

## Ahmed bin Saeed: Mohammed bin Rashid's vision take Emirates Airlines to new horizons

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announces record  
half-year performance  
for 2023-24

Dubai Tourism builds  
AI engagement  
platform

Abu Dhabi  
International  
Airport's US\$3  
billion Terminal  
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until March 2024

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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.

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# IATA securing data contributors for CO2 Connect

The International Air Transport Association (IATA), representing about 300 airlines comprising 83 per cent of global air traffic, will be adding further airlines as data contributors to its CO2 Connect emissions calculator, to improve the quality and accuracy of the tool.



## Skykraft nets over A\$100 million for ATM revamp

Skykraft, the world's only comprehensive space-enabled Air Traffic Management (ATM) service provider, has completed a planned funding round. This investment will provide over A\$100 million to take it through to the deployment of the initial ATM constellation in 2025.



## Swinburne takes hydrogen to the skies

Melbourne-based Swinburne University of Technology has completed the first flight of an Australian-developed hydrogen fuel cell electric-powered VTOL drone. The flight occurring in Victoria's Latrobe Valley was the first of its type in Australia.



## Our Vision

The World Airport, Dubai

## Our Mission

Achieving leadership in creating innovative opportunities to maintain security, safety and enhance the infrastructure of the civil aviation sector by attracting investment for the aviation industry in the Emirate of Dubai.

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## Mohammed bin Rashid's Vision Propels Emirates Airlines to New Horizons



It is not an easy feat for an airline to achieve the level of success that Emirates Airlines has enjoyed under the visionary leadership of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai. His insightful vision has been the driving force behind the airline's remarkable journey, providing it with all the essential elements for leadership and unparalleled success since its inception in 1985.

Anyone delving into the history of Emirates Airlines will quickly recognize how this carrier has left an indelible mark on the global stage, becoming a beacon of excellence and success in every aspect. In a mere 38 years since its inaugural flight on October 25, 1985, Emirates Airlines has not only played a pivotal role in supporting Dubai's economy but also contribute to making Dubai's D33 Economic Agenda into a tangible reality, solidifying the city's position as one of the world's top three economic hubs by 2033.

The Emirates Airlines family takes immense pride in the significant milestones it has achieved, thanks to wise policies and dynamic decisions that have empowered the airline to shape the present and future of the global aviation industry. Emirates Airlines has also played a pivotal role in connecting people around the world, carrying millions of passengers annually and offering them exceptional services that align with the highest standards of travel.

While the global civil aviation industry has faced numerous challenges in recent years, Emirates surmounted them through the visionary guidance of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid and its commitment to ongoing development. The airline has continually improved its fleet, services, and human resources by embracing cutting-edge solutions, modern technologies, and operational efficiency enhancements, all aimed at setting unparalleled benchmarks in air transport services and ensuring passengers aboard our flights enjoy seamless and enjoyable journeys.

It is true that Emirates Airlines' journey and achievements are a source of pride, but resting on our laurels is not part of its strategy that is rooted in constant progress, perpetually seeking excellence in all domains, and remaining open to providing passengers with unmatched travel experiences as every aircraft of its fleet soars through the boundless skies of the world.

**Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum**

## Dubai Airshow – New Achievements



Dubai has amazingly and competently hosted the 18th edition of its global airshow which witnessed the wide-ever international participation by companies and participants, including Emirates Airlines, flydubai, and Dubai Air Navigation Services (dans). This represented a significant step in elevating the status of this event within the civil and military aviation industry.

Dubai Airshow-2023 witnessed a substantial global presence, with major companies from both the civil and military sectors, as well as industry leaders and innovators, coming together to discuss future trends and explore new growth opportunities. The event also focused on several key topics, including space technologies and the 'Make it in the Emirates' campaign's efforts for the industry, as well as the pivotal role of startups in accelerating the implementation of sustainability initiatives.

The event hosted multiple conferences, involving over 300 experts from around the world. These conferences addressed the most significant challenges faced by the aviation sector in general, as well as its future trends. They specifically delved into topics such as Advanced Air Mobility (AAM), sustainability, passenger experiences, Air Traffic Management (ATM), diversity and inclusion, and aerospace.

The airshow activities are a practical testament to Dubai and the UAE's ability to host the world's largest events and provide all the

necessary elements for their success. This is achieved through our commitment to working as a unified team to solidify the reputation of this major event that plays a crucial role in shaping the future of the global aviation sector.

The Dubai Civil Aviation Authority worked its way to fulfill its role and carry out the assigned tasks according to the strategic plan established for all the parties involved in managing this event. It set a benchmark for success and excellence while achieving the desired business goals.

**Mohammed Abdulla Ahli**



# EK needs 15,000 employees until March 2024

His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President of Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, Chairman of Dubai Airports and Chairman and Chief Executive of Emirates Airline and Group, has disclosed that Emirates Airlines needs 15,000 employees until March 2024.

The world's largest long-haul airline is constantly seeking to attract local and international talent, to continue growth and implement expansion plans. Talking to the media on the occasion of the 38th anniversary of the launch of the first Emirates Airlines flight in October-end 1985, he said the Human Resources Department continues to organize recruitment campaigns around the world, to attract talent. He remarked: "We will continue our efforts to increase the number of citizens, within the various departments, divisions and professions. The Emiratization team continues to make tireless efforts to qualify and develop national competencies, through leadership, training and skills development programmes, and internal mobility opportunities to acquire various

skills and abilities." The aviation sector in Dubai, led by Emirates Airlines, is considered one of the most important engines of economic growth in the emirate, and a major contributor to achieving the Dubai Economic Agenda D33 which aims to double the economy and make Dubai one of the three most important economic cities in the world, by the year 2033. He said: "Emirates Airlines continued to record strong performance during the first half of the current financial year ending September 30, thanks to the recovery of global and local markets and the increase in demand for travel to and from Dubai. Emirates saw a spectacular turnaround in the last financial year as it posted AED10.6 billion in profit as compared to a loss of AED3.9 billion in the previous year. Its revenues

also jumped to AED107.4 billion and its cash balance of AED37.4 billion. In August 2023, the world's largest international airline marked one of its busiest summers ever, carrying over 14 million passengers with average seat load factors exceeding 80 per cent across its global network between June and August. The passenger traffic demand is staying very high, exceeding its expectations and forecast, said Adel Ahmed Al Redha, Chief Operating Officer. He forecasted that this trend will continue as the aviation sector is flying high after the pandemic. "Demand continues to be very high and positive across our networks and every country we go to. It has exceeded our expectations and forecasts. We see this demand continuing to grow."

**Source – Emirates 247**

# Air Arabia to operate flights between Sharjah and Giza

Air Arabia, the Middle East and North Africa's first and largest Low-Cost Carrier (LCC), will launch a new route operating between Sharjah and Giza city in Egypt. The non-stop flights will connect Sharjah International Airport with Sphinx International Airport with a frequency of five weekly flights starting from the first week of December 2023.

Adel Al Ali, Group Chief Executive Officer of Air Arabia, said: "We are committed to providing our customers with seamless connectivity, convenience, and a truly unique air travel experience". Sphinx International Airport marks its fourth destination in Egypt from Sharjah, following Cairo, Borg Al-Arab and Sohag airports. The carrier operates a fleet of Airbus A320 and A321 neo-LR aircraft, the most modern and best-selling single-aisle aircraft in the world. The cabin configuration across

the fleet provides added comfort with one of the most generous seat-pitch compared to any economy cabin. The aircraft is also equipped with a free in-flight streaming service that allows passengers to stream a wide selection of entertainment directly to their devices. Air Arabia serves 75 international destinations in 30 countries, as of October 2023. More than 7.7 million passengers flew with Air Arabia between January and June 2023 across its seven hubs, an increase of 47 per cent compared to the same

period in 2022. The airline's average seat load factor – or passengers carried as a percentage of available seats – stood at an average of 81 per cent. During the first half of 2023, Air Arabia added three new aircraft to its modern fleet bringing it to a total of 71 owned and leased Airbus A320 and A321 aircraft. It served more than 12.8 million passengers in 2022 from its seven hubs in the UAE, Morocco, Egypt, Armenia, and Pakistan.

**Source -Gulf Daily News**



# Abu Dhabi International Airport's US\$3 billion Terminal opened

In a grand ceremony, Abu Dhabi bolstered its position on the global aviation map with the opening of Terminal A at Abu Dhabi International Airport. Commencing operations on the first day of November, Terminal A marks a significant step in expanding passenger capacity and enhancing travel experiences.

The ceremonial flight, conducted by Etihad Airways, took place a day earlier, followed by the official opening to the public. The new terminal boasts state-of-the-art facilities designed to elevate passenger comfort and airline services throughout the region. A carefully planned transition will see airlines move into Terminal A over two weeks, organized in three phases.

The inaugural phase saw Wizz Air Abu Dhabi and 15 other international carriers commencing operations at the new terminal. Etihad Airways is scheduled to operate 16 daily flights from November second week before completing their full transition to Terminal A. Concurrently, Air Arabia Abu Dhabi and 10 other airlines

will join the terminal. Starting from mid-November, Terminal A became the operational base for all 28 airlines. The preparation for the November inauguration involved comprehensive operational readiness trials that concluded in mid-October. Over 11,000 volunteers from the Abu Dhabi community participated in these trials, including Abu Dhabi Airport staff, students, families, and stakeholders from the aviation community. These trials rigorously tested the end-to-end passenger journey, covering various areas like check-in, baggage, security screening, immigration, and boarding. The terminal will double the current airport capacity, with the capability to accommodate up to 45 million passengers per year. At triple the size of the

previous terminal, and with flights to 117 destinations worldwide, it will increase the frequency and reach of flights to and from Abu Dhabi, boosting the emirate as a destination for travel, business and entertainment. The 35,000 square metres commercial zone features 163 retail and Food and beverage concessionaires, offering passengers a wide variety of shopping and dining opportunities to enjoy. Earlier known as the Midfield Terminal Complex, the US\$3 billion project has been plagued by construction delays. The Midfield Complex was said to be more than 97 per cent complete as long ago as late 2019, but work on the project ground to a standstill at the start of the pandemic.

**Source -The Herald**



# Etihad Airways and Scandinavian Airlines inks codeshare deal



Abu Dhabi-based Etihad Airways and Scandinavian Airlines (SAS) have signed a strategic codeshare agreement. The strategic bilateral agreement with SAS comes after the start of Etihad's flights to Copenhagen. The tie-in gives passengers one-stop access across Scandinavia to destinations including Oslo, Stockholm, Helsinki, Gothenburg, Bergen and Aarhus.

This partnership expands the choices available to SAS customers for journeys to Abu Dhabi and beyond, with connections to India, the Seychelles, Sri Lanka and more. Formed in 2003, Etihad is the second-largest airline in the UAE after Emirates. This partnership expands the choices available to SAS customers for journeys to Abu Dhabi and beyond,

with connections to India, the Seychelles, Sri Lanka and more. This agreement strengthens Etihad's relationship with SAS, including partnering with SAS in the Etihad Guest frequent flyer programme. Etihad Guest members will earn miles when they fly with SAS and vice versa for EuroBonus members, and this facility is now being extended to all flights across both airline networks.

The codeshare is set to come into full service at the end of December 2023, when customers can book across Etihad's sales channels including Etihad.com and travel agents for travel from January 2024. Etihad's fleet of 125 aircraft serves an international network of over 120 destinations.

Source -Times Aerospace

## Dubai is among the world's busiest airports

According to the OAG's Schedules Analyzer data about the busiest global airports in the world, calculated using total airline capacity (domestic and international flights) in October 2023, Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport (ATL) remains the busiest airport with 5.4 million seats in October 2023. Dubai International Airport (DXB) is the second busiest airport with 4.9 million seats and Tokyo International Airport (HND) is third with 4.6 million seats. London Heathrow Airport (LHR) is the second biggest international airport with 4.1 million seats, 19 per cent less capacity than DXB. In October 2023, Dubai to Jeddah has dropped out of the international Top 10 route. The Mumbai-Dubai route is the eighth busiest in the world with airlines flying 1.97 million seats. In 2022, DXB recorded more than 66 million passengers, an increase of 127 per cent from 2021. The airport expects the numbers to increase to a total of 78 million passengers in 2023. Aviation website Skytrax has announced its list of the world's best airports in 2023. Dubai International Airport cut, coming at 17 in the ranking compiled using data from the largest annual global airport customer satisfaction survey.

Source -Times Aerospace



# Emirates Group announces record half-year performance for 2023-24

The Emirates Group announced its best-ever six-month financial result. The Group is reporting a 2023-24 half-year net profit of AED 10.1 billion (US\$ 2.7 billion), surpassing its record half-year profit of AED 4.2 billion (US\$ 1.2 billion) last year by 138%.

The Group also reported an EBITDA of AED 20.6 billion (US\$ 5.6 billion), a significant improvement from AED 15.3 billion (US\$ 4.2 billion) during the same period last year, illustrating its strong operating profitability.

Group revenue was AED 67.3 billion (US\$ 18.3 billion) for the first six months of 2023-24, up 20% from AED 56.3 billion (US\$ 15.3 billion) last year. This was driven by strong demand for air transport across the world, which has been on an upward trajectory since the last pandemic travel restrictions were lifted.

The Group closed the first half year of 2023-24 with a solid cash position of AED 42.7 billion (US\$ 11.6 billion) on 30 September 2023, compared to AED 42.5 billion (US\$ 11.6 billion) on 31 March 2023. The Group has been able to tap on its own strong cash reserves to support business needs, including debt payments. So far, Emirates has repaid AED 9.2 billion of its COVID-19 related loans. The Group

also paid AED 4.5 billion in dividend to its owner, as declared at the end of its 2022-23 financial year.

His Highness (HH) Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman and Chief Executive, Emirates Airline and Group said: "We are seeing the fruition of our plans to return stronger and better from the dark days of the pandemic. The Group has surpassed previous records to report our best-ever half-year performance. Our profit for the first six months of 2023-24 has nearly matched our record full year profit in 2022-23. This is a tremendous achievement that speaks to the talent and commitment within the organisation, the strength of our business model, and power of Dubai's vision and policies that has enabled the creation of a strong, resilient, and progressive aviation sector.

"Across the Group, we've continued to ramp up operations safely and move nimbly to meet customer demand. We've implemented a series of service and

product enhancements to win customer preference, and we'll continue to invest in our people, products, partnerships, and technology to strengthen our capabilities and ensure we are future ready."

HH Sheikh Ahmed added: "For the second half of 2023-24, we expect customer demand across our business divisions to remain healthy and we will stay agile in how we deploy our resources in this dynamic marketplace. At the same time, we are keeping a close watch on headwinds such as rising fuel prices, the strengthening US dollar, inflationary costs, and geo-politics."

To support increased operations and business activities, the Emirates Group's employee base, compared to 31 March 2023, grew 6% to an overall count of 108,996 on 30 September 2023. Both Emirates and dnata have ongoing recruitment drives to support their future requirements.

## Emirates airline

Emirates continued to increase its global flight operations, adding capacity and connections through its Dubai hub to meet customer demand across markets. During the first half of 2023-24, the airline restored A380 operations to Bali, Beijing, Birmingham, Casablanca, Nice, Shanghai, and Taiwan.

In July, it launched daily non-stop services to Montreal, a new destination and the airline's second gateway in Canada.

Expanding connectivity options for customers, Emirates entered and enhanced codeshare or interline agreements with 8 airlines in the first six months of 2023-24: Aegean Airlines, Air Canada, Etihad Airways, Kenya Airways, Philippine Airlines, Maldivian,



Sri Lankan Airlines, and United Airlines. The codeshare partnership between Emirates and Qantas, which has seen over 15 million travellers benefit from joint flight itineraries since its establishment in 2013, received approvals for a further 5-year extension until 2027.

By 30 September, the airline was operating passenger and cargo services to 144 airports, utilising its entire Boeing 777 fleet and 104 A380s. During the first six months of 2023-24, 10 A380 aircraft rolled out of Emirates' retrofit programme with completely refreshed cabin interiors and latest onboard products including Premium Economy seats. This enabled the airline to deploy its highly sought-after Premium Economy services on more new routes including New York JFK, Houston, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Singapore.

In the first half of 2023-24, Emirates launched a new global brand advertising campaign featuring Hollywood actor Penelope Cruz; and introduced initiatives to enhance customer travel experience including: a new city check-in facility at Dubai International Financial Centre, free onboard wi-fi for Emirates Skywards members, and a new meal pre-ordering capability for customers to select their meal options in advance of travel.

Overall capacity during the first six months of the year increased by 25% to 28.5 billion Available Tonne Kilometres (ATKM) due to an expanded flight programme. Capacity measured in Available Seat Kilometres (ASKM), increased by 30%, whilst passenger traffic carried measured in Revenue Passenger Kilometres (RPKM) was up by 35% with an average Passenger Seat Factor of 81.5%, compared with 78.5% during the same period last year.

Emirates carried 26.1 million passengers between 1 April and 30 September 2023, up 31% from the same period last year. Emirates Skycargo uplifted 1,035,000 tonnes in the first six months of the year, an 11% increase compared to the same period last year despite an overall softening in the global cargo market. This reflects the cargo division's ability to meet customer demand with specialised products, and the excellent network



options on offer with its freighter and bellyhold cargo operations.

Emirates profit for the first half of 2023-24 hit a new record of AED 9.4 billion (US\$ 2.6 billion), compared to same period last year's profit of AED 4.0 billion (US\$ 1.1 billion). Emirates revenue, including other operating income, of AED 59.5 billion (US\$ 16.2 billion) was up 19% compared with the AED 50.1 billion (US\$ 13.7 billion) recorded in the same period last year. The airline's record performance is attributable to the strong passenger demand for international travel across markets and Emirates' ability to activate capacity to match demand; and offer customers great value and services.

Emirates' direct operating costs (including fuel) grew by 9% in line with increased operations. Fuel remains the largest component of the airline's operating cost (34%), compared to 38% in the same period last year. Driven by strong demand and increased operations during the six months, Emirates' EBITDA grew by 33% to AED 19.5 billion (US\$ 5.3 billion) compared to AED 14.7 billion (US\$ 4.0 billion) for the same period last year.

#### **dnata**

dnata continued to ramp up operations across its cargo and ground handling, catering and retail, and travel services businesses. This drove strong revenue growth in the first six months of 2023-24.

In the first half of 2023-24, dnata's catering and airport services won significant new contracts and grew existing customers across its international

operations. This shows dnata's ability to serve the growing operations of airline customers, and deliver high quality products and services despite lingering operational challenges in many markets such as a shortage of skilled workforce, supply chain issues, and inflationary pressures.

dnata also continued to make strategic investments in its business and implement innovative technology and other initiatives to better respond to customer needs. Highlights in the first half of 2023-24 include: the acquisition of an additional 29% stake in Imagine Cruising, bringing to 81.4% its shareholding in UK's leading cruise and stay holiday distributors; the implementation of AI-powered solutions to enhance dnata's cargo handling operations and capabilities in Singapore; and the switch to a biofuel blend for road transport vehicles in the UAE used by dnata Logistics, Arabian Adventures, Alpha Flight Services, and City Sightseeing to reduce emissions and address rising customer expectations for transport options with lower environmental footprint.

dnata's revenue, including other operating income, of AED 9.3 billion (US\$ 2.5 billion) increased by 27% compared to AED 7.3 billion (US\$ 2.0 billion) generated in the same period last year.

Overall profit for dnata is AED 709 million (US\$ 193 million), compared to same period last year's AED 236 million (US\$ 64 million).

**Source: Emirates Group**

# New Horizons

## Ahmed bin Saeed: Mohammed bin Rashid's vision take Emirates Airlines to new horizons



His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman and Chief Executive of Emirates Airline and Group, has asserted that Emirates Airlines, since its launch 38 years ago, has been founded based on the vision of the wise leadership of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai (May God protect him), which led it towards establishing new standards in the air transport industry and giving a growth momentum for Dubai to become a global model for success in various domains, in addition to the human resources development, which play a major role in enhancing its global position.

In an interview with the media, on the occasion of the celebration of the 38th anniversary of the launch of the first flight of Emirates on October 25, 1985, he said: "The aviation sector in Dubai, led by Emirates Airlines, is considered one of the most important engines of economic growth, and a major contributor in achieving success as per the Dubai Economic Agenda (D33) of doubling the size of the economy and making Dubai one of the three most important economic cities in the world by 2033." His Highness said: "Emirates Airlines continued posting its strong performance levels during the first

half of the current financial year that ended on September 30, thanks to the recovery of global and local markets and an increase in demand for travel to and from Dubai."

His Highness explained: "Emirates Airlines' strategy is based on serving Dubai and regional and global markets, thanks to its short-and-long-haul flights. The civil aviation sector in Dubai and the UAE has succeeded in strengthening its position in the world, and this would not have been possible without the efforts of airlines, airports, and local and federal regulatory

bodies." He stressed that the Emirati carriers, which operate their flights from various airports in the country, play a vital role in enhancing air connectivity with the world, by providing their distinguished services to all segments on carrier flights.

**How do you view EK's achievements over the past years, especially after the great success in completely overcoming the challenges of the pandemic crisis?**

The journey of Emirates Airlines since its founding has not been easy. Obstacles and challenges affect all



economic sectors, including aviation, but our ability to overcome difficulties is what has determined our position today among the largest and most important air carriers in the world. Over the past thirty-eight years, we have continued to establish new standards. In the civil aviation industry, we have introduced many new products and developed our services, to meet the requirements of passengers, and even exceed their expectations in providing basic services and making their travel with us an unforgettable experience. We have achieved amazing successes, as Emirates Airlines has become the largest international carrier in the world, and within a short period, it has been able to cover six continents and has won many international awards thanks to the excellence of its products and the quality of its services.

The success of Emirates Airlines would not have been achieved with such momentum had it not been for the presence of three basic factors, the first of which is: the vision of the wise leadership of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai. The second main factor is that Dubai has become a model of success, and the third is that efficient human resources contributed towards raising the name of Emirates Airlines.

**To what extent has the carrier succeeded in enhancing the aviation sector's contribution to the GDP... What is its role in achieving the goals of the Dubai Economic Agenda-2033?**

According to estimates by the World Travel and Tourism Council, the aviation sector's direct contribution to Dubai's GDP increased from AED29.8 billion in 2021 to AED45.8 billion in 2022, with a growth rate of 53.8 per cent on an annual basis.

The aviation sector in Dubai, led by Emirates Airlines, is considered one of the most important engines of economic growth, and a major contributor to achieving the Dubai Economic Agenda which aims to double the economy and make Dubai one of the three most important economic cities in the world, by the year 2033.

**Emirates Airlines has continued to grow at a rapid pace since its inception. There are major milestones in this journey of success. In your opinion, what are the most prominent milestones in this growth journey?**

In 1984, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum directed the establishment of an airline, and by December of that year the business plan was ready, and the name Emirates Airlines was chosen for

the fledgling company. On October 25, 1985, our first flights took off from Dubai to Karachi and Mumbai.

In the early 1990s, Emirates Airlines became the first carrier in the world to install personal video systems in all seats and all classes on board its aircraft. Then came Emirates' request to purchase seven Boeing 777 aircraft with 7 options, to restore confidence in the industry that was severely damaged by the First Gulf War.

By the end of the 20th century, EK's global flight network had grown to 50 destinations, and in 2000 we became the first carrier in the world to place an order to purchase Airbus A380 aircraft, and our order marked the start of production of this giant aircraft.

Emirates Airlines placed a historic order to purchase Boeing 777 aircraft in a deal worth US\$9.7 billion, the largest order ever for this model at that time. It subsequently increased its orders for both Boeing 777X and 787 Dreamliners and Airbus A350 aircraft.

**With the entry of Artificial Intelligence into various aspects of our lives, do you think that we are on the verge of another radical change that will shape the future of the aviation industry on the ground and in the air?**



Technological development, regardless of its nature and names, is an influential factor in various sectors. Today, we find that artificial intelligence constitutes an important aspect in the operations of airline companies, which workday and night to deliver millions of passengers to their destinations safely.

Since its establishment, Emirates Airlines has been operating in an ever-evolving technological environment, adopting everything new in this field. The need will increase to adopt more technologies that will enhance the accuracy and flexibility of airline operations, and this requires the ability to predict changes and adapt to them.

AI is increasingly being used in the aviation industry to enhance various aspects of operations, customer service and safety. Through it, huge amounts of data can be analyzed in real time, to help carriers make better decisions regarding routes and flight planning, which can improve fuel efficiency and passenger safety. It can predict the ideal time to perform aircraft maintenance, reduce the chances of unexpected delays and cancellations, and ensure safety. Airlines use AI-powered chatbots to handle customer inquiries, provide flight information, assist in making reservations, and improve customer service efficiency. Existing systems also help Artificial intelligence helps airlines manage baggage more efficiently.

Adopting artificial intelligence in the aviation industry helps improve

operational efficiency, reduce costs, enhance safety and provide a better customer experience. Airlines are increasingly benefiting from artificial intelligence to maintain their competitiveness and adapt to the evolving needs and expectations of travelers.

**Emirates Airlines is known for its innovations in the aviation sector. What major contributions can the carrier make in this field to Dubai, the UAE, and the world?**

The aviation sector is based on a basic and important element, which is facilitating movement between cities and markets, which is reflected in the form of social and economic benefits to various societies around the world, and strengthening efforts in this context may be the vital and important element in this field.

Emirates Airlines works to strengthen the connection between Dubai and the UAE with the world, as it has contributed significantly to the lives of people in many markets, and has contributed positively to the economies of cities and countries, whether through its flights, which transport millions of people, along with millions of tons of goods and products. In addition to aircraft purchase orders, and requests for supplies and services from suppliers in various countries of the world.

**With the UAE about to host the COP28, what role does sustainability play in Emirates Airlines' long-term vision?**

One of the primary goals of sustainability in aviation is to reduce the environmental impact of air and ground operations. This includes efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Enhancing fuel efficiency is a key aspect of sustainability as carriers, aircraft manufacturers and regulatory bodies are constantly working to develop more efficient aircraft. In fuel consumption, improving flight paths, and adopting fuel-saving technologies to reduce the carbon footprint of the industry.

With the development of sustainable aviation fuels (SAF), which have a lower carbon footprint compared to traditional aviation fuels, we have conducted experiments with this type of fuel, and have signed agreements to purchase quantities of it. We also operate from some stations with a mixture of both sustainable and traditional types, and we are working to make our ground operations, such as Airport facilities and maintenance operations, more environmentally friendly and more energy efficient.

**Emirates has key priorities and strategies to maintain competitive advantage in the coming years. What are your main approaches in this regard?**

Our priorities and strategy have not changed since our founding. We are working to connect Dubai and the UAE with various capitals and major cities in the world with direct flights. We continue to work on developing our services and products and providing an unparalleled travel experience for our customers. We also continue to lead the way in adopting the latest technological developments in the aviation industry.

**Huge orders for new generation aircraft were recently announced in the region, specifically from Saudi Arabia, India and others. How do you view these orders and do you feel the competition?**

I would like to emphasize here, perhaps dozens of times, that we at Emirates Airlines welcome competition, because it is the path to development, growth, innovation, and improving services.

We established our carrier in a highly competitive atmosphere, and it still is, and I quote here the saying of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid, who said that he hopes to see ten cities in the region such as Dubai. Airlines enter into aircraft purchase agreements to meet their future needs and serve their fleets, and the ability of major manufacturers to meet needs constitutes the primary challenge, in light of the continued growth of the aviation sector and the carriers' need for more modern aircraft.

**The aviation industry is awaiting the announcement of Emirates' midterm results. Will we see further growth after the record performance achieved in the last financial year?**

The strong demand for travel, with the reopening of international markets, and the rush of the world's population to travel after a two-year hiatus, contributed to an increase in the number of travelers for various purposes, especially for the purpose of tourism, which reflected positively on the performance of airline companies, including Emirates Airlines.

Emirates Airlines continued to record strong performance during the first half of the current financial year, which ended last September 30, thanks to the recovery in global and local markets and the increase in demand for travel through Dubai, and we will announce the details soon.

**Do you think that the code-sharing agreement benefited flydubai more or Emirates? Do you recommend repeating the experience among Dubai companies in other sectors with different operations?**

Emirates Airlines and flydubai share one goal, which is to serve the aviation sector in Dubai, by strengthening the city's position as a global destination for travel to, from and through it.

The strategic partnership between the two carriers has succeeded in attracting millions of travelers from various markets, and facilitating their arrival to their destinations, by improving flight schedules, smooth transportation at Dubai International Airport between Terminals 2 and 3, and transporting baggage on the entire flight route, in addition to mutual loyalty benefits under the Skywards program. Emirates is the joint airline for customers of the two carriers.

**Finally, being an inspiring leader in the aviation industry and the business sector in general, what are your tips and messages to the young Emirati and Arab generation, and to aspiring professionals looking to leave a mark in this field?**

The aviation sector, with its diverse and essential fields, such as operations management, engineering, control, flight crews, piloting, and even administrative roles, offers significant opportunities for young Emirati and Arab generations. With access to

education and training, and in view of the aviation sector's promising future and anticipated tremendous growth, this generation must seize this opportunity.

**Order more aircraft in the future**

His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum confirmed that concluding orders to purchase new aircraft is in line with Emirates Airlines' expansion strategy in global markets, replacing old aircraft and enhancing the operational efficiency of the fleet, by operating new aircraft with high efficiency and less fuel consumption, thus reducing carbon emissions.

Emirates' fleet is one of the newest and most advanced in the world, currently consisting of 260 aircraft, all of which are wide-body Airbus A380 and Boeing 777 aircraft. We will begin receiving Airbus A350 aircraft from mid-2024 and Boeing 777-9 aircraft in 2025. Emirates already has orders for 200 aircraft, split between Boeing 777X, Boeing 787 Dreamliner, and Airbus A350. We are in constant contact with manufacturers regarding the order of more aircraft in the future, to support the airline's fleet for the coming years. The Dubai Airshow, which we look forward to participating in its 2023 edition, is our main platform to reveal any potential deals and agreements, and to strengthen our partnership with industry leaders.

**Source: Al-Bayan**



# Kuwait Airways expects first A330-900 in Q3 of 2024

Kuwait Airways is expecting the first of seven A330-900Ns it ordered to be delivered in the third quarter of 2024. Its Chief Executive Maen Razouqi said: "The promise from our partner Airbus is that there should be no delays on that type. We will keep our four A330-800Ns and will not replace them with the larger-variant A330-900, even though the -900 will offer a better economic footprint. The -900 will give us the capacity we need," he said. Several of the incoming A330s will be configured in a high-density configuration to use for destinations like Manila Ninoy Aquino International, with more economy-class seats. The four new A330-800s that it now operates "will be an enabler for us" to get nonstop from



Kuwait to North America. They "will take us to New York JFK on better margins." JFK is the Kuwaiti carrier's only destination in North America, with 7x weekly frequencies using B777-300(ER)s, the Ch-Aviation capacities module shows. According to the Ch-Aviation fleets advanced module, besides the A330neo, the airline currently operates ten of the B777s as well as five A330-200s, seven A320-200Ns, and eight A320-200s, with two more A320neo, nine A321-200N, and two A350-900s on order. The carrier's future fleet

will be based on a 60:40 narrow-body to wide-body ratio. The first A321neo is likely to arrive by the end of 2024 and could be deployed to Manchester International or Bangkok Suvarnabhumi. The airline official said: "We are also exploring potential additional aircraft from the market. But this is a separate exercise." However, he made no mention of the freighters the carrier is expecting over the coming year.

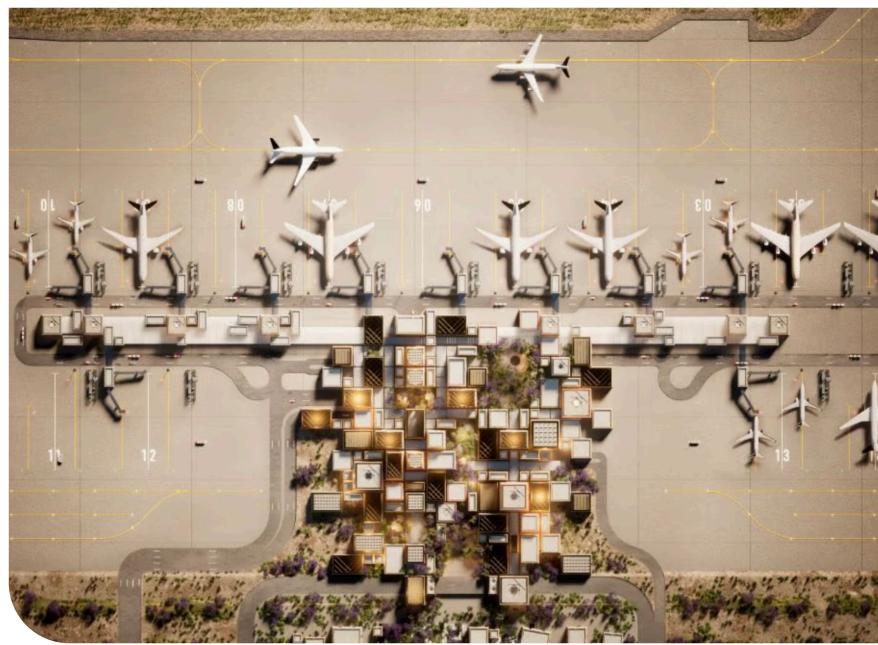
Source -Ch-Aviation

## Abha International Airport to be massively expanded

Abha International Airport, one of the 29 airports in Saudi Arabia, is going to witness major expansions of its facilities. The masterplan

involves its terminal area expanding to 65,000 square metres, compared to 10,500 square currently existing. The first phase is expected to be

completed by 2028. The airport's capacity will also increase to accommodate over 13 million passengers annually – a nearly tenfold increase from its current 1.5 million capacity. Furthermore, it will handle more than 90,000 flights per year, a significant increase from its current capability of 30,000 flights per year. The project involves the construction of passenger boarding bridges, self-service facilities for streamlined travel, and high-capacity parking facilities. It will also feature 20 gates, along with 41 check-in counters with seven new self-service check-in points. The master plan was launched by Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia, and Chairman of the Council of Economic and Development Affairs.



Source -Business Traveller



## Gulf Air to expand into China in 2024

Gulf Air will be extending its operations into China in January 2024. In line with its calibrated growth strategy to strengthen its global network and connect Bahrain with key global destinations, this strategic move represents a significant step forward for the national carrier of Bahrain to bolster its Asia-Pacific presence and support connectivity under the 'One Belt One Road' initiative of China.

"We are excited by the opportunity to expand our presence in the Asia-Pacific region with new flights connecting Bahrain and the cities of Guangzhou and Shanghai," said Dr. Jeffrey Goh, Chief Executive Officer of Gulf Air Group Holding. "China is one of the world's fastest-growing economies and a global tourism market. It is key to our strategy of calibrated network growth. These flights will offer greater choice and flexible travel experiences for passengers and create new pipelines for trade, tourism and collaboration,

benefitting both nations." GF's introduction of flights to Guangzhou and Shanghai will strengthen the bilateral trade and tourism relations of over 30 years. The schedule has been built to ensure convenient connections between China and destinations served by Gulf Air in the Middle East and Europe and between these destinations and China. The flights will be operated with Boeing 787 Dreamliner and two cabins of service, a business class cabin featuring one of the most spacious premium seats and an economy class cabin with state-of-the-industry seats. Gulf Air has been serving the Kingdom of Bahrain and beyond since 1950, steadily growing its operations and network to meet the needs of its diverse customer base. The airline operates scheduled flights from its hub at Bahrain International Airport to over 40 cities in Europe, the Middle East, Africa, the Indian sub-continent and the Far East.

Source – Yahoo! Finance

## Bahrain and the United States set a Summer 2024 target for nonstop flights

The US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has started work with the Bahrain Civil Aviation Authority to prepare for a safety assessment that is hoped will pave the way for direct flights between the two countries. The announcement was made by the White House during a visit to Washington by Bahrain's Prime Minister, Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, during which the two countries signed a security and economic agreement. Both countries have set a target of launching air service by the summer of 2024, which would become the first non-stop scheduled passenger flights between the nations in more than 27 years.

The island nation's flag carrier Gulf Air previously offered a direct connection from Bahrain International Airport to New York John F. Kennedy International Airport until early 1997, but the US has remained absent from its network ever since. However, the carrier has been working to resume US service over the years, and in December 2022, applied with the US Transportation Department (DOT), requesting a foreign air carrier permit and exemption authority to operate scheduled and charter services using Boeing 787-9s. At the time of the request, the state-owned carrier said it wanted to offer passenger, freight and mail flights between the countries under the full extent of the U.S.-Bahrain air transport agreement, which has been in place since May 1999. According to data provided by the DOT, Gulf Air previously served JFK from July 1994 to February 1997.

Source -Aviation Week

## Global travel and tourism market to pass US\$1 trillion by 2027

A report by a research company says revenue in the global travel and tourism market is projected to reach US\$854.7 billion in 2023. According to research conducted by Statista, the sector is expected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 4.42 per cent during the period 2023-27, passing the trillion-dollar mark within the next four years. Allied Market Research valued the global business travel market at US\$689.7 billion in 2021, predicting that the segment would grow to US\$2.1 trillion by 2031. The global luxury travel market is on course to pass US\$440 billion by the end of this decade, according to research



from Coherent Market Insights. The MICE segment also continues to make valuable contributions in the Arabian Gulf countries like the UAE where an Economic Impact Assessment (EIA) Annual Report by the Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC) estimated that the venue's total economic output – across 63 large-scale events – exceeded US\$3.5 billion in 2022.

The travel and tourism sector is on course to contribute US\$49.18 billion to the UAE economy alone in 2023, according to the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC). This figure is predicted to reach US\$64.12 billion by 2033, accounting for an impressive 10.2 per cent of its GDP.

Source -Travel Daily News

## India to become fourth largest global travel spender by 2030

A report released jointly by Booking.com and McKinsey & Company has predicted that Indian tourists will substantially boost their spending in the coming years, positioning India

as the fourth-largest global spender in travel by 2030, with an estimated expenditure of US\$410 billion. The report, How India Travels, has revealed a surge in the travel sector

of the world's second most populous country. This projection represents a 173 per cent increase from 2019 when Indian tourists collectively spent US\$150 billion, ranking India as the sixth largest global spender. In 2022, Indians played a pivotal role in the recovery of the tourism industry, surpassing Asia by reaching 78 per cent of 2019 levels, while the continent achieved only 52 per cent. Furthermore, the report anticipates that the number of trips taken by Indians will increase from 2.3 billion in 2019 to an impressive five billion in 2030. As per the report, Indians are known for their "spontaneity" when it comes to trip planning, with an average planning window of just 29 days, a shorter timeframe than even Japan (57 days) and the US (63 days).

Source -WION



## Dubai Tourism builds AI engagement platform

As part of its ultimate aim to make Dubai the world's leading commercial centre, investment hub and tourism destination, the Department of Economy and Tourism (DET) has partnered with customer experience solutions provider Avaya to build out an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered platform that will streamline the creation of business licenses in the emirate. The initiative will support efforts towards realizing the goals of the Dubai Economic Agenda (D33) of doubling the size of Dubai's economy over the next decade and consolidating its position among the top three global cities. It will help digitize the process of business license applications, using AI to solve the most common pain points in the journey, and providing instant digital access to experts on demand. DET is mandated to support the government in positioning the emirate as a major hub for the global economy and tourism. Under its remit, DET is driving efforts further



to enhance Dubai's diversified, innovative service-based economy to attract top global talent, deliver a world-class business environment and accelerate productivity growth. The digital-first solution customized for DET's requirements will aim to deliver an integrated experience between customers and DET advisors across a range of digital channels. An intelligent chatbot, fed by an advanced knowledge management system, will deliver self-service tools designed to automate the

most common service requests for both internal and external users. Avaya communications technology will also look to help DET adopt a digital-first approach to customer happiness, giving Dubai investors direct access to advisors over video from anywhere in the world. Finally, advanced, AI-enabled analytics tools will enable DET to identify problem areas in the customer journey and enable managers to act quickly on solving them.

Source -Computer Weekly

## Global tourism investment down by over US\$100 billion

Global capital investment in travel and tourism totalled \$856 billion last year, down 23 per cent from its pre-pandemic level of US\$1.1 trillion in 2019, according to the World Travel & Tourism Council's

Economic Impact 2023 Global Trends Report. This year, global investment in the travel and tourism sector is expected to grow 11.5 per cent to US\$955 billion, but it won't return to its pre-pandemic level until 2025.

2022 was the first time investment in the sector had grown since the pandemic. Compared to 2021, global investment was up 11 per cent.

WTTC attributed it to global pent-up demand. Capital flows tanked during the pandemic. Investment dropped 24 per cent in 2020 and eight per cent in 2021. Before the pandemic, public and private sector investment in travel and tourism had grown at 4.3 per cent per year between 2010 and 2019, growing from US\$754.6 billion in 2010 to US\$1.1 trillion in 2019. The countries with the highest levels of investment in 2022 were the US (\$213 billion), China (US\$146 billion) and Saudi Arabia (US\$42 billion). Saudi Arabia has been upping its investment in its aviation infrastructure, hotels, attractions and other areas to triple tourism's contribution to its economy.

Source -Skift



## Airlines in Kazakhstan handled nine million passengers

Airlines in Kazakhstan have carried 8.7 million passengers in the first eight months of 2023, 26 per cent more than the 2022 output, with up to 600 flights per week to 32 countries and 115 international destinations. According to a report by the Silk Way TV channel, officials have plans to expand the fleet from 96 aircraft to 131 by 2025. In 2022, 14 aircraft were added to the fleet. Among the 13 aircraft planned for purchase in 2023, approximately six were already in service, and another six to seven are expected to come by the end of the year. Overall, we plan to acquire 26 more aircraft by 2025. Almaty city anticipates the commissioning of a new passenger terminal in 2024 while Astana projects its airport to double its annual passenger capacity by up to ten million people shortly.

Source – Astana Times



## Printed airline timetables fade as fliers check online

Airlines in Japan – and elsewhere in the world – are scrapping printed timetables as most passengers rely on their smartphones to check schedules. Skymark Airlines, which has published timetables in leaflet form twice a year since it started operations in 1998, will end the tradition with the summer schedule that lists flights through October 2023. “Today, few passengers check flight schedules on printed timetables to make reservations,” according to a company representative. Environmental considerations for resource conservation also factored in the decision. About 92,000 copies of the 2022 winter schedule version were printed, down from about 120,000 copies

four years earlier. Passengers will be asked to refer to the company website from the 2023 winter schedule. Skymark is the last airline serving major domestic routes to discontinue printed timetables, which are available at airports at self-service check-in kiosks. Japan Airlines and All Nippon Airways both ended the practice in 2021. Three smaller carriers also no longer publish paper versions. Amakusa Airlines, based in Kumamoto Prefecture, still publishes printed timetables. According to a report in Airliners, about 25 years ago most airlines printed and published their systemwide timetables a schedules for use by passengers.

Source -Asahi

## Bamboo Airlines gets fourth chief executive in 2023

Bamboo Airways, Vietnam's first private airline founded in 2017, has named a new chief executive, its fourth in 2023, as it embarks on a major restructuring of its business. He has previously held roles as the chief executive of Pacific Airways, the low-cost unit of Vietnam Airlines, and chief executive of Hai Au Aviation, which operates sightseeing and charter flights. He plans to grow to 50 in-service aircraft.

The new appointment follows the carrier's announcement that it will overhaul its operations by sharply cutting international operations and focusing its fleet on narrow-body aircraft. Bamboo has had a troubled two years, characterized by turmoil in its leadership ranks and ownership changes. The airline flies to several domestic destinations within Vietnam. The airline started operating flights in January 2019,

with a leased Airbus A320 linking Ho Chi Minh City with Hanoi. It currently flies to over 20 domestic destinations within Vietnam and over 10 international destinations to the US, Japan, Macau, South Korea, and Taiwan. Overall, the Bamboo Airways fleet consists of 29 aircraft ranging from Boeing, Airbus and Embraer.

Source – Flight Global

# IATA securing data contributors for CO2 Connect

The International Air Transport Association (IATA), representing about 300 airlines comprising 83 per cent of global air traffic, will be adding further airlines as data contributors to its CO2 Connect emissions calculator, to improve the quality and accuracy of the tool. It signed Respective agreements with five airlines including Air Baltic, LATAM Airlines and Nile Air during the first World Sustainability Symposium in Madrid. "Accessing the most accurate operational data is key to achieving global consistency and alignment in CO2 emissions calculations. Expanding this data

pool is essential in providing greater transparency and coherence to passengers and stakeholders alike. This allows for more informed CO2 compensation choices while supporting ESG reporting," said Frederic Leger, IATA's Senior Vice President of Commercial Products and Services. To accurately calculate CO2 emissions from aircraft, IATA launched CO2 Connect in June 2022, to use actual airline data like fuel burn, belly cargo and load factors, to provide accurate per-passenger CO2 emissions calculations. The CO2 Connect calculator now

receives actual operational data from around 150 airlines. Paired with other IATA and open market data sources, IATA CO2 Connect calculates fuel burn data for 74 aircraft types, representing 98 per cent of the active global passenger fleet, and considers traffic data from 881 aircraft operators representing 93 per cent of global air travel. This sets it apart from other CO2 calculators which rely on theoretical models and thus apply more assumptions in their calculations.

**Source - IATA**



## Indian carrier clocks aviation's fastest growth record in over 100 years

Within twelve months of commencing its operations, Asaka Air has achieved an impressive fleet size of 20 brand-new aircraft, setting a precedent for rapid expansion. It marked a significant milestone in October 2023 as it completed one year of successful commercial operations within the Indian aviation landscape. Commencing its inaugural flight in August 2022, from Mumbai to Ahmedabad, the carrier has made waves with its enhanced

affordability options and extensive connectivity, thus shaping a new era of advancement for the aviation sector. In an extraordinary feat, the carrier has emerged as one of the fastest-growing airlines in the history of global aviation. Within just twelve months of commencing operations, the airline achieved an impressive fleet size of 20 brand-new aircraft, setting a precedent for rapid expansion. The recent addition of a Boeing 737-8-

200 variant of the Boeing 737 MAX, solidified its position as the first Asian airline to integrate this cutting-edge model into its expanding fleet. With a substantial order book of 76 aircraft, including 23 737-8s and 53 737-8-200 aircraft, the carrier has set ambitious goals for the future, with plans to further strengthen its fleet by the end of 2023.

**Source – Financial Express**

## Rising passenger numbers at Copenhagen Airport

A total of 20.3 million passengers travelled through Copenhagen Airport during the first nine months of 2023, representing a 24 per cent year-on-year increase. The autumn break for schools will see upwards of 100,000 passengers pass through Denmark's largest airport. Autumn is the time to travel for many people who either want to extend their summer by taking a trip to sunnier and warmer climes or visit one of the big cities on the Copenhagen Airport's destinations map. A total of 2.53 million passengers passed through Copenhagen Airport in September, the first month of autumn. "We experience a huge urge to extend the summer season by travelling, not only to southern Europe or a European big city but also by jetting across the Atlantic to visit the United States," remarked Peter Krogsgaard, Chief Commercial Officer of Copenhagen Airports. The routes between Copenhagen and one of the North American destinations in the US or Canada had 124,000 passengers in September, up eleven per cent compared to the same period in 2022. Just under half of them were Americans or Canadians travelling to Denmark. "The routes to North America are performing well, and the number of seats available is approaching the level of 2019.

**Source -Airliner**

## LHR is the world's most internationally connected airport; DXB in MEA



The OAG Megahubs Index reveals the most internationally connected airports in the world and by region in 2023. The rankings were generated by comparing the number of scheduled connections to and from international flights with the number of destinations served from the airport on the busiest day between September 2022 and August 2023. Experts analyzed flight data for the 100 largest airports in the world based on total scheduled seats and calculated the total number of all possible connections between inbound and outbound flights within a six-hour window (where either the inbound,

outbound, or both flights are international). London Heathrow Airport (LHR) has clinched the top spot as the world's most internationally connected airport. In addition, LHR ranked as the fourth largest airport globally in terms of total scheduled capacity for the period through August 2023. While the total number of potential connections during this selected timeframe has yet to fully rebound to 2019 levels, London Heathrow Airport maintains its supremacy this year, boasting the highest ratio of connections to destinations served.

**Source -Sam Chui**

## ACI World improving the cyber resilience of airports

The Toronto-based Airports Council of India (ACI) World has launched a new airport assessment programme to improve the overall cyber awareness and resilience of airport operators and the aviation ecosystem through advocacy and the launch of a new airport assessment initiative. The support to ACI members in cybersecurity follows the ACI World Resolution 'Affirming airport's commitment to addressing the evolving cyber threats in aviation,' agreed at the 33rd ACI World Annual General Assembly (WAGA) that

took place in Barcelona in June 2023. The ACI World will actively represent airport interests at the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). With the proliferation of cyber-attacks globally, the ACI World continues to advocate for a cybersecurity regulatory framework that is developed to be outcomes-focused, fit for purpose, leveraging existing standards and frameworks, and promoting cybersecurity culture across the aviation industry.

**Source -International Airport Review**



## Singapore Changi Airport to go passport-free starting 2024

Singapore's Changi Airport is set to go passport-free starting 2024 with automated immigration clearance. The airport will introduce automated immigration clearance which will allow passengers to depart the city-state without passports, using only biometric data. The announcement was made by Singapore's Communications Minister Josephine Teo during a parliament session, during which several changes to the country's Immigration Act were passed. She said: "Singapore will be one of the first few countries in the world to introduce automated, passport-free immigration clearance." Biometric technology, along with facial recognition software, is already in use to some extent in Changi Airport

at automated lanes at immigration checkpoints. The upcoming changes will "reduce the need for passengers to repeatedly present their travel documents at touch points and allow for more seamless and convenient processing," she said.

Biometrics will be used to create a "single token of authentication" that will be employed at various automated touch points – from bag drops to immigration clearance and boarding – eliminating the need for physical travel documents like boarding passes and passports. Passports will, however, still be required for many countries outside of Singapore that do not offer passport-free clearance. Often ranked the world's best airport and also

one of the busiest, Changi Airport serves more than 100 airlines that fly to 400 cities in around 100 countries and territories worldwide. It handled 5.12 million passenger movements in June, crossing the five million mark for the first time since January 2020, when the pandemic struck. The airport currently has four terminals and is set to expand, adding a fifth terminal to cater to the growing number of passengers. It is projecting a return to pre-pandemic levels of passenger and air traffic and expressed hopes that the upcoming biometric system will help make passenger flows smoother.

Source **Travel Trade Journal**

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and frameworks, and promoting cybersecurity culture across the aviation industry.

Further building airport and aviation awareness and resilience should include developing incident response and recovery mechanisms as part of existing emergency or business continuity plans and leveraging international cyber information-sharing mechanisms.

Source **-International Airport Review**

# 2024 to be a milestone for global passenger traffic



**Luis Felipe de Oliveira**  
Director-General  
ACI World

Global air travel will nearly return to pre-pandemic levels by the end of 2023, with all regions expected to reach this milestone by 2024. Upside factors include the reopening of the Chinese market and surge in domestic travel, supply chain disruptions gradually subsiding, and inflation slowing down.

We continue to witness the dedicated efforts and commitment of airports and our other partners. We are filled with optimism about the industry's future. Aviation is a key driver of growth, jobs, and prosperity, providing employment, social benefits, and economic development to communities worldwide. This sector remains a steadfast force in global economic recovery, bridging connections among people, cultures, and economies."

The Airports Council International (ACI) World has published its latest quarterly air travel outlook revealing global passenger traffic is expected to recover in early 2024 as it reaches 9.4 billion passengers. Several issues were highlighted in the 14th Advisory Bulletin on the impact of the pandemic on the airport business—and the path to recovery. Global passenger volume in 2023 is expected to reach 8.6 billion passengers, which is 94.2 per cent of the 2019 level. The year 2024 is expected to be a milestone for global passenger traffic recovery as it reaches 9.4 billion passengers, surpassing the year 2019 which welcomed 9.2 billion passengers (102.5 per cent of the 2019 level).

The gap between the Business as Usual (BAU) forecast from 2019 and the current recovery projections revealed that the percentage of lost traffic continues to decrease every quarter, from minus 23 per cent in Q1 2023 to minus 13 per cent in Q4 2024. The Latin America-Caribbean region is forecasted to be the first region to surpass its 2019 level. In 2023,

the region is estimated to reach 707 million passengers or 102.9 per cent of the 2019 level. Asia-Pacific region is expected to reach approximately 3.4 billion passengers in 2024, or 99.5 per cent of the 2019 level.

The world's airports continue to serve the people's thirst to travel by air. Airports have once more proven their resiliency. Airports and aviation stakeholders must continue to focus wholeheartedly on building a safe, secure, efficient, and environmentally sustainable air transport system fit to welcome the doubling of passengers that will travel through our doors in the next two decades. Airports are prioritizing the passenger experience, and in turn, a more sustainable future for the industry, passengers and communities worldwide. The airport community is committed to cultivating a customer-centric culture through strategy and action.

The ACI World has also released the Annual World Airport Traffic Report-2023, the most authoritative source and industry reference for airport traffic data, rankings and trends. The flagship resource, curated by leading industry economists, provides a comprehensive analysis of global airport traffic trends, including rankings and evaluations of passenger, cargo, and aircraft traffic data for the operating year 2022 and the first half of 2023. The report is based on data from a comprehensive array of over 2,600 airports across more than 180 countries and territories globally. It will come in handy for the ACI's 712 members operating 1925 airports in 171 countries.

# Skies are now fragmented

A common challenge for the aviation industry has been how to accelerate global Air Traffic Management (ATM) implementation to support the growth in air travel in a safe, efficient and sustainable manner. Air travel has recovered strongly after the pandemic. Global air passenger volumes are expected to surpass pre-pandemic levels in 2024. By 2040, the number of passengers will double from four billion to eight billion.

This increase in demand will require investments in aviation infrastructure, manpower and process improvements. Governments are ramping up capacity to meet growing demand, capture opportunities for businesses and people, and avoid delays and congestion. Many have announced plans for new airports and runways. Singapore has also announced the development of Changi Airport Terminal 5. When fully operational in the mid-2030s, T5 can serve 50 million passengers per year. Airlines, including Singapore Airlines, have stepped up aircraft purchases and are announcing new routes and services.

When we build capacity on the ground, this has to be matched by efforts to build capacity in the skies. We would not be able to fully benefit from the investments in new airports and new aircraft if our skies are congested, as airline operations will be impeded, and the safety of passengers could be compromised. As ATM takes place behind the scenes, it is often overshadowed by airport and airline operations in the public eye. ATM is critical to the safety, efficiency and sustainability of aviation. There is tremendous scope and opportunity to collectively improve ATM. The skies today are fragmented, and the management of air traffic is often sub-optimal. If we can enable aircraft to take more direct and quicker routes and avoid delays and detours, not only do passengers benefit by getting to their destinations

faster, airlines can save on operating costs – and we can cut down on fuel usage. We can achieve these outcomes by working together to accelerate global ATM implementation, by focusing on innovation and international collaboration.

By leveraging innovation together with advancements in technology, air traffic controllers will be able to provide better air navigation services and manage growing traffic and workload. Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning can augment the skills and experience of air traffic controllers by improving conflict alerts, traffic management and weather prediction. Satellite technologies can help to overcome the limitations of radio communications. Advanced camera systems and image-processing technologies can supplement line-of-sight operations at control towers. Big data analytics can allow us to identify safety patterns, and virtualization can help enhance resiliency.

We need to strengthen global capacity to develop and deploy technology in a faster and more cost-effective manner. ICAO is helping to drive ATM integration through initiatives like Trajectory-Based Operations (TBO) to optimize flight paths across Flight Information Regions (FIRs), from take-off to landing. The Southeast Asia – Oceania Free Route Operations Project will bring together the ANSPs from Indonesia, New Zealand, Singapore, CANSO and IATA to identify applicable city pairs and flights and validate the use of free route operations as a default flight planning option for day-to-day operations between defined cities from the fourth quarter of 2024.



**Chee Hong Tat**  
Acting Minister for Transport  
Singapore

Excerpts from the speech at the ICAO Air Navigation World ATM Procedures For Today Conference

## Skykraft nets over A\$100 million for ATM revamp

Skykraft, the world's only comprehensive space-enabled Air Traffic Management (ATM) service provider, has completed a planned funding round. This investment will provide over A\$100 million to take it through to the deployment of the initial ATM constellation in 2025. Its space-based ATM capability will deliver on an identified need in the global aviation sector. Globally, the aviation sector is facing increasingly congested skies while relying on legacy systems constrained by ageing ground-based infrastructure. ATM efficiency gains are currently limited by the extent of ground-based infrastructure to provide surveillance capabilities and, equally importantly, the effectiveness of air traffic control communications. It will unlock significant efficiency gains and capability improvements by enabling this infrastructure from space. Its new investors include Foresight Australia, the local subsidiary of the UK-listed fund manager with A\$23.5 billion under

management. Its infrastructure solution can significantly enhance global aircraft tracking, minimize unnecessary air miles and improve aircraft sustainability. The company is doing groundbreaking work that has the potential to transform aviation communications infrastructure. Their expertise in designing, building and operating satellite constellations enables them to provide global services that replace legacy systems. By reinventing transport infrastructure from the ground up using space-based platforms,

they can increase air safety and address the gaps in surveillance and communications over oceans and remote regions. The investors will support the roll-out of its air traffic management infrastructure, including a constellation of hundreds of satellites in low-earth orbit. This infrastructure will provide global air traffic management with space-based VHF communications and surveillance, allowing aircraft to follow more efficient flight paths.

**Source -Mirage News**



## CLEAN ATM awarded €60 million to accelerate the European sky modernization

CINEA, the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency, SESAR Deployment Manager and EUROCONTROL have signed a Grant Agreement awarding €60 million to the CLEAN ATM project. Prepared in response to the 2022 Connecting Europe Facility for Transport call for proposals, CLEAN ATM represents a vital step forward in accelerating the modernization and decarbonization of the aviation industry in the years ahead. Focusing on delivering major advances in air traffic management, the initiative brings together over 40 civil and military operational stakeholders from across the European aviation ecosystem, comprising airlines, air navigation service providers, airports,

meteorological providers, the EUROCONTROL Network Manager and military authorities, all united towards achieving the common objective of further decarbonizing the aviation sector. CINEA Director Paloma Aba Garrote said the overall objective is to develop, modernize and complete trans-European networks, taking into account the European Union's long-term decarbonization commitments and the objectives of the European Green Deal. The CLEAN ATM project has been selected to accelerate the adoption of the Common Project One Regulation, under the well-established coordination of the SESAR Deployment Manager. Tangible results are expected in terms of reduced fuel consumption,

decreased CO2 emissions, and shortened travel times for passengers. This project was selected in June 2022 as one of the transport projects to receive a European grant from the CEF (Connecting Europe Facility), which is the main instrument supporting strategic transport investments in the European Union.

With a grant worth €60 million, CLEAN ATM is the largest of the ATM-related projects selected by the EU, adding to the existing set of approximately 350 Implementation Projects under the coordination of the SESAR Deployment Manager.

**Source -CINEA**

# Archer to launch all-electric air taxi service in UAE by 2026

American eVTOL developer Archer has announced that the UAE will be its launch market. The company expects regular 'flying taxi' operations to commence in the Middle Eastern country as early as 2026. The Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) startup has the backing of a member of Abu Dhabi's ruling family, as well as the Abu Dhabi Investment Office (ADIO). The company already has links to Abu Dhabi through Mubadala Investment Company, Abu Dhabi's sovereign wealth fund, which is an investor in the Californian startup. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on October 2023 by Archer and ADIO contemplates not just the financial incentives offered by the latter, but also several initiatives aimed at making the UAE, and the Smart and Autonomous Vehicle Industry (SAVI) Cluster in particular, a global hub of the advanced air mobility industry.

Archer will create a Center of Excellence in the UAE and will work together with companies in the local industrial aerospace and MRO ecosystem, such as GAL, Advanced Military Maintenance Repair & Overhaul Center (AMMROC) and Falcon Aviation Services. Archer may also consider the manufacture of eVTOL aircraft in the UAE in the future within the framework of these initiatives. Archer's Midnight eVTOL aircraft will make an appearance at the Dubai Airshow 2023 in mid-November. Dubai has also endorsed several initiatives to facilitate the establishment of eVTOL manufacturers and operators in the territory. In February 2023, it was announced that Joby Aviation and vertiport developer Skyports were planning to roll out an urban air mobility network in Dubai by 2026.

Source -Aero Time



## NASA's Human Pilots Shape Autonomous Air Taxis



The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), an independent agency of the US government for the civil space program, aeronautics research and space research, is helping prepare for the future with research to ensure that fully autonomous flight technology is safe. Currently, its study team is evaluating how autonomous software can work with flight navigation tools. And to get that information, they're investigating how human pilots interact with the new flight navigation technology. This work, involving the agency's research pilots, software developers, and flight engineers, is critical for NASA's Advanced Air Mobility mission, which envisions a future of new air transportation options including air taxis and delivery drones. The research is part of an automation software development collaboration between NASA, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), and the aircraft manufacturer Sikorsky. A NASA research pilot tested specialized retinal movement tracking glasses at Sikorsky Memorial Airport in Bridgeport. The glasses will help researchers working to design air taxis understand how a pilot visually experiences the cockpit and interacts with flight navigation tools.

Source -SciTech Daily

## A P Moller–Maersk opens Los Angeles strategic air cargo gateway

A P Moller - Maersk (Maersk) has opened a new 130,000-square-feet air freight import/export gateway near Los Angeles International Airport that offers direct planeside recovery with immediate Unit Load Device (ULD) transfers. The West Coast facility complements Maersk's growing North American network of air cargo gateways, including Atlanta and Chicago which have been stood up in the previous 12 months. The Los Angeles is a self-managed air facility that has tripled the company's access to capacity on the US West Coast, according to John Wetherell, Regional Head of Air Freight, North America. The new facility is about 15 miles from LAX and less than nine miles from the Port of Long Beach. Site staffing will be in place for the conduct of customs brokerage, commercial sales, and freight operations such as LCL transload.

This site is a US Customs-bonded Container Freight Station (CFS) and a US Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Certified Cargo Screening Facility (CCSF). This ensures timely and secure air freight handling. The facility is scheduled to attain Free Trade Zone status in 2024 to benefit from lower duties, reduced

processing fees, and faster movement of goods. This facility is the latest step in Maersk's North American air freight capacity expansion program that extends across strategic cargo entry points and is aligned with customer demand.

Source -Maersk



## Kuehne+Nagel opens air logistics hub at Charles de Gaulle Airport

Kuehne+Nagel France has opened a new air logistics hub in the heart of the cargo city at the Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport. With this new location at one of Europe's best-connected airports, the company increases global air freight capacities and strengthens its healthcare logistics solutions in the region. Kuehne + Nagel International is a Switzerland-based global transport and logistics company founded in 1890 in Bremen, Germany. Kuehne+Nagel's

worldwide revenues in 2022 amounted to 43 billion Swiss francs, an increase of 17 per cent from the previous fiscal year. The company experienced gradual growth in its revenues over the past decade. In 2021, the company recorded its largest revenue growth at 54 per cent. The LA hub can handle 300 air freight pallets a week. Its processing surface is 2.5 times larger than the previous space and has direct access to runways. With over

320 destinations worldwide and a TAPA-FSR A security certification, the new air logistics hub facilitates access to new markets in high-tech, luxury, aerospace, industrial and automotive. The company continues to increase its healthcare cargo capacities in Paris by dedicating 4,500 square metres to cold rooms and temperature-controlled zones. The healthcare area is GDP and CEIV-compliant, ensuring optimal conditions for storing and transporting sensitive goods. The hub also focuses on R&D and personalized medicine, supported by QuickSTAT, a Kuehne+Nagel company with expertise in personalized supply chain planning. The hub is equipped with 1,332 photovoltaic solar panels placed on the roof, saving approximately 26.4 tons of CO2 per year. The new hub reinforces the company's leading position in the air logistics market and its strong ambition on healthcare focus, as part of its Roadmap 2026.

Source -STAT Times

## 3230 cargo aircraft globally by 2042

The demand for airfreight is growing consistently. By 2042, according to a projection by the European aircraft manufacturer Airbus, the global fleet size of cargo aircraft in service is likely to reach 3,230, including 920 newly manufactured aircraft and 1,590 freighters that are converted from passenger aircraft, Airbus projected. "During the pandemic, the demand for air cargo rebounded strongly. In the post-pandemic era, the demand has resumed to the original range. Airbus is in discussions with logistics, air cargo and e-commerce companies for potential cooperation. We are highly optimistic about the growth potential of China's airfreight market," remarked Liu Li, Senior Vice-President of Airbus and Head of Commercial for Airbus China. Guangzhou remains the largest airport in China with 4.4 per cent of the country's domestic market, and 124,000 more seats than the next largest airport, Beijing. China's Freight and Logistics market size had been estimated at US\$1.76 trillion in 2023 and is expected to reach US\$2.40 trillion by 2029, growing at a CAGR of 5.32 per cent between 2023 and 2029. As of 2021, China has a total of 4,054 freight aircraft, an increase of 151 from the previous year. In that year, its air cargo volume reached 7.3 million metric tons.

**Source - Gulf Times**



## MOVIN started operations at its new air cargo hub



MOVIN, a joint venture between UPS and InterGlobe Enterprises, has commenced operations at its new air cargo hub in New Delhi, enabling seamless connectivity for faster deliveries. The strategic location of the hub near Terminal 2 of the Air Cargo Logistics Complex (Phase 3) ensures quicker movement of cargo, which will greatly benefit B2B customers across 49 express destinations.

This express hub is spread across 9,000 square feet and is well-equipped to handle and process close to 7,000 packages per day, to begin with, which will help in meeting a wide array of logistic requirements. This hub will provide the customers with competitive pick-up cut-off benefits, leading to an enhanced customer experience, and fostering a stronger customer

relationship. The establishment of the hub will also contribute to the creation of direct and indirect job opportunities. MOVIN currently has 14 operation hubs across major cities in India, including Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Kolkata and Pune and plans to establish six more by the end of the year 2023–24.

The company caters to customers spanning diverse sectors such as IT and electronic peripherals, apparel, healthcare equipment, auto components, e-commerce, pharma, consumer durables and FMCG. The company has expanded its Express End-of-Day network from three markets (Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru) at its launch to 49 cities across India within a year.

**Source -PR Newswire**

# New weather technology to help airlines handle erratic climate

It may be a tough summer to fly. More passengers than ever will be taking to the skies, according to the US Transportation Security Administration (TSA). And the weather this year hasn't exactly been cooperating. A blizzard warning in San Diego, sudden turbulence that injured 36 people on a Hawaiian Airlines flight bound for Honolulu, and a 25-inch deluge of rain swamped an airport in Fort Lauderdale. The skies have been confounding forecasters and frustrating passengers. "Intense events are happening more often and outside their seasonal norms," said Sheri Bachstein, Chief Executive of the Weather Company, part of IBM, which makes weather-forecasting technology. New sensors, satellites and data modelling powered by artificial intelligence are giving

passengers a fighting chance against more erratic weather. Better weather predictions rely on a type of Artificial Intelligence called Machine Learning, where in essence, a computer program can use data to improve itself. Companies create software that uses historical and current weather data to make predictions. The algorithm then compares its predictions with outcomes and adjusts its calculations from there. The software makes more and more accurate forecasts. The amount of data fed into these types of software is enormous. IBM's modelling system, for example, integrates information from 100 other models. It adds wind, temperature and humidity data from more than 250,000 weather stations on commercial buildings, cellphone towers and private

homes around the globe. In addition, it incorporates satellite and radar reports from sources like the National Weather Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Federal Aviation Administration. Some of the world's most powerful computers then process all this information. According to NASA, "severe turbulence at typical aircraft cruising altitudes could become two to three times more common." Pilots have long radioed their encounters with turbulence to air traffic controllers, giving aircraft coming in behind them a chance to illuminate the seatbelt sign in time for the rough air. Now, a new fleet of satellites could help warn them earlier.

Source – The New York Times

## Swinburne takes hydrogen to the skies

Melbourne-based Swinburne University of Technology has completed the first flight of an Australian-developed hydrogen fuel cell electric-powered VTOL drone. The flight occurring in Victoria's Latrobe Valley was the first of its type in Australia. This flight was the first electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL), hydrogen-

powered uncrewed aerial system (UAS) flight. Built by the university's Aerostructures Innovation Research Hub (AIR Hub), the flight test was achieved by the Small Hydrogen Aircraft Development & Evolution (SHADE) drone. The successful hydrogen-powered flight of the SHADE drone represents a significant milestone in not only

the H2S Project but also the development of net zero aerospace in Australia. The successful flight is the result of collaboration with industry, researchers and businesses across the aviation and hydrogen industries, and Swinburne's Victorian Hydrogen Hub (VH2). The SHADE drone was developed through AIR Hub's Hydrogen to the Skies (H2S) project, funded by the Commonwealth Government's Emerging Aviation Technology Partnerships programme. This project aims to design and integrate a new hydrogen propulsion system into a large-scale drone to utilize hydrogen propulsion progressively from UAS to passenger and freight air vehicles. Hydrogen propulsion will allow longer-range regional and remote-area flights than is achievable by battery-powered air vehicles, which are being developed for short-range urban operations.

Source -Australian Manufacturing

# Revolutionizing aviation technology with EFVS

Aviation technology company AerSale has developed an innovative solution, AerAware. This groundbreaking Enhanced Flight Vision System (EFVS) allows pilots to navigate through challenging low visibility conditions by providing them with advanced imaging technology and real-time data from the aircraft's primary flight systems. The heart of this system lies in the Elbit Systems/Universal Avionics SkyLens Head Wearable Display (HWD) which seamlessly integrates all the necessary components. The system comprises a multi-spectral camera, the state-of-the-art SkyLens HWD, and various other essential system components manufactured by Universal Avionics, a subsidiary of the Israeli manufacturer, Elbit Systems. Universal Avionics markets

this cutting-edge technology as ClearVision EFVS. The company has successfully integrated the technology into one of its commercial Boeing 737 NG portfolio aircraft. Currently, the company is in the final stages of completing the initial flight test program for AerAware. This significant milestone has been acknowledged by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), who have assigned the project the Supplemental Type Certificate (STC) project number ST16454AT-T. This designation signifies the US FAA's acceptance of AerSale's STC application and the official commencement of the STC certification process.

Source -BS.Com



## Airbus unveils PioneerLab twin-engine flying laboratory

Airbus Helicopters unveiled the PioneerLab, its new twin-engine technology demonstrator based on the H145 platform. It complements Airbus' range of FlightLabs and focuses on testing technologies that reduce helicopter emissions, increase autonomy and integrate bio-based materials. With PioneerLab, the European aircraft maker continues its ambitious strategy to test and mature new technologies on board its helicopter demonstrators. PioneerLab, based in Germany at its Donauwörth site, will be the platform to test technologies specifically dedicated to twin-engine helicopters. The PioneerLab aims to demonstrate a fuel reduction of up to 30 per cent compared to a conventional H145, thanks to a hybrid electric propulsion system and aerodynamic improvements. Aboard the demonstrator, Airbus Helicopters will also flight-test structural components made from bio-based and recycled materials, which aim to reduce the environmental footprint across the entire aircraft life cycle. The company intends to produce the new parts using processes that reduce material and energy consumption and improve recyclability. Further research activities will include the integration of the latest digital technologies into the aircraft's flight control system and associated sensors to increase autonomy and safety during critical flight phases such as take-off and landing.

Source -Airbus

## Boeing and NASA pioneers greener flight

American aircraft manufacturer Boeing has successfully transported an MD-90 aircraft to its designated location for modification as part of NASA's Sustainable Flight Demonstrator project, focusing on the Transonic Truss-Braced Wing (TTBW) configuration. This achievement was celebrated by Boeing, NASA and community leaders at the company's facility. The significant milestone heralds the development of the experimental X-66A aircraft, which is NASA's first experimental plane designed to contribute to the U.S.'s goal of achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions from aviation. The forthcoming modifications will pave the way for ground and flight testing, anticipated to commence in 2028.

The pivotal progress in the Sustainable Flight Demonstrator initiative underscores Boeing's dedication to sustainability and signifies a significant step towards validating the TTBW design. Boeing's Chief Technology Officer, Todd Citron, highlighted the importance of this achievement, stating that it brings them closer to realizing the potential of the TTBW concept. The TTBW design features ultrathin wings supported by expansive struts, leading to increased span and aspect ratios. Alongside other anticipated technological advancements, this design has the potential to substantially reduce fuel consumption and emissions by up to 30%.

Source - Financial Express