn app. NCEMA is encouraging the public to continue to be vigilant against the spread of the virus. The new rules will come into effect from September 28. Those visiting hotels in Abu Dhabi will still need to present an AlHosn green status. Numerous pandemic rules have been relaxed across the emirates, including mask wearing now optional. AlHosn will still be used to enter tourism facilities, including hotels, parks and tourist attractions. The validity period of a PCR test has been extended to one month. Masks will still be required in medical facilities and hospitals, mosques, places of worship, and public transport. Face mask wearing at schools will now also become optional.

Source - Caterer Middle East

Egypt to adopt Russian payment system to boost tourism

Starting in mid-September, the Russian ruble found its way to the list of currencies used by banks, tourism companies and hotels to boost Russian tourism in Egypt. Egyptian Central Bank official says the move comes as the European Union considers banning Russian tourists in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The Central Bank of Egypt said the bank, in cooperation with the Egyptian Ministry of Finance, allowed banks across Egypt to access the Russian Mir payment card system. Mir is a payment and money transfer system operated by the Russian National Payment Card System. Russia developed the Mir system to evade sanctions imposed on its ability to transfer funds abroad after its occupation of the Crimean Peninsula in 2014. Several countries, including Bahrain and Iran, are currently seeking to join the Mir system to facilitate financial and commercial transfers with Russia. The government made the move in anticipation of the next winter tourism season as the EU tightened measures against Russian tourists' entry to Europe.

Source - Al-Monitor



Schiphol Aiport to cap passengers through early 2023

Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport - one of Europe's busiest - has announced plans to continue capping the number of travellers departing from the airport through early 2023. It decided in consultation with airlines "which are not happy about it". Caps are expected to extend through the end of March 2023. Schiphol said it would look at the situation again toward the end of the year to see "whether more might be possible from the end of January." Hanne Buis, COO at Royal Schiphol Group, said the number for the capacity limitations will be announced later and slot coordinators would work with airlines to meet the airport's capacity requirements. Schiphol is one of the world's busiest airports for international passenger traffic. It was the world's number three airport in 2021 for international passengers, behind airports in Dubai and Istanbul, according to the Airports Council International (ACI). A passenger cap was first introduced at the airport in June, with Schiphol blaming a higher-than-expected demand for travel and a tight labour market leaving too few employees to cope with it

Source - Cable News Network (CNN)

Changi Airport to start T5 construction in two years

Singapore has revealed that Changi Airport's Terminal 5 will be a promising space that is a social extension of the island nation rather than just another piece of transport infrastructure. T5 will add capacity for about 50 million passengers per year, a big number considering its four current passenger terminals can handle about 82 million passengers a year. T5 will be as big as all four present terminals put together. Construction of T5 will kick off in about two years, with the facility expected to open to travellers in the mid-2030s. Located within the 1,080-hectare Changi East development, it will have a three-runway system and be linked to the other four terminals. Plans for the new terminal were put on pause for two years due to the pandemic, during which the long-term prospects for air travel were reassessed and the terminal design improved. Changi Airport served 68.3 million passengers in 2019, before the pandemic. Following the relaxation of quarantine and testing requirements, passenger traffic reached 55 per cent of pre-pandemic levels in July 2022.

Source - Cable News Network (CNN)

Heathrow loses the top spot as the world's most connected airport

Chicago O'Hare has been named as the world's most connected airport, knocking London Heathrow off the top spot after the UK's busiest airport, which ranked number one in 2019, dropped to 22nd position in the latest Megahubs report by aviation specialist OAG. Rankings for 2022 were generated based on flight data between September 2021 and August 2022 from the top 100 largest airports for capacity as well as the top 100 largest airports for international capacity. This data was then used to calculate the total number of possible flight connections within a six-hour window on 12 August, the busiest day for global aviation in the last year. While Heathrow retained its first-place ranking among European hubs, its global ranking plummeted in 2022. The airport maintained almost the same number of destinations it served in 2019, but the number of possible connections on the busiest day fell by 40 per cent as a result of a self-imposed passenger cap, which particularly affected high-frequency short-haul routes. Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport and Frankfurt Airport experienced similar drops, falling out of the top 10 to 27th and 30th position, respectively. US airports dominate the global rankings, occupying 13 of the top 20 spots due to a strong domestic market.

Source - Business Travel News

Why should we not prioritize accessibility?



Nathalie Herbelles
Senior Director, Security and Facilitation
Airports Council International (ACI) World

Accessibility is gaining momentum. At last, we are starting to see strong commitments being made by States and different aviation industry players to enhance the travel journey of persons with disabilities.

One major milestone was the recent adoption by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Assembly of a Resolution called "Accessibility in International Civil Aviation." The Assembly acknowledged that dignity and non-discrimination were universal rights that applied to all persons, including persons with disabilities and persons with reduced mobility traveling by air. Importantly, it requested that ICAO develops an effective strategy and work program on the subject.

Why does the Resolution matter? ACI drove its development, in partnership with a few States and the International Air Transport Association (IATA), over the last few months. As the ICAO Assembly happens only every 3 years and is international civil aviation's highest decision-making body, it made sense to establish a sense of urgency and prioritization around accessibility and place it firmly on ICAO's (admittedly busy) radar.

Aviation accessibility is not just a human and moral imperative, it makes business sense as well. ACI World predicts that global air traffic will fully recover to pre-pandemic levels by 2024. We also know that persons with disabilities represent around 15% of the world population, that this number is growing, that populations are aging, and that persons with disabilities travel with an average that 1.9 persons.

Under this lens, the question should really be, why would we not prioritize accessibility? ACI will continue its advocacy on this and encourage global actions going forward. More news to come!

Air cargo showed its value during the pandemic

Air cargo showed its value during the pandemic and it became clear for all that it was a social and commercial lifeline—the backbone of global supply chains, the enabler of e-commerce and the best way to distribute high-value and critical shipments of medical equipment and vaccines to the world. Air cargo revenue was a financial lifeline for the industry. In 2021, air cargo revenues were US$204 billion. That's over 40 per cent of total industry revenues—well up from the pre-crisis levels of 12-15 per cent. That exceptional performance could come under pressure and the challenges are mounting.

The war in Ukraine has grounded several key players and disrupted the supply chain. Economic volatility has brought inflation, a weaker trading environment, shifting currency rates and slower GDP growth. The strong rebound of passenger traffic brings more belly capacity for cargo and high-value specialized cargo like pharma products are proving resistant to economic ups-and-downs

The air cargo industry is in a better place than it was in 2019—financially stronger, more efficient with advances in digitalization, and better appreciated for the heroic efforts that we all made to keep cargo going during a very difficult crisis. What issues do we need to tackle together? There should be four priorities: achieving our net zero by 2050 commitment; continuing to modernize processes; finding better solutions to safely carry lithium batteries, and making air cargo attractive to new talent. Last year the industry took the monumental decision to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. Now we must turn our commitment into actions to reduce carbon emissions. We have a balanced plan to achieve net zero.

A possible scenario of emissions reduction by 2050 could result in 65 per cent of our carbon emission getting reduced through the use of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) and 13 per cent from new technologies, including hydrogen and electric propulsion. To increase its production, we need government support. With the right incentives, we could see 30 billion litres of SAF by 2030. We also need to be able to demonstrate our progress towards net zero. Every industry is being asked to report on its carbon footprint. We have announced a major new trial of a standardized and specialized methodology for carbon calculation of cargo shipments, and we will be launching a CO2 calculator for air cargo in 2023. With the right tools and the right policies, net zero is achievable for our industry.

The challenges of the pandemic crisis gave us confidence that we can change and adapt fast. We can continue to support global trade—and its vital contributions to economies and the UN Sustainable Development Goals—with modern and efficient air cargo. Improvements in the safe handling of lithium batteries for air cargo are absolutely a top priority. We need to continue to press and help regulators to crack down on rogue shippers. There is real and hard work ahead for all of us. And global economic and political developments could well make the going even tougher. But it will be nothing compared to what we have been through with the pandemic. And there is much to motivate us.



Brendan Sullivan
Global Head
Air Cargo
IATA

Edited excerpts from the speech at the 15th World Cargo Symposium

China drafts roadmap to boost its civilian drone industry



An increase in the use of drones for inner-city logistics and long-haul goods transport could turn China into a "global civil aviation power," according to the country's civil aviation regulator. The Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) has published a detailed plan, outlining the targets the regulator wanted its unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) industry to reach by the years 2025, 2030 and 2035 to become the largest drone market in the world, closing the gap with the US. The roadmap is currently open to public comment and it includes improving regulations and expanding airspace capacity for civilian UAVs. The goal is to "enhance China's international competitiveness in the field of unmanned aviation as well as the country's right to speak on international civil aviation rules and standards. China has already adapted nimbly to the rise in the use of drone technologies for non-military purposes. Shenzhen-based company DJI is the top manufacturer of commercial drones, with an estimated market share of around 70 per cent, according to Drone Industry Insights. The second and third places are occupied by American company Intel (4.1 per cent) and China's Yuneec (3.6 per cent). Overall, the growth rate for the commercial drone market has been estimated at around 41 per cent between 2017 and 2024, with the value of the Chinese drone industry expected to reach £22bn in 2025. In 2018, the China Academy of Aerospace Electronics Technology and Chinese delivery company SF Express tested the world's biggest unmanned transport aircraft, which was said to carry a payload of 1.5 tonnes (1,360kg).

Source -Engineering and Technology

Lancashire and South Cumbria pioneer drones for pathology deliveries

University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust (UHMBT) and Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (LHTR) will be trialling electrically charged drones for pathology sample deliveries, cutting delivery times and optimising the operation of pathology labs and speeding up access to results. This project will revolutionise deliveries across a specific part of Lancashire and South Cumbria. The drones will be used to transport medical samples between the Royal Lancaster Infirmary, Westmorland General and Furness General Hospital initially. In the second phase of the trial, there will be a simulation of a potential expansion to Royal Preston Hospital. The new initiative will have a positive impact on reducing carbon footprints. It typically takes anything from 60-90 minutes to drive a van between the RLI and FGH whilst spewing out pollutants that damage the atmosphere and our health. Travel time door-to-door with the drone will be achieved in around 15-20 minutes – slashing the normal time by up to 70 per cent.



Source -Digital Health

Flight trials for eVTOL begin to evaluate ATM for operations

Work has started to assess how new eVTOL aircraft can safely integrate with other traffic in existing public airspace has accelerated, with further flight trials at Pontoise near Paris. Volocopter operated its remotely-piloted 2X eVTOL technology demonstrator in tests alongside Pipistrel's piloted electric-powered Velis Electro light aircraft to evaluate how air traffic management technology and processes can be optimized in the lower airspace prospective eVTOL operators expect to start using for commercial flights starting in 2024. The tests also involved a Boreal UAS drone provided by M3 Systems. The week-long flight trials, which ended on September 23, simulated three different avoidance manoeuvres in situations where unplanned incidents can disrupt flight plans. The first involved the unexpected unavailability of the final approach and takeoff area and a forced diversion due to another aircraft needing to be given priority to land. The companies also tested a flight path diversion due to the closure of an airport or vertiport, and a diversion provoked by two aircraft flying on the same path. Pipistrel's Velis Electro used the existing air traffic management (ATM) system at Pontoise airfield and the Volocopter 2X eVTOL and the Boreal UAS used an uncrewed traffic management (UTM) system.



Source - Future Flight

Dronamics and Cotesa to manufacture long-range cargo drones

Dronamics, a company specialising in the development and operation of cargo drones, has sealed a new partnership with Codesa, a manufacturer of high-quality composite fibre components for aerospace automotive vehicles. Under the agreement, both will work together to produce the 'Black Swan', a long-range cargo drone developed by Dronamics that can carry up to 350 kilograms of goods over distances of up to 2.500 kilometres. The drones will be manufactured at Cotesa's facilities in Germany. The partnership will ensure that the production of this type of unmanned aerial vehicle can support the expected demand in Europe from 2023, as a result of the opening of new trade routes.

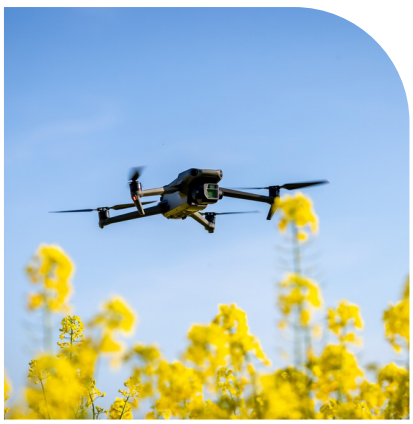
Source - Aviaci Online

Garuda Aerospace permitted to operate as an RPTO

The Chennai-based drone startup Garuda Aerospace has been permitted by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) to be a Remote Pilot Training Organisation (RPTO) for training drone pilots. Garuda Aerospace counts a drone fleet of 400 drones and a trained team of more than 500 pilots in 26 cities. Garuda Aerospace is the 31st Remote Pilot Training Organization (RPTO) in India to have been approved since the union government liberalized drone regulations in August 2021. The firm aims to train and skill one lakh youth across 755 districts in the correct use of drones for agricultural purposes. Garuda aims to train 100,000 youngsters on the correct usage of drones for agricultural purposes. The company has been deploying Agri Kisan drones across the country that help increase food crop productivity and reduce crop loss and exposure of farmers to harmful chemicals while being capable of precision delivery of pesticides and fertilizers, monitoring crop health, surveillance, industrial inspection, yield measurement, and crop loss mitigation.

They are also equipped with sensors, cameras, and sprayers. The drone manufacturing and services industry in the country would grow to become an Rs30,000-crore industry and the country will need 100,000 drone pilots in the future.

Source - 100 Knots



Cargo facilities modernisation at LAX

One of the major gateways for international air cargo in the US is set for a sweeping overhaul of its cargo infrastructure. Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) has invited proposals for the modernisation of its cargo facilities at LA International (LAX). Other major US gateways like Miami, Dallas/Fort Worth and Chicago have made recent upgrades to their cargo infrastructure, or are in the process of doing so, while aspiring second-tier airports like Philadelphia or Pittsburgh are also investing in new cargo buildings. For forwarders in Los Angeles, LAX has been a long-standing source of frustration, both in terms of access to the cargo areas and the cargo facilities themselves. Several of the airport's cargo buildings were well past their prime. The most modern was built in the mid-1980s, while much of the infrastructure dates back to the 1950s. An assessment LAWA carried out last year concluded that many facilities were "not compatible with current industry operating standards" and there were several "roadway and airside issues that may limit optimisation". LAWA also needs to expand its capacity.

Source - The Loadstar

Startical to launch smallsats to improve ATM

Startical, created by Indra and ENAIRE, is planning to launch a constellation of smallsats to improve Air Traffic Management (ATM) and has received significant backing from the European Commission, which will support the development of a key demonstrator to speed up the deployment of the solution. The Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA), through the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) fund, will make a contribution of around 15 million euros to the ECHOES project, led by Startical, ENAIRE and Indra, to validate and quantify the advantages, reliability and availability, with which this space infrastructure will transform the air navigation sector, making it much more sustainable and bringing it closer to the decarbonization objective set for 2050. In addition to improving the capacity, fluidity, efficiency and environmental friendliness of air transport, this disruptive critical satellite infrastructure, with a major technological and industrial component, will act as a driving force that will position the Spanish and European industries at the forefront of new space, a business segment with strong growth potential. It will mean a leap forward in terms of quality, which in turn will boost the sector's competitiveness on a global scale.

Source - Sat News





JD Logistics takes on air cargo competition

JD Logistics, the logistics arm of Chinese e-commerce giant JD, has obtained approval to put its self-owned air cargo fleet into operation, a key move expected to help JD boost its long-haul freight capacity, improve delivery efficiency and ensure the stability of supply chains. JD is facing intense competition from local courier companies such as SF Express, YTO Express and Cainiao Network. The company, based at Nantong Xingdong International Airport in Jiangsu province, will be engaged in domestic and international air cargo transportation, serving industries such as high-end consumption, high-end manufacturing, medical care and fresh produce. The carrying capacity of each aeroplane will be 23 metric tonnes, without disclosing the number and type of aircraft that will come into operation. The company will develop its domestic air freight business in the Yangtze River Delta region, the Bohai Economic Rim area and the Pearl River Delta region in the preliminary stage, with a focus on the cities of Nantong and Wuxi in Jiangsu province, Beijing, and Shenzhen in Guangdong province, and plans to cover more major cities across the nation by the end of 2025.

Source -China Daily

Ocean carrier MSC launching cargo airline with Atlas Air

The Geneva-headquartered container line has been developing MSC Air Cargo for several months and it would be available from early 2023. The launch will follow the delivery of the first of four B777-200F freighters operated by Atlas Air. The decision to set up an air cargo airline was in response to customers and complimentary to its container shipping solutions. Air Cargo would seem to be the latest must-have addition to the business portfolio of the world's three largest container lines, which flush with cash from record profits have also been expanding extensively into the logistics space. In April this year, Maersk announced it would be launching Maersk Air Cargo based out of Billund, Denmark with a fleet of two B777 freighters and three B767-600 cargo aircraft. Last year CMA CGM set up CMA CGM Air Cargo which has a fleet of four Airbus A330-200F freighter aircraft and it has ordered two Boeing 777 freighters. Earlier this year MSC Group in partnership with Lufthansa made an unsuccessful bid to acquire a majority stake in Alitalia's successor ITA Airways.

Source - Maritime Seatrade



ANSPs got 'severely impacted' by pandemic

An international team, based in the United Kingdom, Ireland and Canada, has spent two years researching the impact of the pandemic and the financing of air navigation services to come up with the findings: the pandemic severely impacted Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs). It has raised concerns about the industry's current finance model. Commercial aviation is critical to the global economy. In 2019, it supported more than 65 million jobs and had a global economic impact of US$2.7 trillion.

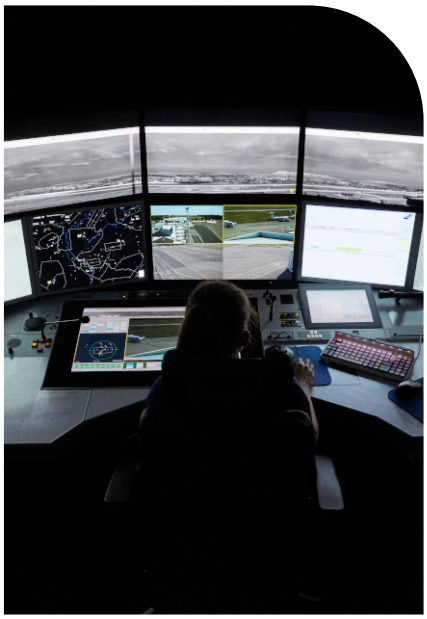
The pandemic has been unlike any crisis, both in terms of depth and duration, and damaged the aviation industry more than most sectors. The global economy contracted by more than three per cent in 2020 — more than enough to cause a severe decline in air transport.

Source - The Conversation

Brunswick-Wolfsburg to get a remote tower

More and more airports are relying on the Remote Tower concept which involves highly efficient remote air traffic control for airports. Brunswick-Wolfsburg Airport and Emden Airfield will be controlled from the Remote Tower Brunswick. DFS Aviation Services GmbH (DAS) will offer its air traffic control services in the Remote Tower starting in 2024. The feasibility of the complex technology has been jointly evaluated by DAS and DLR (German Aerospace Center). DFS Aviation Services is a subsidiary of DFS Deutsche Flugsicherung GmbH (DFS). DFS Aviation Services is a certified air traffic controller for small and medium-sized airports in Germany and also offers clients from all over the world highly professional and customized solutions for air traffic control systems as well as consulting and training. The German ANSP has been using KVM solutions (systems for extending and distributing computer signals for several years. The use of this technology leads to more intuitive and easier operation of the computer landscape while also making it possible to outsource the computer systems required for navigation away from the control environment – and still be able to operate them in real-time. Through its subsidiary, Air Navigation Solutions Ltd. (ANSL), DAS is also responsible for air traffic in Edinburgh.

Source - Air Traffic Management



First-ever all-electric aircraft makes its maiden flight



The world's first all-electric aircraft 'Alice' took to the skies for the first time in September-end creating history in the Aviation sector. Several countries have been taking major steps to reduce carbon emissions from every possible mode of transport. From increasing usage of electric cars, and buses to now introducing electric planes, countries are doing everything in their power to reduce emissions. The first flight took off from Grant County International Airport (MWH), flying for eight minutes at an altitude of 3,500 feet. This new generation of aircraft has the power to transform communities by providing access to airports not currently used by commercial flights due to noise concerns or restricted operating hours. This ground-breaking milestone will lead to innovation in sustainable air travel and shape both passenger and cargo travel in the future. Alice produces no carbon emissions, significantly reduces noise, and costs a fraction to operate per flight hour compared to light jets or high-end turboprops.

Source - Zee News

World's first eVTOL jet launched

German manufacturer Lilium has unveiled the latest innovation in aviation: the electric vertical take-off and landing jet (eVTOL). This game-changing aircraft promises to be more versatile and efficient than anything that has come before, with a range of configurations to suit any need - a private luxury jet or an efficient way to travel with six people. The Lilium Jet is undoubtedly the most exciting development in aviation technology. The Lilium Jet is powered by 36 electric motors integrated into the wing flaps that enable it to take off and land vertically, eliminating the need for a runway, and thereby making the journey to remote or difficult-to-reach locations possible. This proprietary technology is the foundation of the Lilium Jet and is called Ducted Electric Vectored Thrust (DEVT). The aircraft can reach speeds of up to 186 mph, making it one of the fastest ways to travel short distances. As it doesn't rely on fossil fuels, it is also more environmentally friendly and quiet than traditional aircraft. One of the most exciting features of the Lilium Jet is its cabins, which can be customized to suit any need.

Source - Global News Wire



Horizon Europe developing liquid hydrogen energy storage tank

A Horizon Europe's project aims to decarbonise the skies by pioneering a groundbreaking liquid hydrogen storage tank to fuel hydrogen-powered aircraft. The project had been launched in May 2022 and will run for three years. OVERLEAF comprises a 10-strong consortium from six European countries, is led by Aciturri Engineering, and includes various leading companies and academics in the aeronautics sector. The project will see the development of a liquid hydrogen storage tank that will make hydrogen-powered air travel significantly more viable. The EU is aggressively endeavouring to target climate neutrality and sustainability, with hydrogen power providing a promising alternative to facilitate this goal. The European Green Deal aims to reduce transport emissions by 90 per cent by 2050 compared to 1990 levels, with air travel accounting for 3.8 per cent of total CO2 emissions in 2017. The aviation sector generates 13.9 per cent of the emissions from transport, which makes it the second largest source of transport GHG emissions, only exceeded by road transport. This makes aviation a critical area to target to achieve net zero ambitions. A powerful method to achieve these goals is through hydrogen-powered propulsion. In contrast to kerosene, hydrogen eliminates all CO2 emissions and the most harmful non-CO2 emissions, including carbon monoxide, methane, soot particles, and oxidised sulphur species. It emits only water vapour and near-zero nitrogen oxides. The costs of storing and using hydrogen as a fuel for long flights make it impracticable. The main obstacle is the lack of hydrogen storage systems in aircraft due to strict limitations in weight, volume, and cost-efficiency.

Source - Innovation News Network



Heart Aerospace reveals hybrid-electric aircraft design

Swedish electric aircraft manufacturer Heart Aerospace has revealed a new design for its hybrid-electric aircraft, the ES-30, dropping previous plans to develop the ES-19 electric plane. The company has also revealed that Air Canada and Saab have each invested US$5 million in the electric plane manufacturer. As part of the investment, Air Canada has also placed an order for 30 ES-30 hybrid-electric planes. Heart Aerospace has revised the design of its previous 19-seat electric aircraft, the ES-19, to add more passenger capacity. The redesigned aircraft is now called the ES-30, which will boast a 30-seat layout. The ES-30, which is expected to enter service in 2028, will have a reverse-hybrid engine, consisting of two turbo generators powered by sustainable aviation fuel (SAF). The reserve-hybrid system can be used during a cruise on longer flights to complement the electrical power provided by the batteries. The new engine is expected to provide the ES-30 with a fully electric range of 200 kilometres, an extended range of 400 kilometres with 30 passengers, and the flexibility to fly up to 800 kilometres with 25 passengers. United Airlines and Mesa Air Group, which had previously ordered a total of 200 electric aircraft with an option for an additional 100 planes, have reconfirmed their interest in the ES-30. Heart's exciting new design includes expanded passenger capacity from 19 to 30 seats, and a state-of-the-art reserve-hybrid engine.

Source - Aero Time