حكومة دبي
GOVERNMENT OF DUBAI

هيئة دبي للطيران المدني
Dubai Civil Aviation Authority

Via Dubai عبر دبي

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Best Financial Year

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54 weekly flights between Dubai and eight Chinese cities

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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.

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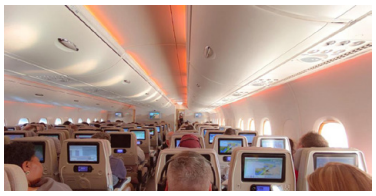
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ASL Airlines gets LUC for a cargo drone

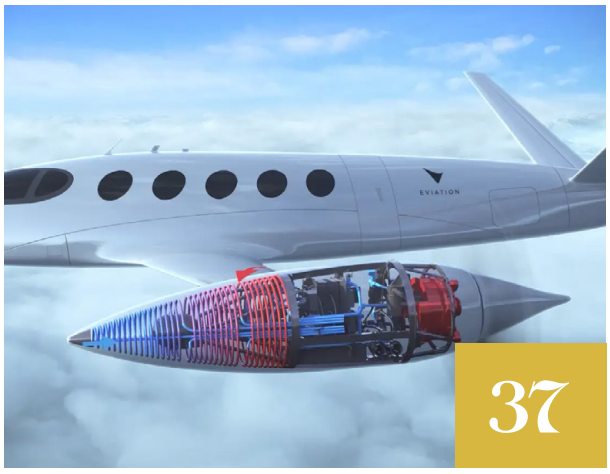
ASL Future Flight, the Ireland subsidiary of ASL Airlines, has been awarded a Light UAS Aircraft Systems Operator Certificate (LUC) by the Irish Aviation Authority.



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Airlines bet on flights powered by air in future

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



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Our Vision

The World Airport, Dubai

Our Mission

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

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Record Profits



The Emirates Airline and Group has achieved new record profits in the fiscal year ending March 2023, amounting to AED10.9 billion, and its revenues amounting to AED 119.8 billion, which reflects the efficiency of its operations, the accuracy of its strategic plans, and its vital role in serving the global air traffic.

These achievements are not only about increasing profits but also the performance of all sectors of the group, where recruitment of personnel increased all over the world, to support the expansion of its operations and future capabilities. The total number of employees has increased by 20% to 102,379, representing more than 160 different nationalities.

The Emirates Group also continued to progress in its journey to sustainability, as it signed the voluntary initiative of the UN where Emirates Airline and dnata will work to make the goals and principles of sustainable development as part of their strategy, culture and operations. The group has also signed the UAE Gender Balance Council's pledge to raise women's representation in middle management positions to 30% across the emirate by 2025.

It has also strengthened investments in human resources, new products and technologies, to enhance its flexibility, capabilities and cooperation with partners to develop its businesses and find innovative solutions. The achievements also included the receipt of new freighter aircraft and the expansion of its flight network, as it currently covers 150 destinations across six continents, including nine cities served by the freighter fleet only. It carried 43.6 million passengers, a growth of 123%, with an increase in seat capacity of 78%.

This remarkable performance would not have been possible without the wise leadership of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai, may God protect him, who has been behind our success over the years. Indeed, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid has been the architect of progressive economic policies and is also behind the success of the Emirates Group. Without his leadership and support, the size of Emirates Airlines would not have reached half of what it is today.

On this occasion, I express my deep appreciation to the Emirates Airline and Group members for their distinguished efforts and for providing a wonderful example through their services to our passengers and customers. We promise that we will continue to move forward towards providing them with an incomparable travel experience.

Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum

Two big achievements



Dubai announced two major achievements that resonated widely across the global aviation industry. The first achievement is embodied in the record profits achieved by Emirates Airline and Group, which amounted to AED10.9 billion, the highest in its history. Dubai deserves praise and recognition for its pioneering role in the recovery of the global air transport sector thanks to its deliberate steps and the dynamism of its decisions. The second achievement it is the great success achieved by the 22nd edition of the Airport Show, which was held under the theme, "Connecting the Global Airport Industry, Together in Innovating Airports for a Sustainable Future," which emphasized the important role of Dubai in the recovery of the global air transport industry, thanks to the deliberate steps it has taken and its decisiveness to keep pace with the present and future challenges.

These two achievements are the result of the insightful vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai, may God protect him, which reinforced the importance of the aviation sector and enable Dubai to become an airport for the world. These achievements are also because of the wise decisions and measures taken by all authorities concerned in this sector, thanks to the directives and follow-up of 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, who personally follows the all details to ensure Dubai's supremacy as a global centre for air travellers, freight and logistics.

We can expect best improvements in the aviation sector in the coming years given the great response received from the stakeholders and decision-makers to enhance cooperation between all the players to ensure that airports are transformed to provide the next stage of service improvement and procedures to make the travel more enjoyable and smoother.

The contribution that the respective stake holders in Dubai are making in developing the aviation sector and the efficient human resources that this sector has, will qualify it to obtain a large share of the growth in demand for travel in the region and the world, and will also strengthen its leading role as a global center to serve millions of travellers between the east and west of the world.

I congratulate Dubai for the its great achievements at all levels, and I urge all the stakeholders of the aviation sector in the emirate to continue the path of excellence to enhance the importance of Dubai as an airport for all.

Mohammed Abdulla Ahli



Mohammed bin Rashid issues law amending certain articles of law regulating drone activity in Dubai

In his capacity as the Ruler of Dubai, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister, issued Law No. (10) of 2023 amending certain articles of Law No. (4) of 2020 that regulate the use of drones in Dubai, with the aim of enhancing safety standards.

The new law amends article Nos. (7), (20), (21), and (23) of Law No. (4) of 2020 and replaces them with new articles that outline approved criteria for the design and operation of "Drone Airports" in Dubai. Additionally, the new law also mandates the development of necessary infrastructure and provision of fuel and power supply for these airports.

The new law stipulates that the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority (DCAA), in coordination with other relevant authorities in Dubai, is responsible for several tasks. These include establishing and endorsing standards and criteria that are necessary for Drone Airports, approving engineering designs for both government and non-governmental use, as well as overseeing the implementation of these designs and plans for stations, facilities, and infrastructure.

DCAA is also mandated to issue completion certificates, as long as the designs and plans comply with the emirate's adopted urban planning requirements and traffic and transportation control procedures. The DCAA is also responsible for setting the standards and criteria for pre-qualifying and certifying contractors and consultants involved in constructing Drone Airports and their associated stations, facilities, and infrastructure.

The Dubai Aviation Engineering Projects (DAEP), in partnership with DCAA and other relevant

authorities, is responsible for a range of tasks within the boundaries of the Dubai Aviation City, as defined by Law No. (10) of 2015. These responsibilities include designing Drone Airports, stations, and infrastructure for government use, as well as overseeing their implementation in compliance with international standards.

According to the amended law, DAEP is also tasked with approving engineering designs of Drone Airports for non-government use; prescribing the standards and criteria for the pre-qualification and certification of contractors and consultants engaged in the construction of Drone Airports and their associated stations, facilities, and infrastructure, among others.

The new law prohibits any individual from constructing infrastructure related to the operation of drones or Drone Airports, or supplying fuel for drones without obtaining a licence from the DCAA. The licence will be issued in coordination with relevant entities and in accordance with the conditions and regulations adopted by the authority in this regard.

Any provisions in other legislations that may conflict with the new law will be considered null and void. The new law will come into effect from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette.

Source -WAM





With your hard work and perseverance, Dubai is set to continue reaching new heights

Hamdan bin Mohammed:

Thank you Ahmed bin Saeed and the exceptional airport management team of DXB

His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of The Executive Council thanked His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President of Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, President Chairman of Dubai Airports and Chairman and Chief Executive of Emirates Airline and the Group, and the DXB management team, after the world's top international airport for international passengers handled over 21 million passengers in Q1 of 2023.

His Highness said on Twitter: Dubai International Airport or DXB solidifies its position as the busiest airport globally by handling more than 21 million passengers in the first quarter of 2023. Thank you @HHAhmedBinSaeed and the exceptional airport management team of @DXB for their dedication to excellence. With your hard work and perseverance, Dubai is set to continue reaching new heights.

Source - Emarat Al Youm

Saood Abdulaziz Kankazar, Executive Director, Air Transport and International Affairs at the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority

Aircraft traffic up at Dubai's two airports



Aircraft traffic at Dubai and Al Maktoum International Airports exceeded 112,000 movements during the first quarter of this year, according to Saood Abdulaziz Kankazar, Executive Director, Air Transport and International Affairs at the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority. He said the the total freight movement exceeded 510,000 tons during this period.

He said the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority participated in the Airport Show as it represents an ideal platform for communication with aviation professionals and key decision makers. The attendees were introduced to the latest technologies and innovative solutions that contribute to the growth and development of the aviation sector in Dubai. He stressed that the authority is moving forward in doing everything that would develop the aviation sector in Dubai and provide more elements of excellence that qualify it to face the future challenges. DCAA is constantly striving to improve the services provided within international standards.

Source - Al Bayan





DCAA participates in Airport Show-2023

The Dubai Civil Aviation Authority has continued its participation in The Airports Show which had its 22nd edition in Dubai in mid-May.

The world's largest annual B2b platform for the airport industry took place under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President of Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, Chairman of Dubai Airport, Chairman and Chief Executive of Emirates Airline and Group, at the Dubai World Trade Centre. The three-day trade show had become an ideal platform for industry decision-makers to communicate their growth and expansion plans and raise concerns about varied issues impacting the aviation industry. During the DCAA's participation, several officials and staff members were at hand to explain the role, tasks and objectives of the Authority to the visitors and introduced them to the latest technological and innovative solutions that it has been implementing to ensure the continued growth and development of the aviation sector in the Emirate of Dubai. The DCAA is moving fast forward in further developing the aviation sector and working its way to provide more elements of excellence that qualify it to face future challenges confidently. It also seeks to continuously improve the services it provides to remain within international standards.






هيئة دبي للطيران المدني
Dubai Civil Aviation Authority


هيئة دبي للطيران المدني
Dubai Civil Aviation Authority


The World A




HIGH FOOTFALL
SCREENING

Dubai licensed five private airlines

The Dubai Civil Aviation Authority has revealed that private aviation traffic in the emirate witnessed remarkable growth, with an increase of 10 per cent during the Q1 of this year, compared with the same period in 2022.

According to a report in the Arabic daily, Emarat Al Youm, five private airlines were licensed by the civil aviation regulator, indicating the air transport sector in Dubai keeping its strong performance.

The DCAA said Dubai International Airport occupies a prominent position on the list of international airports in terms of the number of international passengers, as it is expected that the number of passengers will increase during the current year to about 78 million passengers. It confirmed that expectations about traffic rise indicate air travelling constantly increasing.

Dubai International Airport witnessed exceptional performance during the year 2022, as annual passenger traffic rose to about 66 million passengers, exceeding the annual expectations for the number of passengers during the year, in light of the unprecedented numbers witnessed in the last quarter of 2022, being the highest performance and the busiest since 2019.

Taking into account that December 2022 was the busiest month, receiving about 7.1 million passengers, as it was the first time that passenger traffic exceeded this rate since 2020. The Airports Council International has revealed DXB maintained its first position as the largest airport in the world for international passengers for the ninth year in a row.

Source - Emarat Al Youm





54 weekly flights between Dubai and eight Chinese cities

Air traffic between Dubai and Chinese cities has seen significant growth following the removal of all restrictions that the Chinese authorities have placed since the start of the pandemic and the reopening of Chinese markets to the world.

The number of weekly flights between Dubai and eight Chinese destinations has increased from 14 flights per week in January 2022 to 54 flights per week in April, according to the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority. Majid Al Jokar, Chief Operating Officer of Dubai Airports, said the reopening of China's borders has provided a major impetus to support recovery levels in the travel and tourism sectors worldwide.

China has been one of the fastest-growing tourism and aviation markets in the pre-pandemic years. Its latest moves bode well for the passenger traffic growth in 2023 - and beyond. With the increase in the number of flights by commercial airlines, Dubai officials expect a steady rise in passenger traffic to and from China via Dubai International Airport in the coming months, especially in the Q2 of this year. He confirmed that five airlines were operating between Dubai International Airport (DXB) and Chinese destinations, including Emirates.

These airlines operate approximately 54 weekly flights between Dubai International Airport (DXB) and eight different destinations across China. EK's Chief Commercial Officer Adnan Kazim said the Chinese market has strong demand, with the airline operating around 35 weekly flights, with strong and full occupancy rates.

The carrier has seen stronger booking this summer amid increasing growth in its operations, while it continues to operate big aircraft to increase the seating capacity along with adding more flights to existing destinations. Dubai has emerged strongly among the top 10 global destinations Chinese tourists plan to visit during their upcoming holidays, according to a Destination Index survey published by statistics and research firm, YouGov.

According to data from the Dubai Department of Economy and Tourism, the number of Chinese visitors to Dubai has increased from 19,000 visitors in the first two months of 2022 to 52,000 visitors in January and February this year, a growth of 174 per cent. Dubai succeeded in recovering 24 per cent of visitors in a short period. Chinese tourists stood at 209,000 in January and February 2019.

Source –Al Bayan

UAE ratifies Montreal Protocol on unruly passengers



The UAE has ratified the Montreal Protocol 2014 (MP14) to strengthen the global legal deterrent against unruly and disruptive passenger incidents onboard flights. IATA, the trade body that represents about 300 airlines comprising 83 per cent of global air traffic, has welcomed the UAE's decision. The MP14 amended the Tokyo Convention and gives jurisdiction to the country in which an aircraft lands. Where countries have ratified MP14 and implemented appropriate local laws, enforcement authorities have the jurisdiction to deal with unruly passengers that arrive in their territory, irrespective of where the aircraft is registered. Not only will this give the UAE new powers in dealing with unruly passengers that land in the country but as a major aviation market and ICAO Council member, it will also encourage other countries to ratify MP14. Ensuring greater international harmonization and strengthening the legal deterrent against unruly and disruptive passengers who pose a threat to passenger and crew well-being and safety onboard is a priority for the entire airline industry, remarked Kamil Al-Awadhi, IATA's Regional Vice President of Africa and Middle East. Effective from the first day of May, the UAE will have the jurisdiction to manage unruly and disruptive passengers that land in the country, irrespective of where the aircraft is registered.

Source -IATA

Wizz Air Abu Dhabi gets the nod for flights in Pakistan



The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has approved Wizz Air Abu Dhabi to operate its flights in Pakistan. This decision was made to make travel between Pakistan and the UAE more convenient. This comes after the Turkish airline Sun Express, a joint venture between Turkish Airlines and Lufthansa, had been also permitted to start operations in Pakistan. With over 30 international airlines now operating in Pakistan, the growing interest of airlines to operate in the country and invest in its aviation industry is evident. As the competition among airlines increases, passengers will benefit from better services and more affordable fares, which will also lead to an increase in passenger traffic, making Pakistan an attractive market for airlines and boosting the country's economy. The Pakistani government has been actively taking measures to improve the country's aviation infrastructure to accommodate the increased number of flights and passengers, indicating the growing significance of Pakistan in the region and its expanding tourism industry. Ethiopian Airlines has also announced direct flight operations between Karachi and Addis Ababa. The airline will begin operating four flights per week from May 1st, 2023. This is a significant development as the airline previously operated this route between 1966 and 1971, and again between 1993 and 2004. The resumption of this route shows the increasing demand for air travel between Pakistan and Ethiopia.

Source –Global Village Space

Emirates invests US$135 million in the pilot training facility

Emirates Airlines, the world's largest long-haul carrier that operates the largest fleet of Airbus A380 and Boeing 777 family of aircraft of about 269, has announced plans to invest US$135 million in a new pilots training facility in Dubai as the Middle East's aviation sector faces an acute shortage of talent.

The UAE flag carrier will build an advanced training facility to accommodate six full-flight simulator bays for its future Airbus A350 and Boeing 777X aircraft. The 63,318-square-foot facility is slated to open in March 2024. His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President of Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, Chairman of Dubai Airports and Chairman and Chief Executive of Emirates Airline and Group, said the investment in the training facility would "ensure Emirates' readiness to commence its pilots' training ahead of the delivery of its new aircraft fleet starting from 2024". A report by global management consultancy Oliver Wyman has indicated a pilot shortage will impact the Middle East as air travel demand returns to pre-coronavirus pandemic levels. It found that demand for airline pilots will outstrip supply in most regions globally between 2022 and 2024 – with the Middle East feeling the effects first outside the US. André Martins, Head of Transportation, Services and Operations for India, Middle East and Africa at Oliver Wyman said establishing training facilities in anticipation of the growing demand and fleet additions was a wise move. "We expect the global shortage of pilots will continue to be a real issue. In some countries in the AGCC and the wider Middle East, the shortage will be equivalent to the north of 30 per cent of the total pilot workforce by 2030," he said. Oliver Wyman estimates that the average age of a pilot in the Middle East is around 47 years old, with many likely to enter retirement in the coming years.

The regional shortage could reach an estimated 3,000 pilots by 2023 and 18,000 by 2032 if no accelerated mitigation actions are taken. Globally Oliver Wyman is predicting a shortage of nearly 63,000 pilots by 2030. Officials say pilot shortages are now common around the world, with several airlines offering 30 per cent-plus pay increases to retain their existing pilots. The airline said it will have the potential to expand its pilot training capacity by 54 per cent per year with a total of 17 full flight simulator bays offering a capacity of more than 130,000 training hours a year. The new college will commence training its first batch of A350 pilots by June 2024. In November 2022, Emirates began a massive $2 billion cabin refresh and retrofit program for 120 of its existing aircraft. Boeing said the Middle East will require 202,000 new aviation personnel, including 53,000 pilots, 50,000 technicians and 99,000 cabin crew members in the next 20 years. It added that the region's airlines will require 2,980 new aeroplanes valued at US$765 billion to serve passengers and trade over the same period. More than two-thirds of these deliveries will enable growth, while one-third will replace older aeroplanes with more fuel-efficient models such as the Boeing 737 Max, 787 Dreamliner and 777X. The Middle East freighter fleet is projected to reach 170 by 2041, more than doubling the pre-pandemic fleet.

Source – AGBI



Air Canada eyes DXB from Vancouver



Air Canada is expanding into the Middle East with the addition of non-stop flights from its hub at Vancouver International Airport to Dubai. The new link will operate four times weekly beginning October-end 2023, onboard Air Canada's flagship Dreamliner fleet. The Star Alliance carrier already has a robust working partnership with Emirates and expects to take advantage of connecting traffic in both directions. The new route will fly alongside Air Canada's existing daily service between Toronto and Dubai. Air Canada will be the first carrier to launch flights from Vancouver International Airport to Dubai in recent history. An analysis of carrier data shows no airline has linked the two cities since at least 2004. The new link will capitalize on the existing partnership between Air Canada and Emirates and facilitate connections to a multitude of destinations across the Middle East, the Indian subcontinent, and East Africa via Dubai. Connecting British Columbia to Dubai will provide passengers originating in these destinations access to Air Canada's extensive network across Alberta, British Columbia, and the western US from Vancouver. Presently, passengers travelling between British Columbia and the United Arab Emirates have several options.

There is an existing service on Air Canada to Toronto Airport, which will continue. Other Star Alliance options include flights with Turkish Airlines and a one-stop in Newark with United Airlines.

Source: Simple Flying

DC Aviation Al-Futtaim acquires new aircraft

Aviation services provider DC Aviation Al-Futtaim (DCAF) has announced the addition of a Bombardier Global 6000 and Global 5000 to its fleet. DCAF will operate the aircraft on behalf of the private owners and provide maintenance services. DCAF will provide full flight operational aircraft management services, continuous airworthiness management organization, hangar parking and fixed base operator handling at Al Maktoum International Airport. DCAF had a very strong start to the year with the addition of the Global 6000 and Global 5000 aircraft. The addition of these two exceptional business jets, in addition to the Global 7500 earlier in 2023, in our 10th year of operation, reinforces its position as one of the leading operators in the Middle East. The Global 6000 aircraft has almost 17 hours of endurance and cabin space for workstations and mission equipment. It can fly a 6,000 nautical mile range and has a top speed of Mach 0.89. DCAF now manages 11 aircraft, which consolidates its position as a fast-growing private and business jet operator in the Middle East. At the start of the year, DCAF added a Bombardier Global 7500 aircraft to its managed fleet. The Global 7500 can fly within the 7,700 nautical mile range and has a top speed of Mach 0.935.



Source –Airport Technology



Jetex wins concession to operate Al Bateen FBO

Abu Dhabi Airports has awarded Jetex a concession to manage and operate the VIP Terminals at Al Bateen Executive Airport in the UAE capital. Since 2008, the airport in Abu Dhabi has operated as an executive jet facility, focusing on fast and efficient turnarounds, no holding patterns or slot restrictions, and short taxi times. Jamal Al Dhaheri, Managing Director and CEO of Abu Dhabi Airports, said he hoped the move would reinvigorate the "tailor-made" business aviation airport. As a dedicated FBO operator well versed with the needs and requirements of this specific market segment, we look forward to collaborating with Jetex and successfully delivering great value to all our passengers, he said. The concession involves FBO management at the airport and a separate Royal Terminal will remain under existing supervision. The business aviation-only facility would complete Jetex's offering in the UAE, where it also operates at the VIP Terminal at Dubai Al Maktoum International Airport and an operations centre at Dubai International Airport. Abu Dhabi becomes the 38th destination in Jetex's global private jet terminal network and the company plans to offer its award-winning flagship service concept at the airport.

Source - Aviation International News

EK adds third daily flight to Tel Aviv

Emirates Airlines is expanding its operations to Israel by adding a third daily flight from Dubai International Airport to Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion International Airport starting from the first day of May. The third-daily flight to Tel Aviv will utilize Boeing 777-300ER, with 360 seats in total. The new flight schedule has been carefully planned to allow travellers from Tel Aviv the full-day experience in Dubai, with early arrival and late departure times. Emirates had its first official touchdown in Israel when it launched its inaugural flight to Tel Aviv in June 2022. Since then, over 180,000 passengers have travelled on Emirates to and from Dubai and Tel Aviv. According to Ben Gurion Airport, Dubai has been ranked as the top outbound destination by passenger volumes in 2022. In 2020, then-US President Donald Trump unveiled his administration's Middle East peace plans to improve the lives of the Palestinian and Israeli people. Since then, Middle Eastern carriers have started inaugural flights to Israel, with Etihad being the first airline in the region to fly to Tel Aviv.

Source –Aero Time

EK and PAL interline deal to increase connectivity

Emirates and Philippine Airlines have signed an interline agreement to enable seamless transfers through Dubai International Airport and Ninoy Aquino International Airport. The new deal will allow a one-ticket and one-bag policy. The agreement spans PAL's domestic operations, enabling EK passengers to travel to regional destinations like Cebu, Cagayan de Oro, Bacolod, Cotabato, Davao, Iloilo, and Kalibo. Philippine Airlines passengers can now continue their journey from Dubai to 21 points in Europe, the Middle East and Africa - and beyond. Emirates commenced operations in the Philippines in 1990, with flights from Dubai to Manila. This has since expanded, and the carrier operates 25 weekly flights from DXB. It is operating all three routes with the Boeing 777-300ER, with a mix of two and three-class configurations. Emirates currently has interline agreements with 120 airlines worldwide. Emirates operates multiple daily flights between Dubai and Manila. Philippine Airlines also connect to Dubai with its Airbus A330-300.

Source –Simple Flying



Best Financial Year

Emirates Airline and Group logs best-ever profits in its history



The Emirates Group released its 2022-23 Annual Report, reporting its most profitable year ever on the back of strong demand across its businesses.

Emirates achieved new record profits, a complete turnaround from its loss position last year. Both Emirates and dnata saw significant revenue increases in 2022-23 as the Group expanded its air transport and travel-related operations following the removal of nearly all pandemic-related restrictions around the world.

For the financial year ended 31 March 2023, the Emirates Group posted a record profit of AED 10.9 billion (US$ 3.0 billion) compared with an AED 3.8 billion (US$ 1.0 billion) loss for last year. The Group's revenue was AED 119.8 billion (US$ 32.6 billion), an increase of 81% over last year's results. The Group's cash balance was AED 42.5 billion (US$ 11.6 billion), the highest ever reported, up 65% from last year mainly due to strong demand across its core business divisions and markets.

HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman and Chief Executive, Emirates airline and Group, said: "We're proud of our 2022-23 performance which is not only a full recovery, but also a record result. This achievement would not have been possible without HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, UAE Vice President and Prime Minister, and Ruler of Dubai, whose leadership has been critical to our success today and through the years. The architect of Dubai's progressive economic policies, HH Sheikh Mohammed is also the engine behind the Emirates Group's trajectory. Without his drive and support, Emirates will be half the size of what we are today."

He added: I'm proud of the Emirates Group's performance for 2022-23, and our contribution to the restoration of air transport and tourism across the markets we serve, including Dubai's astounding 97% year-on-year growth in international visitors for 2022. The Group is the biggest player in the UAE's aviation sector, which supports over 770,000 jobs and generates an estimated contribution to GDP of over US$ 47 billion (AED 172.5 billion). With our growth plans, and in line with the Dubai Economic Agenda D33, we expect to significantly increase our contribution to the UAE's GDP over the next decade through direct and indirect employment, supply chain spending, tourism spend, and trade and commerce benefits from the movement of cargo."

Commenting on the Group's 2022-23 turnaround performance, Sheikh Ahmed said: "We had anticipated the strong return of travel, and as the last travel restrictions lifted and triggered a tide of demand, we were ready to expand our operations quickly and safely to serve our customers. Our ongoing investments in our brand, and in our products and services, helped drive customer preference and position us favourably in the market. As a result, we have delivered a record financial performance and cash balance for our financial year 2022-23. This reflects the strength of our proven business model, our careful forward planning, the hard work of all our employees, and our solid partnerships across the aviation and travel ecosystem."

To support expanded operations and to bolster the Group's future capabilities, Emirates and dnata ramped up recruitment activity across the globe during the year. As a result, the Group's total workforce increased by 20% to 102,379 employees, representing over 160 different nationalities.

In 2022-23, the Group collectively invested AED 7.2 billion (US$ 2.0 billion) in new aircraft, facilities, equipment, companies, and the latest technologies to position the business for future growth. Our commitments include: a massive multi-billion dollar aircraft cabin retrofit programme; an order for 5 new 777 freighters; the building of a new pilot training centre; the opening of Bustanica, the world's largest vertical farm in Dubai under a partnership with CropOne; new training aircraft for its cadets at Emirates Flight Training Academy; dnata's acquisition of 30% shares to gain full ownership of its ground handling operations in Brazil; and the building of a new advanced cargo facility in Erbil, Iraq.

The Emirates Group also continued to progress on its sustainability journey during the year. Notably, it signed up to the United Nations Global Compact, a voluntary initiative where Emirates and dnata will work towards making the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Principles part of their strategy, culture, and operations. The Group also signed the UAE Gender Balance Council's pledge to increase female representation at mid-senior management positions to 30% across the country by 2025.

Amongst its numerous environmental initiatives, a key highlight for Emirates was the successful conduct of a demonstration flight with 100% sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) in one engine of a Boeing 777. This first-in-region initiative contributes to collective industry data and efforts to enable a future of 100% SAF flying. dnata in 2022-23 pledged to invest US$ 100 million (AED 367 million) over 2 years, to improve environmental efficiency across its global business, supporting its goal to reduce its carbon footprint by 50% by 2030.

During the year, the Group supported various community and humanitarian initiatives across its markets including relief efforts for the floods in Pakistan and the earthquake in Turkey and Syria. It also continued to participate in innovation incubators, and support programmes that build a pipeline of skilled aviation talent and develop future solutions for the industry.

Sheikh Ahmed said: "In 2022-23, we've not only brought back most of our operations but also grew our footprint and capabilities by investing in people, product, and new technologies – demonstrating our agility and ability. We continue to lay strong foundations for future success and join hands with partners to grow our business and to collaborate on innovative solutions for travel and aviation. As our business expands, so does our ability to make a positive impact on the communities we serve. We are steadfast in our commitment to deliver value to our customers and stakeholders while minimising our environmental impact.

"We go into 2023-24 with a strong positive outlook and expect the Group to remain profitable. We will work hard to hit our targets while keeping a close watch on inflation, high fuel prices, and political and economic uncertainty."

Emirates performance

Emirates' total passenger and cargo capacity increased by 32% to 48.2 billion ATKMs in 2022-23, as the airline continued to reinstate passenger services across its network in line with the lifting of pandemic-related flight and travel restrictions.

In addition to launching services to Tel Aviv, Emirates relaunched flights to six destinations and increased operations to 62 cities across its network throughout the year to serve strong customer demand. By 31 March 2023, the Emirates network comprised 150 destinations across six continents, including 9 cities served by its freighter fleet only.

Emirates also deployed its flagship A380 aircraft to even more cities during the year, bringing its A380 network to 43 destinations as of 31 March 2023.

Enabling its customers access even more destinations, Emirates signed agreements

> **Group reports annual profit of AED 10.9 billion (US$ 3.0 billion), a new profit and revenue record and a significant turnaround from last year**

with new codeshare partners in 2022-23 most notably with United Airlines and Air Canada, expanding the airline's connectivity in the Americas to over 200 new points, in addition to mutual frequent flyer programme benefits. Emirates also reinforced its strategic partnerships with Qantas and flydubai and added new interline and codeshare partners: Airlink, AEGEAN, ITA Airways, Air Tanzania, Bamboo Airways, Batik Air, Philippine Airlines, Royal Air Maroc and Sky Express.

Emirates received two new 777 freighter aircraft during the financial year. It also phased out 4 older aircraft comprising of 2 A380, 1 Boeing 777-300ERs and 1 Freighter. Its total fleet count at the end of March was 260 units, with a youthful average fleet age of 9.1 years.

Emirates' order book stands at 200 aircraft, including 5 additional Boeing 777-300ER freighter orders announced during 2022-23. The airline's long-standing strategy of operating modern and efficient aircraft remains unchanged, a commitment which underpins its Fly Better brand promise as a young fleet is better for the environment, better for operations, and better for customers.

With significantly enhanced capacity deployment across most markets, Emirates' total revenue for the financial year increased 81% to AED 107.4 billion (US$ 29.3 billion). Currency fluctuations in some of the airline's major markets, notably the Euro, Pound Sterling, and devaluation of the Pakistani Rupee, significantly impacted the airline's profitability negatively by AED 4.5 billion (US$ 1.2 billion).

Total operating costs increased by 57% from last financial year. Cost of ownership (depreciation and amortisation) and

> **Group revenue of AED 119.8 billion (US$ 32.6 billion) increased by 81% with strong customer demand worldwide with almost all travel restrictions removed**

fuel cost were the two biggest cost components for the airline in 2022-23, followed by employee cost. Fuel accounted for 36% of operating costs compared to 23% in 2021-22. The airline's fuel bill increased by 143% to AED 33.7 billion (US$ 9.2 billion) compared to the previous year, due to a higher uplift of 49% in line with capacity expansion and a higher average fuel price which was up by 48%.

With the removal of pandemic-related travel restrictions globally, the airline substantially improved its financial results and reported a record profit of AED 10.6 billion (US$ 2.9 billion) after last year's AED 3.9 billion (US$ 1.1 billion) loss, and an exceptional profit margin of 9.9%, reflecting the best performance in the airline's history.

Emirates carried 43.6 million passengers (up 123%) in 2022-23, with seat capacity up by 78%. The airline reports a Passenger Seat Factor of 79.5%, compared with last year's passenger seat factor of 58.6%; and a 7% increase in passenger yield to 37.5 fils (10.2 US cents) per Revenue Passenger Kilometre (RPKM), due to a change in cabin and route mix, fares and currency.

Emirates continued to invest in delivering ever better customer experiences. During the year, it launched its full Premium Economy experience to hugely positive customer feedback, brought into service the first 6 of its newly retrofitted A380s with completely refreshed cabin interiors, and opened 'Emirates World' - a modern concept retail store which will gradually be introduced to other key markets.

It also announced a US$ 350 million investment in new generation inflight entertainment systems for its A350 fleet.

With a continued focus on digital initiatives to provide customers with speedy and secure journeys, Emirates also signed a landmark biometric data agreement with the General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs in Dubai to fast-track travellers' journey on arrival.

Emirates SkyCargo delivered a solid performance, contributing 16% of the airline's revenue despite a reduction in available capacity as aircraft that were temporarily converted into "mini freighters" during the pandemic returned to full passenger service.

In 2022-23, Emirates' cargo division reinforced its leadership in cool chain transport, building on the advanced expertise and infrastructure that made it the carrier of choice for the transport of temperature sensitive medicines during the pandemic, and other perishable items.

Emirates SkyCargo maintained its edge in the global airfreight industry by focusing its customers, bringing innovative solutions to the market, and leveraging its fleet and network capabilities. During the year, the cargo division signed commercial MoUs with United Airlines and Air Canada to expand its network reach and capacity for customers; introduced a new digital channel, WebCargo, for customers to directly access and book its flights for their cargo shipments; and launched Emirates Delivers UK, expanding its e-commerce shipping solution to UAE customers.

Emirates SkyCargo also deployed its expertise and capacity to transport relief goods to Pakistan, Turkey and Syria in partnership with Dubai's International Humanitarian City.

With steady air freight demand throughout the year, Emirates' cargo division reported a solid revenue of AED 17.2 billion (US$ 4.7 billion). This was a 21% decline over last year's exceptional performance caused by the pandemic.

Freight yield per Freight Tonne Kilometre (FTKM) increased by 3% despite more cargo capacity returned to the global market, but generally remained at high levels compared to the pandemic marketplace due to steady and strong demand.

Tonnage carried declined by 14% to reach 1.8 million tonnes, due to the reduction in available freighter capacity for the entire year with the reinstatement of more passenger services. At the end of 2022-23, Emirates' SkyCargo's total freighter fleet stood at 11 Boeing 777Fs.

Emirates' hotels portfolio revenue over last year increased by 12% to AED 675 million (US$ 184 million) reflecting the uptick in tourism traffic, particularly to Dubai.

Emirates has consistently demonstrated the ability and commitment to fulfil its contractual obligations. In addition to repaying aircraft related financing liabilities as they fall due, it successfully repaid AED 3.0 billion (US$ 817 million) more of the total AED 17.5 billion (US$ 4.8 billion) raised during the COVID-19 crisis. This assurance continues to strengthen the confidence of its financing partners in its business model and allowed Emirates to reprice AED 4.5 billion (US$ 1.2 billion) of debt during this financial year and further raise AED 1.2 billion to finance the acquisition of two new B777 freighter aircraft through an Islamic finance lease at highly effective margins.

In the face of rising interest rates, Emirates adeptly managed its net exposure and effectively mitigated the impact of rate fluctuations on the bottom line. Additionally, the proactive currency risk management programme ensured ongoing financial stability and resilience by employing a range of hedging strategies including forward contracts and natural hedges.

Emirates closed the financial year with an exceptional level of cash assets of AED 37.4 billion (US$ 10.2 billion), 79% higher compared to 31 March 2022.

dnata performance

Recovery from the pandemic was felt across almost all dnata businesses, and

in 2022-23 dnata increased its profit by 201% to AED 331 million (US$ 90 million).

With growing flight and travel activity across the world, dnata's total revenue increased by 74% to AED 14.9 billion (US$ 4.1 billion). dnata's international businesses account for 72% of its revenue, an increase of 10%pts from the previous year. Through the year, dnata worked closely with its customers through the challenges of labour shortages and rising inflation in its major markets such as UK, US, Europe and Australia.

Laying the foundations for future growth, dnata's investments in 2022-23 amounted to AED 467 million (US$ 127 million). Significant investments during the year included: a new cargo centre in Amsterdam, the Netherlands; new modern cargo and ground service equipment facilities in Erbil, Iraq; the global roll-out of its advanced "OneCargo" system to digitise and automate business functions; the expansion of marhaba operations in Dubai and Zanzibar; and the re-opening of renovated catering facilities in Sydney with energy efficient installations and equipment upgrades.

In 2022-23, dnata's operating costs increased by 74% to AED 14.6 billion (US$ 4.0 billion), in line with expanded operations in its Airport Operations, Catering and Travel divisions and impacted by inflationary pressure across all markets mainly for labour and food supply.

dnata's cash balance improved by more than AED 200 million to AED 5.1 billion (US$ 1.4 billion). Net cash used in financing activities, primarily payments for loans and leases, amounted to AED 906 million (US$ 247 million), while the business utilised net cash of AED 528 million (US$ 144 million) in essential investing activities. The business saw a positive operating cash flow of AED 1.4 billion (US$ 381 million) in 2022-23, a reflection of the substantial improvements in revenue.

Revenue from dnata's Airport Operations, including ground and cargo handling increased to AED 7.2 billion (US$ 2.0 billion).

The number of aircraft turns handled by dnata globally grew by 35% to 712,383, cargo handled declined by 8% to 2.7 million tonnes, reflecting the increased flight activity across markets as the last pandemic restrictions lifted and dnata's customers reinstated services.

During 2022-23, dnata launched its ground handling operations at the newly built terminal of Zanzibar Abeid Amani Karume International Airport, together with Emirates Leisure Retail (ELR) and MMI as master concessionaire for all food and beverage, duty free and commercial outlets at the terminal. It also expanded operations in Canada, partnering GTA Group to offer quality and safe cargo services in Calgary and Vancouver.

dnata's Catering & Retail business accounted for AED 4.8 billion (US$ 1.3 billion) of dnata's revenue, up by 187%. The inflight catering business uplifted 111.4 million meals to airline customers, almost three times the number of meals from last year, as its airline customers across the world restored their flight operations.

dnata's Catering & Retail division substantially increased production to support airlines to restart their flight operations after the pandemic particularly in Australia, and its key markets of UK and the USA. It also worked extensively with its customers on flexing their menus to address supply chain issues and food inflation.

In the UAE, Alpha Flight Services (Alpha), dnata's subsidiary, signed a concession agreement under which it will provide flight catering services to over 10 airlines at Ras Al Khaimah International airport, operate three F&B outlets, as well as the airport lounge.

Notable contract wins for the catering division in 2022-23 include: multi-year catering contracts with Australia's newest airline, Bonza, and with Air India for its flights in London, Birmingham, and Milan; contracts with United Airlines and Edelweiss Air for their flights in Jordan; and with Lufthansa and Swiss International Air Lines in Singapore.

Revenue from dnata's Travel Services division grew by 227% to AED 2.3 billion (US$ 618 million). The reported total transaction value (TTV) of travel services sold increased by 203% to AED 7.0 billion (US$ 1.9 billion), a substantial growth from last year. This reflects last year's abnormal situation where the business was recovering from COVID-19-related booking cancellations.

In 2022-23, dnata Representation Services boosted its existing customer service support for Lufthansa in Europe and grew its relationship with American Airlines by providing a range of sales and marketing services to the carrier as its general sales agent in India. dnata became the preferred travel partner in the Middle East for American Express Global Business Travel, the world's leading B2B travel platform; and enhanced its long-standing partnership with Club Med to bring tailor-made, all-inclusive holidays at exclusive rates closer to the GCC travellers.

In the UAE, dnata expanded its retail footprint with the opening of a new travel store in Dubai Hills. Reflecting the increased visitor numbers and demand for Dubai experiences, Arabian Adventures expanded and enhanced its popular 'Overnight Safari' experience in the Dubai Desert Conservation Reserve and re-launched an enhanced edition of its signature Jeep Adventure Safari.

dnata's leisure wholesale specialist, Yalago, expanded its global in-markets teams, and recorded a 92% year on year increase in hotel bookings in 2022.

Source - Dubai Media Office

> **The Group has declared a dividend of AED 4.5 billion (US$ 1.2 billion) to its owner ICD, Investment Corporation of Dubai**

ME aviation market to grow grandly until 2033



The Middle East remains among the fastest-growing aviation markets in the world, with the regional fleet set to expand 5.1 per cent annually over the next decade, according to a new study. The maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) sector will grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 4.9 per cent in the same period, the Global Fleet and MRO Market Forecast 2023-2033 report released by global consultancy Oliver Wyman showed. The Middle East aviation market is heavily dependent on international travel, which has been slower to rebound to pre-pandemic levels than domestic travel. The region benefitted from air traffic around events like the Expo 2020 in Dubai and FIFA World Cup in Qatar. André Martins, Partner at Oliver Wyman in India, the Middle East and Africa, said: "The aviation industry has played a very important role in the growth of the Middle East region. The well-established players are continuously revamping their commercial models and operations to be ready for waves of growth. Now new players entering the market, and countries are revamping their offerings across the entire value chain. As a result, officials expect the Middle East aviation industry to continue to gain importance at the global level. The Middle East's share of the global fleet will grow over the decade from 4.9 per cent in 2023 to six per cent in 2033. Meanwhile, the global fleet is projected to expand one-third by 2033, to well over 36,000 aircraft. The report also anticipated a record number of aircraft deliveries over the next 10 years despite current supply chain constraints. The Middle East fleet's growth over the next decade will primarily be driven by the addition of narrow bodies. Historically, the Middle Eastern fleet has been primarily made up of wide bodies. But moving forward, narrow-bodies will increase to 48 per cent of the fleet from 39 per cent, while wide-bodies will decline to 48 per cent from 56 per cent.

Source -Boeing

Middle Eastern carriers launch flights to Brazil and Argentina

Argentinians and Brazilians celebrated the launch of new flights between their countries and the Arab world. During the ITB Berlin Convention in March, Qatar Airways announced that it will resume several international flights, including one to Argentina. Since 2010, the airline had a daily flight between Doha and Buenos Aires with a stopover in the Brazilian city of Sao Paulo, but it was cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic. Officials discussed a potential flight between Abu Dhabi and Buenos Aires. Etihad operated a flight to Sao Paulo years ago, and now Argentina is seen as a possible destination in the airline's expansion plan.

Source – Arab News



The US has a record number of flights to ME in summer

The US will have more Middle East flights this summer than any other summer. OAG data reveals that there will be more than 11,300 departing flights, 10 per cent more flights than the previous record, held in the summer of 2022, and 30 per cent more than in the summer of 2019. The Kuwait flag carrier will have the smallest offering at 217 departing flights, the greatest amount since the summer of 2018. Next is Delta. It has three Middle East routes, with 403 departures. It will start Atlanta-Tel Aviv, the Sky Team member's first Middle East link from its busiest hub after Atlanta-Dubai ended in 2016.

Source –Simple Flying

Dubai to break tourism records in 2023

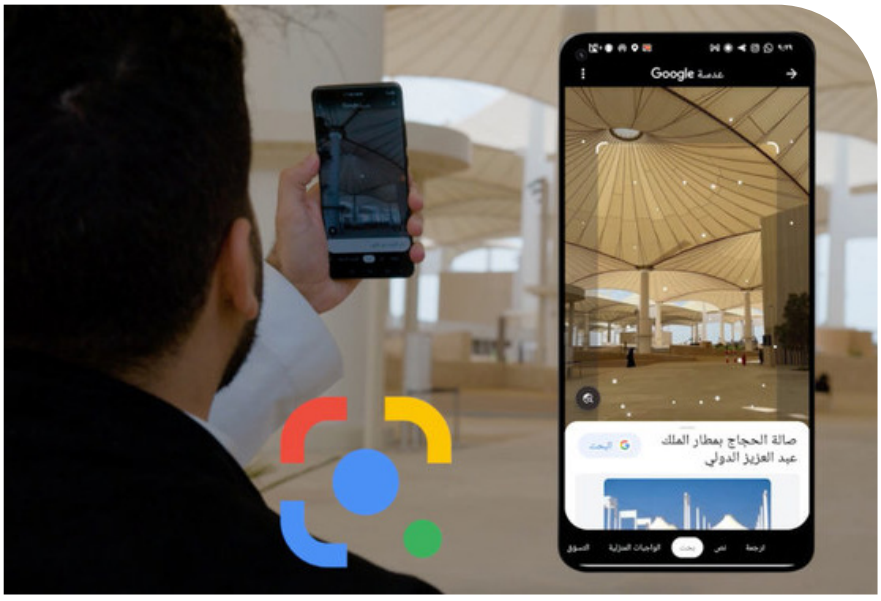


Dubai, the world's fourth most visited tourist destination, has received 3.1 million visitors in the first two months of 2023, with numbers exceeding pre-pandemic levels in February. Dubai is all set to even break its 2019 record of 16.73 million visitors this year, according to a report by Emirates NBD. The number of visitors in January was up 50 per cent year-on-year but was still nine per cent below pre-pandemic levels. In February, there were 1.63 million visitors, up 35 per cent year-on-year and up seven per cent on pre-pandemic levels. Western Europe was the largest source of visitors overall in January and February, making up 22 per cent of the total volume, followed by the Gulf countries and South Asia, each making up 16 per cent. India was the largest source of tourists, with 401,000 visitors in January and February, followed by Russia with 229,000, Oman with 201,000 and Saudi Arabia with 183,000 and the United Kingdom with 196,000. Visitor numbers from Saudi Arabia are still around one-third below pre-pandemic levels for January and February, while the number of visitors from Oman was 15 per cent above Jan-Feb 2019 levels. China, one of the largest sources of visitors to Dubai in the last decade, recorded 52,000 visitors in January and February, down 75 per cent for the same period in 2019.

Source - Zawya

Google does a Saudi tourism campaign

Google, the most popular fully-automated search engine and the most visited website on earth with more than 8.5 billion searches a day has launched a new video-based campaign in collaboration with Saudi creators, to promote tourism in the port city of Jeddah. Called "Let's Go with Google," the campaign features three road trip experiences in the city, during which Saudi content creators explore the region with the help of Google. The videos are in Arabic but feature English subtitles to reach as wide an audience as possible. The first episode featured Sultan Al-Badran and Mosab Al-Maliki. It highlighted the artistic and cultural side of Jeddah, showcasing the Islamic Arts Biennale and Hayy Jameel, an arts complex and creative hub in the city. The second episode focused on history and feature the UNESCO World Heritage Site Al-Balad, while the third highlighted nature in Jeddah as seen on a boat trip in the Red Sea. Saudi content creators used various Google products in the videos, such as Search, Maps and Lens, to explore the different areas.



Source - Arab News

Biggest-ever hiring drive by Chinese airlines

Airlines in China have undertaken the biggest hiring drives in more than three years and are facing a deluge of applicants for cabin crew roles as fresh university graduates turn to a relatively high-paying careers. In contrast to Western countries, becoming a flight attendant in China typically requires a bachelor's degree and preferably passing a challenging government-administrated English test. During the pandemic, the total number of flight attendants in China fell by around 11,000, or an 11 per cent drop from the pre-pandemic level of 108,955 in 2019, according to the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC), due to attrition. Xiamen Airlines, China Southern Airlines and Spring Airlines and others are now on a hiring spree as domestic travel recovers and they plan to resume flights to popular international destinations. They can pick from an overwhelming number of applicants at a time when a record 11.58 million college graduates are about to enter one of the country's worst job markets in decades. Hainan Airlines, which plans to hire more than 1,000 flight attendants this year, has already received more than 20,000 applications.

Source – Reuters



United expands international flight options

United Airlines has confirmed that it will fly to 114 different international cities in the summer of 2023, expanding flights by 25 per cent compared to 2022 to meet the sharp increase in demand for travel outside of the US. According to United booking data, international bookings in March were 15 per cent higher than in the same month in 2022. Highlights of United's 2023 summer schedule include new service to Malaga, Dubai and Stockholm; additional flights to Rome, Paris, Barcelona, Berlin, Shannon, Edinburgh and Naples; almost two dozen daily flights to London Heathrow; service to Amman, the Azores, Palma de Mallorca and Tenerife; expanded service to Australia, serving Sydney, Melbourne and Brisbane; 10 daily transpacific flights to Tokyo-Haneda, Tokyo-Narita and Osaka; twice-daily flights to Seoul, South Korea from San Francisco; and service to Hong Kong from San Francisco. Patrick Quayle, Senior VP for Global Network Planning and Alliances, said with unprecedented demand for travel overseas, the Star Alliance member has more service to popular cities while also adding new and unique destinations for passengers to explore.

Source - Japan Today

Turkish Airlines to have 800 aircraft by 2033

The 90-year-old Turkish Airlines has announced its future growth plans for a decade ending in 2033. The national airline, which in 1933 started operations with five aircraft, has significantly expanded its fleet to 390 aircraft. The airline's fleet has an average age of 10.2 years. Its current fleet includes a variety of aircraft types like A319, A320, A321, A330, A350, Boeing 737, 737 MAX, 777 and 787 Dreamliner. The carrier aims to increase its fleet to 435 aircraft in 2023. It has an even more ambitious goal of reaching a fleet size of 800 aircraft by 2033, growing its passenger network to 400 destinations. Turkish Airlines currently has 72 aircraft on order, including 49 A321s, 14 A350s, and nine Boeing 787 Dreamliner. In 2022, the airline closed its year with US$2.7 billion in net income, overshadowing several other European and US carriers with its financial success. The airline's passenger revenue grew by 28 per cent, US$14.3 billion, compared to 2021. It would aim to boost its consolidated revenue to US$50 billion by the end of 2033. In addition, the carrier aims to achieve a seven per cent average annual growth rate to double its passenger capacity by 2033, to carry 170 million passengers by that year. This would be a significant increase from the goal to carry over 85 million in 2023. The airline flew 71.8 million passengers across 2022, at three per cent below pre-pandemic levels.

Source – Simple Flying

Nigerian carrier gets closer to IATA membership

Nigeria's Ibom Air has achieved the global industry safety standard by obtaining its IATA's Operational Safety Audit Certificate. This brings it a step closer to full membership of the global airline body, International Air Transport Association (IATA). Thirty-seven airlines operate flights through Nigeria, with 26 airlines operating on international routes and 11 airlines on domestic routes. This airline commenced operations about three years ago. In 2021, only five Nigerian airlines completed and passed the global safety certification by the IATA. The IATA Operational Safety Audit (IOSA) is a global industry standard for safety auditing, and certification is an excellent achievement for any airline. For 20 years, IOSA has become the industry benchmark in safety auditing, enhancing safety performance, and providing extensive cost-saving measures for participating airlines. The program is vital for airlines as it is a condition for IATA membership. The industry body continues to develop the IOSA Standards and Recommended Practices (ISARPs) in cooperation with industry partners. It uses internationally recognized quality auditing concepts to analyze an airline's operational management and safety controls for consistent certification. This has made IOSA the worldwide standard for airline safety and operational evaluation. The audit of Ibom Air was conducted in the second half of 2022, about three years since its regional service commenced.

Source –Simple Flying



India is to have 22,907 departures per week for the 2023 summer

India's civil aviation regulator has approved the schedule of airlines for the summer of 2023. This year's summer schedule will also have 10.1 per cent more flights than the corresponding period of last year - when capacity restrictions were imposed on the sector. The government approved the airline's domestic summer schedule for 2022, with 3.7 per cent more flights than the pre-pandemic level. This year's summer schedule will also have 10.1 per cent more flights than the corresponding period of last year - when capacity restrictions were imposed on the sector. The summer schedule is valid until October-end. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said it approved the summer flight schedule of 25,309 domestic flights.



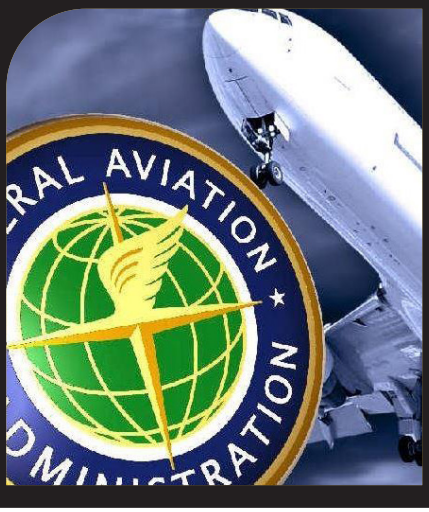
The summer schedule 2020 had an approved flight roster of 24,409 flights, while the approved flight strength was 22,980 in 2021. The 25,309 departures per week have been finalized to and from 112 airports. Out of these 112 airports — Gondia, Ziro and Pondicherry — are the new airports proposed by the scheduled airlines. In terms of airlines, IndiGo had the highest number of flights approved under the schedule. The airline had 11,130 flights approved followed by SpiceJet at 4,192, GoAir (now known as GoFirst) at 2,557 and Air India at 2,456. Furthermore, Vistara had an approved flight strength of 1,741 and AirAsia India at 1,601. In addition, Alliance Air had 982 flights approved, TruJet at 355, Fly Big at 158 and Star Air at 137.

Source –ANI

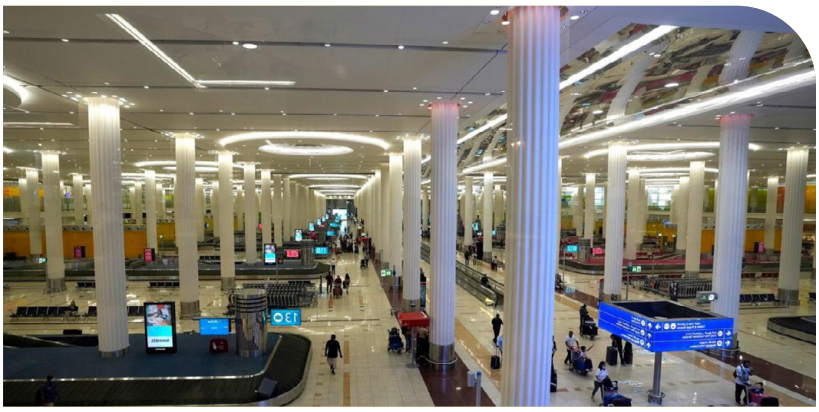
FAA finds India has aviation safety global standards

India, one of the world's largest aviation markets, has retained the US Federal Aviation Administration's International Aviation Safety Assessment Category-1 status. Carriers of Category 1 countries are permitted to operate services to destinations in the US and establish codeshare agreements with US air carriers. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has informed the Directorate-General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) that India meets international standards for aviation safety oversight of the Chicago Convention and continues to retain FAA International Aviation Safety Assessment (IASA) Category 1 status. Based on the positive outcomes of the assessment and follow-ups, the FAA informed DGCA in mid-April that India meets the international standards for aviation safety oversight of the Chicago Convention and continues to retain FAA IASA Category 1 status, which was last assessed in July 2018. In the recent audit by International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), India scored an Effective Implementation (EI) of 85.65 per cent from the previous EI of 69.95 per cent, a significant jump in its global ranking.

Source –Mint



Dubai is fifth among the Top 10 busiest airports



Dubai has been listed among the top 10 busiest airports in the world by passenger numbers in 2022, based on the total number of departing, arriving, transferring and direct passengers. The list is based on figures from Airports Council International (ACI). Dubai has been ranked fifth as it handled a total of 68,340,619 passengers in 2022. The ACI World said the top four airports remained the same as 2021, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta welcoming 93.7 million passengers (+23.8 per cent) to retain the top spot in 2022.

It is followed by Dallas/Fort Worth with 73.4 million (+17.5 per cent), Denver in third with 69.3 million (+17.8 per cent), and Chicago O'Hare in fourth with 68.3 million (+26.5 per cent). The ACI Director General, Luis Felipe de Oliveira, says the new top 10 busiest airports for passenger traffic reflect the resilience of the airport and aviation industry, and the eagerness of passengers to travel by air. While US airport hubs were able to recover quicker due to their strong domestic market, we are now witnessing global hubs joining upper ranks – including Dubai, Istanbul, and London Heathrow, he said. Preliminary figures indicate that with the resumption of international travel, global passenger traffic soared by 53.5 per cent to close to seven billion passengers in 2022 – 73.8 per cent of the total handled in 2019.

Source –International Airport Review

Navi Mumbai Airport to be ready by 2024-end

Navi Mumbai International Airport's first phase will start operations by end of 2024. After the completion of phase one in December 2024, the remaining phases will be implemented over the next 15 years subject to passenger availability and external connectivity. The government had earlier promised it would be ready by end of 2019. Mumbai's only airport, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, is running to capacity and airlines have struggled in securing airport slots to schedule more flights. The new airport would have an annual capacity to handle 2.5 metric tons of cargo per annum once completed. The news came after several reports mentioned that the operations of the airport will be deferred to 2025. As per media reports, officials said the airport to be ready by December 2024, and testing and trials to begin in 2025 before opening it to the public.

Source –The Hindu



Malaga airport gets the third-highest passenger numbers in Spain

Malaga Airport handled 3.7 million passengers in the Q1 of 2023, the third-highest in Spain. It is the fourth busiest airport in Spain after Madrid–Barajas, Barcelona and Palma de Mallorca. Spanish airport operator AENA said Malaga-Costa del Sol Airport had a remarkable performance. This figure is 8.7 per cent more than in 2019 and 35.4 per cent more than last year. As a result, it placed third overall in Spain, ahead of other major tourist destinations such as Palma de Mallorca and Tenerife South.

In March alone, almost one and a half million passengers (1,475,066) and more than 10,900 flights were registered in Malaga. These were 9 per cent and 11.4 per cent higher, respectively than those recorded in the same month of 2019, before the pandemic. AENA's network airports carried a total of 53.6 million passengers in the first quarter of the year. This was 41.6 per cent more than in the same period of 2022 and 1.6 per cent more than in the first three months of 2019. Between January and March, 491,344 aircraft movements were recorded, 0.1 per cent more than in 2019. Also, 251,593 tons of cargo were transported, which is 0.5 per cent more than in the same period of 2019. Of the 1,475,066 passengers passing through Malaga Airport, 1,471,100 corresponded to commercial connections.

Source –Euro Weekly News

San Antonio Airport unveils its 'reimagined' new terminal

San Antonio International Airport, built in 1942, has unveiled preliminary designs for its new terminal. The Terminal Development Program will "reimagine the passenger experience – creating a sense of place for everyone arriving in San Antonio". It is on schedule for completion in mid-2028. With over 10 million passengers served, 2019 was a record-breaking year for SAT. In all of 2021, more than 7.4 million passengers flew through the San Antonio airport, a jump of 85 per cent over the previous year. The airport is supporting over 97,000 jobs and provides nearly US$1.6 billion in annual earnings for workers and proprietors. Jesus Saenz, Director of Airports at San Antonio Airport System, says when people step off at the airport, there will be no question where they've arrived. The thoughtful way nature is being incorporated into the design will make them feel welcomed. And their experience getting through the airport will be even easier than it is now.

Source - Future Travel Experience

Two UK airports scrap liquid limit

London City Airport and Teesside International Airport have started using new scanners to enable passengers to bring greater volumes of liquid in hand luggage through security. The 100ml-liquid limit was introduced in 2006 in response to the transatlantic aircraft plot, a foiled terrorist plan to smuggle liquid explosives disguised as soft drinks onto aircraft flying from the UK to the US and Canada. However, new technology could be about to change that and increase the volume of liquid permitted per container 20-fold to two litres.

By taking a 3D X-RAY image of luggage as it goes through security, similar to that made by a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scanner, the newly-adopted C3 scanners can distinguish between dangerous and non-dangerous liquids. It also means there is no longer a requirement to place all liquids in a separate plastic bag. While this dramatic departure from what has been the norm for airport security for almost two decades should speed up the process, and will certainly make a difference when it comes to travelling with toiletries and sun cream, it also means that bottles of wine, spirits and beer can be transported in hand luggage. The plan is to roll this technology out to all UK airports by June of next year. If this technology is adopted worldwide (it is already present in several US airports), it could conceivably have a knock-on effect on the travel drinks retail sector, as several passengers may be more inclined to buy bottles at their holiday destination to bring them home, rather than in the airport.

Source – The Drinks Business

Airports ramping up digital technology investments



Luis Felipe de Oliveira
Director-General
ACI World

The pandemic and the subsequent recovery have highlighted the importance of the digitalization of airport operations as a crucial element for the overall airport customer experience. Airports are making a significant acceleration in the investment of digital solutions to become smarter and easier for passengers to navigate. The IT Insights Survey by ACI World, the trade body for the global airport with 1925 airports in 171 countries as members, and SITA, the air transport industry's IT provider with around 2,500 customers, revealed accelerated digitalization will be key to more resilient and agile airport operations. The 2022 survey, revealed how airports are ramping up their investment in technology to digitalize their operations and streamline the passenger journey through more self-service options. The most extensive study of IT trends within the global airport industry revealed that with the quicker-than-expected recovery of air travel demand, Chief Information Officers (CIOs) are eager to leverage IT solutions to fortify their operations against disruption while automating the passenger experience. The industry's IT spending is projected to continue its steady year-on-year growth trend since 2020 to support this push for digitalization, with 93 per cent of airports expecting their IT spending to stay the same or increase in 2023 compared to 2022. Last year's airport IT spending rose to an estimated US$6.8 billion. Airports are investing in key technologies to smoothen the passenger experience across every step of the journey to help curb bottlenecks and alleviate pressure caused by workforce challenges. Biometrics and self-service technologies are at the forefront of this change. Airports are prioritizing self-service initiatives, placing a strong emphasis on self-check-in and self-bag-drop, with 86 per cent planning implementation by 2025. Airports' implementation of a secure single biometric token across all touch-points has surged from a mere three per cent in 2021 to 39 per cent in 2022, with over half planning implementation over the next three years. This signals a strong commitment to the next-generation travel experience where passengers can breeze through the airport using their face as their boarding pass. Demand for cloud services features high on the CIO agenda. It is central to optimizing cost, driving efficiency, and introducing new passenger services. Cloud services also offer scalability, which is crucial to managing sudden peaks in passenger volumes. Business intelligence solutions are also at the forefront of airport IT investment priorities, with 93 per cent or more planning business intelligence initiatives for asset management and flight operations by 2025. The emphasis on agility, adaptability to disruption, and prompt communication with customers and stakeholders is clear: by 2025, a majority of airports are seeking to implement automated predictive alerts before flight disruption events as well as business intelligence initiatives to enable the scaling of operations based on demand. Air travel has recovered faster from the pandemic than anyone in the industry had initially expected, particularly in Europe and the US. Digitalization is seen as key to addressing the current challenges, providing more scalability and flexibility.

Pursuing the 'Airport City 'strategy

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region has unveiled a sustainable and balanced budget for 2023-24. The budget emphasized high-quality economic development in the post-pandemic era and transitioned to moderately loose fiscal policies. Our economy is expected to see a visible rebound. This year's Budget is in line with the current-term government's policy direction, that is, to develop our economy and improve people's livelihood under a result-oriented approach and in a pragmatic manner. Attracting enterprises and talent remains high on the agenda, with a commitment to developing the digital economy. For the financial year, the second-highest fiscal deficit in Hong Kong's history HKD139.8 billion has been announced. The deficit is mainly due to softer stock and property markets, reduced revenue from tax and land premiums, and relief measures. Our post-pandemic economic recovery has remained nascent. The government has tightened relief measures to balance the need to sustain the public finances and support economic recovery. The government's plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area advocates for the development of high-value-added aircraft leasing and aviation financing services. The government is planning to introduce measures to enhance the aircraft leasing preferential tax regime to maintain and improve its competitiveness. The Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) was the third busiest airport in terms of international passenger throughput around the globe. It was also the world's busiest cargo airport for several years. To support the recovery of air traffic, the Airport Authority Hong Kong is rolling out a series of measures, which include reducing or waiving airport charges, providing incentives to resume suspended flight services or launch new routes and organizing large-scale promotion activities. The government and the Authorities are examining the medium-to-long-term manpower shortage situation in the aviation industry, to identify solutions to the problem. To enhance Hong Kong's status as an international aviation hub, we are pressing ahead with the 'Airport City; development strategy, under which the HKIA will be developed into a node of various economic activities with aviation as its core business. Several infrastructure projects of the HKIA will be completed and commissioned, including the Sky Pier Terminal which will commence operation in the middle of 2023 and the entire Three Runway System which is expected to be completed by 2024-end. The HKIA will have its capacity substantially increased and its position as a regional multi modal transportation hub further enhanced. These developments will significantly boost passenger and cargo traffic of the HKIA, creating tremendous opportunities for activities such as aircraft repair and maintenance. Plans are on to construct a new aviation business park on Airport Island, and we exploring building an aviation industrial park in Zhuhai. The HKIA is also actively taking forward the integrated commercial development project of SKYCITY. Moreover, the logistics infrastructure will be strengthened to further expand the business of high-value goods and e-commerce. The site will be developed into a vibrant hub of commerce, conventions and exhibitions, tourism, lifestyle and logistics. The government will enhance the aircraft leasing preferential tax regime, striving to establish Hong Kong as an aircraft leasing and services hub.

Edited excerpts from the budget speech



Paul Chan
Financial Secretary
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Billund Cargo Hub opened

Global logistic services provider Maersk has opened a cargo hub in central Denmark's town of Billund. With a population of about 6,742 residents, Billund, home of Lego is where the building blocks of Maersk Air Cargo's future strategy in Europe have been laid. Billund Hub is home to a fully equipped 4000 square metres import and 13,000 square metres export facility. It has separate areas for cold storage, dangerous goods, scanning and Unit Load Device (ULD) handling. Billund Airport is conventionally small among the European airports, with 29 airlines flying to 67 destinations and estimated passenger traffic of 3.5 million annually. Comparatively, Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam hosts 72 airlines flying to 270 destinations and total passenger traffic of 52.2 million in 2022. For customers, this means transit is more reliable, with flights being traditionally less susceptible to congestion and delays at smaller airports. However, the key benefits at Billund stem from Maersk being the airport's number one customer on the ground. Maersk aircraft are subject to priority loading and unloading by the crew. Not only would loading and unloading take considerably longer at larger airports further down the priority list, but recent months have seen ground handling issues across Europe causing significant delays and flight schedule alterations. With Maersk having its own pilots, maintenance staff, operations and forwarding teams on-site at Billund together with a self-controlled aircraft network, there are fewer external entities to rely on within operations – adding further reliability benefits to customers. The company has seen an overwhelmingly positive response from customers and the market on the establishment of Billund as a European hub for Maersk Air Cargo. Reliable flights in and out of Europe are just one piece of the puzzle for businesses using the Billund Hub, as connecting the dots of the supply chain also requires onward, integrated and flexible transportation solutions.

Source – Maersk



Foreign carriers dominate India's international air cargo

India's air cargo traffic volume is estimated to have stood flat in Financial Yea 2023 over the previous fiscal at 3.14 million tons, much below the 3.5 million tons recorded in Financial Year 2019. Industry players say total cargo volumes are almost the same for two consecutive fiscals as demand is yet to bounce back to pre-pandemic levels. Of the Financial Year 2023 cargo volumes, 1.84 million tons was international cargo (both exports and imports) and the remaining 1.30 million tons was domestic. Significantly, a lion's share of the shipments in and out of India was taken by the foreign air operators, who command around 94-95 per cent of the market while the remaining five to six per cent is cornered by the Indian air operators and that too is carried out through airlines that have wide-body aircraft offering larger belly space compared to a narrow-body aircraft. Apart from carrying cargo in the belly space, there are dedicated foreign freight carriers like FedEx with over 400 freighter aircraft, UPS having 290 and DHL with 215.



Source - CNBC TV18

Lufthansa Cargo gets new CEO

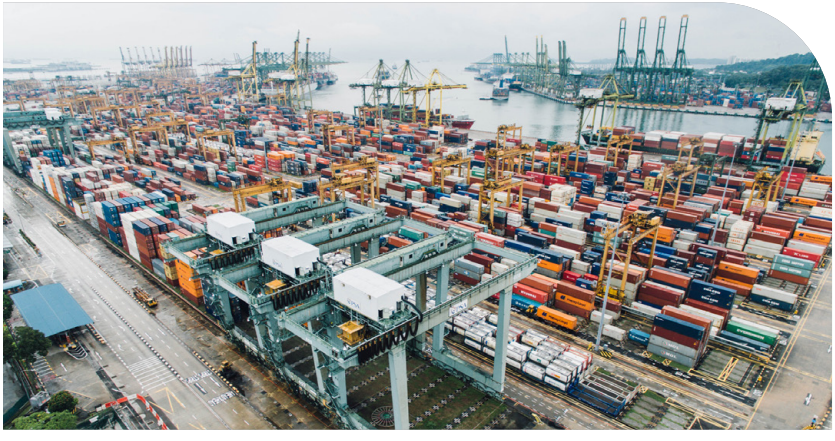
Lufthansa Cargo, one of the world's largest air freight and logistic services companies operating from Frankfurt Airport, has got a new CEO. In mid-April, Indian Ashwin Bhat replaced Dorothea von Boxberg who had been appointed by the Lufthansa Group as the CEO of Brussels Airlines, one of the four Lufthansa Group network airlines. In 2021, he was appointed to the executive board of Lufthansa Cargo as the CCO. In his new role, he will continue to be responsible for product and sales, according to Dr Michael Niggemann, Chairman of the Lufthansa Cargo supervisory board. He called him a skilled manager and internationally experienced logistics and cargo expert. As a member of the Executive Board, he has played a key role in achieving Lufthansa Cargo's most successful years till now. As CEO, he will further develop the company and expand its strong market positioning, he said. Lufthansa Cargo will continue to be managed by a three-member executive board. This is the third executive board member appointment that is combined with a new distribution of responsibilities. A former University of Mumbai chemistry graduate, he headed the cargo business segment at Swiss International Air Lines.

Source –ITLN

A new digital logistics platform streamlines the shipping process

ECU 360, a new digital air freight service, has been launched. The service is a value-added offering to ECU360's customers based in the US, leveraging technology to improve the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of air freight operations. ECU Worldwide has already provided air freight services to 780 customers in the US, exporting to 310 airports across 174 countries. The company has built a platform that streamlines the entire air freight process, from quoting to booking, including real-time tracking and live schedules. Through the latest technology, the company aims to offer a faster, more efficient, and cost-effective way to move goods globally. Traditional air freight processes can be slow, lack efficiency, and are costly, making it challenging for businesses to move their goods quickly and cost-effectively. The company is strong on the LCL network and will soon launch air imports on our platform. The digital platform also offers domestic trucking and insurance, which enhances our range of value-added services.

Source – Yahoo





Maersk launch new US-China air cargo link

To meet the end-to-end logistics needs of its customers, A P Moller-Maersk is introducing two new air freight services in May with regular flights linking the US with China. The company's new customer-backed air corridor is expected to plug a connectivity gap between the world's two largest markets for ocean customers, with solutions for time-sensitive and high-value cargo via new air services. With the introduction of the new routes, the company is further connecting North America and Asia Pacific through regular flights and controlled capacity for the customers. Maersk will commence with two weekly flights between Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport and Shenyang Taoxian International Airport and with two weekly flights between Chicago Rockford International Airport and Hangzhou Xiao Shan International Airport. Both services will be increased to three weekly flights. It has opened a new Chicago air freight gateway facility to add more supply chain integration opportunities for customers using Chicago O'Hare International and Rockford International.

Source – Maersk

Incheon Airport gets a surface surveillance system

ERA, a global leader in surveillance and reconnaissance technology, has extended its surface surveillance system at the Incheon International Airport in Seoul. The end user, Incheon International Airport Corporation (IIAC), accepted the SAT procedure of the first phase of the planned extension and thus the enhanced system has gone fully operational. The ERA is currently getting ready to start the second phase of its extension and modernization. In 2017, ERA installed its MLAT system as part of the A-SGMCS system for the airport in Seoul, which covers not only the airport area but also 20 nautical miles of TMA. ERA was contracted by IIAC again to extend the coverage of the airport premises due to the construction of the airport's fourth runway, new cargo terminal and several new aprons. To meet the requirements, the Czech company delivered a dozen new Ground Stations of its tried and tested system NEO using ERA's original and unique central time architecture; the number of GS has increased by one quarter. The modernization of several Central Processing Stations including new servers was also part of the task. ERA cooperated on the project with a Korean partner.

Source - Air Traffic Management



Italian carrier joins Iris Air Traffic Modernization Program



Digitally-connected flights to and from Italy will be available from the summer of 2023 as ITA Airways rolls out the European Space Agency (ESA) and Inmarsat's ground-breaking Iris data link technology to the cockpits of its full aircraft fleet, contributing to airspace modernization in Europe. ITA Airways will be the first full-service carrier in Europe to join Iris. The program enables aircraft to fly more fuel-efficient routes by providing digital satellite communications to complement the VHF data link, which is nearing a capacity crunch in congested airspace. Without fast and reliable data links between aircraft and the ground, air traffic managers cannot unlock the 8-10 per cent reduction in CO2 emissions identified by Eurocontrol from improved Air Traffic Management (ATM). Iris will allow ATM players to better anticipate and collaborate to maximize airspace use, reducing the impact of disruptions for passengers while reducing emissions. The national carrier will equip its full fleet of new Airbus A320neo and A330neo aircraft deliveries with Inmarsat's Swift Broadband-Safety (SB-S), the award-winning platform flying on more than 230 aircraft globally, which powers Iris.

Source – Business Wire

DFS gets apron control services at Lima Airport

DFS Aviation Services (DAS) has taken over the apron control at Jorge Chávez International Airport in Lima. Lima Airport Partners, operator of the airport and part of the Fraport Group, selected DAS in 2022 as the new service provider for apron control services. After several months of training, local DAS experts have been working collaboratively in a smooth transfer process with the previous apron control provider CORPAC. The most important tasks include the management of taxiing traffic and the allocation of positions at the airport. It should be noted that CORPAC will continue as the national air traffic operator, and DFS only will be in charge of the platform management operations. For the opening of the new terminal in 2025, DAS will convert Apron Management Services to remote apron control services and will henceforth control and monitor local taxiing traffic remotely from an operations room within the new terminal using camera technology.

Source - Air Traffic Management

SA's air traffic navigation procedures suspended

The South Africa Civil Aviation Authority has suspended certain air traffic navigation procedures at more than 10 airports – it has a total of 23 airports. As of the financial year 2018/19, over 21.1 million passengers departed from airports in South Africa. This was due to noncompliance found during an audit. An affected procedure could include the instrument landing system (ILS) - usually used when visibility is poor. The SACAA said aircraft are still able to land in good visual conditions. It confirmed that, as part of its routine oversight activities, the Air Traffic and Navigation Services (ATNS) was audited in line with the requirements of the Civil Aviation Regulations. Where it was found that ATNS was not compliant with maintaining each flight approval procedure as prescribed, the ATNS had to submit a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) demonstrating the mitigation of safety risks that emanates from this non-compliance. While the SACAA found some of these mitigations acceptable, the ATNS had not submitted mitigation measures for all the affected procedures. As a result, the SACAA suspended those procedures until a satisfactory level of aviation safety is achieved. According to the SACAA, the suspension period is 'very fluid', and is dependent on ATNS submitting measures that, after being evaluated, mitigate safety risks.

Source - News24



Kolkata to control largest continental air space

Air traffic control officers (ATCO) s at Kolkata airport from May-end will be in charge of 1.7 lakh square kilometres of Varanasi upper airspace 24x7 that will help flights to Delhi from Kolkata and elsewhere in the east, Northeast and even beyond secure direct routing or straight flight path to the capital. Direct routing will mean efficient flight paths and hence, less travel time, which in turn, will result in fuel savings and contribute to making the sky a little greener. Moreover, it will also make the sky safer by eliminating the possibility of conflicting flight paths. With direct routing, pilots don't need to change frequency. This means less coordination load on both pilots and controllers. It also enables controllers to enhance capacity by packing in more flights as the entire sky is under radar coverage.

Source –The Times of India

Australia to recruit up to 140 trainee controllers

Airservices Australia, responsible for the management of the country's skies, is looking to recruit 140 trainee air traffic controllers every year. Different sections of airspace and altitudes are carved up and split between the roughly 100 desks in the Melbourne control room. Between this room and a similar one in Brisbane, Australian air-traffic controllers manage 11 per cent of the world's airspace, 24 hours a day. Melbourne's scope includes international waters out to the south of Sri Lanka, and on the other end, halfway to New Zealand. It seeks to increase the 900 operational air-traffic controllers it currently employs working in en route, or mid-air, control; at towers at airports, handling take-off and landing; and terminal controllers who manage between the two stages. Many in the aviation industry have vented frustrations at a shortage of air-traffic controllers in Australia, especially since a retirement program in 2021 saw more than 140 controllers leave. Qantas blames the shortage for a spike in delays and cancellations, particularly in Sydney. Airservices insists weather, not staff shortages, are causing an increase in GDPs, but that these can't be the sole cause of a surge in airlines' delays and cancellations that have become more common of late. It Airservices aims to recruit up to 140 air-traffic controller trainees a year to its college in Melbourne, and an aviation background is no prerequisite, nor is an education in any specific field.

Source –The Guardian



Partnership for Australian UAM infrastructure

Skyway and Skyportz have announced a partnership agreement to advance Australian UAM operations. Skyway will contribute its expertise in urban airspace navigation, vertiport planning and development, and vertiport management systems. Melbourne-based Skyportz has local knowledge of and an extensive network of potential landing sites across the continent. “This partnership is a significant step towards unlocking the potential of UAM,” says Clifford Cruz, CEO of Skyway. “By combining our strengths in airspace management, vertiport planning and development, and management systems with Skyportz’s vast network of potential landing sites, we are at the forefront of this transformative industry.” A vertiport is a type of transportation infrastructure designed for vertical takeoff and landing (VTOL) vehicles, such as helicopters, tilt rotors, and electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft. It serves as a landing and takeoff area for these vehicles and provides facilities for passengers and cargo handling. Vertiports can be located in urban or suburban areas and can be used for a variety of purposes, such as air taxi services, emergency medical services, law enforcement, search and rescue operations, and corporate transportation. They can also be used for sightseeing tours and other leisure activities.

Source - Aviation Source News



Now a drone that can record videos in 8K



DJI, a company known for making drones for both casual and professional use cases, has updated its professional lineup with a new drone - Inspire 3. The new product is aimed at production houses and features improved sensors, connectivity options and design compared to its predecessor, which was launched back in 2016. Inspire 3 has one of the lightest frames ever and also features a night vision FPV camera that can record videos in 4K or live stream video to a compatible pair of glasses or remote control. The new drone can use the new Waypoint Pro options as well, which lets pilots fly the drone in exact patterns and routes multiple times and at different times of the day. It can fly up to 28 minutes on a single charge. It also features a new image processing system, supports 8K recording at 25fps and can even record in 8K at 75fps. Users will also be able to mount select Sony E-mount lenses. DJI Inspire 3 uses the company’s real-time kinematic positioning technology that helps accurately locate and repeat movements with centimetres of accuracy which ensures multiple shots of one scene look the same almost every time. The new drone comes with an RC Plus remote control with a 7-inch screen and 1,200 nits display and a battery that can last up to 3.3 hours.

Source –Indian Express

Researchers resurrect dead birds as hi-tech drones

Researchers in the US have taken an unconventional approach to wildlife monitoring using dead birds. They are working to kit out the taxidermy birds with drones to give them a new mechanical lease on life. They can now use re-engineered birds and dead birds and make them into a drone. And the only thing that they need to provide them to make them alive is to basically design an attrition mechanism, put it in their body, and everything is there. The team analyzed the weight, flapping frequency and angle of the bird when it was alive to create something similar. The team do not yet have the capabilities to test their soup-up birds with a real flock in nature, opting for the time being to run experiments inside a purpose-built drone cage filled with fake mechanical birds. This allows them to study the formation and flight of flocks of migratory birds. Despite the benefits of this technology, the use of drones has also raised privacy concerns.

Source –Euro News

ASL Airlines gets LUC for a cargo drone



ASL Future Flight, the Ireland subsidiary of ASL Airlines, has been awarded a Light UAS Aircraft Systems Operator Certificate (LUC) by the Irish Aviation Authority. The LUC is an optional operational certificate which guarantees some privileges to its holder, up to the possibility to start commercial drone operations without operational authorization from the IAA such as the delivery of light cargo over a short range. It will be used by ASL Future Flight to train and gain experience in drone operations before moving on to heavier and longer-range operations. ASL Airlines Ireland (ASLI) is one of seven airlines in the Dublin-based ASL Aviation Holdings group operating cargo flights globally for the express parcel and e-commerce markets. ASLI has a fleet of 40 aircraft and customers include FedEx, DHL and Amazon. Future Flight's LUC allows for operations under PDRA-S01, which is a Pre-defined Risk Assessment scenario published by the European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and adopted by the IAA. It authorizes flights by a drone with a maximum take-off weight (MTOW) of 25 kg. Operations under PDRA-S01 include short-range cargo operations which would typically allow the delivery of small packages up to about five kilograms. This is the first step in future-proofing ASL's capabilities to meet the operational requirements of new unmanned flight technologies and licensing.

ASL Future Flight will begin training and flight testing while considering plans for an unmanned flight using larger drones. These will require a Certified Category Authorization very similar to an airline Air Operators Certificate. A Dublin-based company worked closely with ASL Future Flight and developed the manual suite for the LUC including the operations manual. ASL is exploring new flight technologies through ASL Cargo Vision, a forum of 15 companies involved in unmanned flight, large drone or unmanned aircraft and sustainable flight using hybrid electric and hydrogen fuels. ASL Future Flight will begin an initial test flight program in the coming times and plans for commercial activities will be announced later this year.

Source - The Loadstar

SkyDrop gets New Zealand CAA approval



SkyDrop has been approved by New Zealand's Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to launch its first drone hub in Huntly. This makes it the first company in New Zealand to obtain approval for live store-to-door drone delivery, which also covers certain beyond visual line-of-sight operations. SkyDrop creates aircraft, supporting software and launch platforms to provide customers around the globe with drone delivery solutions. The company's delivery service provides faster and more affordable delivery for local communities, while also lowering traffic congestion and greenhouse emissions. With the new approval, the company will be able to launch its first drone hub in Huntly, opening up access to a reliable stream of revenue through deliveries, benefitting SkyDrop as well as its customers. The approval had been granted by the CAA following a comprehensive review of SkyDrop's technology and operating procedures, and after years of extensive testing conducted in both the US and New Zealand. The process was aided by SkyDrop's leading safety technology, featuring an onboard Parachute Recovery System reviewed by the CAA.

Source – Drone Life

New AI system offers potential ATM solutions



A new Artificial Intelligence technology developed at Malardalens University (MDU) in Sweden is promising to help air traffic controllers by calculating delay lengths and predicting various interruptions. This system, in addition to predicting disruptions and communicating necessary updates to customers, can even help prevent disruptions from occurring. The AI system prototype was developed by researchers at MDU and is aimed at helping operators in air traffic management (ATM) to handle airspaces and aircraft more efficiently. It will do so by helping operators create and maintain optimized traffic flows while monitoring aircraft positions. Additionally, the system can identify potential collisions and provide the needed guidance to avoid such accidents. While it does provide efficient solutions, this system also supplies explanations for why its suggestions are optimal for the conditions. In addition to monitoring and analyzing traffic in real-time, this system is also predictive. The system developed three machine learning algorithms, allowing it to provide transparency and thus delay predictions on single runways. It is built in an environment using XAI (Explainable Artificial Intelligence) and utilizes both 2D and 3D maps to visualize a wide range of possible solutions before identifying the best one. It supplies pilots with the information needed for them to keep a safe distance between their aircraft and other air traffic—while guiding air traffic control as well.

Source -Aviation Today

Airline industry's first innovation lab for low-carbon aviation tech

Delta Air Lines, one of the world's largest passenger carriers, has unveiled what it claims will be the airline sector's first innovation lab dedicated to the development of low-carbon technologies, including alternative fuels and 'revolutionary aircraft'. Hosted at its international headquarters in Atlanta, the US carrier has stated that the 'sustainable skies lab' will host teams working to both scale and improve existing technologies and those working on "revolutionary" technologies which do not yet exist commercially. Research, design and testing will all be possible at the lab. On existing technologies, the lab aims to "connect, align, showcase" and accelerate work already underway at Delta by enabling co-working between teams on issues such as electrifying ground equipment and improving operational efficiencies. Delta is using a mix of changes to operational procedures and aircraft upgrades to drive fuel efficiency, with 10 million fewer gallons of fuel used in 2022 than in 2021 by it. Older aircraft including its Boeing 777s have been retired to make way for next-gen aircraft including the A350 and the A300-900neo. Delta claims that these aircraft are 20 per cent more fuel-efficient in terms of fuel used per passenger, and mile travelled. For technologies that do not yet exist commercially, such as large electric passenger planes and hydrogen passenger planes, the lab will facilitate partnerships aimed at accelerating development.



Source –Edie

Airlines bet on flights powered by air in future

By the middle of the 21st century, most cars and buses should be powered by renewable energy, while bikes, electric trains and your own two feet 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, regardless of whether the goal is met. In the years leading up to the pandemic, aviation emitted roughly a billion metric tons of carbon dioxide annually, about as much as the entire continent of South America in 2021. And the figures are bouncing back as passengers return to the skies. But major airlines, including six of the largest US airlines, have pledged to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, if not sooner. At a meeting in October of the UN agency dedicated to civil aviation, delegates from 184 countries adopted net zero by 2050 as a "long-term global aspirational goal." "Aspirational" is the operative word. Aviation is what experts refer to as a hard-to-abate sector, meaning there aren't currently any easy, market-ready technologies that can drastically reduce its carbon emissions. And the "net" qualifier attached to the goal means that airlines can account for any CO2 they continue to emit either by using traditional carbon offsets, a practice that has attracted major criticism, or by capturing carbon dioxide directly from the atmosphere. Scientists have also found that contrails — the wispy, short-lived clouds that sometimes appear in an aeroplane's wake — affect the planet's temperature, perhaps even more so than the carbon dioxide they release. It all adds up to a complex picture, especially given that global demand for aviation is expected to double over the next 20 years. New technologies are in the works, including hydrogen-powered aircraft, fully electric planes and synthetic jet fuel made from carbon extracted from the atmosphere.



Several airlines have already begun adding a small amount of cleaner-burning biofuel — known in the industry as sustainable aviation fuel, or SAF — to their normal fuel supply, a trend that should accelerate. Many companies are getting out ahead of government regulations, investing in emissions-saving efficiency improvements while also, in some cases, making big bets on long-shot innovations that could dramatically reduce emissions in the future. Airlines are already investing in improvements that can deliver relatively quick wins: retiring older aircraft, finding more efficient routes, and having their planes taxi with only one engine running. But such measures go only so far. Another short-term innovation is sustainable aviation fuel, a type of biofuel that's most often made from used cooking oil and similar biomass. Over its life cycle, SAF can produce less carbon dioxide than conventional jet fuel, with which it may be blended. But SAF production remains limited and it is expensive, so airlines have been moving slowly, mixing small amounts into their existing fuel supply at select locations. Scientists are exploring alternative sources of carbon for SAF, including algae, yard trimmings and food waste.

Source – The New York Times