50 عام الخمسين YEAR OF THE FIFTIETH 1971 UAE 2021

GOVERNMENT OF DUBAI | هيئة دبي للطيران المدني Dubai Civil Aviation Authority

Via Dubai

Monthly Newsletter issued by Dubai Civil Aviation Authority

Issue 90 May 2022

Flying Ahead

Airport Show proves a huge success for the aviation sector

ME airlines see a 215 per cent jump in traffic

Aeroplanes running on batteries to become a reality



Building a diverse and inclusive workforce

Luis Felipe de Oliveira
Director-General, Airports Council International (ACI World)

24

Emirates is hopeful of a full turnaround in 2023

Dubai-to-Mumbai is the world's fifth-busiest route

Aeroplanes running on batteries to become a reality

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

Promising Start

Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum



Message from the Director General 5

Enhanced Global Openness

Mohammed Abdulla Ahli

UAE News

Airport Show proves a huge success for the aviation sector 10



Dubai-to-Mumbai is the world's fifth-busiest route 14



EK to operate two daily flights to Mauritius from July 16



Dubai ANSP is applauded for a crucial role in Expo 2020 17

Emirates is hopeful of a full turnaround in 2023

Emirates, the world's largest airline for international passengers, is hopeful of border closures and travel restrictions becoming a thing of the past for the global aviation industry as it prepares for a comeback after a two-year pandemic.





Hydrogen-powered electric aeroplane makes first flight

A prototype fuel-cell aeroplane has made the first-ever trip between two commercial airports by a hydrogen-powered electric aircraft.

Aeroplanes running on batteries to become a reality

The Zero Emission Flight Delivery Group has been launched to demonstrate the latest innovations in aviation decarbonisation technology.





Our Vision

The World Airport, Dubai

Our Mission

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

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

DCAA website: www.dcaa.gov.ae
Working Hours: Sunday – Thursday, 07:30 - 14:30 (GMT+4)
Location: Dubai International Airport, Terminal (1), Level (1), Gate no. (4), (Arrivals Side)
P.O. Box:49888 Dubai - United Arab Emirates

http://www.facebook.com/dcaadubai
twitter.com/dcaadubai
youtube.com/user/dcaadubai

Promising Start



The first quarter of this year has seen a very promising start in the recovery of air traffic movements through the Dubai International Airport (DXB) as the number of passengers increased to more than 13 million, which prompted us to enhance the expectations of serving more than 58 million passengers by the end of this year.

The rapid progress in passenger traffic through Dubai is influenced by the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai, and his wise guidance. His Highness guided us to take timely measures and steps that helped Dubai airport come on the list of the top airports in the world in terms of openness, the leadership of the recovery process post-pandemic, and support for the global aviation industry.

This same progress also is reflected in the performance of Emirates Airlines and flydubai which are making continuous efforts to reconnect the world and record impressive growth figures in terms of passenger numbers and revenues despite the challenges facing the industry globally.

I am pleased to state that Emirates Airlines is currently recording 75 per cent of the pre-pandemic movement levels, and we are certain to achieve 100 per cent by the end of this year going by the current growth momentum.

Flexibility, dynamism and boldness in taking wise decisions at the right time have been the factors behind the aviation sector's success in Dubai. We are optimistic about achieving further positive results in the coming months. The tailwinds are already evident.

Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum

Enhanced Global Openness



The global travel movements recorded a remarkable growth during the first quarter of this year as several measures were taken by a number of countries to meet the growth in demand for travel by tens of millions of travellers eager to move after two years of isolation due to the Covid-19 pandemic that affected the global economy.

This spike in movements of travellers indicates the importance of continuing global efforts and taking more steps by governments and related authorities towards facilitating procedures, adopting sustainable policies and supporting work teams in airport facilities, in line with the changing travel requirements during the coming months, especially during the summer period which is expected to witness tremendous growth worldwide.

It is pertinent to point out that IATA expects the recovery of passenger traffic to accelerate in the near future and the industry would return to pre-pandemic levels in or about 2023 itself and not 2024 as per earlier expectations, based on the growth levels of global passenger traffic since the beginning of this year.

Airports are no longer mere airstrips but have been transformed into economic activity hubs that support the global economy and connect the inhabitants of our planet. We are confident that the global industry will join hands in the recovery phase by taking more appropriate steps to stimulate travel worldwide.

Thanks to the wise policies of our government, Dubai has proven that openness, continuous improvement in the quality of services and taking appropriate decisions at the right time which enabled us to minimise the effects of the pandemic on the global aviation sector and move forward on the journey back to prosperity again.

Mohammed Abdulla Ahli



DCAA participation at Airport Show huge success

The Dubai Civil Aviation Authority (DCAA) has had a successful participation at the 21st edition of Airport Show in Dubai. The participation was a great success, as it attracted visitors who expressed their interest in learning about the authority's efforts in supporting the civil aviation sector.

The exhibition was inaugurated by His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President of the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, Chairman of Dubai Airports, Chairman and Chief Executive of Emirates Airline and Group, and a number of senior officials in the aviation sector locally and internationally.

The exhibition is the largest specialized trade fair of its kind in the world in the field of displaying technologies, services and technological solutions for airports that meet the needs of airport development and modernization projects in the Middle East and the world. About 250 companies from 20 countries participated in the exhibition, and it was visited by more than 5,000 visitors specialized in the field of aviation.

During the participation, a number of officials and employees of the Authority briefed the visitors of the exhibition on the role, tasks and objectives of the Authority and the latest technologies and technological solutions that contribute to the growth and development of the aviation sector.

DCAA has been taking all initiatives and is moving forward with everything that would develop the aviation sector in Dubai, and foster excellence to face future challenges and strive to improve the services provided by the Authority.

The participation of the Authority in the exhibition was well received by visitors who appreciated the efforts made by Dubai to lead the recovery process in the global civil aviation sector, and for successfully hosting the exhibition at this particular time.









Sheikh Juma bin Maktoum bin Juma Al Maktoum visiting the stand of the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority (DCAA) at the Airport Show 2022 in Dubai.



His Excellency Lieutenant-General Mohammed Al-Marri, Director General of the General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs in Dubai, visiting the stand of the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority (DCAA) at the Airport Show 2022 in Dubai.



























Flying Ahead

By Ghassan Suleiman Amhaz

Dubai has continued flying ahead of its competitors by posting exceptional growth levels in the aviation domain, with an increasing number of people flying across the world two years after the 21st century's second pandemic.

Dubai is now flying ahead at an amazing pace and recording impressive gains due to the dynamic measures the wise leadership took to revive the once-vibrant air transport industry through its airspace and adapting to the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Throughout its history, Dubai had remained bold and successful when others in the region and elsewhere slowed down and failed to cope with the challenges. The Dubai International Airport (DXB) posted impressive growth and development in the recent months which highlighted the farsighted vision and thinking of the Dubai government to stimulate the economic activity in the emirate through a series of bold and brilliant decisions.

In this rebuild-the-pace phase also, tremendous support came to the efforts from His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President of Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, Chairman of Dubai Airports and Chairman and Chief Executive of Emirates Airline and Group.

Under his leadership, everyone worked towards contributing to DXB maintaining its top position in the world for the eighth consecutive year as one of the largest airports in the world by passenger numbers - it handled about 30 million passengers in 2021.



Continuing the successful growth story, the airport recorded exceptional passenger movements during Q1 2022 as it handled 13 million passengers, an increase of 128.5 per cent, according to the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority (DCAA). It is expected to handle 58 million passengers by the end of 2022 as its crucial role in the global connectivity gets enhanced and facilitates the movement of tens of millions of travellers and cargo - and boosts the global economy's growth.

The major events that Dubai organized during the previous six months contributed to restoring hope not only for the aviation sector but also to the global economy and trade.

Among the most prominent of these events, exhibitions and conferences had been Dubai Expo 2020 which ran for six months, and Dubai Airshow where billions of dollars of deals were made by international companies.

These events - Government Summit, Arabian Travel Market (ATM) and finally, The Airport Show along with other important activities - confirmed Dubai's status as an international player in the MICE industry.

In a remarkable assertion, His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, during the ATM, said Dubai International Airport, Emirates Airlines and flydubai will record exceptional growth rates by the end of this year due to the continuous efforts made over the past months.

This had been done to lead the recovery phase of the global aviation sector and increase the loyalty and confidence of travellers in Dubai's initiatives for quality services it provides to them, whether on the ground or in the air.

His Highness said: "Dubai Airport witnessed exceptional growth rates in the first quarter of the year, and Emirates Airlines is on its way to achieving occupancy rates of 75 per cent of the pre-Covid-19 traffic levels. We hope to reach 100 per cent by the end of this year taking into account global market changes and the need to fully open global markets."

He added: "The quick and proactive measures taken by our rational government during the pandemic contributed towards reviving the national economy, especially in tourism, travel and commercial activity domains." He expects the return of the Airbus A380 into service of the EK's currently operating fleet would contribute to increasing the seating capacity and enhance services for passengers.

EK Investing US$6 billion

On the other hand, Adel Al Redha, Chief Operating Officer of Emirates Airlines, revealed the airline will



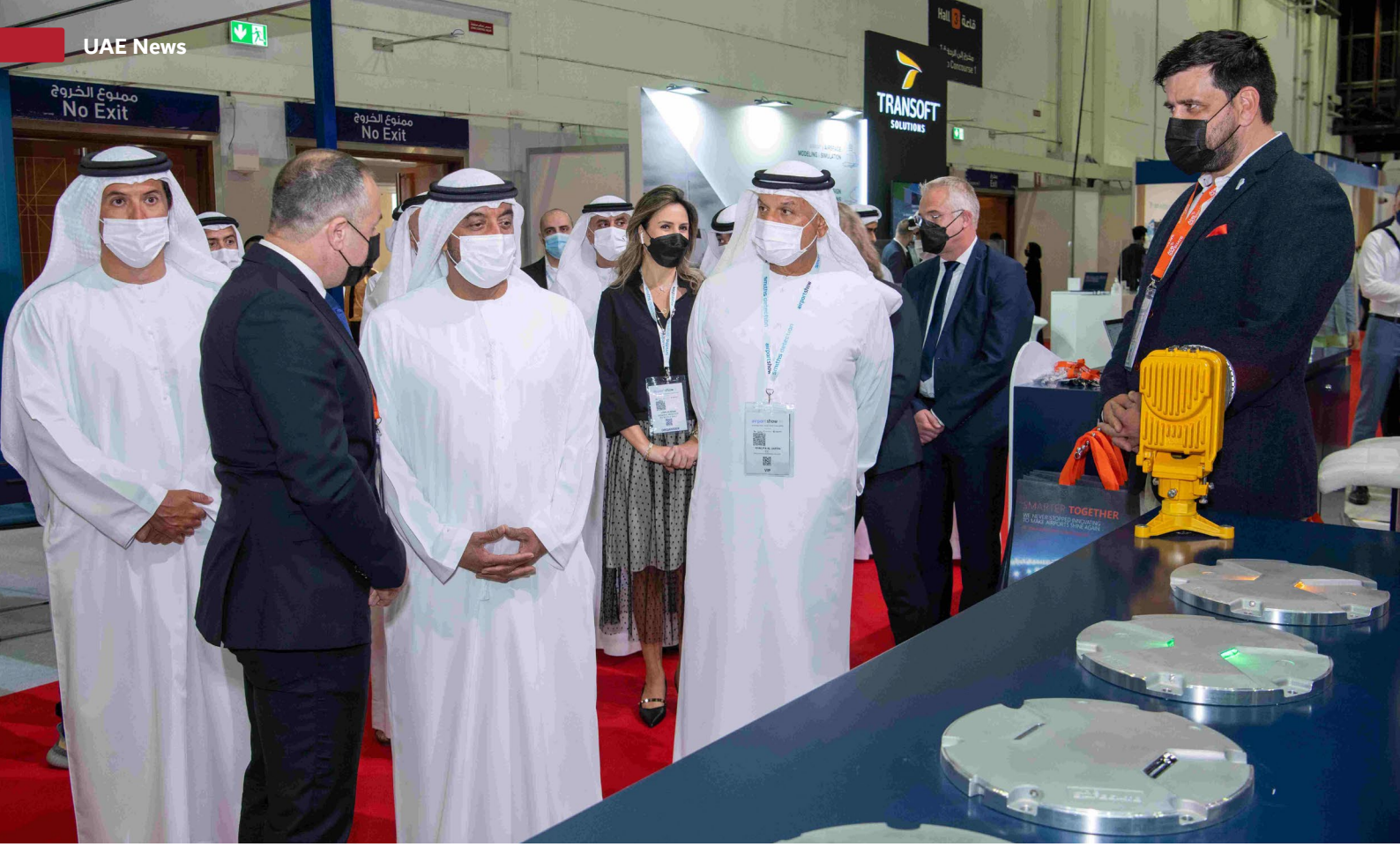
Ghaith Al Ghaith

invest more than US$6 billion in the development and upgrade programs for aircraft cabins, including the addition of completely new Premium Economy Class cabins and other cabins, including Economy Class, to provide better service. He explained that EK is the first airline in the region to offer its passengers a premium economy class cabin, which includes luxurious seats, more legroom and service comparable to business class on many other carriers.

flydubai... Exceptional Growth

In terms of flydubai, the budget airline announced an excellent performance during the first quarter of 2022, with a growth rate of 114 per cent compared to the corresponding period last year. Its CEO, Ghaith Al Ghaith, said: "Dubai has always proven its ability to overcome and adapt to various challenges, especially those related to the pandemic, and it continues to grow. We have continued the pace of growth this year after our strong results last year, which followed two challenging years."

He added: "We saw a growth in the number of passengers that we transported during the first quarter of this year by more than double compared to the previous two years with Dubai hosting the Expo 2020 for six months. We also continued to connect unserved markets with Dubai and added more flights to the current network of destinations. The airline has recently expanded its network to reach more than 100 destinations in 50 countries, surpassing pre-pandemic levels."



Airport Show is a huge success for the aviation sector

The 21st edition of Airport Show in Dubai once again showed the UAE's success in leading the recovery of the global aviation industry by bringing all stakeholders in one platform to deliberate ways to sustain and consolidate the growth with sustainability as the driving motto.

His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President of the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, Chairman of Dubai Airports, and Chairman and Chief Executive of Emirates Airline and Group, inaugurated the annual Airport Show, the world's largest annual airport event, at the Dubai World Trade Centre, which will ran from 17-19 May, 2022.

After opening, His Highness toured the exhibitors' pavilions, during which he was accompanied by a number of senior officials from the aviation sector from inside and outside the country, where he was briefed on the technologies and devices offered by more than 150 international companies from 20 countries around the world.

Commenting on the Airport Show, His Highness stressed the importance of the exhibition at this particular time to give an additional boost to the global aviation sector, whose rapid return to the pre-pandemic stage began to appear with the high demand for travel and the announcement of the restart of development projects at the level of the world's airports in anticipation of the next level of growth.

His Highness said: "Thanks to the vision and support of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Dubai Ruler,

> **Ahmed bin Saeed:**
> "We have brought the world of aviation together again in Dubai to move forward in playing our constructive role in fully recovering this vital industry to support the global economy

> Show showcases solutions that will shape the future of aviation industry



Dubai has taken proactive steps and initiatives to deal with the pandemic and enable the rapid recovery of the travel and tourism sector in the emirate, and as a result, Dubai International Airport has retained its position as the busiest airport in the world for the eighth year in a row, and we expect to serve more than 58 million passengers by the end of this year, linking them to their businesses, families and activities, and providing them with a wonderful travel experience."

On the Airport Show, His Highness said: "The exhibition and conferences held on its sidelines, with the participation of more than 150 international companies and the attendance of more than 4,500 internal experts, gave decision makers in regional and international airports a golden opportunity to network and learn about the best and most advanced technologies, and to discuss the scope of cooperation and joint ventures in the airport industry. Through this event, we bring the world of aviation together again to move forward on the path of sharing minds and play our constructive role in the full recovery of this vital industry to support the global economy."

> Adopt new technologies to help airlines plan efficient routes and reduce carbon footprint: GALF

His Highness added: "Sustainability, advanced technology, airport development process efficiency and airspace management, are all vital topics that were addressed during the three days of the exhibition, giving the industry an impetus forward not only to return to the pre-1019 levels, but to move forward further.

> Jamal al Hai: Fast recovery is the outcome of a successful handling of the crisis

Organised by RX Global, the world's largest airport industry B2B platform had a sharp focus on sustainability to help the aviation industry in achieving a more sustainable airport industry that is aiming to reduce carbon foot print year on year.

The 21st edition of the Airport Show was supported by Dubai Airports, Dubai Police, Dubai Civil Aviation Authority (DCAA), dnata (part of Emirates Airline and Group), Dubai Aviation Engineering Projects (DAEP), Global Air Navigation Services (GANS), the only private Air Navigation Service Provider (ANSP) in the UAE, and Dubai Air Navigation Services (dans).

The Airport Show and its co-located events Airport Security Middle East, ATC Forum and the Global Airport Leaders' Forum debated ways to tap into new growth opportunities and overcome current challenges for airports. The forum also discussed aviation industry's efforts towards sustainable and collaborative airport infrastructure development and operational transformations.

Firas Abu Ltaif, Exhibition Manager at RX Global (Reed Exhibitions), said: "It is our honour to host this prestigious and epoch-making event in Dubai. True to its slogan 'Connecting the Global Airport Industry', the event was a great opportunity for networking of industry leaders, experts and government officials to discuss growth opportunities and address challenges.

The Show provided opportunities for stakeholders to collaborate and sign deals, boost business, showcase the latest technology and services and improve airport services and facilities to keep up with the expected growth."

The Show had display of products and services from over 150 exhibitors from more than 20 countries along with 4,500-plus aviation industry professionals participating.

The Show also hosted the 9th edition of the Global Airport Leaders Forum, that saw more than 40 aviation and airport leaders from around the world presenting an various topics on airport innovation and development, air traffic management, sustainability and airport security.

> dans efficiently managed more than 1,338 aircraft movements daily through Dubai airports

One of the major highlights of this year's Airport Show was the hosting of a sustainability zone called e-Apron alongside the Show. e-Apron is offered in partnership with dnata, to provide opportunity for electric/ hybrid Ground Support Equipment (GSE) and Ground Handling Equipment (GHE) manufacturers to showcase their latest innovations.

Dubai on the right track and retained its position as the world's busiest international airport

Dubai is on the right track and retained its position as the world's busiest international airport with 29.1 million passengers and just last week Dubai Airport announced registering its busiest quarter since 2020, said Jamal al Hai, Deputy CEO of Dubai Airports.

Delivering the welcome address at the Airport Innovation & Development Conference at Gulf Airport Leaders' Forum (GALF) held along the 21st edition of Airport Show in Dubai, Jamal al Hai, Deputy CEO of Dubai Airports, said: "We are on the right track and Dubai proudly retained its position as the world's busiest international airport in 2021 with 29.1 million passengers and just last week Dubai Airport announced registering its busiest quarter since 2020."

Welcoming the delegates he said Global Airport Leaders' Forum is organized in person after two years of pandemic, marking a new healed era of aviation.

"This is in fact the outcome of a successful handling of the crisis and what you see in Dubai today is the outcome of a flawless response to the pandemic achieved through a balance between protecting the health and wellbeing of the people while minimizing impact on business and economy."

The 9th edition of GALF opened in Dubai along the 21st edition of Airport Show with a call to adopt new technologies that can help airlines plan more efficient routes and work with other stakeholders to help reduce the overall carbon footprint.

Delivering the welcome address at the Airport Innovation & Development Conference at Gulf Airport Leaders' Forum (GALF) held along the 21st edition of Airport Show in Dubai, Ibrahim Ahli, Deputy CEO of Dubai Air Navigation Services (dans) said Dubai is galloping in all economic and social sectors, attracting businesses, talents, investors and tourists in hordes. Dubai is fast becoming the Future City of the world driven by the highest embracing of technology, relaxed regulations and reforms. All this will result in increased traffic and it underscores the need for enhancing



> **The UAE is expected to come out with draft regulations on Vertiport in the first quarter of 2023**

safety, capacity and efficiency of the airspace of Dubai, where dans plays a crucial role.

His speech was read out by Khalid Aljabir, Senior Vice President – Operations, dans, on behalf of Ibrahim Ahli.

"We have proved our mettle when dans efficiently managed more than 1,338 aircraft movements daily through Dubai airports, before the Covid-19 pandemic period. dans manages the air traffic through Dubai International which ranks first in the world for international passengers since 2014 and it had handled about 1.115 billion passengers on more than 7.47 million flights since the airport started operating in 1960," he said.



"With Global Airport Leaders, we are welcoming a new era of air traffic management. The great vision and timely acts of our Leaders helped us overcome the difficulties with determination and confidence as well know that the future is bright. The aviation sector is the engine of growth for the UAE's economy and the fastest recovery and the ensuing economic growth and the regain of business confidence have once again established this coveted and crucial position of the aviation sector," he added.

The track record of dans is commendable as the most efficient air traffic service provider in the region. We take pride in implementing the region's first procedures for Enhanced Wake Turbulence Separation (eWTS) Minima within the controlled zone.

The Dubai RECAT-Enhanced Wake Turbulence Separation is part of the vision to make Dubai the airport for the world, enhance its airspace and the efficiency of airports along with profitability of carriers.

In his keynote address titled 'Standardising Regulations Regionally and Globally',

Mohammed Faisal al Dossari, Senior Director, Air Navigation and Aerodromes Department, UAE General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA), said post-Covid the industry must work across all aspects of aviation to standardize regulations and spur growth.

The UAE is expected to come out with draft regulations on Vertiport in the first quarter of 2023 and publish them in the fourth quarter of 2023 to be implemented in the first quarter of 2024.

Al Dossari said the number of GCAA registered commercial drone organisations is increasing. Up to 2022, we have registered 20,000 private drone users, and registered 870 commercial drones, and 181 commercial drone organisations to operate drones .

Future developments include Unmanned Traffic Management, Scheduled UA operations, Night Operations, Multiple Unmanned Aircraft Operations, Autonomous Unmanned Aircraft Operations, Urban Air Mobility, Unmanned Aircraft Delivery, High Speed Unmanned Aircraft and High Altitude Unmanned Aircraft.

Yahya Abdalla Al Hammadi, CEO, Global Air Navigation Services (GANS), in his keynote address 'Disrupting ATM to support recovery of the industry' said Air Traffic Control can play a huge role in reducing carbon emissions by adopting new technologies that can help airlines plan more efficient routes and work with other stakeholders to help reduce the overall carbon footprint.

The Airport Show hosted by Dubai, the world's largest annual airport event, was opened by His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President of the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, Chairman of Dubai Airports, and Chairman and Chief Executive of Emirates Airline and Group, under whose patronage the Airport Show is held.

Organised by RX Global, the world's largest airport industry B2B platform has a sharp focus on sustainability to help the aviation industry in achieving a more sustainable airport industry that is aiming to reduce carbon foot print year on year.

> **GCAA registered 20,000 private drone users, 870 commercial drones and 181 commercial drone organisations**

Dubai-to-Mumbai is the world's fifth-busiest route



India's decision to allow full international flight services from April resulted in demand for the UAE-India sector shooting up to be among the world's busiest.

The Dubai-Mumbai service is currently the world's fifth-busiest with more than 218,000 seats as flight capacity while Dubai-Delhi is in the ninth spot with 179,000 seats plus.

The Cairo-Jeddah route is at the top of the April rankings put out by the aviation consultancy OAG. With 334,157 seats. And followed closely by London Heathrow to New York's JFK with 273,596 eats.

The Dubai to Riyadh services, which had been the world's busiest for March, dropped to the seventh spot. Since the full resumption of international flights by India, Emirates alone has ramped up capacity on the route to 170 flights a week. flydubai operates around 30 weekly flights between India and UAE. Air Arabia Abu Dhabi, the less than two-year-old joint venture between Etihad Airways and Air Arabia, launched new services to Chennai and Jaipur.

Go First is operating daily flights from Abu Dhabi to Mumbai, Kannur, and Delhi. Riyadh had been the busiest air route from Dubai for months. In March, the route had close to 260,000 airline seats– that's almost 40,000 seats more than what airlines deployed on the Dubai-London route. Before the pandemic, Indian passengers would fly to long-haul destinations such as New York and London via Dubai given the latter's status as a major global transit hub.

Source: Gulf News

Emirates is hopeful of a full turnaround in 2023

Emirates, the world's largest airline for international passengers, is hopeful of border closures and travel restrictions becoming a thing of the past for the global aviation industry as it prepares for a comeback after a two-year pandemic. "The world has gotten away from that thinking," says Adnan Kazim, Chief Commercial Officer at Emirates. "Some countries require people to wear masks and that is a good way to minimize the spread. But that does not mean the world will go backwards.



The impact of Omicron and various other variants that came out is not major, and the cases in UAE are quite low. Based on that optimistic view, we have moved forward and ramped up our capacity." Emirates has gone back to full pre-pandemic flight frequencies to all its destinations in India. The move came on the back of India's decision to restore international flights to and from the country. "We are reviewing other places for further expansion," he says.

The Eid break had resulted in a surge in flight bookings from UAE and other Islamic countries. "This is helping boost traffic to places like Seychelles, Mauritius, and - we're also seeing demand into Jordan and Asia. The UK is taking a big share of that demand and US flights are also quite full.

Source: Gulf News



Air Arabia Abu Dhabi starts Chennai service

Travellers from Abu Dhabi got another option when making travel plans to Chennai as Air Arabia Abu Dhabi launched direct flights to the southern Indian city. Tickets on the flights to Chennai that started on April 27, cost AED725. "The addition of this new route falls in line with our commitment to provide our customers with affordable and value-driven air travel from our different hubs," says Adel Al Ali, CEO of Air Arabia.

The new service represents the sixth Indian city that Air Arabia Abu Dhabi flies to after Calicut, Cochin, Trivandrum, Delhi and Jaipur. It is also the 19th route since the launch of the airliner's service from Abu Dhabi International Airport in July 2020 Air Arabia Abu Dhabi announced a new service to Jaipur, starting from May 5.

Source: Gulf News

Sharjah Airport records three million passengers in Q1 2022

The UAE's first airport recorded over three million passengers travelling in the first quarter of 2022 through the facility, an increase of 119.2 per cent as compared to 1.3 million passengers in the same period last year.



Aircraft movement for the same period also went up by 89 per cent with 21,336 flights, compared to 11,279 flights last year. In terms of cargo movement, the airport recorded more than 39,566 tonnes during the first three months of this year, up 26.39 per cent compared to last year.

"The ease of international travel restrictions as well as the gradual recovery from pandemic allowed airlines to resume their previously suspended flights, resulting in improved growth rates," said Ali Salim Al Midfa, Chairman of the Sharjah International Airport Authority. "This is also in line with Sharjah airport's commitment to providing the highest levels of safety and security for customers during the pandemic, making travelling from and to the city of Sharjah a safe and enjoyable experience." The airport is one of the best five airports in the region, promising an exceptional travel experience and leading services, he added.

Source: Gulf News

EK to operate two daily flights to Mauritius from July

Emirates Airlines will operate two daily flights on its flagship A380 aircraft to Mauritius from July 1, to meet the increase in demand for travel to the island nation. Emirates currently operates daily flights to Mauritius on its Boeing 777-300ER aircraft.



The airline will be scaling up operations from daily to nine weekly flights between April 9 and the end of June and then moving up to double daily flights from July. EK's second daily flight will provide "an important boost to tourism to the Indian Ocean destination which has now relaxed entry restrictions for travellers.

The additional flight will also provide more choice in flight timings and seamless connectivity to customers from markets across Europe, the Americas and the Middle East looking to travel to Mauritius.

Source: Gulf News

Etihad Airways first to adopt iFly

IBS Software, a worldwide leader of SaaS solutions to the travel industry, and Etihad Airways, the national airline of the UAE, have launched iFly Corporate to transform the carrier's corporate flyer experience.

iFly Corporate will allow Etihad to manage multiple corporate accounts with a one-stop solution, that enables direct distribution by replacing intermediaries and ensuring corporate customer retention.

The airline's partners will now benefit from a self-service corporate travel solution, that provides a seamless booking experience across multiple platforms, through integration with Etihad's Passenger Service Systems and the end user's HR systems. Premium partners will also be able to unlock exclusive discounts including extra baggage, bonus miles and priority check-in for all bookings.

A configurable business rules engine will help Etihad corporates to manage user profiles and travel agreements while ensuring compliance with employee travel policies.

Source: Aviation Pros



Dubai ANSP is applauded for a crucial role in Expo 2020



Dubai Air Navigation Services (dans) which provides air navigation and air traffic control services in Dubai and the Northern Emirates, played a crucial role in managing the Expo 2020 airspace during the six-month mega event and demonstrated to the world the super efficiency of the UAE to successfully manage world-class events.

During the event, dans provided seamless, secure operations, and flexible air traffic management services, managed aircraft and helicopter movements, drone displays and cargo movements at both Dubai airports and the exhibition site. dans acted as the exclusive provider of frequencies used in the event's Operations Center to communicate with helicopter pilots, having completely modernized the design of the airspace to suit the demand during the six-month exhibition.

His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President of Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, President of Dubai Airports, Chief Executive Officer of Emirates Airlines and Group, and President of dans, said: “The success of Expo 2020 Dubai demonstrated the strength of the UAE’s great resilience and ability to deal head-on with challenges and organizing the greatest exhibition on the planet through determination and effective initiatives. dans have had a crucial role in maintaining the smooth movement of helicopter and drone operations."

For his part, Mohammed Abdulla Ahli, CEO of dans, said: “Once again, Dubai has proven its competence in managing a global event in the field of aviation management with a mission to transform the sky, increasing capacity and efficiency, and acting as a vital supporter of economic growth.” He added: "We are convinced that we have lived up to our reputation as a world-class provider of air navigation services with a forward thinking culture and a diverse workforce of air traffic experts.

In fact, we are distinguished by outstanding research and development and the integration of innovative technologies in the field of air traffic management, which could be demonstrated more clearly during Expo 2020.” Ibrahim Ahli, Deputy CEO of dans said: “We are proud that we have played an important role in Expo 2020 Dubai in ensuring the smooth management of air traffic, with good planning, excellent efficiency and strong infrastructure.”

The design of the airspace was carried out in coordination with the DCAA, as the Expo and the Dubai Air Show were held simultaneously, and accordingly, dans modified the design of the airspace to ensure smooth and safe operations of helicopters and aircraft displays in addition to the air displays during the Dubai Air Show in November 2021.

Air Arabia to resume direct flights to Bodrum and Antalya

Air Arabia has announced the resumption of seasonal flights to Bodrum and Antalya, in Turkey from Sharjah starting July 1. Bodrum represents the third city and Antalya the fourth that Air Arabia flies to after Istanbul and Trabzon in Turkey. Passengers can now book their direct flights between Sharjah and Bodrum or Antalya by visiting the airline’s website or through travel agencies. Air Arabia has been gradually restoring its network after the pandemic brought air travel to a standstill. The carrier has also announced new airlines in Pakistan and Armenia.

Source: Gulf News

Dubai company to build lounge at Queen Alia airport

Marhaba, a part of Emirates Airline and Group, and Plaza Premium Group will develop a new lounge at the Queen Alia International Airport in Amman.

With work already in progress, the new Marhaba Plaza Premium Lounge is expected to open in July and will have a capacity of 140 guests. Its design motif is inspired by the landscape of Amman. The Queen Alia International Airport is Jordan's foremost and largest airport. Queen Alia International Airport achieved a new milestone for annual passenger traffic, receiving 8.92 million in 2019, a 5.9 per cent increase compared with 2018.

The aircraft movements reached 79,740, indicating a 3.7 per cent rise, whereas handled cargo amounted to 102,459 tonnes, marking a 1.6 per cent decrease. The top five travel destinations in terms of the number of passengers during 2019 were Dubai, Istanbul, Cairo, Doha and Kuwait.

Dubai began in 1991 Marhaba services at Dubai International Airport with a team of 20 employees. It provides a full range of meet and greets services in Dubai including airport pickup service, baggage and family travel and private lounges. It started expanding its global footprint in 2017 by opening new airport lounges in Melbourne and Karachi. Since then, it has opened several facilities in Singapore, Manila, Geneva and Zurich.

Source: Gulf News





ME airlines see a 215 per cent jump in traffic

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has announced the traffic of Middle Eastern airlines rose 215.3 per cent in February compared to the previous year, well up compared to the 145 per cent increase in January 2022, versus the same month in 2021.

Dubai-Riyadh remains the busiest air route. Globally, February capacity rose 89.5 per cent versus the year-ago period, and load factor climbed 25.8 percentage points to 64.7 per cent. Total traffic in February 2022 (measured in revenue passenger kilometres, or RPKs) was up 115.9 per cent compared to February 2021. That is an improvement from January 2022, which was up 83.1 per cent compared to the same period last year. Compared to February 2019, however, traffic was down 45.5 per cent. The recovery in air travel is gathering steam as governments in many parts of the world lift travel restrictions. The accelerated growth recorded in February compared to a year ago is helping passenger demand catch up to 2019 levels.

Source: Gulf News

flynas aims to be the region's biggest budget airline

Saudi Arabia's flynas has approved plans to increase its aircraft order to 250, as it seeks to become the biggest LCC in the Middle East. It is currently in discussion with aircraft manufacturers for drafting agreements. "From our position as a Saudi air carrier, we see great opportunities for expansion supported by the strategic location of the kingdom and the prospects opened by Saudi Vision 2030 for the air transport sector," said Bander Al Mohanna, Chief Executive and Managing Director of flynas.

The kingdom's Civil Aviation Strategy aims to increase the annual passenger traffic to 330 million and connect Saudi Arabia with more than 250 destinations worldwide by 2030.

flynas has 34 aircraft in its fleet at present, operating more than 1,500 weekly flights to 35 domestic and international destinations. In 2017, the airline placed an order for up to 120 Airbus A320 single-aisle jets at a list value of $US8.6 billion.

Source: The National

Dubai getting its most luxurious hotel



Dubai's Palm Jumeirah will see a US$1.4-billion hotel-and-residence combo Atlantis Royal opening in Q3 2022 after remaining for 14 years in the making. It is aimed at raising the bar for luxury in the world's most famously opulent city. Pandemic restrictions on the labour movement and the attendant supply chain crisis plagued and delayed the already pricey construction. Now, it plans to start taking reservations in the third quarter of 2022.

The 43-levels, 87,097-square-metres construction sits next door to its iconic family-friendly sibling, The Atlantis Palm, and looks like an architectural blend between a Jenga game and the Millennium Falcon. Its futuristic curves and sky gardens offer sweeping vistas of the Arabian Gulf from 795 guest rooms and 231 apartments.

It has 92 pools and 17 restaurants and bars. Like the other Atlantis in Dubai — which has no connection to the one in the Bahamas — the Royal started as a joint venture between hospitality developer Kerzner International, which owns the One&Only Resorts brand, and investment firm Istithmar World. After funding dried up amid the Global Financial Crisis of 2008, the property was left to languish for years. The Investment Corporation of Dubai (ICD), the emirate's sovereign wealth fund, came to the rescue. Since taking over construction in 2016, it considered Atlantis Royal a lynchpin in the overall strategy to grow Dubai's tourism scene by focusing less on families and more on partygoing singles.

Source: Bloomberg

Asian tourism is seen struggling until 2024

Fiji, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Maldives have topped an index of destinations best placed to revive pandemic-battered tourism among Asia Pacific destinations, while Hong Kong has the worst prospects due to its restrictive border policies, a new report said.

Singapore, Australia, Bangladesh, New Zealand, Nepal and Cambodia also rank among the top 10 destinations best placed for a tourism recovery, according to the Travel-Ready Index 2022 released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU). It said the top performers in the index have all eased visa and entry restrictions since 2021 or earlier.

After Hong Kong, Brunei, Bhutan, Taiwan, Samoa, Vanuatu, Japan, China and Laos rank as the destinations with the least favourable conditions for tourism. Northeast Asian economies, which are less reliant on tourism, have been slower to reopen.

Source: Al Jazeera TV

Global tourism to recover from pandemic by 2023

The global travel and tourism sectors are projected to return to pre-pandemic levels in 2023 and grow at a rate that will outpace global gross domestic product (GDP) growth.

The World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) said the industry is expected to post an annual average growth rate of 5.8 per cent from 2022 to 2032 versus the 2.7 per cent increase in global GDP and create 126 million new jobs. In 2019, tourism accounted for a tenth of global GDP and jobs but the coronavirus pandemic decimated the US$9.6 trillion industry, halving its output value and leaving 62 million people jobless.

"The recovery is going to be so stellar that it is going to recover powerfully. This does depend of course on China reopening," remarked the WTTC President Julia Simpson. The travel and tourism industry's GDP is seen hitting US$8.35 trillion in 2022 and US$9.6 trillion in 2023, a return to its pre-pandemic level. Tourism jobs are projected to recover to 300 million this year and 324 million in 2023, close to the 333 million seen in 2019. In Asia-Pacific alone, the hospitality industry's GDP will likely hit US$3.4 trillion in 2023, already above the US$3.3 trillion it saw in 2019. In Southeast Asia, travellers are now getting back on aeroplanes as the region's entry and quarantine rules get lifted.

Source: Reuters



Urban-Air Port designs the world's first urban airport for drones

Urban-Air Port, an aviation and aerospace manufacturing company, has designed an airport for electric flying cars and large drones in Coventry in the UK. The 17,000-square-feet airport is designed to be "a world-first fully-operational 'pop up' urban airport and charging hub for future electric vertical take-off and landing (EVTOL) aircraft".

Air One, constructed from steel and aluminium wrapped in a tensile translucent fabric, is located in the centre of Coventry in the West Midlands. Urban-Air Port said flying cars that transport passengers could start using the airport in 2025 with the first cargo drone taking off in April-end.

This new, Green intermodal infrastructure will remove the largest, single constraint to sustainable air mobility and significantly cut congestion and air pollution from passenger and cargo transport and create a zero-emission ecosystem.

The airport will be powered by hydrogen fuel cells. While the EVTOL cars will transport passengers around the country, the autonomous drones will collect and deliver emergency supplies and equipment for the British police and emergency services.

Source: Dezeen



UAV market size to reach US$72.32 billion by 2028



Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the global Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) market size is estimated to be worth US$32,350 million in 2022 and is forecast to a readjusted size of US$72,320 million by 2028 with a CAGR of 14.4 per cent during the period.

The major factors driving the growth of the UAV market include the growing use of smart technology for surveillance, analysis and imaging. In addition, the UAV market is expected to be fueled by an increase in end-user applications like civil and commercial, logistics and transportation and healthcare. Drones are used for a variety of commercial purposes including law enforcement, traffic spotting, environmental monitoring, agriculture operations, aerial photography, transportation and package delivery. Ongoing technological advancements in UAVs are expected to further create lucrative growth opportunities for the UAV market players. UAVs are advancing at a rapid rate in terms of technology. Drones are expected to be used more in a variety of sectors, from commercial to military, as a result of these advancements. The development of armed UAVs is a key area of innovation.

Source: PR News Wire

India released the first list of beneficiaries for drone manufacturing

India's Ministry of Civil Aviation has released the first provisional list of 14 beneficiaries under the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for drone and drone components. The list includes five drone manufacturers and nine drone component manufacturers. Officials have invited applications from eligible manufacturers with the last date for submission being March 31.

The provisional list of PLI beneficiaries has been prepared based on the financial data submitted by applicants for the ten months- April 2021 to January 2022. These beneficiaries have crossed the eligibility criteria related to sales revenue and value addition in the ten months itself. This list is likely to be expanded since some more manufacturers are likely to exceed the eligibility criteria for the full financial year 2021-22.

The final list of PLI beneficiaries is expected to be released by June 30 after detailed scrutiny of their financial results and other specified documents. The PLI scheme for drones and drone components was notified on September 30 last year.

Source: Hindustan Times

NUAIR working on helping drones fly outside the line of sight



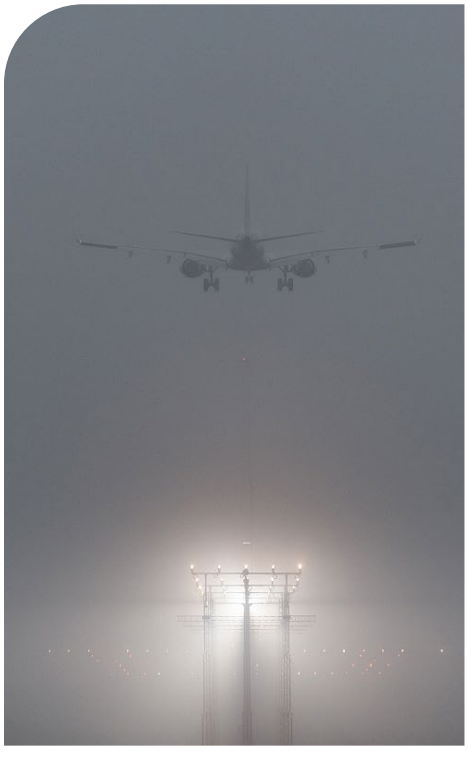
Northeast UAS Airspace Integration Research Alliance (NUAIR) is partnering with CAL Analytics to develop methods for certifying Detect and Avoid (DAA) services for drone operations.

If successful, the methods could help drones fly long distances and potentially be used for a variety of purposes, including, but not limited to, delivery. Current regulations require drone operators to always have a pair of human eyes visually monitoring the airspace in which the drone is flying, limiting the ability to fly long distances. Without being able to see the drone, the system needs the ability to detect and avoid obstacles in the air and on the ground to assure the safety of both crewed and uncrewed aircraft, NUAIR said CAL Analytics will deploy its DAA service and contingency management platform in the 50-mile drone testing corridor at Griffiss International Airport in Rome that is managed by NUAIR.

The DAA service is CAL's newest UAS traffic management service being brought to market and builds off their existing contingency management platform. The platform will offer critical airspace services, including situational awareness from Kongsberg, conflict detection from CAL, health monitoring by ResilienX, and various weather services from TruWeather Solutions to help ensure the safe operation of uncrewed aircraft.

Source: UTICAOD

A game-changing solution to flights delayed or cancelled due to fog

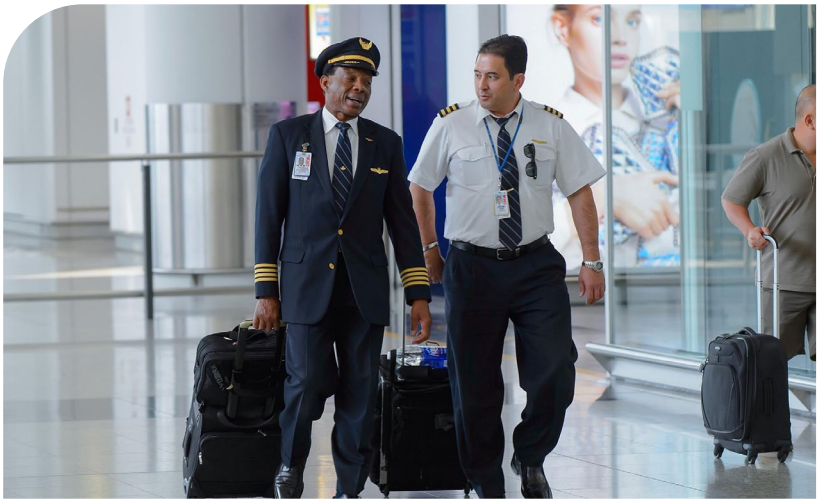


If your flight has ever been delayed or cancelled due to poor visibility, you might have wondered if there's a solution to runway fog. A Christchurch-based Pyper Vision claimed it has cracked it. Using a 2-metre drone they can disperse an environmentally-friendly powder to soak up the fog and clear the airfield's final approach in as little as 10 minutes.

The team has now joined the Government's Airspace Integration Trials Programme (AITP) to further develop the system, which could be a game-changer for the airline industry. According to MetService, fog is created by microscopic water droplets that "scatter any light that passes through or past them", meaning objects become harder to see. This can be particularly problematic for aircraft. Just this week more than 100 flights were cancelled in and out of Wellington due to thick fog. But as well as being frustrating for passengers, the disruption is costly and impacts the environment, as diverted flights often mean more fuel. Pyper Vision's solution is to fly a drone and release its specially developed power to absorb the moisture and clear the runway of fog. Pyper Vision's adapted DJI T20 Argras drone disperses the specially developed absorbent to clear the fog. It is two metres wide and weighs about 30kg and can carry a 20kg payload.

The company completed over 200 tests over the past five years. Pyper Vision aims to test and use its technology in airports throughout New Zealand.

Source: Stuff



US airlines struggling to find pilots

Airlines in the US are struggling to find enough pilots and to diversify a profession that has been very resistant to change. Piloting is stubbornly monolithic - about 95 per cent of airline pilots in the US today are male.

Nearly as many are white. Few women and people of colour aspire to fly aeroplanes. Pilots are now in short supply. “The pilot shortage for the industry is real,” says Scott Kirby, Chief Executive of United Airlines which operated more than 1.7 million flights in 2019. “Most airlines are simply not going to be able to realize their capacity plans because there simply aren’t enough pilots, at least not for the next five-plus years.” There are an estimated 164,000 certified active airline pilots in the US, slightly fewer than there were in 2019, according to the FAA. In 2019, there were a total of 333,000 active pilots working in the aviation industry globally.

Overall employment of airline and commercial pilots is projected to grow 13 per cent from 2020 to 2030. India has the highest ratio of female pilots in the world leading the list with 12.4 per cent female commercial pilots as opposed to other nations.

Source: The New York Times

Pakistan asks foreign airlines to bring extra fuel

Pakistan has directed all foreign airlines to bring extra fuel when arriving in the Islamic republic as it grapples with crude oil shortages. The directive comes amid disruption in the supply of fuel from oil refineries to airports across the country.

The national oil refinery is getting less crude oil from the international market and thus cannot supply jet fuel to the foreign airlines. Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) is suffering from a shortage of jet fuel. Pakistan's largest airline operates a fleet of 29 aircraft and operates 100 flights daily to 18 domestic destinations and 25 international destinations across Asia, Europe, the Middle East and North America. As many as 23 foreign airlines including four from the UAE, fly to Pakistan. In 2019, total seats too, from, and within Pakistan amounted to 24.1 million, up by 53 per cent – or 7.4 million – over 2010, according to data from OAG. Its figures show there were fewer than 1.3 million low-cost departure seats from Pakistan in 2019, representing 12.8 per cent of the capacity offered.

Source: The Print

United loses US$1.4 billion in Q1; expects profit in Q2

United Airlines has lost US$1.38 billion in Q1 2022 but expects to return to profitability in Q2 as post-pandemic travel ramps back up. The Chicago-based airline’s revenues of US$7.67 billion in Q1 are down by 21 per cent from the same period of 2019.

The airline is still running fewer flights than before the coronavirus pandemic. It had resumed 19 international routes and restarted services to six cities that have not been served since the pandemic began. United is flying with roughly 73 per cent of its available seats full - not as high as the 81 per cent of all seats before the pandemic. In Q1 2021, roughly half of all seats were filled with paying passengers. The airline appeared optimistic about its pandemic-related losses going behind it and expects to post a profit for the second quarter and the full year of 2022.

This is despite United facing higher fuel costs, paying on average US$2.88 for fuel, up 40 per cent from a year earlier. The airline forecasted an operating gross margin of 10 per cent. “The demand environment is the strongest it has been in my 30 years in the industry ... we’re now seeing clear evidence that the second quarter will be a historic inflexion point for our business,” United Airlines CEO Scott Kirby said. United operated more than 1.7 million flights carrying more than 162 million customers in 2019.

Source: The New Indian Express

Heathrow tie-up to supply hydrogen to airports

London Heathrow and Rolls-Royce are working on a plan to supply hydrogen to airports under a UK government-backed initiative codenamed Project Napkin.

The companies, alongside fellow aerospace giant GKN, are on a special committee that is considering how hydrogen-powered aircraft will be refuelled in years to come. Airlines and airports have been targeted by 'flight-shaming' activists and environmental campaigners have led calls to deter flying that contributes between two to three per cent of the world's CO2 emissions. Members of Project Napkin, which also includes representatives from London City Airport and Cranfield Aerospace Solutions, are believed to have held discussions with US giant Air Products and Chemicals, one of the world's largest hydrogen producers. The committee, part-funded by the Business Department agency Innovate UK, is finalising its conclusions on the practicalities of zero-emission flights in the UK.

Source: The Telegraph

Multiple airports in India get Ambulifts

As many as 14 airports in India have been equipped with Ambulifts. The ambulifts can cater to six wheelchairs and two stretchers with an attendant at a time. It will also help at airports where an aerobridge facility is not available.

The airports have been equipped with Ambulifts under the Accessible India Campaign to provide facilities to passengers with reduced mobility.

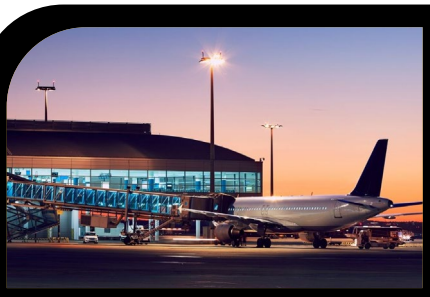
The Airports Authority of India (AAI) had procured 20 ambulifts for the airports having scheduled flight operations of Code 'C' and other advanced level aircraft but do not have aerobridge facilities. The facility is presently operating at 14 airports - Dehradun, Gorakhpur, Patna, Bagdogra, Darbhanga, Imphal, Vijayawada, Port Blair, Jodhpur, Belgaum, Silchar, Jharsuguda, Rajkot, Hubli and remaining six are likely to be operational at Dimapur, Jorhat, Leh, Jamnagar, Bhuj and Kanpur airports by the end of May.

The ambulifts can cater to six wheelchairs and two stretchers with an attendant at a time and are fitted with Heating Ventilation and Air-Conditioning system. Procured at Rs63 lakhs per unit, AAI is set to provide the Ambulift facility at a nominal token charge to the operating airlines at its airports.

Source: Zee News







ACI lists the top 10 busiest airports in the world

The Airports Council International (ACI) World has published the top 10 busiest airports worldwide for 2021 showing encouraging signs of traffic recovery as many previous busiest airports re-join the top ranks.

The world airport rankings are based on the preliminary compilation of 2021 global data from airports around the world. Due to ACI's reach as the trade association of the world's airports, the rankings reflect the most updated airport data used by the industry and include passenger traffic, cargo volumes, and aircraft movements.

Total global passengers in 2021 have been estimated to be close to 4.5 billion, representing an increase of almost 25 per cent from 2020, or a drop of more than 50 per cent from 2019 results. Passenger traffic at the top 10 busiest airports, representing collectively almost 10 per cent of global traffic (463 million passengers), witnessed a gain of 51.8 per cent from 2020, or a drop of 29.1 per cent vis-à-vis their 2019 results. Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport is back at the top of the 2021 rankings, followed by Dallas/ Fort Worth International Airport and Denver International Airport. After reaching the top rank in 2020, Guangzhou Bai Yun International Airport slid to the eighth position in 2021.

Source: Airports Council International

Building a diverse and inclusive workforce



Luis Felipe de Oliveira
Director-General
ACI World

As the world begins to move again and international events multiply, there is an uptick in passenger traffic. As the industry rehires to accommodate the recovery of air traffic expected in the coming years, all aviation stakeholders have a strategic opportunity to build a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive ecosystem.

This goal must be at the heart of the strategy of airports for sustainable growth. This is particularly true as we compete with other sectors to attract, invest and retain current and future talent. Building a diverse, equitable, and inclusive aviation ecosystem not only is the right thing to do, but it also makes good business sense. A heterogeneous workforce is known to bring dynamic innovation and provide insights into the diverse needs of consumers—thus driving better businesses that are more apt to respond to market needs.

For instance, it can allow airports to better understand the needs of people with disabilities (including non-apparent ones) and reduced mobility (including the elderly) that amount to over 1 billion people worldwide. In this regard, airports have been taking the lead.

On my way back from the WTTC Global Summit—on a flight from Tokyo to New York—I had the opportunity, for the first time since the pandemic, to fly without putting on a mask. The continuation of the easing of travel restrictions around the world is encouraging signs that recovery is well underway. I had the opportunity to discuss with Paul Griffiths, CEO of Dubai Airports, the value of the ASQ program in improving the passenger experience and the Airport Health Accreditation (AHA) program in strengthening traveller confidence in the health and hygiene realm.

Although we are cautious that recovery could face multiple headwinds, the momentum created by reopening plans by countries could lead to an uptick in travel in the second half of 2022. The ACI World continues to advocate for governments to follow the data and ease travel restrictions to safely restore the movement of people, goods, and services.

This will provide travellers with more travel options and boost the overall recovery through aviation's unique role in boosting trade, tourism, investment and creating jobs. The airports require a range of different professionals and technicians and the airport of tomorrow will require more, and possibly different, disciplines. Recognizing this, ACI has become the world's leading provider of airport management and operations education.

We can emerge stronger from this crisis

Few people would have imagined the disruptions to air travel, or that the coronavirus pandemic will still be with us after two years. At its peak in April 2020, international passenger traffic shrank by more than 90 per cent. For Singapore, passenger traffic at Changi Airport fell to less than one per cent of pre-pandemic levels. As fewer aeroplanes flew, the aerospace industry has not been spared. Global spending on aerospace MRO dropped by over 40 per cent in 2020. Delivery of new aircraft is projected to be more than 20 per cent lower in the next decade.

Two years on, countries are gradually re-opening their borders. International air travel passenger volume is expected to recover to 55 per cent of pre-pandemic levels this year, up from about 20 per cent in 2021. IATA expects to see a recovery to pre-pandemic levels by 2025 or 2026. In tandem, we can also expect greater aerospace MRO activities and new aircraft orders. With the roll-out of vaccines and boosters, several countries are relaxing travel restrictions.

Singapore is committed to doing its part to resume global air travel. We have progressively implemented quarantine free travel through Vaccinated Travel Lanes (VTLs) in more than 20 countries. Despite the global surge in cases, the VTLs remained open. We intend to extend VTLs to more countries when the situation permits. We also facilitated safe transfers at Changi Airport, enabling close to 1.5 million travellers to connect through Changi to their onward destination in 2021.

As demand recovers, the Asia-Pacific region is projected to become the largest aviation market in the world, accounting for more than 40 per cent of new aircraft deliveries in the next two decades. The fundamentals for growth are strong – an increasingly inter-connected global economy, a fast-growing middle class and enhanced air connectivity. The aviation sector has a strong multiplier effect on industries like logistics, hospitality and professional services. Beyond integrating the global economy, aviation brings billions of people together. We should resolve to bring aviation and aerospace to new heights as we rebuild for a better post-pandemic future.

Singapore is committed – as a global air hub – to grow the aviation and aerospace sectors. Our efforts today will not only define the current flight path but will also set the trajectory ten to twenty years from now. At the present, our focus is to invest in new capabilities and our workforce as we strengthen the path to recovery. In the coming decade, the flight path will be defined by digitalisation and sustainability. Breakthroughs will reshape aviation and aerospace. We must invest in deep innovation today, to be at the forefront of change. We must also take on longer-term challenges, such as sustainability. By working together, we can emerge stronger from this crisis and soar to greater heights.



Heng Swee Keat
Deputy Prime Minister
Singapore

An edited version of the speech at the eighth edition of the Singapore Airshow

Frequentis extends Malaysian ATM-grade network

Following a successful installation of the Frequentis vitalsphere network solution for the new Kuala Lumpur Air Traffic Control Centre, Frequentis has been selected to extend the ATM-grade radio communication solution for the Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia (CAAM) to the second Flight Information Region (FIR).

The solution is based on VCX-IP and integrates the centres at Kuching and Kota Kinabalu with 21 radio sites across Borneo, enhancing resilience and safety for Air Traffic Control (ATC) radio communication.

The Malaysian airspace is divided into the Kuala Lumpur and Kota Kinabalu FIR, with each having its air traffic control centres, Kuala Lumpur ATCC and Kota Kinabalu ATCC as well as a sub-centre in Kuching.

VCX-IP is an application-level gateway for voice and data communications complying with European and international VoIP (voice over IP) standards for civil and military air traffic management (ATM).

Source: Air Traffic Management



ENAIRE starts the free route concept in Spain

ENAIRE, Spain's air navigation service provider, has started implementing the free route operational concept in the country.

The free route is an operational concept in which aircraft operators can formulate flight plans that contain user-defined segments that are planned as direct segments between points in a certain volume of airspace even if said points are not connected by an airway. This volume of airspace is then called free route airspace (FRA), which is why within Spain, the technical name for this project is HISPAFRA. The new operation will allow aircraft to fly more efficiently and sustainably between the points defined in the airspace. The free route is possible only during the flight planning phase. In the tactical phase, the operation is subject to its flight plan and instructions and clearances from air traffic control.

The HISPAFRA Implementation Plan, part of ENAIRE's Strategic Plan, the 2025 Flight Plan, is scheduled to run through December 2025. According to the European Organisation for the Safety of Air Navigation (EUROCONTROL), once free route operations are fully implemented throughout the European Single Sky, they are expected to save 500,000 nautical miles of flying distance every day.

Source: Air Traffic Management

EUROCONTROL expects 9.3 million flights in 2022

The new EUROCONTROL Traffic Scenarios for the period April to December 2022 have predicted steady growth between April and peak summer, reaching 89 per cent of 2019 traffic by August, with this level rising to end the year at 92 per cent. There has been a steady climb from 68 per cent in January rising to 79 per cent by the start of April compared to 2019 levels.

Airlines are adding lots of capacity and several airlines are already outperforming their pre-pandemic levels. People are showing that they are keen to fly – many for the first time since before the pandemic began. Hitting 90 per cent or more of 2019 traffic at peak summer moments is firmly on the cards. It expects the network to exceed 100 per cent of its 2019 levels. EUROCONTROL's Traffic Scenarios have been generated in close collaboration with the airline sector, and draw on planned capacity levels as well as the latest actual data and historical trends produced by it. The Low Scenario envisages a slower recovery by the summer to a maximum of 83 per cent of 2019 levels, with some risks materialising to create a post-summer dip and only a partial recovery by year-end. The High Scenario assumes a rapid acceleration to 95 per cent of 2019 levels over the summer, with most global travel flows resuming, no further adverse impacts post-summer, and traffic rising at year-end to head towards pre-pandemic levels.

Source: Air Traffic Management

Maersk launching a cargo airline in Q2

Globally famous for its shipping containers, Maersk is launching its cargo airline in the second half of the year in Denmark. Maersk Air Cargo will strengthen end-to-end logistics for the company.

The carrier comes after the company acquires Senator International, an shipping and air freight forwarder, in 2021 and plans to buy two Boeing 777Fs. Maersk has long owned Star Air, a Danish air cargo company with a fleet of 15 Boeing 767Fs. The conglomerate wants to make a more significant mark in the cargo sector, with Maersk Air Cargo set to take over operations from Star Air and add new aeroplanes until 2024.

The new carrier will be based out of Billund, a city best known for the headquarters of LEGO. The decision to invest in a branded airline subsidiary results from the pandemic. Cargo demand has risen dramatically since March 2020, when most flights were grounded, and the 50 per cent of belly capacity shrunk rapidly.

Source: The Economics Times



BlueBox Systems adds real-time air cargo shipment tracking

Leading in-transit visibility provider Tive and BlueBox Systems, a leading real-time air shipment tracking provider, have announced that BlueBox Systems will join the Open Visibility Network (OVN).

By integrating data and insights beyond shipment location and condition, the newest member of OVN will provide mutual customers with air cargo insights that increase the end-customer experience. BlueBox Systems contributes critical data that provides more transparency in air freight and is a complimentary member of the OVN community of visibility providers. BlueBoxAir, a unique air cargo tracking platform, is based on more than 20 years of experience in the digitalization of logistics processes. Simple to integrate, it allows an unprecedented real-time overview of all necessary logistics data of air cargo. BlueBoxAir provides all the information you need to optimize your supply chains, whether you are a logistics or trading company.

This newest addition to the OVN combines BlueBox's air cargo tracking data with data from other industry leaders' data, including Tive, project44, FourKites, Everstream Analytics, TransVoyant, MarineTraffic, ParkourSC, WeatherOptics and FarEye to deliver immediate next-gen value to global supply chains.

Source: Supply Chain Dive



FedEx and UPS feeder operator acquires cargo airline

Alpine Air Express, which provides air cargo services to smaller communities in the western US for customers like FedEx, UPS and the US Postal Service, has acquired Nebraska-based Suburban Air Freight to support the growing demand for e-commerce services.

The deal positions Alpine Air Express, one of the largest regional air cargo carriers in the US, to begin flying for DHL Express and build on its expansion effort. Alpine Air operates a fleet of 50 turboprop aircraft — 35 twin-engine Beechcraft 1900D, 14 smaller Beechcraft 99 and a King Air 200 — that transport mail packages and other time-sensitive cargo in Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, Idaho, California and Utah.

It indirectly carries packages for Amazon through contracts with UPS and the Postal Service and offers charter flights for automotive and other customers. Alpine Air is pursuing a growth strategy with the backing of owner AE Industrial Partners, a private equity firm with extensive aerospace holdings.

Source: Freight Waves

Hydrogen-powered electric aeroplane makes first flight



A prototype fuel-cell aeroplane has made the first-ever trip between two commercial airports by a hydrogen-powered electric aircraft.

German technology developer H2FLY announced its HY4 demonstrator aeroplane flew 124 kilometres from Stuttgart to Friedrichshafen airport in mid-April, with the four-seat aircraft then reaching a record-high altitude of 7,230 feet the following day. Until now, no other hydrogen-powered passenger aircraft has flown between two commercial airports to date. A new world record has been created by reaching an altitude of over 7,000 feet with the HY4 aircraft. This is another step on the long road of the aviation transformation process towards a more climate-friendly air transport. Hydrogen-electric engines are seen as a key to zero-emission flying. H2FLY was founded in 2015 by five engineers from the German Aerospace Centre and the University of Ulm to deliver the first commercial hydrogen-electric aircraft powertrain to help "unlock the era of emission-free sustainable air travel". The hydrogen-electric aircraft will be able to transport 40 passengers over distances of up to 2,000 kilometres.

Source: Recharge News

Etihad Airways cut carbon emissions by 56 per cent



The Abu Dhabi-based Etihad Airways has slashed its carbon emissions by 56 per cent between 2018 and 2021 as it successfully implemented programmes aimed at establishing a more sustainable business model.

The airline's carbon footprint was at 4,310,592 tonnes in 2021 compared with 9,828,970 tonnes three years earlier. According to the company's Sustainability Report 2020-2021, the reduction in emissions had been due in part to reduced operations as a result of the pandemic. It highlighted the success of its sustainable initiatives, including the Boeing Greenliner and the Airbus A350 now being called the Sustainable50.

On an annual basis from 2018, Etihad's carbon emissions decreased by about seven per cent in 2019 and 53 per cent in 2020. It rose marginally – one per cent – in 2021, as the airline's operations normalised after pandemic restrictions began to ease. Similar to the car industry, the aviation sector is considering hybrid, electric or hydrogen aircraft technologies to promote and achieve sustainable business models. Airlines are also facing pressure from environmental groups to lower their carbon footprint and build back greener operations after the pandemic.

IATA has pledged net-zero carbon emissions from its member airlines by 2050, bringing the air transport industry in line with the objectives of the Paris Agreement to limit global warming. Etihad said it is "well on its way" to fulfilling its pledge to reduce single-use plastics by 80 per cent by this year.

Source: The National

Aeroplanes running on batteries to become a reality

A new group of aviation experts across industry and government in the UK will work together to make the zero-emission flight a reality.

The Zero Emission Flight Delivery Group had been launched to focus on catapulting the latest innovations in aviation decarbonisation technology.

It builds on the UK's ambition to be a world leader in aerospace R&D with an additional £685 million to be provided for Aerospace Technology Institute programme over the next three years.

The British Transport Secretary Grant Shapps and Business Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng said the new Zero Emission Flight (ZEF) Delivery Group will further Britain's role in the global effort to end flight emissions.

The new steering group will help position the UK at the forefront of the global shift to green aviation by supporting the development of zero-emission aircraft and airport infrastructure. It will also look at how the law needs to adapt so that sustainable flying can truly become a reality.

The new group will sit under the Jet Zero Council – an advisory forum with experts from across the industry – and will focus specifically on the technology, infrastructure and regulation needed to make the zero-emission flight a reality.

The ZEF Delivery Group will build on the progress made through the Aerospace Technology Institute's (ATI) FlyZero project and the Department for Transport's Zero Emission Flight Infrastructure project. The government is also providing £125 million (matched by £175 million from industry) of support for Innovate UK's Future Flight Challenge.

Source: UK Government



South Korea plans to build its first floating airport



South Korea has unveiled its plans to construct near the second biggest city, Busan, the first offshore airport, with a total investment of 13.7 trillion won.

The Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport reviewed five options for Busan's new airport on Gadeok, the city's largest island. It finally decided to go offshore to avoid noise-sensitive areas, potential land subsistence and flight congestion due to its proximity to nearby Gimhae and Jinhae airports.

The concept calls for a 3,500-metres runway to accommodate national flag-carrying freighters such as the Boing B747-400F. President-elect Yoon Suk-yeol promised to push for airport building during his presidential campaign. Construction on the new airport is scheduled to begin in 2025 and would take nine years before the airport opens in June 2035.

If the development proposal is approved, Gadeok-do International Airport would be South Korea's first offshore airport built in the form of a floating structure at sea.

The airport's inauguration will most certainly be delayed by more than a year from the initial December 2029 target date, preventing the Busan city administration from using the new airport in 2030 when the city intends to host the World Expo.

Source: Asianet News