GOVERNMENT OF DUBAI
حكومة دبي

هيئة دبي للطيران المدني
Dubai Civil Aviation Authority

ViaDubai عبر دبي

Monthly Newsletter issued by Dubai Civil Aviation Authority

Issue 99 February 2023

UAE hosts the world

Mohammed bin Rashid: The WGS represents our country in uniting the world, shaping the future, and serving humanity

EDGE makes strategic investments in unmanned ATM provider

Accelerated Digital Transformation



Emirates selects Inmarsat for in-flight connectivity

New collaboration for waste-to-hydrogen supply for airports

SAF to be produced by Masdar-led consortium

CONTENTS

GOVERNMENT OF DUBAI
هيئة دبي للطيران المدني
Dubai Civil Aviation Authority

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

ViaDubai

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

General Supervision
Mohammed Abdulla Ahli

Coordinator
Balqis Aljunaibi

Marketing Manager
Fahed Mohammed

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

Legal Disclaimer

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

Advertise with us

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

NADD ALSHIBA
PR & EVENT MANAGEMENT

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



Message from the President 4

Challenges and opportunities of the world under one roof

Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum



Message from the Director General 5

The aviation industry is a key pillar of Dubai Economic Agenda D33

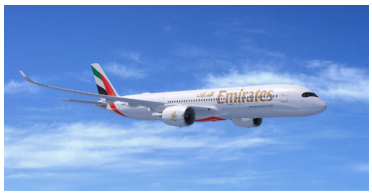
Mohammed Abdulla Ahli

UAE News

UAE airlines launching six new routes 7



Emirates selects Inmarsat for in-flight connectivity 8



SAF to be produced by Masdar-led consortium 9



Dubai is first among the top five cities for spending by international travellers

New research from the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) has revealed Paris being the world's most powerful city destination but predicts it will be overtaken by Beijing by 2032.





Drones and helicopters to share the airspace

By around 2030, 126,000 commercial and around 721,000 private drones will be flying over Germany. Civilian drones are increasingly taking on real tasks like transporting blood or medicine, inspecting railroad embankments, bridges, or industrial plants for damage, or collecting environmental data.

Airlines betting on flights powered by air

By the middle of the 21st century, most cars and buses would be powered by renewable energy, while bikes and electric trains will continue to have little impact on the climate.





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.

Contact Info

Overseas: 0097147770000
Contact Number: 80083222
Email: info@dcaa.gov.ae
Fax: 0097142244573

DCAA website: www.dcaa.gov.ae
Working hours: Monday - Thursday (07:30AM to 03:30PM - GMT+4), Friday (07:30AM to 12:00 PM - GMT+4)
Location: Dubai International Airport Terminal (1), Level (1), Arrivals, Gate # (4)
P.O. Box: 49888 Dubai - U.A.E

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

Challenges and opportunities of the world under one roof



Under one roof, the Emirates presented what human thought has produced in various fields, during the World Government Summit, with the aim of improving the quality of life of more than 8 billion people living on this planet, in a clear indication of the highest sense of responsibility towards the sustainability of the planet, and the relentless work on its progress for the benefit of all mankind.

The vital topics discussed by senior officials and experts under the theme of "Shaping Future Governments" and shedding light on the major challenges we are experiencing at the present , is considered a roadmap for a sustainable future for the peoples of the world, by activating the role of governments that are responsible for making constructive plans and strategies to bringing them to reality.

I can proudly address a summary of what the senior officials of the UAE, participating in the summit highlighted, which sheds light on the leadership taken by the UAE government in different levels, which qualifies it to be a role model for world governments in the areas of future foresight, good governance, sustainable environment, artificial intelligence and the economy, digital and remote work applications, health care and communication, education, design and sustainability of global cities and other important topics.

The UAE hosting of this global summit, amply demonstrates its vision and belief in the importance of sharing minds to create a better future, and that the world as an integrated unit is advancing more quickly if everyone progresses at the same time.

Hence, the results of the summit will certainly have a positive impact on the performance of governments and decision-makers, to move forward in order to build a world that shares challenges, opportunities, solutions and benefits, a world that leaves no part of it behind.

Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum

The aviation industry is a key pillar of Dubai Economic Agenda D33



The civil aviation sector is a key pillar under the Dubai Economic Agenda D33 which includes 100 transformational projects, with ambitious goals that seek to double the size of the Emirate's economy to AED32 trillion during the next 10 years, based on main axes embodied in skilled minds and ideas, advanced technology, and an innovation and knowledge-based economy.

In keeping with Dubai's remarkable economic agenda launched by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai (May God protect him), the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority is working with its strategic partners to enhance the role of civil aviation within this agenda, to reach the desired goal of making Dubai 'an airport for the world' and increasing the share of the aviation in the GDP.

The international airports (Dubai and Al Maktoum) are competent and have the capacity to play their roles as a link between the East and West and supporting the movement of goods between different countries of the world and delivering them to the target markets, relying on the efficiency of our human resources, advanced technical systems, strategic location, and the quality services and facilities they provide to carriers. This is in addition to their gigantic capacity, estimated at 2.5 million tonnes of freight at Dubai Airport, and 12 million tonnes at Al Maktoum Airport when it gets operational in its full capacity .

We have come a long way in establishing the reputation of Dubai International Airport, which ranks first on the list of the world's largest airports in terms of international passenger numbers, and making it a global centre for re-exports, retail trade and aviation.

We have proven our efficiency in dealing with the challenges that the global aviation industry has faced over the years. Dubai has presented umpteen creative initiatives that contributed towards accelerating the recovery phase for the sector that not only serves the global economy but also all humanity.

Mohammed Abdulla Ahli

DCAA organize winter camp

Dubai Civil Aviation Authority Youth Council, in coordination with Corporate Marketing and Communications Office, organized the winter camp titled DCAA Wonderland, attended by his excellency Mohammed Abdulla Ahli, Director General of Dubai Civil Aviation Authority and DCAA Executive Directors and DCAA staff.
The event included many activities and different competitions, such as:
Fun activities: Horse Riding
Sports activities: Padel Game
Challenge activities: Cooking competition - Padel Tournament - Treasure Hunt Competition
Youth activities: Youth Hub (Making perfumes - Designing a flower bouquet - Classic cars show)
This year, the camp came with a new youthful look, full of many surprises, with the aim of achieving more familiarity and build stronger bonds between DCAA employees.











UAE airlines launching six new routes

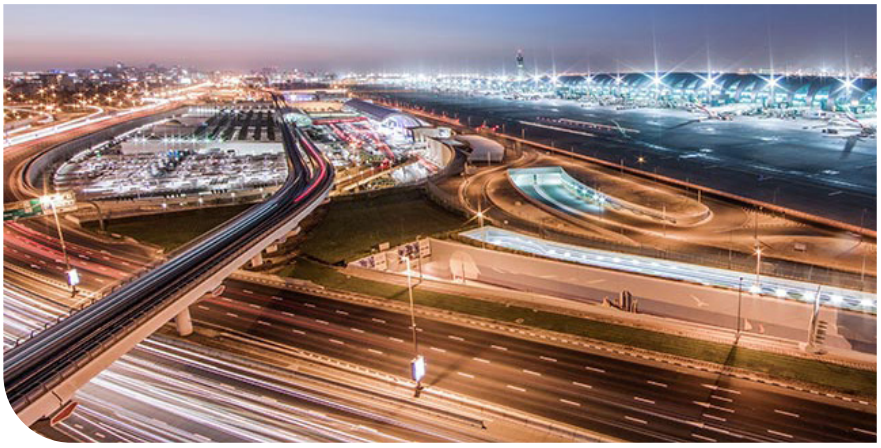


New destinations are opening up for travellers with the UAE airlines launching new routes. Emirates will reintroduce its flagship A380to Casablanca starting from April 15. The airline will replace the Boeing 777-300ER aircraft with its flagship A380 to meet growing demand on the route. Etihad Airways will be introducing two new routes, connecting Abu Dhabi to Düsseldorf in Germany and Copenhagen on the first day of October. The flights will provide business travellers and holidaymakers in the UAE and these key European cities with convenient travel options to and from Abu Dhabi, with four weekly flights to Copenhagen and three weekly flights to Düsseldorf. The flights will be operated using Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft. Dubai's flydubai will operate flights to 10 new destinations from June 23, among the popular destinations are Izmir and Pisa. The airline is also expected to resume routes to popular seasonal summer destinations, such as Bodrum, Mykonos, Santorini and Tivat. Air Arabia will be starting direct flights to Kuala Lumpur on March 20. The airline will operate three flights per week from Sharjah International Airport to the destination. Etihad Airways will be operating daily flights from Abu Dhabi to Kolkata from March 26. The airline will operate seven weekly services to the Indian destination. From June 24, flydubai will be operating bi-weekly flights from Dubai to the Greek island of Corfu. Emirates announced its fourth flight to Bangkok and Dubai on the first day of January, boosting connectivity between the two gateways and providing more options for travellers.

Source – Zawya

DXB remains the Middle East's most connected airport

Dubai International (DXB) has retained its position as the Middle East's best-connected international airport, according to air travel intelligence company OAG. Its Megahubs 2022 report analysed flight data for the top 100 largest airports for capacity and the top 100 largest airports for international capacity (based on total scheduled seats from September 2021 to August 2022). At DXB, Emirates accounted for 49 per cent of the share of flights. The report also placed DXB at number 18 in the Top 25 Low-Cost Megahubs. Furthermore, OAG has stated that within the top 10 busiest global international routes, Dubai featured in five of them (by several seats). The DXB-RUH route has 3,191,090 seats in second position, the DXB-LHR had 2,697,593 seats at number four on the list, followed by the DXB-JED route which has 2,425,930 seats at number six, and BOM-DXB with 1,977,537 seats at number eight followed by DEL-DXB at number ten with 1,898,749 seats. Dubai Airports had in November 2022 increased its annual forecast for passenger traffic at DXB to 64.3 million passengers. Over the eight days starting December 27, nearly 2 million passengers were expected to pass through DXB, with average daily traffic reaching 245,000 passengers.



Source - Business Traveller

Emirates selects Inmarsat for in-flight connectivity

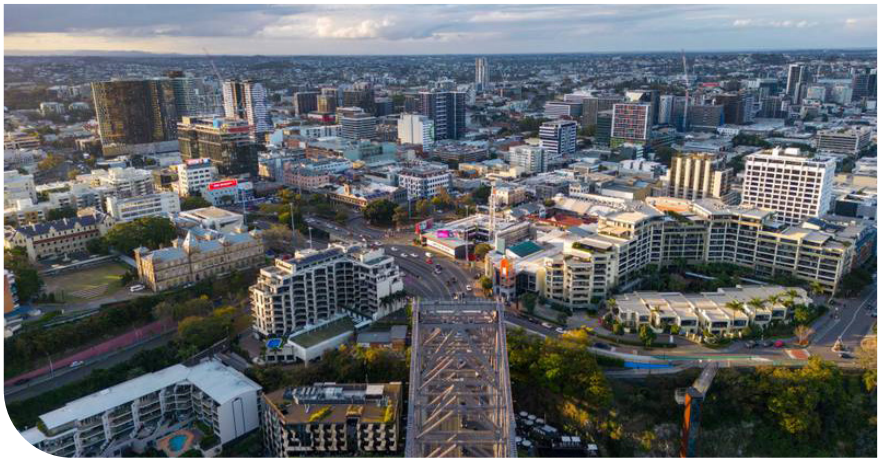


Emirates Airlines has selected Inmarsat as the in-flight connectivity provider for its incoming fleet of Airbus A350s as part of a commitment by the airline to ensure passengers' fly better.' The milestone agreement expands the long-standing partnership between Emirates and Inmarsat. As a result, it will enable the airline to provide advanced, high-speed inflight broadband using Inmarsat's award-winning GX Aviation solution onboard 50 Airbus A350s, which will enter service in 2024. As a result, passengers will be able to stay connected with family and friends, browse the internet, and enjoy social media, all from the comfort of their seats. The GX network currently comprises five KA-band satellites and will further improve with the addition of seven more satellite payloads as part of Inmarsat's fully funded technology roadmap. This includes two Inmarsat-6s, both of which should enter service this year. Three additional satellites in geostationary orbit will follow these launches to add speed, capacity, and resilience. Furthermore, two satellites in a highly elliptical orbit will launch later this year and enter service next year. This will enable Inmarsat's commercial mobile broadband service for aircraft flying in higher elevations and across the Arctic, such as routes between the Middle East and North America.

Source – Space Watch

EK to double daily services to Brisbane from June

Emirates will double its flights from Dubai to Brisbane in June. EK'S decision to increase services to Brisbane has been assisted by the $200 million government and industry partnership, Attracting Aviation Investment Fund (AAIF), which is helping to boost international visitors to Queensland.



"Emirates' decision is another clear indicator that international travel is back on the global agenda and Queensland is very much in the sights of overseas visitors," an official said. In addition to the current A380 servicing the route daily, Emirates will add a daily 777-300 service starting in June. It is estimated to bring in an additional 129,210 seats, including an estimated 38,610 visitors to the state and generate overnight visitor expenditure of $75 million a year. The extra service is also estimated to provide an additional 730 direct and indirect jobs for the state. The Boeing 777-300 aircraft can carry up to 354 passengers. Emirates' extensive worldwide network to over 130 destinations will ensure a high level of connectivity with the United Kingdom, Europe, Scandinavia, Arica and North America. Importantly for exporting Queensland agricultural produce, this service can provide up to 22 tonnes of freight capacity to Dubai and beyond per flight. The additional service combined with daily A380 to Brisbane means Emirates will offer almost 12,000 seats to and from Brisbane every week.

Source – Queensland

SAF to be produced by Masdar-led consortium



A consortium led by Abu Dhabi's clean energy company Masdar, alongside France's TotalEnergies and Siemens Energy, plans to produce sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) from methanol. In 2021, airlines globally pledged net-zero carbon emissions from their operations by 2050 — bringing the air transport industry in line with the objectives of the 2015 Paris Agreement to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Methanol can be used as a clean-burning fuel that produces fewer smog-causing emissions. A demonstrator plant will be built at Masdar City to develop sustainable energy projects, including green hydrogen. While the hydrogen market is still at a comparatively early stage, we firmly believe that by working together with international partners on projects such as this, we can help the hydrogen market develop its full potential and it will take off in the years to come, said Mohamed Al Ramahi, CEO of Masdar. SAF is considered the most significant contributor to reaching the net-zero goal for aviation. In 2021, airlines globally pledged net-zero carbon emissions from their operations by 2050 — bringing the industry in line with the objectives of the 2015 Paris Agreement to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. But it will require a massive boost in production from the current minuscule levels. With the UAE hosting Cop28 later this year, the country's green bona fides are under intense scrutiny from the global community. Projects like the one Masdar is leading will help at the negotiating table come November. The consortium has collaborated with the Abu Dhabi Department of Energy, Etihad Airways, Lufthansa Group and the Khalifa University of Science and Technology, on a demonstration initiative for e-Saf. Since January 2021, the initiative's partners have completed a series of technology vendor assessments, feasibility studies and concept designs, working closely with regulators on compliance issues. The consortium has now identified the methanol-to-jet route as the preferred technology route.

Source –The National



UAE hosts the world

Mohammed bin Rashid: The WGS represents our country in uniting the world, shaping the future, and serving humanity



His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, stated today that the UAE will continue its strategic mission to promote international cooperation, enhance government excellence and foster inspiring initiatives to meet people's aspirations for development, wellbeing, social stability and future security. He was speaking at the conclusion of the World Government Summit (WGS) 2023, held from 13-15 February in Dubai under the theme 'Shaping Future Governments'.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid further said: "Today, we concluded the 10th edition of the World Government Summit, which saw the participation of 10,000 experts and government officials, 80 international organisations, and the signing of 80 international agreements. The Summit represents our country in uniting the world, shaping the future, and serving humanity."

"The WGS brought together 20 heads of states and governments, and more than 250 ministers, entrepreneurs, government officials, thought leaders and experts. The event, now entering its second decade with a stronger will to make an impact, showcased successful experiences from across the world. New challenges cannot be addressed using old tools, and successful government strategies are our means to secure a better future," His Highness added.

His Highness further noted: "We are optimistic about the future. Every year at the World Government Summit, we witness success stories and inspiring ideas that support our optimism. Exceptional government work is the only way to build the future, and every government achievement

in any country acts for the greater good of us all. Through governments' cooperation and their unified vision, the future of humanity will become much better."

Exceptional Summit

His Excellency Mohammad Abdullah Al Gergawi, Minister of Cabinet Affairs of the UAE and Chairman of the WGS Organisation, highlighted that the World Government Summit 2023 was exceptional in every way, especially the number of participants, sessions and forums, marking 10 years of success and global influence.

"The WGS 2023 was exceptional in various ways; not only in terms of the large number of participants, sessions and forums, but also in the range of global issues addressed. Reflecting the humanitarian mission of the WGS, it acts as a platform for harnessing global efforts and international partnerships to help those in need, as we have recently witnessed in our response to the unfortunate incidents in Syria and Turkey," Al Gergawi added.

"Every year, the WGS is keen to provide insights, launch initiatives, and conduct in-depth analysis of key international trends, contributing to the development of government plans to deal with future requirements."

Large participation

The end of the third day marked the conclusion of the WGS 2023, which witnessed the participation of 10,000 people from 150 countries, and featured 220 main addresses, panel discussions and interactive sessions, during which 20 heads of state and governments and more than 250 ministers convened to discuss key issues.

Participants in the 10th edition of the Summit, representing 80 international, regional and government organisations, discussed key current and future global challenges, and the means to enhance governments' readiness to anticipate and address rapid changes. The WGS tackled the issue of shaping the future through six main themes: Accelerating Development and Governance, Future of Societies and Healthcare, Exploring the Frontiers, Governing Economic Resilience and Connectivity, Global City Design and Sustainability, and Prioritising Learning and Work.

Global leaders

The Summit was attended by a number of distinguished leaders, including His Excellency Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt, His Excellency Mario Abdo Benítez, President of the Republic of Paraguay, His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdogan, President of the Republic of Türkiye, who delivered a recorded speech in which he hailed the efforts of the World Government Summit, His Excellency Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal and Chairperson of the African Union, who presented the investment potential in Africa, and His Excellency Wavel Ramkalawan, President of the Republic of Seychelles, who showcased the challenges facing his country as a result of global climate change.

The WGS 2023 also witnessed the participation of His Highness Sheikh Ahmad Nawaf Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, Prime Minister of Kuwait; His Excellency Dr. Maeen



Abdulmalik Saeed, Prime Minister of Yemen; Her Excellency Najla Bouden, Prime Minister, Republic of Tunisia; His Excellency Irakli Garibashvili, Prime Minister, Georgia; His Excellency Ali Asadov, Prime Minister, Republic of Azerbaijan; Her Excellency Ana Brnabi, Prime Minister, Republic of Serbia; and His Excellency Akylbek Japarov, Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers, Kyrgyz Republic.

International Monetary Fund Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva; Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organisation (WHO); and International Labour Organization Director-General, Gilbert F. Houngbo, also participated in the WGS 2023.

In addition, the 2023 Summit hosted Professor Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman, World Economic Forum, and His Excellency Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Arab League Secretary-General.



The Summit witnessed the signing of 80 bilateral agreements, including a bilateral agreement between the UAE Government and the Republic of Georgia; a partnership between the UAE Government and the Republic of Rwanda; an agreement between the UAE Government and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).

Also, during the WGS 2023, His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai, and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Dubai Future Foundation (DFF), launched the Dubai Future Readiness Index.

During the Summit, the United Nations Industrial Development





Organization (UNIDO), the Department of Health Abu Dhabi (DoH), the regulator of the healthcare sector in Abu Dhabi, and the Global Manufacturing and Industrialization Summit (GMIS) signed an agreement to establish the UNIDO International Centre for Industry Readiness in the UAE.

The World Government Summit 2023 also witnessed the launch of a global initiative led by the UAE, in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and their international partners, aimed at raising awareness and building global research capabilities for law enforcement agencies to address crimes affecting the environment.



The World Government Summit saw seven global awards being presented in appreciation of government ministers, representatives of the private sector, innovators and creators for their exceptional contributions to building a better society for humanity.

The Summit also issued 20 knowledge reports, in cooperation with the most important international research institutions.

The agenda included more than 22 international forums focused on developing policies, strategies and future plans that enhance the readiness and flexibility of governments for the next stage of development.

More than 300 speakers including heads of states, ministers, government officials and thought leaders discussed pressing issues and reviewed current and future challenges.

His Highness Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Ras Al Khaimah, participated in the WGS 2023 sessions. His Highness reviewed the emirate's experience, addressing the most important factors of its success and distinction.

His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad Al Sharqi, Crown Prince of Fujairah, presented Fujairah's Strategic Outlook at the Summit.

Lt. Gen. His Highness Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior, highlighted Emirati culture and values during his keynote at the Summit.

His Excellency Mohammad Abdullah Al Gergawi, Minister of Cabinet Affairs, and Chairman of the World Government Summit Organisation participated in a number of sessions, including a virtual plenary session with Elon Musk, CEO, Twitter, Tesla and SpaceX, and a session titled 'Governments and the Changing World Order' with Ray Dalio, Founder of Bridgewater Associates.

His Excellency Dr. Sultan bin Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of Industry and Advanced Technology, and President-Designate of COP28, also delivered a keynote speech at the Summit.

Dubai is first among the top five cities for spending by international travellers



New research from the World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC) has revealed Paris being the world's most powerful city destination but predicts it will be overtaken by Beijing by 2032. The report, researched in partnership with Oxford Economics, analyzed key indicators such as Travel & Tourism's contribution to GDP, employment and traveller spending. As borders reopened, leisure travellers swapped city visits for less-populated destinations such as coastal and rural destinations. However, the latest research from WTTC shows that city holidays are back and growing in popularity. Paris takes the crown as the world's most powerful city destination with a travel and tourism sector worth almost US$36 billion in 2022, in terms of direct GDP contribution to the city. Over the next 10 years, WTTC predicts it will drop down to third place, although its value will rise to over US$49 billion. Beijing is currently the second biggest city destination in the world with a travel and tourism sector worth nearly US$33 billion. However, WTTC predicts it will leapfrog Paris within the next 10 years, growing to a staggering US$77 billion. Orlando's travel and tourism sector, valued at US$31 billion in 2022, will grow by almost 50 per cent to US$45 billion by 2032. Las Vegas is the only city in the top 10 list which holds its place, firmly staying as the 5th largest city destination. Other cities outside the top 10 showing promising growth as emerging destinations include the Polish capital of Warsaw which has seen a 14.4 per cent increase in its GDP contribution in 2022 versus 2019. Sanya, a Chinese coastal city which has become a popular tourist destination in recent years as holidaymakers visited its stunning beaches witnessed a 10.2 per cent growth during that same period.

Source - World Travel & Tourism Council

Tourism Fiji embraces culture in the global campaign

Tourism Fiji has abandoned the poolside to tap into the culture of the island in a new global brand campaign it launched. The 'Where happiness comes naturally' came just over one year since the Island re-opened to tourism and focuses on Fiji's people, culture and authentic experiences to promote the destination than centring on tourists and their experience. The new platform is an evolution of Tourism Fiji's marketing, which encouraged people to find happiness in Fiji. The campaign positioning taps into the consumer trend for meaningful travel experiences that create a connection to culture and communities. A study by Booking.com revealed that 66 per cent of travellers want authentic experiences representative of the local culture. Destination brands such as Tourism New Zealand and Tourism Australia have also sought to utilize these insights in their marketing campaigns, with both brands heavily promoting the authentic cultural experiences of both nations. It comes as destination brands around the globe compete fiercely for tourism dollars. A recent report by The Economist predicts global tourism arrivals will increase by 30 per cent in 2023, following growth of 60 per cent in 2022. However, these will remain below pre-pandemic levels as the impact of the global slowdown, the war in Ukraine and the ongoing impacts of the pandemic continue to affect consumer behaviours. The campaign 'flips the traditional tourism dynamic and celebrates this incredible place and its incredible people.'



Source - The Drum

Egypt tourism figures to reach 30 million by 2028

Egypt hopes to double its tourism figures to reach 25-30 million by 2028. Ahmed Issa, tourism minister, made this remark during a debate at the senate. However, he highlighted that to accommodate an increasing number of tourists the country would also need to double its hotel room capacity, offer low-cost air travel options and diversify its tourist products. Issa said the government is currently giving a lot of incentives to the private sector to double Egypt's inbound traffic. "Egypt has 1,200 tourist hotels, 1,300 tourist restaurants, 12,000 tourist guides, 2,200 tourist companies, 130 archaeological sites and 31 museums currently," he said. The minister went on to say that Egypt is currently concentrating on attracting more Chinese tourists to the destination. "I can say that there are around 30 million Chinese who are interested in visiting Egypt over the next few years," he said.



Source –Skift

ME tourism set to return to pre-pandemic levels

Having witnessed a stronger-than-expected recovery in 2022, the Middle East could see international tourist arrivals return to pre-pandemic levels this year, according to the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). Its data noted while all regions enjoyed a significant increase in international arrivals in 2022 over the previous year, the Middle East recorded the strongest relative increase as international tourist numbers climbed to 83 per cent of pre-pandemic numbers last year. The region welcomed large events such as Expo 2020 Dubai and the FIFA World Cup in Qatar, as well as a highly attended Hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia, noted UNWTO in its report. "The UNWTO anticipates a strong year for the sector even in the face of diverse challenges including the economic situation and continued geopolitical uncertainty," remarked Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili. UNWTO noted that over 900 million tourists travelled internationally in 2022, which was double the number of those who travelled in 2021 though still 37 per cent below 2019.



Source -Skift

Accelerated Digital Transformation



Digitalization is a key competitiveness and success factor for airports and airlines, according to the SITA Air Transport IT Insights report.

The post-pandemic era of travel has accelerated the digital transformation of the air transport industry, making digitalization a key competitiveness and success factor for airlines and airports, and CIOs are directing IT investments towards automation of passenger processing and operations to streamline the journey, emphasizing on biometric ID management and self-processing services via mobile, according to the SITA Air Transport IT Insights report that originated first in 1999.

Equally important is scaling operations based on demand and connectivity as aviation embraces a new post-pandemic era, striving to achieve a seamless end-to-end journey. Innovation is another key priority on CIOs' agendas, with airlines and airports prioritizing innovation initiatives with partners to implement top IT technologies.

In its analysis based on inputs provided by the airlines and airports, the world's 70-year-old leading specialist in air transport communications and information technology said with over 1000 airports footprint, said its aim is to 'realize a smooth, enjoyable, informed and worry-free airport experience' for passengers across the world, and that its platform and data services span every area essential to the vision of a cent per cent mobile, self-service, seamless passenger journey.

It asserts creating a safer, frictionless passenger journey through low-touch and contactless passenger processing remains its priority. Information Technology and telecommunications spend as a percentage of revenue stabilizing as the industry experiences a swift post-pandemic recovery. The IT and telecommunications spend is now returning to the levels of 2019. The total IT spend of airlines in absolute value increased to US$ 37 billion in 2022. Post pandemic, a new era of travel has been born and airlines are responding to it. They are working to stay agile, streamline operations and passenger management. Overall, the IT budgets see a quicker than anticipated recovery among airlines, and seeing a higher budget on technology.

Their priorities are placed firmly on improving passenger mobile services, strengthening cybersecurity, and improving cloud services capabilities. Investing in biometric technology to automate passenger identity management at check-in is another trend that continues to rank highly among airlines' priorities. Airlines are increasingly investing in, and piloting, biometric solutions. Other passenger management solutions to help streamline processes and automate passenger journeys at the airport include self-service initiatives for bag drop, boarding and baggage tracking. To improve operational efficiencies, airlines are embracing innovation to implement new technologies. A record 67 per cent of airlines confirming an increase in their IT budget, seizing the opportunity of reduced passenger movement to improve operations by investing in IT and telecommunication updates.

An all-time high 96 per cent of

airlines predict their IT budget will stay the same or increasing by 2023. For the next three years, 95 per cent are investing in cybersecurity initiatives and there is a high appetite for investing in mobile applications for passenger services and cloud services with all three remaining high on the agenda. Three new IT services that are rising in priority with most airlines investing in major programs for IT service management enhancement, disruption warning systems and In-house virtual and remote IT services. Digitalization remains crucial for airlines for streamlining operations and as they focus their investments accordingly to drive efficiencies.

During the coming three years, airlines will continue to drive investments in emerging technologies. The top four priorities remain the same, as airlines focus on data management to enhance their business models and operational efficiencies through technologies such as business intelligence software data exchange technologies, Artificial Intelligence and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tracking. Airlines have doubled R&D plans for Near Field Communications and 'Augmented/ Virtual Reality tech. Airlines are focused on streamlining passenger services using biometrics and are moving away from having their staff check and scan identity documentation.

This area sees a significant drop, with only 20 per cent of airlines confirming long-term investments – it is to be implemented by 78 per cent by 2025. About 91 per cent of airlines are currently offering web check-in. About 37 per cent of carriers have implemented automated boarding gates, and another 48 per cent are planning to have this service by 2025. More passengers now receive real-time information sent to their mobile about their bags, with 25 per cent of airlines offering this service, and another 42 per cent confirming implementation by 2025.

Touchless solutions for passengers are high on airline investment agendas, with 88 per cent confirming implementation plans by 2025. About 75 per cent of airlines plan to implement biometric ID solutions by 2025. Airlines are looking to innovate and become more agile by improving their operations as a response to the current industry trends set by the pandemic. Automatic aircraft data management remains a key investment priority this year, confirmed by 75 per cent of airlines. As many as 84 per cent of airlines are focusing investments on wireless services for cabin crew and pilots and another 80 per cent prioritize wireless in-flight services for passengers.

About 66 per cent are maintaining investments in full satellite broadband connectivity to aircraft. Passenger processing for operations remains a key investment area, where 91 per cent of airlines confirmed investment to tackle this in order to streamline operations. About passenger health and risks management, a whopping 81 per cent of airlines confirmed implementation by 2025. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is the most common technology area where innovation partnerships take place. The top six technologies of focus where airlines collaborate with innovation partners to drive implementation are those same technologies being prioritized by airlines, both immediate and long term: AI (82 per cent), Biometrics (79 per cent), BI software (77 per cent), Digital Tags (77 per cent), data exchange technologies (71 per cent), Near Field Communications (73 per cent) and 5G communications network (69 per cent).

In 2023, the SITA's IT Insights survey revealed that 93 per cent of airports expect overall IT expenditures to grow. The IT solutions sought will enable airports to deliver enhanced services even when faced with staffing shortages, increased traffic loads, and a mix of changing geopolitical, economic, and environmental external influences.

Cybersecurity, biometrics and cloud services remains the highest priority. New technologies and 5G communication networks are gaining traction as the industry responds to resolve the latest challenges around congestion and connectivity at airports.

Similar to airlines, the technologies where airports are bringing in partners to innovate with BI, AI and Data Exchange being at the forefront. Looking at the next three years, agility, scalability, and operational efficiency are critical considerations for the business models of airports amid the ever-evolving environment imposed by the pandemic and technology advancements. The findings show that almost all airports plan to adopt BI solutions to gain better visibility across their operations, focusing on key areas such as flight operations, asset management and passengers. About 75 per cent of airports anticipate IT and telecommunications investment increase in 2023 – only 18 per cent expect their investment to stay the same in 2023.

This demonstrates that airports are leveraging technology to help them meet the increasing traffic demands and provide a seamless passenger experience as they adjust to the post-pandemic travel era. Cybersecurity initiatives, Self-service processes and Cloud services all remain high priorities for airports over the next three years. Airports are prioritizing investment in four other areas to help them enhance agility in their business and operations. BI, Data exchange technologies and Biometric ID management, have major programs set by more than 45 per cent of airports in 2023. About 43 per cent of airports confirm having major development programs for 5G communications and another 39 per cent have R&D programs for the technology. Airports are focused on self-check-in, with 86 per cent confirming plans to invest in this area by 2025. Second on the list is self-bag-drop, with as much as 86 per cent of airports confirming.

39 new airlines took to the skies in 2022

As many as 39 new commercial airline operators took to the skies globally in 2022. Airline "births" are back to pre-pandemic levels after a downturn to 29 in 2020 followed by a steep recovery to 58 in 2021, according to a report by the International Air Transport Association, a trade association of global airlines. Amid the intense competition and other challenges facing the airline industry, the pandemic also created opportunities for start-up airlines, in part thanks to the buoyant second-hand aircraft market (making aircraft leasing more affordable). Over the past three years, the number of airline deaths — cessation of an airline's Air Operator Certificate (AOC) — and dormancy (airlines operating fewer than 10 flights per month) fell. While 15 airlines ceased operations in 2022, the number of airline births exceeded "deaths" in 2021 and 2022. The number of airline deaths fell to 53 in 2020 from 59 in 2019, but this was accompanied by a sharp increase in dormancy — 156 — that year.

Source - Business Line



EU updates the global list of banned airlines

Several countries have all of their airlines banned from European airspace due to being considered unsafe by the European Union Air Safety Committee, including those in Afghanistan, Liberia and Sudan. The likelihood of dying or getting injured during a commercial flight is extremely rare, with one fatal aircraft incident in every 4.17 million. The EU keeps a list of airlines deemed too unsafe to operate within the bloc - as well as the UK - which is the closest thing out there to a definitive list of countries with dangerous aviation industries. Countries that have all of their airlines currently banned by the EU are Afghanistan, Armenia, Angola, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Libya, Nepal, São Tomé and Príncipe, Sierra Leone and Sudan.

The EU has also banned six specific airlines from other parts of the world, including Venezuela's Avior Airlines, Suriname's Blue Wing Airlines, Iran's Aseman Airlines, Iraq's Iraqi Airways, Nigeria's Med-View Airlines, and Zimbabwe Airlines. Countries find themselves on the list if their safety standards are not considered high enough by the EU.

Source – Mirror

Nigerian airlines choosing narrow-body aircraft

Nigerian airlines are switching from wide-body aircraft to smaller ones. Narrow-body aircraft like Embraer 195-E2 and Embraer 147, ATR aircraft series, and Bombardier Q400 among other smaller aircraft sizes are set to dominate the Nigerian airspace as the aviation industry set up plans for recovery over the next decade. Local airlines have started altering their fleets and operating models for a squeezed travel market. The global and national economic challenges and incessant scarcity of aviation fuel have exacerbated the woes of domestic airline operators. While some carriers resorted to layoffs, operations' down-scaling and restructuring of their business, major passenger airlines explored a new service – cargo transportation on passenger aircraft as a survival means. In a bid to overcome the economic headwinds, Nigerian airlines have started re-strategizing, abandoning expensive big aircraft for narrow-body ones, which are more economical as they push to cut costs. According to Oliver Wyman's Global Fleet MRO Forecast 2021-2031, the global aviation fleet by 2031 would be smaller than once projected because of the impact of the pandemic and a decade of smaller fleets would mean constrained growth and consolidation.

Source - Punch Nigeria

Alaska Airlines eliminates inflight plastic cups

Alaska Airlines has completed its transition to paper cups for inflight beverages, a move which eliminates more than 55 million plastic cups annually and replaces them with a more planet-friendly alternative. The change to paper cups makes Alaska Airlines the first US airline to eliminate plastic cups. Combined with the Boxed Water partnership, these changes eliminate 2.2 million pounds of plastic waste from landfills every year, the equivalent weight of 24 Boeing 737s. All inflight beverages on Alaska flights are now served in Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified paper cups or reusable glassware for most First Class services. We began the process of eliminating our five largest sources of plastic waste in 2018 by removing plastic straws and stir sticks from inflight service – a first for any airline at the time. In 2021, Alaska eliminated inflight plastic water bottle waste by replacing them with Boxed Water, another first for airlines.

Boxed Water cartons are made from renewable FSC-certified paper, 92 per cent of which is plant-based, saving an estimated 1.8 million pounds of single-use plastics on our flights annually. Single-use plastics increase the use of fossil fuels, generate millions of tons of waste in landfills, and pollute waterways and natural spaces. According to the EPA study, an estimated 300 million tons of plastics are produced each year worldwide with the vast majority going un-recycled, either to accumulate in landfills or the environment.

Source –PR Newswire



BAA allows hijabs and jumpsuits for female cabin crew

Have you ever seen an air hostess in a jumpsuit or hijab? Not till now. British Airways has revamped the usual-uniform style, which includes pants or skirts, shirts, jackets and sarees. The airline has unveiled a new uniform for its staff for the first time in 20 years. The collection features jumpsuits and tunics or hijabs for the female cabin crew. Around 30,000 employees will begin wearing the new uniform in the spring of 2023. Male staff have an option of a tailored three-piece suit, while females can wear a dress, skirt or trousers instead of the jumpsuit. It also includes tunics and hijab options for female cabin crew. A British-Ghanaian designer has created the dress according to the airline's staff requirements. It was a five-year-long project that got delayed by two years due to the pandemic. The designer created a unique collection for the airline staff. He took inspiration from the movement of air over an aircraft wing and the workers who fly in the aeroplanes and created an airwave pattern on jackets, t-shirts, buttons, and ties. All the new garments feature jacquard fabric. Sean Doyle, Chairman and CEO of the carrier, said its uniform is an iconic representation of the brand that will carry us into our future, representing the very best of modern Britain and helping us deliver a great British original service for the customers.



Source – The Mint

dnata launch operations at Zanzibar Airport

Dnata, a leading global air and travel services provider, has launched its operations at Zanzibar Abeid Amani Karume International Airport with its partners Emirates Leisure Retail and SEGAP, a joint venture between airport infrastructure and operations specialists Egis, and private equity fund manager AIIM (African Infrastructure Investment Managers). The three companies will work closely together to deliver world-class services for airlines and passengers at the newly-built international terminal (T3) of ZNZ. The partnership is expected to significantly boost its trade and tourism sectors. The investment of dnata, Emirates Leisure Retail and SEGAP represent over US$10 million. dnata will provide its globally renowned, quality ground, passenger and cargo handling services to airline customers at ZNZ, ensuring safe and timely operations of flights and an excellent travel experience for passengers. In addition, it launched meet and greet and lounge services to help passengers further enhance their experience and enjoy a smooth airport journey from check-in to boarding. Emirates Leisure Retail has partnered with MMI as a master concessionaire for all food and beverage, duty-free and commercial outlets at T3.

Source – Airliner



3.8 billion passengers handled by airports in 2022



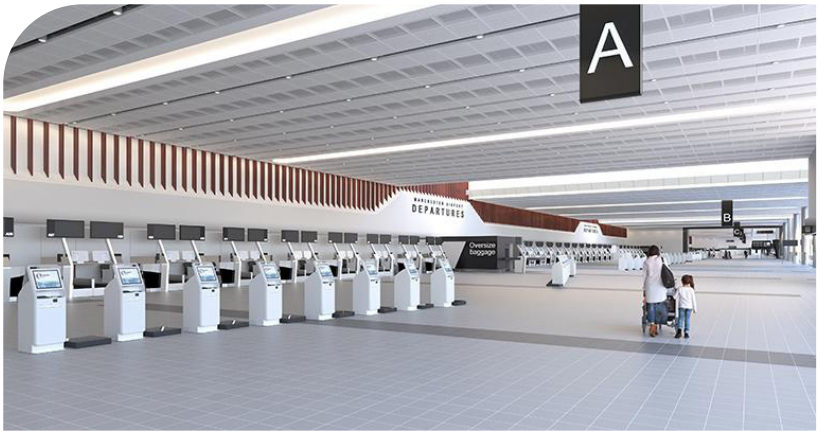
CAPA has published a report which stated a record number of passengers passed through airports across the world in 2022. However, it was only 83 per cent of the 2019 figure. The report said 3.8 billion passengers boarded at the world's airports, with Atlanta being the number one airport for passenger traffic, at 85.8 million. Only two cities managed more than 100 million passengers in 2022. There are 425 major construction projects at existing airports worldwide, with US$450 billion in investment. There are 225 new airport projects, and more than 70 per cent of the investment is in Asia-Pacific. There are 1074 airport investors known to CAPA, of which 258 are airport operators, groups or consortiums. More than 440 airports globally have been certified by the Airports Council International under its carbon accreditation scheme, in six categories. In the top 10 airports by passenger traffic in 2022, US airports have five of the Top 10, with Europe accounting for four and the Middle East one. In 2021 US airports had eight of the Top 10, including the first seven; indicative of there being fewer impediments to travel there during the pandemic. Atlanta once again cemented its top spot. Asia Pacific has fallen off the radar altogether, especially China, but that will now change dramatically since it has 'reopened.

Source - CAPA

Delhi and Bengaluru among the 10 best-performing airports globally in 2022

Despite a challenging operational environment, the year 2022 witnessed a 26 per cent jump from 2021 in the number of flights operated globally and Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport and Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport was among the top 10 on-time airports globally, according to aviation analytics firm Cirium. These two airports were not in the top 10 in 2021. In its On-time Performance Review 2022, Cirium said Bengaluru airport was the second-best airport globally in 2022 in terms of on-time arrivals and departures. Japan's Haneda Airport was the best-performing airport. Indira Gandhi Airport stood seventh in the on-time rankings globally. Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport stood at the 11th spot.

Source - Business Standard



Manchester Airport unveils £440 million investment

Manchester Airports Group (MAG) has announced a £440 million investment in Manchester Airport that will unlock billions of pounds of economic value over the next decade. The investment will transform the passenger experience at the UK's third-largest airport, with new spacious facilities, state-of-the-art technology and equipment, and an exciting array of shops, restaurants and airport lounges. It will see the airport expand its role as the UK's global gateway in the North, connecting the region to even more international destinations. The investment is the final phase of the £1.3 billion Manchester Airport Transformation Programme (MAN-TP), first announced in 2015 with a 10-year vision to revolutionise the customer experience at the Northern hub and unlock the potential of its two full-length runways. The first phase saw Terminal 2 more than double in size, with the new facility has received positive feedback from passengers and airlines since opening in July 2021. This latest investment will complete the transformation of Terminal 2, delivering improvement to all stages of the passenger journey – from check-in to baggage reclaim – as well as upgrading its airfield to cater for next-generation aircraft. Upon completion in 2025, around 80 per cent of all passengers will use the expanded Terminal 2, with Terminal 1 set to close – 63 years after it was opened by the Duke of Edinburgh, in 1962.

Source - International Airport Review

Queenstown Airport set to improve customer experience

An Australian technology provider has been selected by Queenstown Airport to provide new bag drop and kiosk facilities for people travelling through the airport. Queenstown Airport is undertaking a terminal upgrade programme and wanted technology that is accessible, user-friendly and easy to implement.

Elenium designs develop and manufactures self-service and automation technologies for the aviation sector that can reduce passenger congestion by up to 60 per cent, delivering a faster and more seamless customer experience. The company's domain experience, portfolio of solutions, development methodologies and customer-centric approach have struck a chord with global carriers and airports, fuelling significant growth in its short history. The scope of its solution will cover six new bag-drop units and a further nine self-service kiosks by June this year, which will provide a full and fast check-in process.

Source – Asian Aviation

Mumbai airport installs 2D barcode readers to scan tickets

Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) in Mumbai has installed 2D barcode readers at the entry gates of Terminals 1 and 2. The decision to make this new development was taken to make sure that passengers enjoy a hassle-free travel experience. Officials believe the passenger experience is of the utmost importance. It decided that a good passenger experience should begin at the airport's curb. They have installed 2D barcode readers at the entry gate to make sure that the process of entry into the terminal is quick. The CISF officers standing at the terminal entry gates will be scanning the barcodes on the tickets or boarding passes instead of manually checking the ticket. The ultimate goal is to ensure that the passenger's journey from the entrance to the terminal is pleasant and quick. The newly installed facility will not only improve security, but it will also improve efficiency. Both of these things are very important for an airport that handles approximately 48 million passengers annually. Every day, approximately 150,000 passengers arrive at Mumbai International Airport. CSMIA has always set a benchmark when it comes to delivering best-in-class services at the airport. The vision of the airport is to offer all passengers a very memorable experience with a high standard of comfort and convenience.

Source –Curly Tales

Digital travel is the future



Sergio Collela
President-Europe
SITA

Aviation is vital to modern society and the global economy; the industry is looking to use technology to build back better and greener following the pandemic. The pressure on the air transport industry to further reduce emissions has accelerated. Across the world, SITA is digitally transforming the journey from end-to-end, by enriching the digital experience for our customers on the ground and in the air thanks to our unrivalled experience and solutions.

At SITA, our vision of Digital Travel is a future where you can travel from anywhere to everywhere without ever needing to present your travel documents and without needing to stop to confirm your identity, check in, cross a border, or access any number of services at your destination. The demand seems strong enough for air traffic not to fall below March/April 2022 levels and to fully recover pre-pandemic traffic levels by 2024.

In this contest, a digitally enabled journey is key to boosting operational efficiency, keeping passengers happy, and facing surges in traffic, particularly at peak periods. Digital transformation is the key for airlines. This is a world in which passengers expect every travel process to be digital, creating a seamless experience for travellers, with no need to rely on manual processes for passport checks and visa issuance.

Moreover, as travel becomes more connected and intermodal, having unified digital systems that simplify the passenger journey across the land, sea, and air will become increasingly important. Equally important is to ensure sustainable operations. Aviation is vital to modern society and the global economy; the industry is looking to use technology to build back better and greener following the pandemic. The pressure on the air transport industry to further reduce emissions has accelerated in the last few years.

This is not only essential for regulatory compliance and social acceptance but can translate into efficiencies in fuel consumption and into a competitive advantage. Innovation remains one of the key priorities for SITA's operations to continue making passengers' journeys even more seamless and comfortable. SITA has been accelerating its product development and further refining its portfolio to help operators digitalize to build resilient, efficient, and sustainable services while enhancing passenger confidence and convenience at every step of the journey.

Providing IT services to approximately 400 members and 2,500 customers worldwide, and doing business with around 90 per cent of the global airline industry, SITA has a crucial role in assisting airlines when it comes to efficiency via tech. According to the IATA, the number of passengers should double in the next 20 years, but the process of expanding airports will not be as quick. And passengers quite rightly want all the processes inside the airport to be carried out without any problems. The only way to ensure the uninterrupted operation is to develop and apply new technological solutions that increase their efficiency and the quality of passenger service.

Support the economic sustainability of airports

A recent report by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) states that both airports and airlines have the weakest economic performance among all sectors in aviation and all major global industries, underlining the need for increased collaboration between stakeholders in creating value for the travelling public and communities. The Airports Council International (ACI) World calls on regulators to support the economic sustainability of airports as social and economic engines of communities worldwide and for the benefit of the travelling public.

The ACI World has passed a resolution urging governments to acknowledge the changed risk profile of airports in some jurisdictions due to the pandemic and to provide regulatory support to restore economic equilibrium for unrecovered costs, either as financial compensation or through future airport charges. It also follows the recent outcomes of the Economic Commission of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) that recognized the need for the ongoing review of ICAO's Policies on Charges for Airports and Air Navigation Services.

International and national regulators must support the economic sustainability of airports as crucial players in the health of the entire aviation ecosystem. Restoring the economic equilibrium of airports through financial compensation or future airport charges is necessary for investing in the infrastructure needed to accommodate the growth of air travel and meet de-carbonization targets, as well as maximize airports' contribution to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and wider socio-economic effects.

The impact of the pandemic on airport passenger traffic resulted in a global decline of 61 per cent in 2020 relative to 2019 (falling from 9.2 billion passengers in 2019, to 3.6 billion passengers in 2020). The lasting effects on revenues in the years following the collapse have resulted in capital expenditure reductions. Furthermore, where government financial support or other relief measures were insufficient, many airports also had to re-finance their operations, creating a mounting debt burden.

Like airlines and other aviation stakeholders, airports are businesses that continue to be affected by the pandemic's economic impact, energy costs, staff shortages, and other inflationary pressures felt by the entire industry. However, what is unique to airports is that they face high fixed costs irrespective of economic conditions and do not have the same level of flexibility in managing capacity. With continued economic headwinds and global passenger traffic expecting a loss of 27 per cent in 2022 as compared to 2019, a balance must be struck to restore the economic equilibrium of airports.

Under a regulated regime of airport charges that do not adjust to actual market and demand conditions, there should be full awareness of the fact that the regulated formula that protects airlines in good times also requires protecting airports in bad times. This regulatory asymmetry needs full consideration and reconciliation in the post-pandemic recovery. This means that costs incurred for aeronautical services through the pandemic need to be recovered through charges, especially in cases where government financial support was insufficient to cover those costs. In other words, there is currently a mismatch between costs incurred and revenues that need to cover those costs. The ACI advocates new approaches for economic oversight be considered to ensure better use of airport capacity.



Luis Felipe de Oliveira
Director General
ACI World

IATA makes 350 updates to manuals for cargo and ground handling

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has completed the annual revision of its air transport industry manuals for cargo, ground handling, and operations, thus incorporating the updates made to several underlying industry standards over the past year. These revisions reflect the sector's commitment to further improving safety, introducing more sustainable operations, as well as enhancing the passenger experience and cargo handling. With more than 1.25 million dangerous goods shipments being flown by air on an annual basis, the rules and regulations allowing for the safe transport of such substances and articles must be revised to reflect safety and operational developments. One focus is on lithium batteries, as consumer demand for electronic devices such as tablets and small personal mobility devices continues to grow. It has updated Standard Procedures for Preloading Advanced Cargo Information (PLACI) Manual. This now reflects additional recommendations, including for the new EU-ICS2 regulations in the EU and future similar programs in Canada, the UAE and the UK, which are being put into place to increase security.

Source –IATA

Amazon expands air cargo service to India

Amazon is bringing its air cargo operations to India, marking fresh growth for its logistics arm even as it looks to cut costs in other divisions. The e-retailer is using two Boeing 737-800 aircraft to ship packages between Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Delhi and Mumbai. Amazon Air will enable the company to offer faster deliveries to customers in India. The launch of Amazon Air in India comes as Amazon is undergoing a broad review of its expenses as it stares down a worsening economic outlook and slowing retail sales. Amazon began the latest phase of the largest layoffs in its 28-year history, which are expected to result in 18,000 employees being laid off. It has looked to slash costs in other ways, including instituting a hiring freeze across Amazon's corporate workforce, axing some projects and pausing warehouse expansion. The company intends to keep pursuing long-term opportunities and continue to invest in its stores, advertising and cloud-computing businesses, among others. Amazon Air, which debuted in 2016, outsources operations to several airlines.

Source -CNBC





Lufthansa Cargo unveils airfreight trends

The global logistics and air cargo market continue to experience turbulent times. Nevertheless, after three years in crisis mode, a normalizing market is in sight. Lufthansa Cargo is optimistic about this year and is positive about fundamental trends such as digitalization and sustainability as well as the associated challenges in airfreight. It shared its perceptions on the global air freight sector for the year. The peak phases of the pandemic demonstrated the importance of air freight in logistics. It is an indispensable component of global supply chains. This made the past crisis years all the more challenging for the industry. The temporary shutdown of many passenger aircraft fleets led to a considerable loss of cargo space, as around half of the world's air freight tonnage is carried as supplementary cargo. Although there will continue to be strained supply chains, partly due to global dynamics, Lufthansa Cargo nevertheless expects increasing freight capacities to help ease the situation in the coming year. Above all, the continuous increase in passenger flights and the outlook for a reopening Asian market allow us to look to the future with confidence.

Source –Aviation Source News

Half of all European flights were delayed in the summer of 2022

Half of the flights in Europe were delayed during the summer of 2022 and nearly 2,000 were cancelled every day in 2022, a new report has revealed. The data released by European air traffic management body EUROCONROL came as no surprise to travellers, many of whom endured long queues and last-minute cancellations throughout 2022. Two-thirds of flights departed on time throughout the year - a significant decrease from the 2019 average of 73 per cent. “The situation deteriorated markedly over the summer,” it said. “Departure punctuality [dipped] below 50 per cent at the beginning of July and between 50 per cent - 60 per cent for most of the summer,” the ANSP concluded. Hundreds of thousands of flights were also cancelled. Roughly 6.9 per cent of all scheduled trips were grounded - nearly double the 2019 average of 3.5 per cent. Not all European countries and airports fared equally. Air traffic is not spread evenly across Europe. The UK is the busiest air traffic control hub, followed by Germany, Spain, and France. Yet the busiest countries were not necessarily the worst affected.

Source –Euro News



Hawarden Airport ATC is to be served by Serco for five more years

Serco, the international provider of services to governments, has been awarded a contract extension to continue to provide Air Traffic Control (ATC) services at Hawarden Airport in North Wales for five years. Serco has been supporting the Airbus operations at Hawarden for 25 years, providing the ATC service, the installation and maintenance of the essential equipment required to operate the airport and ensuring all airport operations are conducted safely. Additionally, it oversees routine and unplanned maintenance and ensures the airport remains regulatory compliant.
The organization has helped keep Hawarden Airport operating for the past 25 years. Throughout the coronavirus pandemic, its team at Hawarden Airport worked under personal pressure and professional challenges to deliver the output needed by the customers.

Source -Serco Group

FAA to enhance aviation safety through MOSAIC

The US Federal Aviation Administration’s Modernization of Special Airworthiness Certificates (MOSAIC) program is a comprehensive effort to modernize the national airspace system (NAS). Through MOSAIC, the FAA is seeking to enhance the safety, security, and efficiency of the airspace while also reducing delays and improving the overall air travel experience for passengers. One of the key components of MOSAIC is the modernization of air traffic control systems. The FAA wants to replace its ageing radar-based systems with new, more advanced technologies such as Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) and Next-Gen Data Communications. These new technologies will enable air traffic controllers to have a more precise and accurate picture of aircraft in the airspace, which will allow more efficient aircraft routing and separation. To improve the overall air travel experience for passengers, MOSAIC seeks to reduce delays and improve flight efficiency by implementing new procedures and technologies such as Performance Based Navigation (PBN) and Airspace Flow Programs (AFP). These new procedures will reduce the risk of collisions and other accidents and enable aircraft to fly more direct routes, reducing flight times and fuel consumption. Air traffic controllers across the US handle thousands of complex tasks that require constant attention and quick decision-making.

Source - Flying Mag



eVTOL market to see the biggest growth over the next five years

Air passenger taxis, air ambulances and cargo transport are seen as the three areas of the eVTOL market that will see the biggest growth over the next five years, according to new research from Horizon Aircraft, an innovative leader in hybrid electric Vertical Take-off and Landing (VTOL) aerial vehicles, with private equity and venture capital professionals. Key to the growth of the market will be the development of battery technology making longer flights of over 100 miles more practical and sustainable. Four out of ten (40 per cent) private equity and venture capital professionals believe battery technology will evolve enough over the next two years to make this achievable, and 29 per cent believe this will be the case by 2025. A further 22 per cent say this will be achieved by 2026 or 2027. Overall, 97 per cent of private equity and venture capital professionals believe that it is important that an eVTOL can be used in different transport markets – from air passenger taxi services to military operations. Horizon Aircraft and its eVTOL are enjoying strong progress with several grants, a USAF contract award, and a flying large-scale prototype.

Source - Air Traffic Management



EDGE makes strategic investments in unmanned ATM provider



EDGE, one of the world's leading advanced technology and defense groups based in the UAE, has announced a strategic investment in High Lander, the company behind Universal UTM, a drone-agnostic unmanned traffic management solution which provides the automation, coordination, and safety much needed in increasingly crowded skies. The US$14 million investment creates a ground-breaking partnership and is already forging ongoing deals and high-value opportunities in both the military and civilian domains between some of the world's biggest technology providers, as both companies progress along their respective roadmaps. As part of its international growth strategy, EDGE, which comprises an impressive portfolio of 20 complementary companies, is placing a clear focus on the development of autonomous systems, including unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), smart weapons, and cyber technologies. The group is keen to further assist High Lander in developing its next-generation Universal UTM solution, which enables the safe coexistence of manned and unmanned aviation.

Source –Zawya

Saudi Arabia investing in the advanced air mobility project

Saudi Arabia is stepping up its bid for a stake in the advanced air mobility sector, with Wa'ed Ventures, the venture capital arm of oil and gas giant Aramco, investing US$14 million in drone operations and un-crewed traffic management (UTM) group Terra Drone. The Japan-based company, which has previously raised US$83 million, will now establish a subsidiary in Saudi Arabia to develop services such as drone surveys and develop infrastructure that could support eVTOL aircraft operations. The new Terra Drone Arabia business unit is an extension of the group's network across nine other countries and including its European division Unifly. With partners including Indra and Frequentis, the group has run flight operations and UTM management contracts in Canada, Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, Germany, Bulgaria, Austria, Spain, and Malawi. It is also now seeking to expand in both Southeast Asia and North America. Through its Vision 2030 program, the Saudi government is seeking to nudge the country's economy beyond its dependence on the energy sector.

Source – Future Flight

Drones and helicopters to share the airspace



By around 2030, 126,000 commercial and around 721,000 private drones will be flying over Germany. Civilian drones are increasingly taking on real tasks like transporting blood or medicine, inspecting railroad embankments, bridges, or industrial plants for damage, or collecting environmental data. This field will continue to grow in the coming years, despite the precarious overall economic situation. In a recent study, the German Association of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles expects the drone market to grow by 525 per cent by 2030. By then, 126,000 commercial and around 721,000 private drones will be flying over Germany. Especially over large cities, drones, air cabs, helicopters, and aeroplanes will then have to move in the same airspace in a controlled manner. The EU has already issued a directive regulating this very issue, which will come into force on January 23, 2023. Scientists at the German Aerospace Center have conducted practical tests at a research airport near Magdeburg to determine how air traffic management should work under such circumstances. Under the project, the researchers used a Volocopter cargo drone and a DLR helicopter to test various operational scenarios of the kind that could take place over cities shortly.

Source - Innovation Origins

Siemens and Skyway collaborate to develop vertiports infrastructure

Siemens and Skyway have agreed to work together to determine the electrical and digital infrastructure needed to support vertiport operations. Vertiports are hubs for vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) vehicles such as air taxis and drones. The scope of collaboration involves both companies researching the energy demands of vertiports and developing sustainable electrical supply, standard charging processes, and a "system of systems" to support aircraft operations. Innovation around vertiport infrastructure will be critical to the future scalability of electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) flight operations. The main objective of the collaborative effort is to develop vertiports. This includes researching, developing, planning, and being part of the construction and operation of them, with each company bringing its strength and experience to the effort.



Skyway has a vast knowledge of airspace mission planning and management, air traffic navigation, and unmanned aircraft operations, and Siemens has infrastructure expertise in electrification, vehicle charging, and facility operations. Together, the two will work to design and engineer a universal eVTOL charging process by evaluating the charging, power, and software requirements to ensure reliable and efficient operations. In addition, Siemens and Skyway will collaborate on innovative ideas to standardize overall vertiport planning and design and reduce energy consumption.

Source –Market Screener

New collaboration for waste-to-hydrogen supply for airports



Raven SR, a renewable fuels company, and H3 Dynamics, a developer of hydrogen aviation technologies, have inked a MoU to globally collaborate on waste-to-hydrogen energy systems to support the decarbonisation of airport operations and the adoption of hydrogen at airports. H3 Dynamics will provide hydrogen power systems to replace conventional fuel and other energy sources at airports, especially in Asia, Europe and the US. Raven SR will provide renewable hydrogen production facilities to supply airports. The use of hydrogen to power various ground operations will help reduce emissions at airports. The Raven SR technology is a non-combustion thermal, chemical reductive process that converts organic waste and landfill gas to hydrogen and Fischer-Tropsch synthetic fuels. Unlike other hydrogen production technologies such as electrolysis, Raven SR's Steam/CO2 reformation does not require fresh water as a feedstock. The process is more efficient than conventional hydrogen production and can deliver fuel with low to negative carbon intensity. Additionally, Raven SR's goal is to generate as much of its own power on-site as possible to reduce reliance on the power grid and even be independent of the grid. Its modular design provides a scalable means to locally produce renewable hydrogen and synthetic liquid fuels from local waste. H3 Dynamics will work with its technology and manufacturing partners to configure hydrogen power systems componentry to meet certification requirements within the airport and aircraft environment.H3 Dynamics is a member of the Alliance for Zero Emission Aviation under the European Commission, Sustainable Aero Lab, the Lufthansa Cleantech Hub, the Paris Advanced Air Mobility Alliance, and Aerospace Valley in Toulouse.

Source –PR Newswire

ZeroAvia flies the world's largest aircraft powered by a hydrogen-electric engine

The zero-emission flight took a giant step forward with ZeroAvia flying the largest aircraft in the world to be powered by a hydrogen-electric engine. The leader in zero-emission aviation took to the skies for the maiden flight of its 19-seat Dornier 228 testbed aircraft, retrofitted with a full-size prototype hydrogen-electric powertrain on the left wing of the aircraft. The flight took place from the company's R&D facility at Cotswold Airport in Gloucestershire in the UK and lasted 10 minutes. The landmark flight forms part of the HyFlyer II project, a major R&D programme backed by the UK government's flagship ATI Programme, which targets the development of a 600kW powertrain to support 9-19 seat aircraft worldwide with zero-emission flight. This is the largest ZeroAvia engine tested to date and places the company on the direct path to a certifiable configuration to be finalized and submitted for certification in 2023, with this programme also serving as a key to unlocking speedy technology development for larger aircraft. ZeroAvia's 2-5 MW powertrain programme, already underway, will scale the clean engine technology for up to 90-seat aircraft, with further expansion into narrowbody aircraft demonstrators over the next decade.



Source –PR Newswire

Airlines betting on flights powered by air

By the middle of the 21st century, most cars and buses would be powered by renewable energy, while bikes and electric trains will continue to have little impact on the climate. And if global aviation achieves the goal it adopted, then your 2050 flight from New York to Hong Kong will result in "net zero" carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. There's no guarantee that the industry will get there, but the technologies being developed in pursuit of the target will change aviation. New technologies are in the works, including hydrogen-powered aircraft, fully electric aeroplanes and synthetic jet fuel made from carbon extracted from the atmosphere. Perhaps the most intriguing potential source is the air we breathe, which, of course, is full of carbon dioxide. Researchers have already developed the technology for this process, known as "power to liquid." It uses enormous fans to scrub carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, then extract the carbon from the CO2 molecule before combining it with hydrogen produced from water electrolysis that's powered by renewable energy. The result is a hydrocarbon that can be used to power an aeroplane. That cost is mainly because of the enormous amount of clean energy required to produce the fuel in significant volumes. But the cost of renewable electricity is falling so quickly that by 2035, "power-to-electric" fuel could be cheaper to produce than most SAF made from biomass. Another innovation has been on the radar since at least the Cold War: hydrogen-powered aircraft. But the engineering challenges here are significant. Hydrogen as a gas is too voluminous to be stored in useful quantities on board an aeroplane, so it has to be cooled to minus 253 Celsius, or about minus 423 Fahrenheit, the temperature at which hydrogen condenses into a liquid. Cryogenic infrastructure for fuelling and storage would also need to be built at airports around the world.

Source – The New York Times



Airports turning to AI to hunt for lost bags

Airports and airlines are increasingly using technology to help track down the missing possessions of travellers. The lost-and-found department at Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport in Georgia says it has logged in a set of dentures to three uncooked eggs and a green, 6-feet stuffed alligator. At Salt Lake City International Airport, a set of tire chains and a taxidermy rat landed in lost-and-found. The Transportation Security Administration or TSA, which operates its own lost-and-found system at more than 300 of the nation's 430 airports, recorded more than 552,000 unclaimed items in 2022, including 25,000 laptops and 6,000 cellular phones. At 92 airports, the TSA's haul is delivered to airport-operated lost-and-found offices, where workers turn to a mix of phone calls, creative sleuthing and software to clear through their hoards. Many travellers have raced to affix tracking devices like Apple's AirTags to their luggage. Airports say the popularity of AirTags is even putting pressure on staffers, as passengers who've pinpointed their belongings push for faster returns. Crowdfind is just one of many lost-and-found tech providers across the travel and leisure industry. Chargerback is used by Austin-Bergstrom International Airport in Texas, Alaska Airlines, hotels, parks and lodges. The aptly named Lost and Found Software serves US and international airports. Despite their differences, each provider promises to help customer service workers not only connect more lost items with their owners but to speed up returns, as well.

Source - NBC News