

DXB's H1 traffic surpasses pre-pandemic levels

Dubai Airports aims to expand workforce

UAE airports witnessed a significant increase in passengers

Over 160,000 flyers choose EK Premium Economy in a year

EK to offer charter flights to Gulf destinations



Prioritize cleaner energy transition

Luis Felipe de Oliveira

This is a transformative time

Laurence S. Wildgoose

Supreme Committee discuss 18th Dubai Airshow preparations

Improving ATM
in the Asia-Pacific post-pandemic

Air travel
boom creates crosswinds for air cargo

AI helps
reduce the climate impact of airlines

CONTENTS



هيئة دبي للطيران المدني
Dubai Civil Aviation Authority

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



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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Message from the President

A very promising harvest

Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum

4



Message from the Director General

Enhancing Excellence

Mohammed Abdulla Ahli

5

UAE News

Dubai Airports aims to expand workforce



7

EK to offer charter flights to Gulf destinations



9

Over 160,000 flyers choose EK Premium Economy in a year



10

UAE airports witnessed a significant increase in passengers



11

Saudi airport to switch to 'virtual' ATC in early 2024

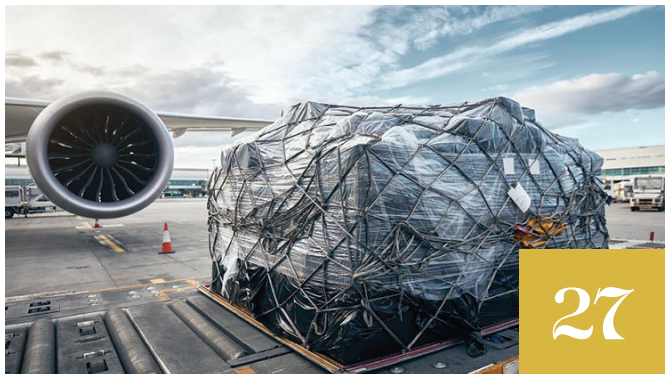
Saudi Arabia's Al Ula International Airport is about to become the first in the Middle East to operate with a virtual air traffic control tower. Controllers for the new tower will not be at Al Ula, but around 600km away, in Jeddah.



14

Air travel boom creates crosswinds for air cargo

Air cargo enjoyed record demand when the pandemic closed borders and snarled supply chains. Now, it is reeling from overcapacity and tumbling freight rates as the freight boom makes a hard landing. Consumers who had the means to spend the lockdown shopping online for goods needing to be delivered, diverting budgets from restaurants and leisure, are travelling in ever-rising numbers.



27

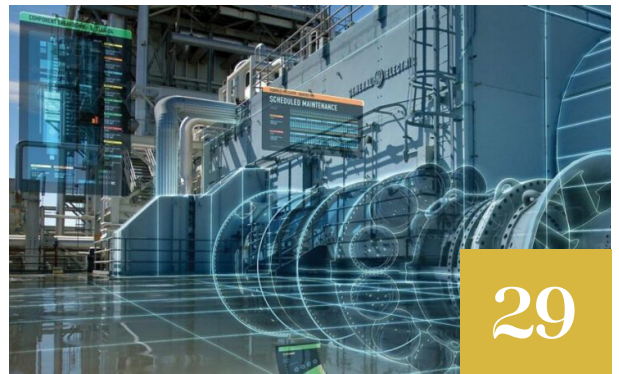
UAE eyes US\$122 billion a year from tourism by 2031



16

Study highlights growing confidence in Digital Twin technology

Aerospace investment in digital twin technology has been growing with each passing year. The aerospace industry is constantly investing in new designs and concepts to improve aircraft efficiency and capabilities and support technological infrastructure.



29



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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Snapchat: [Dcaadubai](https://www.snapchat.com/add/Dcaadubai)

A very promising harvest



Dubai International Airport has witnessed a significant recovery in travel during the first half of 2023, as passenger traffic increased to 41.6 million passengers during these six months, an increase of 49.1 per cent, in a vivid embodiment of the vision 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 paved the way for Dubai to become an airport for the world.

This record growth in the number of passengers indicates that the pandemic and its negative effects on travel are behind us. The period ahead of us will see the importance of DXB as a global air transport hub getting enhanced thanks to several factors, most notably being its strategic location, the most advanced infrastructure in the world, its professional human competencies, and its excellence in the quality of facilities and services to provide memorable travel experiences to people from across the world.

Anyone who follows the economic growth levels achieved by Dubai and the UAE and its foreign trade figures realizes that our country has become a major player on the international scene in aviation, tourism, sports, industry, finance, business

and other sectors. This is the result of an insightful vision, creative strategies and initiatives, and a firm belief that excellence is not an option, but rather a decision and belief in capabilities and hard work to create a brilliant future for our country.

This major achievement by Dubai International Airport will make us work more keenly to continue our efforts to ensure the provision of the best services to passengers and achieve the enjoyable and smooth travel experience they aspire for. Hence, I commend the service providers at DXB and all those concerned with the aviation industry in the Emirate. I call upon them to continue their efforts towards greater innovation and excellence to consolidate the reputation of our airport and raise the levels of our services to the highest.

Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum

Enhancing Excellence



Dubai Airports has announced a plan for the expansion and improvement of facilities and services at Dubai International Airport in response to the record growth achieved by the world's top airport for international passengers over the past two years, and the optimistic expectations about increased demand for travel in the coming years.

This plan includes improvements and developments to the airport buildings, increasing spaces for passenger movements and the number of check-in desks, and increasing the investment in modern technologies and smart travel. It aims to expand the airport's capacity, aiming to maximize the benefit of the successes achieved by the airport since its launch in 1960 and to enhance its reputation as a global travel centre that provides unparalleled services to travellers.

The announcement about this expansion plan comes in line with the major achievements of Dubai in all economic activities, especially during the past two years, as the city recorded high progress in the number of investors, tourists, and international companies wishing to invest and

benefit from the promising business opportunities and the distinctive laws and facilities that allows those who want to expand and go global.

This expansion plan also coincided with the record growth in the number of passengers recorded by DXB since the end of the pandemic, as the number of its passengers increased to 41.6 million passengers during the first half of 2023, an increase of 49 per cent compared to the same period in 2022, with the number of passengers expected to reach 85 million in the current year.

We are optimistic about the future being bright and are preparing for it with more joint coordination with our strategic service providers, all working as one team, and making the appropriate decisions at the right time, to serve millions of passengers as an airport for the world.

Mohammed Abdulla Ahli

Supreme Committee discuss 18th Dubai Airshow preparations



His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President of Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, Chairman of Dubai Airports, Chairman and Chief Executive, Emirates Airline and Group, and Chairman of Supreme Committee of the Dubai Airshow, chaired the first meeting of the Supreme Committee for Dubai Airshow-2023 to discuss the ongoing preparations for the launch of the 18th edition of the event from November 13 to 17.

The meeting was attended by Her Excellency Sarah Bint Yousif Al Amiri, Minister of State for Public Education and Advanced Technology and Chairperson of the UAE Space Agency; Eng. Imran Anwar Sharaf Al Hashemi, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Science and Advanced Technology, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation; and several senior officials from the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, the UAE Space Agency, Dubai Aviation Engineering Projects, the Directorate General of Civil Defense, Ministry of Defense, Dubai Police, Dubai Air Navigation Services, Dubai Airports, Dubai Health Authority, Dubai Academic Health Corporation, Roads and Transport

Authority, Dubai Corporation for Ambulance Services, and Tarsus, company organizing the event.

During the meeting which served to review the latest developments, procedures and organisational preparations for the event, His Highness commended the efficiency of these activities and expressed his thanks and appreciation for the related authorities for their valuable efforts in strengthening the position of this leading event as one of the most prominent awaited for events on the international aviation calendar. This especially the case with the emergence of the space sector in the activities of the 18th edition, with the sector being regarded as a key element for the future growth of countries and the aviation sector by and large. The UAE has succeeded in transforming its great space and technology ambitions into a tangible reality through unprecedented achievements recorded in history, armed with the support, guidance and continuous follow-up of the wise leadership, which is the basis of excellence, leadership, sustainability and enhancement of achievements.

Dubai Airports aims to expand workforce

There's no better time for a career in the aviation industry in the UAE, especially for fresh graduates. Airlines, airports, and allied organizations have become a magnet for young talent eager to kick-start their careers in the sector. Dubai Airports is no exception.

With 1,700 employees, the world's busiest airport has revised its recruitment strategy by prioritizing the quality of employees over volume, notably among fresh graduates. "We do not have a target to increase our employee numbers from a volume perspective. We are focused on quality. Out of the 1,700 employees, we have hit 34 per cent Emiratisation and 16 per cent of our employees are youth (those in the age group of 20-35)," remarked Meshari Al Bannai, Executive Vice President of Human Resources Development at Dubai Airports. At an executive level, Dubai Airports has hit Emiratisation levels of 70 per cent versus earlier targets of 50 per cent. Dubai Airports have been rapidly expanding and recovering in the past year.

According to Airports Council International (ACI), Middle Eastern Airports are expected to handle 1.1 billion passengers by 2040 – a significant increase of nearly 300 per cent of the combined traffic they handled in 2019 (405 million). Dubai Airport handled 66 million passengers last year and is projecting 83.6 million passengers this year. The airport is scheduled to announce its half-yearly passenger numbers this week. He emphasized that the 18-month graduate training program is designed to avoid high attrition rates by providing comprehensive training to young individuals joining Dubai Airports. The training spans all departments, from HR to finance, to support functions. The airport also invites youth to work on certain assignments.

"Here, they work on projects from cyber security to engineering and finance," he added. This high level of engagement also ensures employee retention. The airport also organizes internship programs for students in partnership with several UAE universities and is working closely with its private sector partners to boost youth employee numbers, he said. According to the Emirates Aviation Industry (EAU), the shortage of professionals in aviation has led to an increase in the number of students signing up for aviation courses. This year, the EAU received almost 3000 registrations—nearly double the number of applications it had for the 2019–2020 academic year—for its various undergraduate programs.

Source –Gulf News



AD airport traffic soars 67 per cent in H1

Abu Dhabi International Airport posted a 67 per cent year-on-year rise in passenger traffic for the first six months of the year, with more than 10.3 million people passing through the Middle East hub between January and June 2023. On top of welcoming 10,258,653 people in H1 2023, the airport recorded 67,835 flights – a rise of 36 per cent compared to 49,919 flights during the same period in 2022. Its network continues to expand, with 114 destinations served by 27 airlines during H1 2023. Cities with the highest passenger traffic included Mumbai (461,081), London (374,017), Delhi (331,722), Kochi (316,460) and Doha (261,117). The passenger traffic figures for the first half of 2023 highlight its extensive

efforts to support Abu Dhabi's increasingly vibrant business, tourism and aviation sector. This year, Abu Dhabi Airports won the Airports Council International (ACI) Airport Service Quality (ASQ) award for 'Best Airport at Arrivals Globally.' In June, A-list actor Tom Cruise visited Abu Dhabi International Airport's new Midfield Terminal, where key parts of Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning Part One were shot. The star arrived on the first flight into the new Midfield Terminal, unveiling custom Mission: Impossible livery on an Etihad Airways Boeing 787 Dreamliner (as the official airline of the film, Etihad carries the film branding on this aircraft as it flies to destinations worldwide.) Part of the celebration included the Midfield

Terminal building being decorated in a similar theme to mark its role in the film, with one of its 'most thrilling and technically complex' action scenes having been shot on the building's 315-metre roof. Abu Dhabi Airports has announced that daily non-stop flights operated by Air France-KLM connecting Abu Dhabi and Paris will be resumed starting in October. Abu Dhabi International (AUH) was awarded six accolades in the 2022 Global Travel Retail Awards, including winner of the Best Airport for Customer Service, Best Airport for Retail Environment, and Best Airport Food & Beverage Offer categories as well as earning the Best Overall Airport gong.

Source –TRB

EK and Air Canada expand codeshare deal

Emirates has announced that it is extending its Air Canada partnership to include flights to and from Montreal. With this new expansion, EK customers will become better connected to 11 Air Canada destinations via Montreal, with an additional 69 access points on an interline basis. Emirates and Air Canada's codeshare partnership enables customers of both airlines

to enjoy flexibility and connections via Canada to cities such as Halifax, Edmonton, Ottawa and Calgary. Through EK services in Montreal and Toronto, passengers from other Canadian cities can easily access destinations across Asia, Africa and the Middle East, via the airline's hub in Dubai. Emirates offers daily flights from Dubai International Airport

to Toronto's Pearson International Airport services using its flagship Airbus A380 fleet. The airline also offers seven weekly flights between Montreal–Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport and DXB using its fleet of Boeing B777 aircraft. The interline partnership will allow passengers with itineraries on Emirates flights to plan their entire trip on a single ticket. They will be able to take advantage of hassle-free flight benefits including the airline's baggage allowance, in addition to convenient bag check-through to the final destination. In April, Canada and the UAE expanded their air transport agreement to allow more flights between the two countries. According to the Canadian government, the expanded agreement allows 21 flights per week for each country. This will permit 50 per cent more flights than the maximum number previously possible, facilitate new routes, and give airlines greater flexibility to accommodate changes in market demand.

Source –Aero Time



EK to offer charter flights to Gulf destinations



The A380, the world's largest passenger jet, might be the aircraft fliers associate most with Emirates Airline, but the Dubai-based airline is moving to the other end of the scale with regional charter flights using a four-passenger twin-engine Phenom 100. Customers will be able to fly to GCC destinations inside and outside the Emirates network from Al Maktoum International Airport (DWC), taking one checked-in bag weighing up to 15kg and one piece of carry-on luggage. The airline said it would offer "quick turnarounds to points in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Sultanate of Oman and within the UAE subject to prevailing operating conditions". The services offer discerning travellers with busy schedules privacy and

a high level of flexibility, with a hassle-free ground experience. The service will be operated using its Phenom 100 aircraft. The aircraft, manufactured by Brazil's Embraer, seats up to four passengers and was added by Emirates to its fleet in 2017. Each passenger can check in a medium-sized bag weighing up to 15kg, in addition to a carry-on handbag. Refreshments are available and special requests can be made to travel agents or booking representatives. The use of private chartered flights is growing as it offers convenience and a quicker way to travel, and is particularly popular with business travellers. The region's private aviation sector grew more than a quarter year-on-year in 2022 in terms of

aircraft movements, according to the latest data from the Middle East & North Africa Business Aviation Association.

Travellers from Dubai using Emirates' charter services will be able to use chauffeur-driven vehicles to travel to Al Maktoum International. They will be greeted by a dedicated representative who will assist them throughout their journey at the airport, minimizing wait times and other preflight formalities. At their destinations, travellers will have an on-ground escorted arrival and fast-tracked VIP clearance at customs and immigration provided by private terminal service partners.

Source –Zawya

UAE second fastest-growing international arrival destination

Except for aviation, the performance of all sectors – hotels, vacation rentals and car rentals – has surpassed 2019 levels in the Middle East. While international travel in most regions still lags 2019 levels, the Middle East is the only region to witness a complete recovery of

international travel in the first quarter of 2023. The United Arab Emirates was second among the fastest-growing destinations for international arrivals in 2022 after Austria. The country was also the most visited in the region last year with 22.7 million tourist arrivals, surpassing 2019 levels,

followed by Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Morocco. With 66 million passengers, Dubai Airport also ranked as the fifth most-busiest airport in the world even as the numbers were much below 2019's 86 million.

Source –Skift

Over 160,000 flyers choose EK Premium Economy in a year

Emirates Airlines is celebrating a banner first year of full-service operations with over 160,000 customers having traded up to fly in Emirates Premium Economy since it was introduced in August 2022.

The airline is providing travellers more opportunities to experience its highly-acclaimed Premium Economy product which is currently available on flights to 11 cities, with the list growing to 13 cities by the end of the year, as more retrofitted aircraft with refreshed cabins roll into scheduled service. Since Emirates debuted its Premium Economy Class, customer response has been overwhelmingly positive with demand exceeding expectations and bookings growing month on month, demonstrating its appeal to a broad range of traveller segments who want to try out its understated luxury and meticulously elevated experience at great value. Nearly half of customers flying in Emirates Premium Economy are solo travellers venturing off for holidays, while couples and families constitute the other half. More than 60 per cent of customers who booked to fly in Premium Economy in the last year were also loyal Emirates Skywards members and regular customers of the airline. Emirates currently flies its A380s with the latest Premium Economy

cabins to London Heathrow, Sydney, Melbourne, Auckland, Christchurch, Singapore, Los Angeles, New York JFK, Houston, San Francisco and Dubai, with flights regularly registering full seat loads in Premium Economy. The airline plans to make Premium Economy available to customers flying to/ from Mumbai and Bengaluru in October, and additional cities will be announced soon.

Emirates currently operates 20 aircraft fitted with Premium Economy, 14 of which were retrofitted in-house by the Emirates Engineering team in Dubai over the last nine months. Since August 2022, the airline has operated close to 4,500 flights with Premium Economy, traversing more than 36 million kilometres around the globe. On those flights, over 192,000 meals from its carefully curated menus which include the finest ingredients were served to customers who enjoyed regionally inspired, generously portioned dishes. Unique touches include indulgent

desserts garnished with edible gold leaf, among other signature offerings. Premium Economy menus are updated every month to ensure a diversity of flavours and dishes, especially for well-travelled customers. Over 126,000 pieces of chocolates were served to round off meals for Premium Economy customers. Emirates also served 6,700 kilograms of mixed nuts and 8,650 litres of complimentary fresh lemon and mint juices in Premium Economy. In May, Emirates launched a global campaign with Academy Award-winning actor and philanthropist Penelope Cruz, which also featured her enjoying the spacious seats in Premium Economy. The airline has also provided a glimpse of its Premium Economy offering through guided tours of the new cabin class to media and influencers, trade partners, airport, tourism and government officials across cities like Sydney, Melbourne, Auckland, Christchurch, Singapore, New York JFK and San Francisco.

Source –Zawya





UAE airports witnessed a significant increase in passengers

Airports in the UAE have experienced a remarkable surge in passenger numbers during the first half of 2023, according to the General Civil Aviation Authority. The data revealed that around 62 million passengers were recorded, representing a 46 per cent increase from the previous year. Additionally, the country's airports saw 446,000 flights during this period, compared to 359,000 in 2022. Abu Dhabi Airport specifically witnessed a significant rise in passenger traffic, welcoming 10 million passengers during the first half of the year. This marked a 67 per cent increase from the same period in 2022. The airport also handled 67,000 flights during this time. The airport, during the first half of 2023, welcomed 67 per cent more passengers, year-on-year, and 36 per cent more flights. Passenger traffic crossed the 10 million mark for the first half of 2023 at Abu Dhabi International Airport. As many as 10,258,653 passengers passed through the airport between 1 January and 30

June. This is a significant increase of 67 per cent in passenger traffic compared to the same period last year when 6,158,376 passengers were served. The airport also recorded 67,835 flights, a notable increase of 36 per cent compared to 49,919 flights during H1 2022. The airport connected to 114 destinations served by 27 airlines during H1 2023. Mumbai was the top destination during the period as 461,081 passengers travelled to the Indian city. London was the second biggest destination with 374,017 passengers, while two other Indian cities – Delhi (331,722) and Kochi (316,460) – made up the top four. Dubai saw a boost in visitor numbers, with 8.5 million visitors recorded in the first half of 2023. This represents a 20 per cent increase compared to the previous year. Sharjah also experienced tourism growth, welcoming seven million visitors and handling 70,000 tons of air cargo.

Source – CC Register

US hybrid-electric aircraft maker to open regional headquarters

Odys Aviation, a US-based hybrid electric aircraft manufacturer, has joined the UAE's Next-Gen FDI program and plans to open its regional headquarters in Abu Dhabi, coupled with a high-volume assembly and maintenance plant to expand its operations. The move will create more than 2,000 direct and indirect jobs in the UAE and will result in the export of the first aircraft manufactured under the 'Make in the UAE' certification program. The California-based start-up is developing hybrid-electric vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) aircraft designed for both long distances, as well as short-haul "air taxi" routes for passengers, cargo and emergency services. The UAE offers incentives to attract digital companies under the new FDI program. Odys Aviation's aircraft will be able to deliver all-electric propulsion for 320km, with a hybrid-electric range of more than 1,200km. This means the aircraft has the potential to reduce carbon emissions on air travel within the GCC region by up to 76 per cent and provide a zero-carbon travel alternative for all journeys across the UAE. "We see significant opportunities for the operation of Odys aircraft across the UAE, and we look forward to developing a new sustainable, low-carbon aviation sector – from clean energy air travel through to advanced manufacturing and research and development capabilities," remarked Dr Thani Al Zeyoudi, Minister of State for Foreign Trade. The UAE aims to attract hundreds of companies to set up in the country as part of a Next-Gen FDI program launched last year. It aims to speed up licensing, ramp up the issuance of bulk or golden visas, improve banking services and provide commercial and residential lease incentives for advanced technology companies seeking to relocate to the UAE.

Source – The National



DXB's H1 traffic surpasses pre-pandemic levels

DXB registered a robust performance throughout the second quarter, during which passenger traffic surged by 42.7% year on year to reach 20.3m. May was the busiest month during Q2 with 6.9m guests. Propelled by a strong Q2, DXB's H1 traffic totalled 41.6m guests, up 49.1% compared to 27.9m recorded in H1 2022.

"It's been a rewarding first half for Dubai International and amidst increasing guest numbers, we take great pride in knowing we are continuously delivering with operational excellence and providing an exemplary guest experience. Our dedicated team go above and beyond to create a personalised and seamless experience for every guest. Recent stories of our team delivering a unique guest experience at DXB include communicating with a guest with a hidden disability using a translator tool, working with our stakeholders to locate a lost passport minutes before the guest's flight was due to depart, helping a guest recover his lost wallet from his hotel after he cleared immigration and even

reuniting a little boy in the U.K with his beloved stuffed bunny after he had been left behind at DXB.

As we recover with our H1 traffic surpassing pre-pandemic levels, we continue to remain committed to ensuring every guest who travels through our airport leaves with a smile," said Paul Griffiths, CEO of Dubai Airports.

DXB's baggage performance continues to be world-leading, and in H1 2023, baggage volume increased by 7% compared to pre-pandemic H1 2019 levels. This year so far, DXB handled approximately 37.2 million bags without compromising baggage delivery to customers – 92% of all baggage was delivered within 45

minutes to customers.

In H1 2023, DXB successfully managed multiple seasonal peak periods and continued to provide a seamless guest experience through operational excellence, exceeding agreed KPIs in collaboration with the airports' strategic partners.

DXB received numerous accolades including a certification from Airports Council International for its ongoing efforts to prioritise a safe and inclusive airport experience for guests with both physical and hidden disabilities – a significant milestone. And welcomed several new airlines to the DXB family, further expanding connectivity to new destinations and countries.



India continues to lead as DXB's top destination country in terms of traffic with 6m guests in the

first half, followed by Saudi Arabia with 3.1m guests, and the United Kingdom with 2.8m guests. Other leading destinations include Pakistan (2m guests), the U.S. (1.8m guests), Russia (1.3m guests) and Germany (1.2m guests).

The list of top city destinations was led by London with 1.7m guests, Mumbai (1.2m guests) and Riyadh (1.2m guests) following in a close third.

DXB is connected to 257 destinations across 104 countries, through more than 91 international airlines.

Cargo volumes at DXB surged in the second quarter by 16.1% year on year to reach 453,500 tonnes, bringing the total freight volume for the first half of the year to 853,500 tonnes, down from 6.2% compared to last year.

DXB handled a total of 201,800 flights in the first half, up 30.2%

Outlook for H2 2023

Looking to the remainder of the year, Dubai Airports is optimistic about the levels of demand and is expecting record-breaking numbers during the winter season.

"We started the second half with strong demand in July, and with the ongoing seasonal peak coinciding with the reopening of schools in August, we're preparing for an exceptionally busy rest of the year. We've readjusted our forecast for the year from 83.6m guests to 85m, just 1.6% shy of DXB's annual traffic in 2019," added Paul.

year on year, up 13% compared to the same period in H1 2019. The average number of guests per flight during the first half reached 214 while the load factor was 77%.

DXB's H1 traffic exceeds pre-pandemic levels

41.6 M

PASSENGERS

over **100%**
compared to H1 2019

MARCH

was the **BUSIEST MONTH**
with **7.3M**
PASSENGERS

201,800

FLIGHT MOVEMENTS

13% higher than
H1 2019

257

DESTINATIONS

across **104** countries
through more than **91** international airlines

Baggage volume
increased by

7%

compared to
H1 2019

Total **cargo** volume:

853,500

TONNES

Saudi airport to switch to 'virtual' ATC in early 2024

Saudi Arabia's Al Ula International Airport is about to become the first in the Middle East to operate with a virtual air traffic control tower. Controllers for the new tower will not be at Al Ula, but around 600km away, in Jeddah. Virtual, or remote, air traffic control towers are already common in Scandinavia. Initially positioned at small regional airports, the technology behind them is now spreading to larger airports, such as Budapest and London City. Essentially, they use radar and high-definition cameras to scan the area surrounding an airport, with the information they gather being transmitted to controllers at a distant location, allowing them to manage landings and take-offs. The system brings cost-efficiency



benefits, with fewer controllers being required for the safe operation of an airport. The Saudi site is scheduled to be ready for certification later this year, with full operational status in early 2024. The installation at the airport in the north of Saudi Arabia is being provided by Spanish company Indra which signed a memorandum of agreement (MoA) with Saudi Air Navigation Services (SANS) in June 2022 to develop and operate the Al Ula site. The

two organizations will lead the introduction of the technology into a region with a large number of medium-sized airports that could benefit from its use. The project will position the Saudi aviation sector in the vanguard of remote tower development and contribute to the goals set out in 'vision 2030', under which the country is diversifying its economy away from hydrocarbons.

Source –Times Aerospace

KSA jumps 14 places on Air Connectivity Index

Saudi Arabia has started reaping the fruit of its efforts to wean its economy off of oil by increasing its focus on its travel and tourism sector. The Kingdom's aviation sector is witnessing

rapid growth which many analysts say is not just due to large investments in airlines but a result of the ongoing socio-economic transformation process that began with the launch

of Vision 2030 in 2016. "2023 is becoming a year in which Saudi aviation industry has moved beyond recovery (mode) and (entered) into an era of unprecedented milestones and achievements," says Mohammed Al-Khuraishi, Executive Vice President of Strategy and Business Intelligence at the General Authority of Civil Aviation. In the first half of 2023, Saudi Arabia's air traffic witnessed significant growth. This reflects a clear transition from a period of recovery to sustained and upward growth in the sector. The Kingdom's fast-evolving aviation sector is reflective of its ambitions to emerge as a global travel destination rivalling its counterparts in the Gulf Cooperation Council. This year, Saudi Arabia has jumped 14 places on IATA's International Air Connectivity Index - the highest-ranking increase of any aviation market.



Source –Arab News



ME's regulatory system needs a paradigm shift

Abdul Wahab Teffaha, Secretary-General of the Arab Air Carriers Organization (AACO) said for LCCs in the Arab market to grow at the same pace as in the US, Europe, and parts of Asia, there is a need for a paradigm shift in the region's regulatory system. Although many of the countries of the region apply liberal policies in terms of market access, we have not yet reached the stage of a regional single market across the Arab world, he said. The aviation industry in the Middle East has historically been heavily dependent on international travel. He anticipates the demand for air travel will grow in the region as a result of its younger demographic. But that does not mean the region's role on the international travel scene will decline. Three particular attributes will continue to make the Middle East a pivotal market for international

air traffic, including geography, economics, and the regional airlines' industry leadership in service and passenger experience. Regarding geography, the Arab region is vast. Also, its centralized location makes it a vital crossing point. This ensures that its airlines will continue to play a major role in global traffic. The second attribute is the added value that air transport provides to economic development. The economic impact of air travel has led to significant investments in infrastructure. Few other regions are putting the same focus on air infrastructure development, either because of geographical limitations or because they do not place the same value on air transportation and its contribution to their economic development.

Source –Connected Aviation Today

Qatar Airways unveiled a new Formula 1-inspired livery

Qatar Airways has unveiled a new Formula1-inspired livery for its aircraft. The flag carrier is also promoting its leisure arm, Qatar Airways Holidays, which is offering enthusiasts a unique experience at F1 races throughout the season through its exclusive fan package. The travel packages are designed to provide a seamless motorsport experience, with the inclusion of return flights, hotel accommodation, a wide range of passes including F1 Paddock Club and Grandstand race tickets, and much more. The months of October and November will deliver a collection of world-class automotive activities dedicated to fans around the world, said Qatar Airways Group CEO and chairman of Qatar Tourism, Akbar Al Baker. From September 20 to October 10, on select flights, Qatar Airways passengers can also try delicacies inspired by the airline's partnership with Formula 1. The branded menus reflect F1-themed desserts in Business and Economy Class.

Source –Aero Time

Kuwait Airways adds second US gateway

Kuwait Airways is adding a second US gateway to its network during the fourth quarter of the year, reinstating flights on a route that has been unserved for more than six years. Schedules have been filed to launch service connecting Kuwait City International Airport and Washington Dulles International Airport from mid-December. Flights will operate three times per week using Airbus A330-800neo aircraft. KWI-IAD has been unserved nonstop since United Airlines ended operations in January 2016 after almost a decade.

The move followed a spat between US and Kuwaiti authorities after the US Transportation Department accused Kuwait Airways of unlawfully discriminating against a passenger. The new service will cover a distance of 6,558 miles, becoming the farthest in its network and setting a record as the longest in the world to be served by an A330-800neo. During 2015—the last full calendar year that United-operated its IAD-KWI service—US Transport Department figures show United carried 74,125 passengers on the route. Washington will join New

York John F. Kennedy (JFK) as the second US point served by Kuwait Airways. Data provided by OAG Schedules Analyzer shows the airline currently operates the JFK route daily using Boeing 777-300ERs, offering 4,676 two-way weekly seats. The link is the sole nonstop connection between the US and Kuwait. Alongside the North America expansion, OAG data reveals that Kuwait Airways also intends to open a new European route to Barcelona, Spain, from October 30.

Source –Aviation Week

UAE eyes US\$122 billion a year from tourism by 2031

Destinations in the Middle East region are not just turning to tourism to diversify their national economies but positioning themselves to compete on a larger scale globally. To boost tourism's contribution to the national gross domestic product to US\$122 billion a year by 2031, the UAE launched the Tourism Strategy 2031. Eyeing an annual increase of \$US7.4 billion, the tourism strategy aims to attract new investments of US\$27.2 billion to the tourism sector in the country and attract 40 million hotel guests in 2031. The strategy includes 25 initiatives and policies to support the development of the tourism sector in the country, according to the government media office. With the return of tourists, the



UAE's tourism revenues surpassed US\$5 billion in the first half of this year. The latest data released by Dubai's Department of Economy and Tourism shows that the city is steadily advancing towards its goal of becoming the world's most visited destination. Dubai welcomed 8.55 million international visitors from January to June, exceeding the pre-pandemic figure of 8.36 million tourists in H1 2019. Record H1's performance contributes to the goal of the Dubai Economic Agenda D33, which is to consolidate Dubai's status as one of the world's top three cities. Dubai's hotels

outperform pre-pandemic levels across all hospitality metrics in H1 2023. Dubai's average hotel occupancy of 78 per cent in the first six months of 2023 ranks among the highest in the world. Surpassing pre-pandemic visitation levels and further bolstering the city's bid to become the world's most visited destination. The 20 per cent Year-on-Year visitation growth contributes to the goal of the Dubai Economic Agenda 2033, and to consolidate the emirate's status as one of the world's top three cities.

Source – Skift

Global tourism investment down by over US\$100 billion

2022 has been the first growth year for investment in the global tourism sector since the pandemic. Even so, the sector is down over US\$100 billion from its pre-pandemic level. It still has a long way to go for a full recovery. Global capital investment in

travel and tourism totalled US\$856 billion in 2022, down 23 per cent from its pre-pandemic level of US\$1.1 trillion in 2019, according to the World Travel & Tourism Council's recent 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. 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 a 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 US — \$213 billion, China—US\$146 billion and Saudi Arabia—US\$42 billion. The WTTC expects the global tourism and travel sector will grow an average of 6.1% on average by 2033.

Source - Skift



Sri Lanka to launch global tourism campaign in December

A massive global destination marketing campaign with a budget of Rs1.4 billion will be launched by Sri Lanka Tourism in December 2023. This will be a full-scale, expedited worldwide promotional effort, according to the Sri Lanka Tourism Promotion Bureau (SLTPB), and it is being done at this size for the first time in several years. “The promotion will focus on 14 countries including, China, India, Russia, UK, Germany which we have identified as key markets for Sri Lanka,” a top official said. According to him, the SLTPB has also determined that there are 3 million Sri Lankans residing overseas and that this diaspora is highly powerful. “We will also target this segment and carry a special message ‘come visit your mother land during this crisis period and contribute towards the economy,” he added. Sri Lanka will also take part in major travel fairs such as TOP RESA-2023 (IFTM) in Paris in October and World Tourism Market in London in November, as well as massive road



shows throughout several countries. Sri Lanka is anticipated to advertise the largest number of tourist arrivals for 2023 this year, surpassing the July total of 143,039. Except for May, Sri Lanka consistently experienced over 100,000 tourist arrivals every month (83,039). Up till August 20, Sri Lanka welcomed 98,831 tourists, exceeding the 37,760 total number of tourists that arrived in August of 2022. Up to August 20, there have been 866,744 tourist arrivals to Sri Lanka, exceeding the 719,978 total number of arrivals that year. India was the

primary source of tourist arrivals for the fourth month in a row, accounting for 19,804 of all arrivals. With 12,188 (12 per cent), the United Kingdom was Sri Lanka’s second-largest market, while China surged to third place with 6,964 (seven per cent). After a three-year pause, Sri Lanka achieved its US\$1,094 billion income objective from tourism revenues from January to July 2023. This amount was US\$764 million during the same period the previous year.

Source - Travel and Tour World

Global warming transforming French tourism!

France and its main tourism associations announced that the sector saw a strong start to the summer season but there are signs that travel patterns are starting to

be impacted by climate change. The French Ministry of Tourism and the country’s body of tourism offices said data from polls and occupancy rates for hotels indicated that the

northern parts of France — where temperatures have been cooler this summer— have increased while southern territories experiencing heat waves have seen a drop in visitors. Atout France described the geographical breakdown of tourists as “more balanced” compared to 2022 as northern regions are more attractive in 2023 and southern regions of France are seeing drops. In the hotel sector, occupancy rates in the northwest have risen by six per cent in June and July compared to last year. Meanwhile, the eastern Mediterranean region has seen occupancy rates drop four per cent points and the western Mediterranean zone has seen a drop of five per cent. Overall, the hotel occupancy rate for the whole of mainland France reached 74 per cent during June and July — almost identical to that of 2022.

Source –Forbes



Hanwha Group to start LCC in South Korea

South Korea's Hanwha Group is preparing a bid for Fly Gangwon, a LCC under court protection. The move is seen as a first step in its aim to become a full-fledge company across land, sea and air businesses. Hanwha is now in the final stages of reviewing its bid, a deal estimated up to US\$23 million. Founded in 2016, the carrier had been put up for sale after it filed for court receivership. The Seoul Bankruptcy Court will receive bids in the stalking horse sale process under which it will sign a tentative agreement with a preferred buyer and then open the door to other bidders to attract better terms. Two to three private equity firms have handed in letters of intent, but Hanwha is touted as the strongest candidate in terms of financial capability. The bid for the cash-strapped airline is the first step for Hanwha to enter the aviation industry. The country's number seventh conglomerate is widely speculated to replace Korean Air Lines as the buyer of Asiana Airlines as the flag carrier's purchase of the latter had been stalled for almost three years due to monopoly issues. The Korea Development Bank (KDB) is understood to be preparing a plan against a possible collapse of Korean Air's purchase of Asiana Airlines.

Source - The Korea Economic Daily



JetBlue drops fight on its AA alliance

JetBlue, a 23-year-old Low-Cost Carrier which flies non-stop to more than 85 destinations within the US, as well as other points in North America, the Caribbean and South America, has decided to not fight to preserve its alliance with American Airlines, the world's third largest airline which handles more than 200 million passengers annually to 350 destinations in 48 countries. It is under regulatory scrutiny for its partnership with American Airlines, known as the Northeast Alliance. It will focus on securing approval for the merger with Spirit Airlines, a leading ULCC which operates scheduled flights throughout the US, the Caribbean and Latin America. However, the ending if

partnership has to be approved by the Department of Justice which has before it to decide a lawsuit blocking the proposed JetBlue-Spirit merger in mid-October. The US District Judge William Young is set to issue a ruling by the end of 2023. The proposed JetBlue-Spirit merger has seen several twists and turns. The proposed merger has been one of the travel industry's most watched developments over the past year and a half, with the two carriers aiming to create the U.S.' fifth largest domestic airline. Before JetBlue and Spirit proposed merger, Spirit was looking to join forces with Frontier Airlines.

Source -Skift

France to hike airline taxes in 2024

France has made known its intention to raise taxes on airline tickets. This decision arises from its aim to promote train travel over air travel in order to meet its environmental goals. The tax increase, which would be included in the finance bill in 2024, would bring in around €100 million (US\$110 million) to the railway sector over the period until 2027. The newly introduced tax will be applied to first class and business class tickets, which are the highest-priced options for passengers and also the most lucrative

for airlines. The French aviation industry has expressed concerns that this tax hike could potentially undermine the competitiveness of the sector, given that it is already channeling substantial investments into environmental initiatives. In addition, the airline industry is advocating for the newly imposed tax to contribute towards the advancement of the aviation sector. France has previously implemented increases in taxes on airline tickets, with the initial introduction of this

measure dating back to 2005 and a subsequent increase occurring in 2020. France has been in the spotlight after introducing a ban on short-haul domestic flights lasting less than 150 minutes where a suitable alternative rail service exists. The ban effectively ruled out passenger air travel between Paris and the French cities of Nantes, Lyon, and Bordeaux. However, connecting flights have not been affected by the new laws.

Source –Simple Flying

US carriers to double flights to China

Three largest US airlines have been planning to more than double the number of flights to China in the coming months as they take advantage of a deal between the nations to ease pandemic-era travel restrictions. American Airlines Group would add three weekly flights between Dallas and Shanghai/ The decision came after rivals Delta Air Lines and United Airlines Holdings disclosed plans for new and expanded US-China routes in the coming months. The carriers are rushing back into the transpacific market after the US Transportation Department said the limit on flights between the countries would increase in each of the next two months. In total, the three companies — which currently operate just four weekly flights apiece to China — have proposed adding 19 more by the end of January 2024, pending regulatory sign-off. The tentative plans exceed the flying limits



announced by US officials. Large airlines are capitalizing on a surge in international travel as more countries relax restrictions put in place in recent years. Travel to Asia has been slower to rebound than the European market, and flights to China have particularly been restricted by the Transportation Department. American, which will offer daily service between Dallas-

Fort Worth International Airport and Shanghai Pudong International starting in January 2024, plans to begin selling seats on the new flights soon. Delta will operate daily flights from Seattle to Shanghai starting October-end 2023 and fly three times a week from Detroit to Shanghai.

Source –Hindustan Times

Airlines cracking down on cheap flight hack

Skiplagging has become popular among travellers looking for a cheap fare despite significant risks and downsides to this cheap travel trick. With airline ticket costs

soaring, passengers are desperately searching for cheap flights. The cheap ticket hack involves buying a less expensive ticket with a layover in the city you want to travel to and

then not catching the second flight. Skiplagging is when you book an indirect flight that costs less than a direct flight and then you don't take the connection. It is a way of finding a nonstop flight without the price tag that often comes with these tickets. Finding fares like this on your own isn't easy though it can be done with price comparison sites like Kayak or even Google Flights. But a dedicated website - Skiplagged - was founded in 2013 for people to search for these hidden city fares. Despite the cheap fares, there are some drawbacks to skiplagging - like not being able to check in your bags. Airlines are likely to cancel the return portion if they notice what you've done. There's also a chance that the hidden city you are aiming for might not actually be where you end up.



Source – Euro News

India to operate 100-plus airports with renewable energy

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) will operate more than 100 airports with renewable energy by 2024, in alignment with its progressive ethos and environmental responsibility. The Authority aims to integrate all existing airport structures and new developments into GRIHA-5 standards, striving to power all operational airports using renewable energy by December 2024. Observing the accumulation of passengers at numerous airports across the nation as a positive indicator for the aviation industry, a senior official said the coming years will witness the organization's adept handling of infrastructure expansion challenges. Over the past six to eight months, officials have initiated various measures to cater to the escalating passenger demands and enhance airport infrastructure. The enhancement of airport infrastructure involves augmenting gate and counter capacities, as well as bolstering manpower, an endeavour to be embraced by airports, airlines, and operators. The AAI has said that 44 of its airports have successfully transitioned their entire power consumption to 100 per cent renewable energy. India has close to 150 airports. The rapid growth of India's aviation industry in recent years has led to a corresponding increase in carbon emissions from airports.

Source –Financial Express



Vietnam sees a big increase in passenger numbers



Officials have disclosed plans for airport expansions as passenger numbers have been gradually recovering in Vietnam. In the first half of 2023, Vietnam saw a 30 per cent increase in passengers, according to the Airports Corporation of Vietnam (ACV). International passengers exceeded 14.4 million, almost five times higher than in the same period last year. Domestic and international airlines operated nearly 365,000 flights in the first half, up 18 per cent year-on-year, with over 99,200 international flights, up 150 per cent year-on-year. The aviation industry will face a shortage of personnel in areas such as airport supervision, ground operations management, aircraft engineering, aircraft maintenance,

and pilots. According to a report by the International Air Transport Association (IATA), the aviation workforce needs to develop rapidly to handle a two to four-fold increase in passengers over the next two decades. The Vietnam Aviation Academy has announced plans to provide training in over 20 majors at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, covering all activities such as technical practices, aviation operations, transportation economics, and aviation services. In the 2022-2023 academic year, it aims to admit 2,635 students, including 119 students majoring in flight operations and 106 students in aviation engineering.

Source –Vietnam Plus

Qatari airport to launch Smart Data Hub Handbook

Hamad International Airport in Qatar's capital city Doha has taken a leading role in fostering collaboration among top airports worldwide, resulting in the production of an industry handbook, Smart Data Hub (SDH). Released under the patronage of Airport Council International (ACI), this comprehensive publication highlights its commitment to advancing the capabilities of the industry in harnessing the value of data. In today's data-driven world, airports are increasingly recognizing the immense

potential of leveraging data to enhance operational efficiency and passenger experience. Understanding the significance of this transformation, the Airport has come out with this global initiative with a solid foundation by contributing key elements of its data strategy, such as the Data Maturity Framework. The Smart Data Hub handbook represents a significant milestone in the journey towards optimizing the power of data in the aviation industry.

Source –ACI



Budapest Airport achieves milestones in passenger traffic

The first half of 2023 has been a strong period for Budapest Airport in all respects, with passenger traffic continuing to grow, with the annual number of passengers likely to exceed initial expectations. In 2023, June was the fourth month in a row in which airport traffic exceeded one million passengers, and between January and June, the airport handled a total of 6,683,524 passengers, which is 26.6 per cent more than the same period in 2022 and more than the whole of 2021. As a result, total passenger numbers for the year to date are now only 9.4 per cent below the record year of 2019, exceeding previous expectations. After a temporary global slowdown at the beginning of the year, cargo started to grow again in the spring, and cargo

volumes handled at Budapest Airport in the first half of the year was 91,452 tons, which means that the annual target of 200,000 tons seems to be within reach shortly. Budapest Airport received an important, unprecedented recognition at the beginning of March. Airports Council International (ACI) has named Budapest Airport as the winner of the Best Airport of 15 to 25 Million Passengers in Europe Award. The ACI survey examines the quality of service at nearly 400 international airports based on 30 performance indicators and asks passengers, the most important target group for developments about their journey in person.

Source -Breaking Travel News

Navy to control Mexico City International Airport

Mexico City International Airport (MEX) will now be operated by the Navy as part of the government's efforts to address security concerns and ensure efficient transportation hubs. The President has signed an agreement that will see the MEX, along with the Mexico City Airport Group (GACM) and Mexico City Airport Services, being operated by the Secretariat of the Navy. He initiated the deployment of military forces nationwide and appointed military personnel to prominent positions, even within the aviation sector. Following this trend, Mexico City International Airport and five other airports across the country will be administered by the Navy. Additionally, the management of airport projects such as the Felipe Ángeles and Tulum International Airports falls under the purview of the Secretary of National Defense (Sedena). The government has said the transition will be complete in early October.

Source –Simple Flying

Heathrow hires a top cop to de-stress frazzled travellers

London Heathrow has recruited a former undercover police officer Danni Brooke to hunt out and de-stress frazzled travellers. The airport has enlisted ex-undercover police officer and star of Channel 4's Hunted Danni Brooke to train colleagues on how to spot the body language typical of an 'Airport Dad'. The 'Here to Help' team will de-stress travellers with vouchers for free food, drinks and de-stress facials at premium lounge access. According to new research commissioned by Heathrow, UK

travellers believe keeping hold of the family's passports (35 per cent), constantly checking the time (34 per cent), and taking charge of getting everyone to the airport (33 per cent) are the top traits of the Airport Dad, a label which went viral after the trend for filming frazzled fathers. He has used her expertise in covert work to draft an internal memo, training them to spot the key signs of an 'Airport Dad' before holiday tension ensues. The memo has also informed new signage posted

throughout Heathrow's terminals, warning the public to be on high alert for potential Airport Dads. The data showed that the majority of Airport Dads can start feeling stressed up to and over a week before their trip, so it is hoped the new initiative will help to calm down travellers before it comes to jetting off. A senior Heathrow official said the airport's priority is making the travel experience as seamless and enjoyable as possible.

Source - Airports International

Unilateral reduction of airport operations



Willie Walsh
Director General
IATA

Two major airports have decided to reduce their levels of operations in a very unilateral way. IATA rejects and challenges Mexico's decision to reduce the capacity of Mexico City International Airport (AICM) to 43 operations per hour. Authorities should alternative measures to this unilateral action, which if not withdrawn or modified, will have negative impacts on passengers, air operations, connectivity, tourism and competitiveness.

It will also place Mexico in non-compliance with its global aviation commitments. This decision does not take into account the interests of consumers, nor does it respect the necessary consultative process with operators and users. Such measures must be taken with the utmost technical and operational rigor, based on studies and expert analysis. We have questioned the methodology used to determine airport capacity. This decision also deviates from international standards and best practices that hold that capacity changes should be made through a collaborative process to ensure transparency, predictability, and certainty.

This operations cutback follows the 2022 capacity reduction from 62 to 52 operations per hour, which was justified by the government on the grounds of airspace limitations. However, this explanation contradicted the study conducted in 2018 by the same government, which confirmed the feasibility of safely operating a maximum of 72 operations per hour. 2022's reduction forced all-cargo airlines to stop operating at AICM to facilitate work to improve the terminal; to date, however, no such work has been carried out.

The main problem at AICM is not the operating capacity but the ageing and deteriorating infrastructure. Terminals 1

and 2 require immediate modernization. AICM is served by more than 24 national and international airlines and acts as the primary hub connecting all Mexican states and most international destinations. A joint mission of all stakeholders should be in place to facilitate aviation connectivity and make air travel more accessible throughout the country. IATA rejects this damaging measure.

Similarly, IATA is shocked and disappointed by the Dutch government's decision to proceed with its experimental regulation to cut flights at Schiphol to 460,000 annually for the summer season of 2024, and to 452,500 in the winter of 2024. The decision shows contempt for democratic and legal scrutiny and a cavalier approach to treaty obligations by the Netherlands to international law.

By ramming this action, the caretaker government is hurting the Dutch economy and aviation workers without due consideration of alternatives that could reduce noise without sacrificing livelihoods. We will continue to fight this decision. Our opposition is not about the merits of reducing noise but ensuring that the lawful internationally agreed process for managing noise is adhered to. Flight cuts of this magnitude at Schiphol will mean reductions in slot holdings that will negatively impact passenger and freight services.

Our aviation industry is now more resilient

It is important to remember that three years ago, the slowdown in demand exacerbated the difficulties faced by businesses, not only in the aviation sector but across all sectors. Today, with strong support from industry players, our aviation and aerospace industries are more resilient and stronger than ever. Having weathered the storm, we now set our sights on the future. Aerospace production has exceeded pre-pandemic levels since Q2 of 2022. Companies have ramped up hiring to fill about 3,000 new roles this year.

Our aviation industry is also well-poised for growth, with passenger traffic at Changi Airport expected to fully recover by 2024. It is timely for us to accelerate our efforts in innovation, as we look forward to working closely with industry stakeholders, companies, and associations to take our aerospace industry to higher heights.

Through our refreshed Aerospace Industry Transformation Map (ITM), we hope to achieve \$4.6 billion in real value-added by 2025, which is a 15 per cent increase over the ITM 2020 target. To achieve these goals, we will innovate and push through new technologies. Government agencies and companies have been working with numerous stakeholders on R&D initiatives like the Smart Manufacturing Joint Lab which provides a platform for companies to develop next-generation MRO (Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul) and manufacturing technologies. More than 100 SMEs have participated in the Joint Lab till now, with some of them becoming qualified suppliers to global aerospace companies.

This is the type of thriving, vibrant ecosystem that we want to see in Singapore. R&D collaborations help grow our local manufacturing ecosystem by creating opportunities for our local companies to co-innovate with

multinational corporations and develop best-in-class technological solutions. We hope to see the public and private sectors working even more closely together, to reach new heights in our local aviation and aerospace industries. Enterprise Singapore will continue to support local companies to spread their wings and participate in more of these international platforms.

We are building our technological capabilities in aviation and aerospace manufacturing to stay ahead of the curve. We are also continuing to strengthen and invest in the pipeline of local talent for the sector's growth. Post-pandemic, many of the sectors are facing a manpower crunch, especially in skilled talent. Workforce Singapore has appointed AAIS to administer the Career Conversion Program (CCP) for aerospace personnel. The CCP supports aerospace employees in their transition to new or enhanced roles. This enables companies to better retain skilled talents. Efforts to draw young people into the sector are important to keep the aerospace sector fresh and vibrant. Outreach initiatives are valuable platforms for talent attraction and brand building.

Four important pillars will continue to future-proof the sector to ensure that we can stand as a distinctive control tower for companies in Singapore to orchestrate and manage their activities in the Asia-Pacific region: innovation; digitalization to redesign jobs such that we can do more with leaner manpower; sustainability; and continuing to embrace tools to raise productivity. Your collective efforts in innovation and talent development will serve as wings of growth that enable the aviation and aerospace industry to soar to new heights.

Edited excerpts from a speech at the Aerospace Leaders Dialogue Singapore (ALDS)



Low Yen Ling
Minister of State for Trade and Industry
Singapore

Improving ATM in the Asia-Pacific post-pandemic

Challenges in Asia-Pacific Air Traffic Management (ATM) are once again rearing their head following a near-three-year hiatus caused by the pandemic. As air traffic demand in the region starts to soar, the critical issue is capacity. “We are concerned by the lack of urgency in dealing with this problem,” says Blair Cowles, IATA’s Regional Director, Operations, Safety and Security, Asia-Pacific. Traffic growth over the coming decades will be huge, but ways to deal with this are not being addressed quickly enough by air navigation service providers (ANSPs). The region’s major hubs are a focal point but substantial gains in airspace efficiency would also come from better managing traffic flow between these hubs. Aircraft need

to avoid spending time in holding patterns or encountering significant departure delays because ANSPs aren’t applying the most efficient ICAO separation standards available to them. He also calls for more urgency in upgrade programs for the procurement and implementation of modern ATM automation systems with support functions that permit the safe expansion of concepts such as User Preferred Routes. The Boeing ecoDemonstrator, a 787-10 Dreamliner, has recently performed several TBO flights in the region to demonstrate potential operational efficiency and environmental gains. Alongside the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the ANSPs of Japan, Singapore, and Thailand were involved to ensure optimal flight

paths from take-off to touchdown. Although the ecoDemonstrator was a success, it also highlighted the missed opportunity that more efficient airspace use would bring. Additionally, it made clear that an even level of capability is needed among ANSPs, otherwise operations necessarily default to the lowest common denominator. The closure of Afghanistan airspace, for example, is pushing traffic south into the Bay of Bengal, which is already a busy area. And the airspace above the South China Sea continues to be heavily used. Several major aviation markets are affected, including China, Malaysia, Singapore, and Vietnam. Fortunately, progress is being made.

Source –IATA



ANSL launches low-cost safety reporting solution for ANSPs

In an industry first for a reporting solution that monitors regulatory required safety performance for Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs), Air Navigations Solutions (ANSL) has launched SafeTrack ATC. According to ANSL, the easy-to-implement, low-cost solution allows ANSP users to plug their data into a straightforward system to generate monthly safety performance reports. The report utilises key performance indicators (KPIs), trackable metrics and amalgamates comparative data

to aid decision-making and facilitate the immediate interpretation of risk. The SafeTrack ATC provides flexibility and insights for small, regional and hub airports to monitor compliance trends and highlight emerging risks.

The tool will elevate a unit’s safety standards with its intuitive and visual design, and the convenient routine reporting will be sure to revolutionize safety reporting long term. The only such stand-alone, simple and

low-cost safety report system in the ATM market, SafeTrack ATC is accessible to ANSPs via a flexible monthly subscription. SafeTrack ATC overcomes these resourcing challenges by delivering automated safety performance reports in a clear and coherent format. It helps ANSPs meet regulatory compliance standards while maximizing efficiency and standardizing the reporting of individual ANSPs.

Source –Regional Gateway

Canadians see a world-leading role in the eVTOL industry

Nearly three out of four Canadians want to see the development of the eVTOL industry with their country targeting a world-leading role. New research shows growing support for the development of air taxi services in Canada to help the country seize opportunities to create jobs and boost revenue, while also helping the environment. The study has been conducted by the independent research agency Pure Profile among a nationally representative sample of 1,000 Canadians aged 18-plus, which included 203 who currently live in or have lived in a remote area of Canada. The nationwide study by Horizon Aircraft, a Canadian-based innovative leader in hybrid electric Vertical Take-off and Landing (eVTOL) aerial vehicles, found 73 per cent of Canadians

support the development of the air taxi and eVTOL industry. Nearly four out of five (78 per cent) would be happy to fly in them once they are commercially operational. Just seven per cent say they would never use an eVTOL, while 15 per cent are currently undecided. A major reason driving support for the industry is the potential to create jobs and boost the Canadian economy while also helping cut greenhouse gas emissions by reducing traffic congestion. Industry data shows the global air taxi and urban air mobility industry is forecast to see revenues grow from \$2.3 billion in 2021 to as much as \$30.7 billion by 2031, with more than 430,000 air taxis operating worldwide.

Source - Air Traffic Management

US startup building an electric aircraft to fly between airports and cities

The growing electric air taxi market is expected to be a US\$57 billion industry by 2035. Startups are racing to build the first certified eVTOL thanks to investments from airlines like United and Delta. Joby Aviation has got the green light to start flight testing of its five-seat S4 2.0 eVTOL. Startups like Archer Aviation, Vertical Aerospace, EVE Air Mobility, and Boeing-backed Wisk, are all building a new type of aircraft known as an electric takeoff and landing vehicle, or eVTOL. Organizations including the US military, Boeing, and several

global airlines are investing millions into eVTOLs as the low-noise and zero-emission aircraft are expected to be a solution to congested city roadways. In 2021, United Airlines placed a \$1 billion order for Archer's Midnight eVTOL, while Delta Air Lines invested \$60 million into Joby Aviation in 2022. Other carriers including Air New Zealand, American Airlines, and Japan Airlines have also taken interest as the industry is expected to boom to \$57 billion by 2035.

Source - Business Insider



China issues regulations on civilian drones



China has issued a set of rules to govern the use of civilian drones. The Provisional Regulations on the Flight Management of Unmanned Civilian Aircraft, made by the State Council and the Central Military Commission, will take effect on the first day of 2024. The document covers the design, production, operation and application of drones. The rules are aimed at ensuring flight safety as well as public and national security and will help establish a science-based, well-regulated and efficient management system for drones. The regulations are expected to prevent security risks and provide a legal foundation for the industry's development. Owners of drones will be asked to present identification when registering with the authorities, and those who use and operate drones should have certain qualifications. The document stipulates that the national air traffic management agency will be the top authority in charge of flight management of drones, while other government organs, including civil aviation, will be responsible for specific work. It also lists restricted airspace for drones, including airports, national borders, military bases, weapons factories, power plants, transformer substations, transport hubs, radar stations, and satellite control and tracking facilities.

Source - China Daily

Which airports move the most cargo?

From facilitating crucial international supply chains to ensuring the smooth delivery of personal Amazon packages, cargo shipping is an important part of the global economy. Total air cargo shipped measured around 117 million metric tons in 2022. Data from Airports Council International (ACI) showcase the global airports that move the most goods. The world's busiest airport in terms of cargo is Hong Kong, which has held the number one spot for almost 28 years.

The top 10 airports that moved the most cargo were Hong Kong, Memphis, Anchorage, Shanghai, Louisville, Incheon, Taipei, Miami, Los Angeles and Tokyo. Some of these busy airports are not well-known, and none of them, aside from LAX, rank as highly in terms of passenger traffic. For example, Anchorage ranks in the top 10 in cargo processing because it is cheaper for cargo carriers to stop over and refuel there, rather than flying nonstop from Asia to the United States. The Memphis airport handles the most cargo in North

America, largely because of FedEx's significant presence there.

FedEx processes over 245,000 documents and 180,000 packages an hour at Memphis airport. On top of being home to UPS' world's biggest fully automated package processing facility, Louisville is also central to other transport routes in the United States. Packages come into this hub and then head out on the many highways and railways, as well as the Ohio River, which connects to the Mississippi River, one of the country's main waterways for barge

transit. Nearly every airport has seen significant increases in the amount of cargo moved year-over-year, with numbers now rising above pre-pandemic benchmarks. Notably, however, Shanghai and Hong Kong have experienced decreases due to geopolitical tensions. In Hong Kong, goods movement via air travel is integral to the economy. Around half of the entire region's external trade went through the airport in 2022. Cargo transit is inherently important to the global economy.

Source –Visual Capitalist



SF Airlines launches weekly cargo route to the UAE

A new air cargo route has been launched, linking Ezhou city in central China's Hubei province, with Abu Dhabi. SF Airlines said a Boeing 747-400 freighter took off from Ezhou Huahu Airport, China's first cargo-focused airport. This marked the launch of the first cargo route connecting the airport with the Middle East, said SF Airlines, China's

largest air cargo carrier in fleet size. A weekly round-trip air cargo service is scheduled for this route, with a total of around 200 tons of air express capacity. The new route will mainly handle general cargo, e-commerce goods, and express shipments, providing efficient and reliable air logistics between China and the UAE, according to the cargo

airline. Before this route, SF Airlines and the UAE's Etihad Airways had jointly launched the Wuhan-Abu Dhabi air cargo route, a move to boost air logistics between the capitals of central China's Hubei Province and the capital of the UAE and nearby markets.

Source –SCMP



Ottawa airport cargo facility gets funds

Canada's Ministry of Transport has announced an investment of up to C\$11 million in Ottawa International Airport under the National Trade Corridors Fund. The investment, which will be used to build a new cargo facility for Canadian North, the Inuit-owned airline. Canadian North will match the Government of Canada's investment, bringing the total combined funding for this project to C\$22 million. The warehouse will be located on the grounds of Ottawa International Airport and will reduce delays in cargo handling capacity and increase connectivity between different modes of transportation at the airport. For example, the project will expand the truck loading area, where queues have created congestion in the past. The development will also double the capacity for Canadian North in Ottawa. In addition, the new facility will adopt environmentally friendly technologies and expand energy-efficient refrigeration and freezing areas to reduce waste and preserve essential goods destined for the Canadian Arctic. It will also have a backup power system to ensure service continuity during severe weather events. This investment represents another long-term commitment to work with stakeholders on important infrastructure projects to address congestion along Canada's trade corridors.

Source -Airports International



Air travel boom creates crosswinds for air cargo



Air cargo enjoyed record demand when the pandemic closed borders and snarled supply chains. Now, it is reeling from overcapacity and tumbling freight rates as the freight boom makes a hard landing. Consumers who had the means to spend the lockdown shopping online for goods needing to be delivered, diverting budgets from restaurants and leisure, are travelling in ever-rising numbers. Passenger jets grounded during the health crisis are flying again and bringing their lower-deck cargo space, which competes with dedicated air freighters, back into play. The switch in demand from goods back to services and the abrupt expansion in belly capacity on passenger planes have sliced about third off cargo rates in the last year. Some pilots are leaving to fill passenger airline vacancies. And shipping is flowing again after congestion sent goods as mundane as jeans and bathtubs into the air during the pandemic. It is a perfect storm for the roughly US\$200 billion air cargo industry, which handles a third of global trade by value. Looking forward, shippers

whose freight bills climbed in 2021, will have more bargaining power in upcoming winter price negotiations. That should ease inflationary pressure on high-value lightweight items from electronics to luxury goods that traditionally go by air. According to data, it cost around US\$2.30 to air-freight one kilogram in early August, based on global average spot prices. That is down 35 per cent since the same period of last year and down by more than half from a late-2021 peak nearer US\$5. Since May 2019 the active freighter fleet has grown by 22 per cent. But the proportion of stored or idle freighters is rising again. Cathay Pacific (0293, the fifth-largest cargo carrier, has postponed final decisions on a potential \$2 billion order. Cathay said it would continue to evaluate what freighters it may need and remained "open to all possibilities". Boeing and Airbus said separate 20-year demand forecasts for well over 2,000 new or converted planes remained intact.

Source – Reuters

Alaska Airlines to eliminate airport kiosks in tech upgrade

Alaska Airlines is not the biggest airline in the US, but it appears that it's aiming to be one of the most modern, or at least as the customer sees it. The first airline to introduce check-in kiosks at the airport will be the first to get rid of them. The carrier is removing the kiosks this year from its main airports, including Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Anchorage. It is part of a plan announced to spend US\$2.5 billion over three years on to upgrade passenger technology in airport lobbies. The plan is to transition to a fully self-service experience for check-in and baggage drop-off, to get passengers through a lobby and to the security line in five minutes or less. The check-in kiosks will be replaced with iPad

stations — essentially an iPad and credit card reader on a stand — where the passenger can pay for a checked bag and print the paper bag tag. The airline is continuing to encourage passengers to check in online and obtain a boarding pass before arriving at the airport. Most of Alaska's airports will transition to the new bag tag stations by the end of 2023. The next step involves adding self-service stations, beginning in spring 2024, where the passengers can drop off their bags. The machine will scan the passenger's face, identification, and bags before the passenger places the bag on a conveyor belt to be loaded onto the aircraft. The airline said it will still have customer service associates in the airports in case they

are needed. Alaska is continuing to experiment with an electronic bag tag, as well, as the first U.S. customer of Amsterdam-based startup Bagtag since 2022. Through that program, travellers can purchase the reusable electronic tag and attach it at home, using their phone to connect it to the airline's baggage system. The Electronic Bag Tag (EBT) program kicked off with a successful launch for 2500 elite flyers. The air travel baggage system is not the only area Alaska is looking to modernize. The company launched Alaska Star Ventures in late 2021, through which it's investing in startups aiming to modernize the transportation industry.

Source – Skift

NASA working on batteries for long-haul electric flights

Battery performance and safety have long stood in the way of electrifying aviation. New battery technology being developed by NASA could help to revolutionize air travel. Aviation makes up around 2.4 per cent of global CO2 emissions. Current battery technology only works for some lighter aircraft like drones. It doesn't supply enough power or range for passenger aircraft meaning they are rare and not widely used. Lithium-ion batteries, which are used for electric cars and personal devices, don't

meet the safety standards needed to be used in aviation either. Their flammability is the reason you can't put items like laptops or phones in your checked luggage when you fly. NASA, the US space agency, has been developing technology that doesn't use liquid electrolyte chemicals - the main safety concern of many batteries. These substances can undergo a chain reaction that causes them to heat up, react more due to the heat and eventually catch fire. NASA's Solid-state Architecture Batteries for

Enhanced Recharge-ability and Safety (SABERS) project has been working on an alternative - solid-state batteries. Not only do they have the power and efficiency needed for aircraft, but they retain a solid structure even when damaged meaning they don't catch fire. A prototype sulphur selenium battery developed by the project produces 500 watt-hours of energy per kilogram of battery. That is double the energy density of a standard lithium-ion battery. Lithium-ion batteries are used to power everything from personal devices like tablets to electric cars. Aircraft also require their power source to discharge energy quickly. NASA scientists use the analogy of a battery being like a bucket. Its energy or capacity is how much the bucket can hold while its power is how fast it can be emptied. Electric planes would require it to discharge energy or empty this bucket at an extraordinarily fast rate. So far they have made leaps in increasing this rate of discharge by a factor of 10 then a further 5 as prototypes have improved.

Source –Euro News



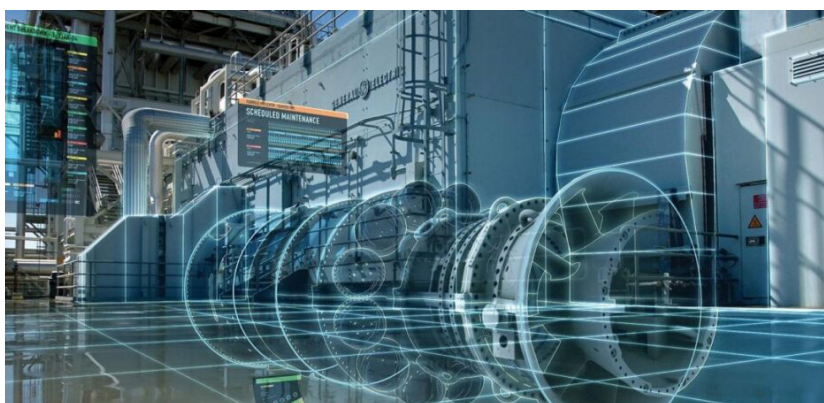
Study highlights growing confidence in Digital Twin technology

Aerospace investment in digital twin technology has been growing with each passing year. The aerospace industry is constantly investing in new designs and concepts to improve aircraft efficiency and capabilities and support technological infrastructure. Despite its consistent innovation, this sector is notorious for being responsible for large amounts of carbon emissions in the atmosphere, making the testing and introduction of cleaner technology important to both the industry and the world. A new study by Capgemini has shown that aerospace firms have continued investing in digital twin technologies to help create modern solutions in a greener and more sustainable manner. Digital twins are digital replicas of physical assets, systems, or processes. Existing only in a virtual setting, digital twins make it possible to test a variety of questions and innovations cost-effectively, as the process does not require undergoing the costly and timely process of developing a physical prototype or simulating physical conditions in an authentic setting. This technology allows for major design questions to be answered and decisions to be finalized before the production of a physical prototype- helping lower costs and in many cases the time to market. This technology could be beneficial to the aerospace industry. The sector is currently facing many

daunting challenges, including a skilled labour shortage and an ageing workforce that has resulted in firms struggling to maintain the human capital they need. Furthermore, supply chain disruptions have led to increased difficulty for firms as they design new concepts and prototypes. However, perhaps the biggest issue digital twin technology will address is carbon emissions. After all, the aviation industry alone was responsible for emitting over one billion tons of carbon dioxide in 2018. As a notorious contributor to climate change, the industry's use of this technology will allow it to design more environmentally friendly concepts at a fraction of the cost, fostering innovation and a movement toward sustainable technology.

The goal to decarbonize aviation is widely recognized as one of importance for the industry, and 67 per cent of companies claimed that decarbonizing the industry was driving investments in digital twin technology. This figure is up from 60 per cent in 2022. As an alternative to burning fossil fuels, firms have been heavily investing in new technologies like electric batteries and hydrogen fuel to power flight- and 75 per cent said that digital twin technology immediately added value to product/system development.

Source –Aviation Today



AI helps reduce the climate impact of airlines

Google and American Airlines are piloting an ambitious project, based on artificial intelligence models, to limit pollution from the airline industry. This involves reducing the trails of condensation in the sky caused by aeroplanes by identifying areas pilots should avoid. Aircraft contrails are problematic because of the effect they have on the planet. By absorbing and capturing part of the Earth's sunlight, the white trails caused by aircraft contribute to global warming. However, this non-CO2 pollution is often 'overlooked' by airlines when calculating the climate footprint of their flights, Greenpeace France points out. Nevertheless, contrails can be avoided, as they only occur in specific airspace zones. This is precisely what Google and American Airlines are working on. The two companies have joined forces as part of a program using artificial intelligence models to develop contrail forecast maps to find out whether pilots can choose routes that avoid creating these trails. To develop this technology, Google teamed up with American Airlines and Breakthrough Energy, an investment fund founded by Bill Gates and specializing in sustainable energy innovation.

Source –News 18