GOVERNMENT OF DUBAI

هيئة دبي للطيران المدني
Dubai Civil Aviation Authority

ViaDubai عبر دبي

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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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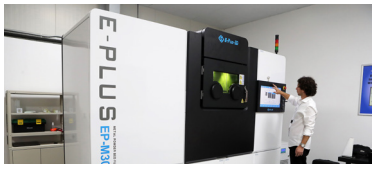
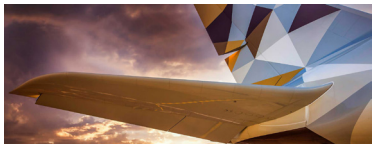
UAE News





PAL eyes growth after a successful restructuring

Philippine Airlines (PAL) is enjoying the fruits of a major restructuring exercise undertaken during the coronavirus pandemic, with a reduced cost base helping the carrier to profitability. PAL's President and Chief Operating Officer Stanley Ng is upbeat about its prospects, stating a long-term ambition to add services to support the Philippines' global diaspora, and the potential long-term addition of European routes.

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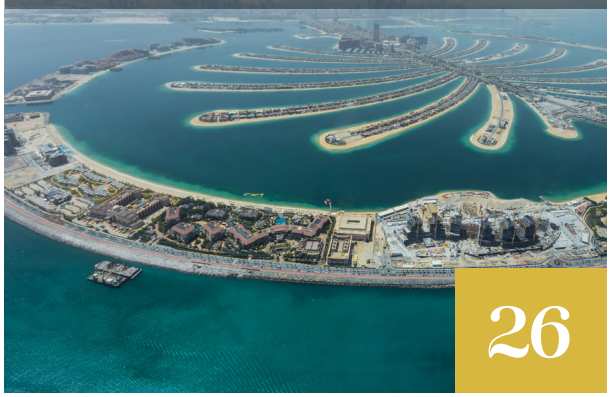
Dubai ANSP deploys SWIM ATM solution



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Drones are changing the business world

Technology has transformed almost every industry over the recent years. However, the processes and costs related to shipping have remained relatively unchanged. Traditional service providers such as USPS, UPS (UPS), and FedEx (FDX) remain the primary source of shipping services for online retailers in the US.

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NASA and Boeing unveil the X-66A aircraft

NASA, in partnership with Boeing, has introduced a new livery for the X-66A aircraft, a part of the Sustainable Flight Demonstrator initiative. The X-66A is a pioneering X-plane dedicated to the aim of the US of achieving net-zero aviation greenhouse gas emissions, as stated in the US Aviation Climate Action Plan.

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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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Dubai Airshow -Showcasing Future Trends

Dubai Airshow, set for its 18th biannual edition in November, is an international platform where major players in the global aviation industry meet to contribute to determining the future of this vital industry and its future directions, especially after the amazing success it achieved in its previous session in 2021 that witnessed the signing of substantial number of agreements. The volume of business reached US$74 billion and the platform attracted more than 104,000 visitors from 148 countries, an increase of 50 per cent compared with the previous exhibition in 2019.

The Airshow's success confirms the decisive role Dubai plays in the recovery and rapid growth of the global civil aviation sector, especially during the previous two years, despite the unprecedented challenges left behind by the pandemic. This has been possible thanks to the dynamic and thoughtful decisions it took and its firm belief in the sector's importance in serving Dubai's vision and the economy, both local and global.

Dubai Airshow-2023 coincides with the UAE's declaration of this year being the 'Year of Sustainability' as it brings together the leading stakeholders in the aviation sector, to develop specific paths and thoughtful plans that pave the way towards achieving sustainable development in the sector in line with the efforts aimed at improving the usage of all kinds of energy in this sector.

In this edition, Dubai Airshow will witness the introduction of new features, including the updated conference agenda discussing several main topics, including the future of flights and passenger experience, and a review of the latest technologies and solutions to advance innovation and sustainability in the space sector. This is in addition to focusing on the importance of artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, blockchain solutions, new versions of aircraft and electric vertical take-off and landing issues.

The successes it achieved in each edition have been the result of the tremendous efforts made by the authorities in the country strengthening the country's position as a major player in shaping the future of the civil aviation industry at the local and international levels.

I would like to emphasize that this year's edition will constitute a qualitative addition to Dubai and the UAE's abilities to host global events through unmatched technical and organizational abilities. All the relevant committees will provide all amenities for the guests coming to the emirate and facilitate their mission to discover the future of the civil and military aviation sectors during the coming years.

Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum

63 years of leadership and excellence

The last day of September 1960 marked the beginning of a new chapter in the history of Dubai and it ushered in internationalism. This day opened its first small airport, exemplifying Dubai's bold ambition and aspiration to open itself to the outside world. This facility, receiving flights that one could count on one hand, began surprising the world with its progress towards the long-term goal of becoming one of the largest airports in the world in terms of the number of international passengers. In 2014, it became the top airport for the highest number of international passengers.

Long before arriving at this stage, it was competing with long-established airports across the world on several competitive parameters of passenger services and unparalleled facilities. By the time it became one of the 10 airports to have handled one billion passengers in history, it became the preferred choice of international passengers for flights that will take them to about 257 global destinations by more than 90 international carriers that operated through the airport. DXB kept itself on its toes to remain at the cutting edge of the aviation business and devoted its time and efforts to continuously up the standards high.

The phenomenal rise of Dubai and its international airport assuming an enviable position on the list of the largest airports in the world has been the outcome of the vision of the Father of Dubai Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum who realized the long-term importance and benefits of having an airport that will be a bridge for reaching out to the world and enhancing Dubai's commercial interests. DXB – and Dubai – phenomenally went several notches up due to the insightful vision of his son, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai. He ambitiously and vigorously kept the emirate march amazingly on the development and progress route, with civil aviation as a key sector. As the world nears the first quarter of the 21st century, Dubai has become an undisputed leader in good governance that brought massive benefits to its economy and is enabling it to achieve the future goal of being among the top 3 economies in the world by 2033.

Those who follow our success across a broad spectrum of sectors, especially aviation, will realize the utmost importance of the strategic steps taken by the DCAA President, His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, to practically translate this vision into reality by successfully implementing and supervising a series of airport expansions and operational enhancement, to be a role model for developing high-end infrastructural facilities and raising professional competencies of human resources to provide distinguished services to the rising volume of airport users. The birth of Dubai International Airport and its breathtaking transformation is simply an exceptional and awe-inspiring story. I have been lucky to be a part of this long, challenging journey since the 1960s, and see Dubai's rise to fame and fortune.

Mohammed Abdulla Ahli

Dubai Silicon Oasis hosts groundbreaking three-week BVLOS drone delivery trials conducted by UAE-based Jeebly and Skye Air

Dubai Silicon Oasis (DSO), the specialised economic zone for innovation and knowledge and member of the Dubai Integrated Economic Zones Authority (DIEZ), hosted a groundbreaking three-week long Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) drone delivery trials conducted by Jeebly LLC, a leading UAE-based logistics service provider and Skye Air Mobility, India's largest SaaS based autonomous drone delivery company.

The testing conducted in cooperation with the Dubai Future Foundation, the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority and Dubai Silicon Oasis, took place at the Dubai Experimental Zone in DSO. The Zone serves as a real-world test-bed for the development, evaluation and demonstration of robotics and autonomous systems. It was established as part of the Dubai Program to Enable Drone Transportation launched in November 2021 by His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of The Executive Council.

Eng. Muammar Al Katheeri, Chief Officer of Engineering and Sustainability at DIEZ, said: "Since its inception, DSO has placed the highest priority on supporting ambitious entrepreneurs who utilise advanced technologies to offer smart city solutions. In line with its status as a hub for innovation and knowledge and the Dubai Master Plan 2040, DSO joined the Dubai Program to Enable Drone Transportation. Since then, we have welcomed numerous innovators across a variety of sectors and industries to test run their drone delivery concepts. We are delighted to collaborate with Skye Air and Jeebly in piloting their BVLOS drone delivery systems at DSO and offer our expertise to support the success of their trials."

> Three-week drone delivery trials took place at the Dubai Experimental Zone in DSO

Ahmad Ali Belqaizi, Executive Director, Aviation Safety and Environment Sector at the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority stated: "The success of the initial trials holds immense significance in identifying the regulatory and operational aspects that need to be developed and improved to create a strong foundation for

enhancing the efficiency of commercial transport operations using drones. Reaching this goal requires strategic cooperation between the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority and its strategic partners involved in the project: Dubai Future Foundation and Dubai Silicon Oasis. This cooperation aims to enhance security and safety standards, to enable public and private entities to use drones in providing the desired services. It will regulate activities related to the use of drones, and create an environment conducive to investment in this sector in order to contribute to the strategy to make Dubai a centre for the drone industry and smart and innovative air transportation systems."

"We are excited to take the next step in the last-mile logistics revolution," said Raman Pathak, CEO of Jeebly. "With this leap forward in drone deliveries, we aim to increase the efficiency of our transportation services by utilising drones for various purposes. Dubai provides the advanced infrastructure that enables us to test new drone solutions and ensure we are constantly innovating our services. This explorative drone project represents an effective and environmentally responsible solution for the delivery of small to medium-sized packages, in line with the Universal Postal Union's (UPU) sustainable development objectives. By supporting this project, we are confident that we can achieve our goals of being leaders in sustainability and efficiency through logistics," he added.

The trial showcased the safe and secure transportation of a wide range of consumer goods within the Dubai Silicon Oasis. The drone used for the trials, Skye Ship One, is Skye Air's flagship which comes with Skye Connect (proprietary connectivity system), Skye Tunnel (navigation system), Multiple Safety systems including but not limited to parachute, collision avoidance, and more.

Skye Air's Founder & CEO, Ankit Kumar, emphasised the potential of drones to transform the logistics industry. "Skye Air is committed to pushing the boundaries of drone technology, and our partnership with Jeebly to participate in the Dubai programme reflects this shared ambition. We are thankful to the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, Dubai Future Foundation, Dubai Silicon Oasis, and all other stakeholders of the programme to making it possible. Skye Ship One is by far the most reliable drone in India having conducted over 1,700 flights and it represents a significant leap forward in the world of logistics, and we are confident that this BVLOS trial will demonstrate the potential of drones to revolutionise last-mile delivery," he said.

Khalifa Al Qama, Director of Dubai Future Labs, confirmed that this new project supports Dubai's efforts to develop and expand the applications of drones in collaboration with government entities, private companies, and regulatory bodies. "This contributes to the creation of futuristic and high-quality solutions originating from Dubai, aimed at utilising drone technology to enhance the efficiency of diverse service and economic sectors," he concluded.

The Dubai Program to Enable Drone Transportation, is one of the pivotal initiatives aimed at implementing and activating the Dubai Sky Dome policy approved by The Executive Council in December 2018. The key goal of the initiative is to develop the infrastructure for an airspace for unmanned aerial vehicles for connecting various locations and buildings within the emirate through designated landing strips and airports specifically designed for the transportation of passengers and goods via drones.

As part of the initiatives and projects undertaken within the framework of this policy, the Dubai Civil Aviation Authority has issued comprehensive standards and legislations to regulate the use of drones. A key example is Law No. (4) Of 2020, which specifically addresses the governance of drones and their related services, with a strong emphasis on ensuring security and safety. This legislation falls under the scope of the Dubai Shield programme for drone security, complemented by the effective implementation of the Dubai Air Traffic Management System for drones. These measures collectively contribute to establishing a robust regulatory framework that fosters responsible drone usage while maintaining the utmost levels of security and safety in Dubai's airspace.

> Testing is aligned with the Dubai Program to Enable Drone Transportation launched in Sep 2021

Reception event for arrivals through Dubai International Airport - Terminal 1

The Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, in cooperation with the General Civil Aviation Authority and the My Identity team, organized a reception event for arrivals through Dubai International Airport - Terminal 1, where gifts were presented to them, coinciding with the UAE Civil Aviation Day celebrations.

Dubai 3D printing plant to produce yearly 20,000 aircraft parts

A new AED20 million 3D printing hub in Dubai is the latest step in transforming aviation into a more sustainable industry by producing lightweight replacement aircraft components. The commercial airline industry has been a tough nut to crack as the world seeks solutions for more sustainable travel, with aviation contributing to up to three per cent of all global carbon emissions.

While electrified aviation remains in the early development stages, the answer could lie in aircraft manufacturing processes and maintenance. At the Paradigm 3D printing hub in Jebel Ali, lighter replacement parts can be created in just a few hours, reducing the need to import spares from Europe. This is a one-stop-shop for designing, manufacturing and post-processing certified aircraft components. Internal structures with components weighing up to 60 per cent less in replacement seating can also make a significant contribution to reducing the weight of aircraft, and fuel consumption.

Industrial 3D printers from Stratasys Ltd at the hub can print up to 2,000 parts a year, with plans to upscale production to 20,000 components over the next decade. Around the world, leading aircraft and cabin interior product manufacturers including Boeing, Collins Aerospace, BAE Systems, Airbus, Diehl Aviation and Safran Seats, use additive manufacturing systems from Stratasys. Paradigm 3D's factory is currently the only service provider in the Middle East certified to produce 3D-printed parts for private and commercial aircraft. Printed components include the seat trays, footstools and armrests found on most passenger airliners. The plant is the first in the Middle East capable of producing parts in accordance with EASA Part 21G aerospace regulations, an international safety benchmark. Typical components produced at the complex include aircraft interior components for lavatories, electronic cooling ducts, environment control systems, gaskets and air intake manifolds. Commercial airliners consist of thousands of individual parts that need to be certified and regulated for use, with a fully assembled Airbus A320 made up of about 340,000 separate components. The 3D-printed materials adhere to the same safety regulations as traditional materials used in building aircraft.

Source – The National

Etihad adding more flights from Abu Dhabi to Mumbai

Starting from October-end, during the Northern Winter 2023/24 season, Etihad Airways will enhance its service on the Abu Dhabi to Mumbai route. They will introduce a fourth daily flight on this route, with flights designated as EY196/197. These additional flights will be operated using Airbus A320 or A321 aircraft. Etihad Airways has exciting plans to broaden its operations in India. The plans involve launching new flights and increasing the frequencies of existing ones. This move comes as the airline aims to fully utilize its weekly seat allocation to and from India under the bilateral air service agreement. The airline currently has unutilized seats, amounting to 10,000 per week out of the total 50,000 allocated seats. By expanding its services and filling these unutilized seats, Etihad Airways is gearing up to enhance its presence and connectivity in the Indian market. In partnership with Abu Dhabi Air Arabia, Etihad operates 165 weekly flights to ten important gateways across India. Further, these gateways include Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Mumbai, New Delhi, Hyderabad, Kochi, Kolkata, Kozhikode, and Thiruvananthapuram. India's airline network has witnessed substantial growth in 2023, with a 54 per cent increase.

Source - Aviation A2Z

Masdar and ZeroAvia ink hydrogen aviation fuel deal

ZeroAvia has signed a partnership agreement with Masdar to explore hydrogen production and supply at key locations. The partnership with the UAE's flagship renewable energy company will initially focus on projects in North America and Europe, while also looking at the opportunity to establish clean flight operations in the UAE.

Masdar aims to be a global green hydrogen leader through a "smart first mover" approach, by developing and investing in strategic projects and building scalable platforms in key markets; the company's Green Hydrogen division is already heavily involved in major aviation projects targeting this The UAE aims to produce 1.4 million tons of hydrogen annually by 2031 and expects the figure to increase tenfold to 15 million by 2050, showing the scale of the country's ambitions. Masdar is deeply committed to building the UAE's green hydrogen economy and has signed and executed several global collaboration agreements with strategic partners in recent years. ZeroAvia is working with several of the world's largest energy companies to convene the provision of fuel for its airline operator customers, as early as 2025. The company is targeting refuelling onboard aircraft tanks for up to 90-seat aircraft at commercial airports by the end of this decade. With such aircraft requiring up to 1 ton of hydrogen per short regional flight, even a small commercial airport can drive more than a hundred tons of demand daily. All this fuel can be produced via a zero-emission process using renewable electricity. ZeroAvia has completed a flight test campaign of the ZA600 engine aboard a Dornier 228 aircraft at its UK base in Kemble, Gloucestershire. Hydrogen-electric engines use hydrogen in fuel cells to generate electricity, which is then used to power electric motors to turn the aircraft's propellers. The only emission is water.

Source – Composites World

Abu Dhabi to open new airport terminal in November

Abu Dhabi Airports has announced the forthcoming opening of its state-of-the-art new Terminal A at Abu Dhabi International Airport in November 2023. Known as Midfield Terminal Building during the construction phase, Terminal A will add a world-class facility to Abu Dhabi's rapidly evolving transportation infrastructure, the opening will mark a significant milestone for the emirate that has the potential to transform the local aviation ecosystem, strengthen Abu Dhabi's growing reputation as a destination of choice for travelers, and further boost its position as a global hub for trade and business.

Equipped with the latest technologies, Terminal A boasts a range of interconnected biometric systems that will invite passengers to enjoy the speed and comfort of a seamless, digitized journey from pre-travel to boarding gate, facilitated by self-service kiosks, streamlined security checkpoints and state-of-the-art baggage handling systems. Covering 742,000 square metres of built-up area, Terminal A is among the largest airport terminals in the world and will significantly increase Abu Dhabi International Airport's passenger and cargo capacity. Once operational, the new terminal will accommodate up to 45 million passengers per year, be able to process 11,000 travelers per hour and operate 79 aircraft at any given time. The imposing and memorable architecture of Terminal A has won international design awards and adds an architectural landmark to Abu Dhabi's cityscape. Blending modern, lightweight aesthetics with functional brilliance, the building's glass exterior maximizes natural light while creating a monumental civic space inside the terminal. In line with the UAE's sustainability aspirations and targets, the building features energy-efficient lighting, advanced heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) systems and has incorporated sustainable materials in its construction. As a major step towards realizing Abu Dhabi Airports' commitment to limiting its operational carbon footprint, a fully integrated solar photovoltaic system on Terminal A car park roof currently powering a three-megawatt (MW) solar photovoltaic (PV) plant saving nearly 5,300t of CO2 annually. The terminal will also feature an array of world-class amenities, including luxurious lounges, relaxation zones, and spa facilities where travellers can rest and rejuvenate before or after their flights. With 163 retail and food and beverage outlets catering to a wide variety of tastes and preferences, the retail offering within Terminal A will appeal to both leisure and business travellers. Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad bin Tahnoon Al Nahyan, Chairman of Abu Dhabi Airports, said: "as Abu Dhabi's new gateway to the world, Terminal A is an embodiment of Abu Dhabi Airports' commitment to support the emirate's sustainable economic development. The opening of the facility, which is on par with the largest and grandest on our planet, turns over a new page in Abu Dhabi's 55-year aviation history. A beacon of modernity and sophistication, it be a will be a pivotal driver for our emirate's growth by spurring tourism and trade."

Source -International Airport Review

Air Arabia Abu Dhabi to start first SL service

Air Arabia Abu Dhabi is adding a new nonstop link between the UAE and Sri Lanka in early 2024 as it continues to expand its route map further east. The LCC plans to make Bandaranaike International Airport in Sri Lanka's capital the 34th destination in its network from January 2024.

Flights from Abu Dhabi International Airport will operate three times per week using Airbus A320 aircraft. The service will provide direct competition for SriLankan Airlines which serves the CMB-AUH sector six times per week onboard A320s and A330-300s at present. Etihad Airways will also resume nonstop daily flights between the destinations in December, replacing its current one-stop routing via Male, Maldives. Additionally, five operators offer nonstop Dubai-Colombo service, including double-daily Emirates Airline flights, while Air Arabia Abu Dhabi's sister carrier Air Arabia flies to Sri Lanka's capital from Sharjah. Once operations begin, Air Arabia Abu Dhabi will become the sole provider of low-cost capacity between Abu Dhabi and Sri Lanka. Rival Wizz Air Abu Dhabi previously announced plans to connect AUH and Mattila Rajapaksa International Airport, in the south of Sri Lanka, in June 2022, but the route failed to materialize. As well as attracting leisure traffic, Air Arabia Abu Dhabi will target the flows of migrant labour between Sri Lanka and the UAE. An estimated 250,000 Sri Lankans live and work in the UAE.

Source -Aviation Week

DXB tops Airport Connectivity ranking in APAC and MID

Dubai International (DXB), the world's top airport for international passengers, has topped the Airport Connectivity rankings for the Asia-Pacific and Middle East (ACI APAC & MID). The Airport Council International's Airport Connectivity Report revealed that air connectivity in the Middle East stands out with 26-plus per cent growth in total connectivity in 2022 vs. 2019, with direct connectivity to destinations in North America, Asia-Pacific and Africa witnessing the strongest recovery since the pandemic, with Low-Cost Carriers (LCCs) driving the growth. Paul Griffiths, CEO of Dubai Airports said: "This achievement is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our team and our service partners working across DXB, and it reaffirms our commitment to providing seamless connections for our guests worldwide. We'll continue to elevate the travel experience, and connect people, cultures, and opportunities like never before." Dubai Airport has consolidated its leading position in this ranking by improving its connectivity post-pandemic, with a growth of 17 per cent over 2019. Dubai Airport's commitment to enhancing connectivity is bolstering the region's economy and global trade.

Source -Times Aerospace

On the occasion of its 63rd Anniversary

Dubai International Airport: A Unique Success Story

Dubai International Airport (DXB) has successfully managed to shift the global travel compass to the UAE, with the 30th of September 2023 marking the 63rd anniversary of its founding. DXB's achievements have contributed to making it a unique success story in the world of global civil aviation, a story that has been written by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai.

A Story of Progress & Success

Speaking on the occasion, His Excellency Mohammed Abdullah Ahli, Director General of Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, said that since its opening in 1960, Dubai International Airport has formed an exceptional success story and has witnessed rapid progress that parallels the development of Dubai.

The opening of the airport came as a result of the insightful vision of the late Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum, the Ruler of Dubai at the time, who recognized the enormous potential of aviation and had the vision to build the airport and promote the open skies policy early on in the course of Dubai's comprehensive development process.

The dynamism of this vision continued under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, who consolidated the importance of Dubai and its pivotal role at the heart of the global aviation industry. HE Mohammed Abdullah Ahli added: "Dubai has invested billions of dirhams to create the best air infrastructure in the world, strengthening its leadership and making it the airport of the world." He also remarked that thanks to the follow-up and directions of 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 & Group, DXB represents the very essence of the aviation history the emirate prides itself on, and is a living testament to the great achievements that can be made through vision, forward-thinking, innovation, cooperation, and hard work.

He said: "On this proud occasion, we look forward to further our achievements armed with the will and determination to consolidate Dubai's role of connecting the world and enhancing global travel. We are also determined to continue working with the same spirit and level of ambition to maintain the excellence we managed to achieve, out of our commitment to Dubai's goals and the vision of its wise leadership that aims to maintain Dubai's global leadership across various domains."

His Excellency Jamal Al Hai, Deputy CEO of Dubai Airports, said: "63 years after its opening on September 30, 1960, Dubai International Airport continues its course of successive successes and achievements that confirm the global position of this facility as a role model for continuous growth and expansion."

He added that the pivotal role DXB played in Dubai's great development over the last decades has factored in achieving the Dubai Economic Agenda D33, which aims to multiply the economy and make Dubai one of the three most important economic cities in the world by 2033, noting that DXB is the emirate's gateway to the outside world with about 90 airlines operating flights to 257 destinations around the world.

Al Hai said that DXB has been ranked as the world's busiest airport in terms of international passengers since 2014 and is still at the top of global airports, indicating that DXB's solid performance owes to the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and the continuous follow-up and directions of His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum.
He added that DXB's successes transcend from just being a strong pillar of the growth and development of the emirate and a living witness to its global position, into being regarded as a major hub connecting the east of the world with its west, north and south.

A memory and a journey

The 30th of September marked the 63rd anniversary of the first plane landing on the sandy runway of DXB. Ever since, the airport has flown high to keep pace with the global successes achieved by the emirate, as it reshaped the global aviation map, directing the international aviation compass towards Dubai through a series of achievements and successes that moved the airport to the top of global indicators, based on the solid foundations that were laid by the late Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed Al Maktoum, and further strengthened by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

From a small airstrip serving mainly as a refuelling station for a few airline companies to an international gateway for about 90 airline companies serving more than 257 destinations around the world, DXB has contributed to making Dubai a global travel hub and maintained its leadership of the world's airports in terms of international passengers' numbers for the ninth consecutive year since 2014, becoming the 'world's destination" as envisioned by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

Since the first flight landed on its runway, the total number of passengers reached about 1.25 billion. Over the last decade, the number of passengers travelling annually through the airport increased from 66.4 million passengers in 2013 to about 85 million passengers expected by the end of this year, despite the challenges that faced the global air transport industry.

Throughout its history, the airport has been keen to enhance its capacity in a modern way and in line with the highest standards and is currently working on a 6-10 billion dirhams worth development plan, which includes enhancing passenger terminals and increasing spaces of concourses and check-in desks to upgrade operational efficiency, with the aim to increase the airport's capacity and keep pace with the growth in passenger demand.

Kuwait Airways plans to breakeven in 2024

The state-owned Kuwait Airways has slashed its loss by nearly half in 2022 as passenger revenue surged amid its continuing transformation plan. The carrier narrowed its loss for the 2022 fiscal year to US$178.6 million. Total passenger revenue rose 11 per cent year-on-year to KD289.1 million in 2022 as the airline carried 3.5 million people, two per cent more than the previous fiscal year. Load factors, a measure of how well an airline fills available seats, rose to 69.7 per cent in 2022, an increase of two per cent year-on-year. The number of flights rose 5 per cent on an annual basis to 25,000 flights. The improved results come as air travel demand has risen sharply with passengers travelling abroad for holidays and corporate employees returning to in-person meetings with overseas clients after a pandemic-induced travel lull. This bounce-back was evident in aviation earnings last year and the first half of 2023 when many airlines in the Middle East and worldwide reported higher profits and healthier balance sheets. Kuwait Airways plans to break even in the fiscal year 2024. The carrier, which was established in 1954, has not posted a profit since Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, according to Bloomberg data. "This is one of the first years where we have positive cash flow at Kuwait Airways, and this is part of our efforts to reduce our debt," remarked Maen Mahmoud Razouqi, Chief Executive, at the AGM. The airline, which currently serves 58 destinations and operates 105 flights per day, is forecast to carry 5.5 million passengers in 2023.

Source - The National

Muscat and Salalah airports ranked among the best in the ME

Muscat International Airport has been ranked among the best airports in the Middle East in the category of 15 to 25 million passengers, while Salalah Airport came in the category of list of the best airports in the Middle East in the category of two million passengers, and won the award for the most dedicated staff, easiest trips, and the cleanest airport in the ME. The airport service quality awards were presented by the Airports Council International in partnership with the travel technology company Amadeus. The winning airports were selected based on passenger surveys collected at the airport. Muscat International Airport witnessed a great leap in terms of passengers, and the pace of growth doubled in a short period. The airport had been configured to accommodate more than 56 million passengers in later stages, to accommodate future travel to and from the Sultanate. Oman Airports, in cooperation with its partners represented by the Civil Aviation Authority, the Ministry of Heritage and Tourism and the Royal Oman Police, seeks to provide a series of incentives to airlines and travel companies to enhance the tourism system in the Sultanate.

Source: Times of Oman

Qatar Airport is second across the APME region for connectivity

In the Airports Council International (ACI) Asia-Pacific and Middle East (ACI APAC & MID) Airport Connectivity Index-2023, Hamad International Airport has been ranked second for total connectivity. This accomplishment underscores its unwavering commitment to providing exceptional connectivity for travellers worldwide. Developed in partnership with PwC, the ACI report measures passengers' ability to access the global air transport network, capturing both direct and indirect routes also factoring in the quality of the service of each connection like destination choice, service frequency, onward connectivity, price, contributing to the passenger experience. The report was announced at the launch of the ACI APAC & MID Middle East office in Riyadh. Chief Operating Officer Badr Mohammed Al Meer said the findings of the report further validate the airport's investment towards expanding its capacity through its multi-phased airport expansion project which enables further connectivity building. "The Middle East stands out for its growth rate for total connectivity and has showcased the strongest recovery post-pandemic according to the report," he remarked. The airport connects to over 170 destinations. Apart from its national carrier, Qatar Airways' rapid expansion this year, the airport's position in the route connectivity index is contributed by the commencement of multiple new airline partners which has allowed its connectivity to various destinations in North America, Europe, Southeast Asia and North Africa. During the H1 2023, the airport experienced an impressive 33.5 per cent increase in passenger traffic.

Source – Routes Online

Egyptair re-launched Tokyo Narita flights

Egyptair, one of the world's oldest carriers, has resumed its flights to Tokyo Narita International Airport, operating twice weekly with the Boeing 777. The airline also launched new flights to Delhi with four weekly flights operated with the A320neo. The carrier is focusing on expanding its operations in both the international and regional markets, to boost the country's civil aviation sector. It returned after a three-year hiatus to Japan with flights to Tokyo Narita International Airport (NRT). It also launched flights to India and Libya in August and September. The flag carrier is launching new long-haul routes and reinstating previously-served destinations as per the presidential directive. It has resumed flights to Japan in September. The service is operated between Cairo International Airport (CAI) and Tokyo Narita twice weekly with the Boeing 777-300 aircraft. It offers various fares, with economy and business class available on the route. The Egyptian airline last served Japan in early 2020, before the service was discontinued due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Source –Simple Flying

ACI opens office in Riyadh, rebrands

The Airport Council International has rebranded its Asia-Pacific office as ACI Asia-Pacific and Middle East (ACI APAC & MID) following the launch of its new office in Riyadh. The trade association, which represents 623 airports from 47 countries and territories, is changing its "strategic direction" to better serve the growing Middle East aviation sector. The new Middle East office will work closely with the ACI APAC AND MID's office in Hong Kong. It said its goal is to be a leading voice for airports across Asia-Pacific and the Middle East, by strengthening its advocacy programs while ensuring that the region remains at the forefront of global aviation. The new name aims to more accurately represent the diversity of the airports and aviation markets within the association's membership, which ACI said was important for effective advocacy and representation. It will also help raise awareness and visibility of the organization among key stakeholders, including government agencies, industry partners, and the general public. Stefano Baronci, Director-General, ACI Asia-Pacific and Middle East, said the pandemic pushed us to re-invent and create a new framework to meet the changing environment. This way we will enhance our service through a balancing act between leveraging the value of an international network and tailoring our services to the local needs."

Source: ACI

UAE mulls visa-free travel for Gulf residents

The UAE is weighing plans for a visa system that would simplify travel for residents to six Arabian Gulf nations, including Qatar and Saudi Arabia with which it shares land borders. The new visa system would allow residents in the Arabian Gulf Cooperation Council to travel freely within countries that make up the bloc, according to the Minister of Economy Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri. The regime could be introduced "very soon," he said. The UAE economy is forecast to grow four per cent in 2024, driven by the non-oil sector, which is expected to benefit from strong growth in tourism, government initiatives, and technological advancements, according to S&P. The country's ability to host major international events is expected to play a pivotal role in achieving the UAE's ambitious goal of attracting 40 million visitors by 2030, accompanied by plans to expand the number of hotel rooms to 250,000 during the same period. Dubai succeeded in attracting 14.7 million international visitors in 2022, double what was achieved in 2021. This indicates that the number of visitors may return this year 2023 to the peak of 16.7 million visitors in 2019. Abu Dhabi also attracted 4.1 million hotel guests in 2022, an increase of 24 per cent from 2021. The tourism sector will continue growing, supported by the regular hosting of prominent events such as the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28). This growth is expected to help the UAE achieve its goal of increasing the number of visitors to 40 million by 2030, with the number of hotel rooms reaching 250,000 during the same period.

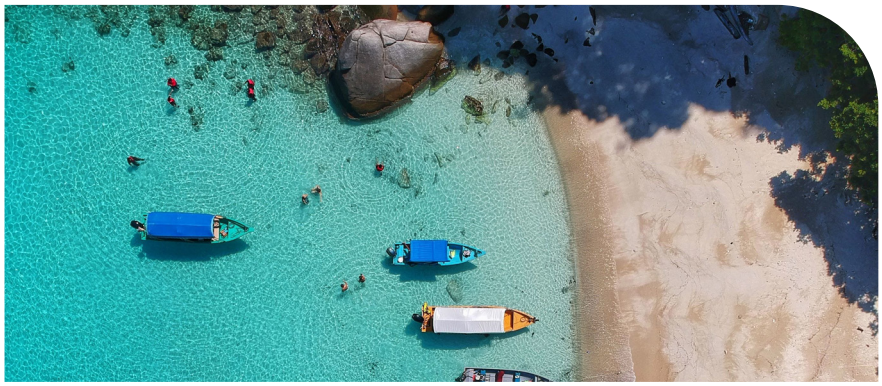
Source: Bloomberg

Global tourism industry faced US$2.6 trillion in losses in 2020-2022

The 21st century's second pandemic resulted in a loss of 2.6 billion international arrivals in 2020, 2021, and 2022, nearly double the arrivals recorded in 2019. Tourism was one of the most impacted industries by the pandemic and lost US$2.6 trillion in export revenues, which is one and a half times what it earned in 2019. The UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has released a report on international tourism, looking at the impact on the industry to 2022 from 2020. International tourist arrivals or overnight visitors fell from 1.5 billion in 2019 to 400 million in 2020, a 72 percent drop in just one year. This resulted in a billion fewer international tourists as a result of global lockdowns, widespread travel restrictions, and a fall in visitors demand, the report said. Export revenues in 2020 dropped to as low as 62 per cent of the pre-pandemic levels, meaning losses of US$1.1 trillion. This accounted for 44 percent of the global loss in international trade that year. This massive drop far outweighed the four per cent drop during the global economic crisis in 2009. Revenues from international tourism accounted for seven per cent of global exports in 2019.

Source – Down to Earth

Rising global temperatures affecting the tourism industry



From rising heat to rising seas, holiday hotspots the world over are at risk from climate change. Tourism is crucial to many economies, but rising global temperatures are putting parts of the industry at risk. The climate crisis is changing the face of many tourist destinations and is already making some holidaymakers rethink their plans. The World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on the Future of Sustainable Tourism is working to help the tourism sector build towards a more sustainable future. Hot weather is what many people go on holiday for. But record global temperatures have been sending people home early from their vacations this July, raising questions about what kind of impact the climate crisis could have on the tourism sector – and tourism-dependent economies. Greece – where travel and tourism make up 15 per cent of GDP – has had to evacuate over 2,000 holidaymakers after wildfires broke out on the island of Rhodes. Athens took the unprecedented step of closing its top tourist attraction, the Acropolis after temperatures reached 45°C. The travel and tourism sectors made up 7.6 per cent of global GDP in 2022. Over in Italy, visitors to Rome have been returning home early because of the heat wave, while hospitals have faced a rise in the number of medical emergencies. Admissions at one hospital reached their highest since the pandemic. Soaring temperatures have not just been ending holidays – they've even stopped some from getting started. This is because aircraft find it harder to get off the ground in hotter conditions, as it makes the air less dense. US airlines flying out of Las Vegas – where temperatures hit 46°C – have consequently had to reduce passenger numbers, remove baggage and reduce the level of fuel they are carrying or delay flights until temperatures fall. The climate crisis has played an "absolutely overwhelming" part in the northern hemisphere heat wave, according to World Weather Attribution.

Source - World Economic Forum

ME's US$1.9 trillion hospitality sector led by KSA and UAE

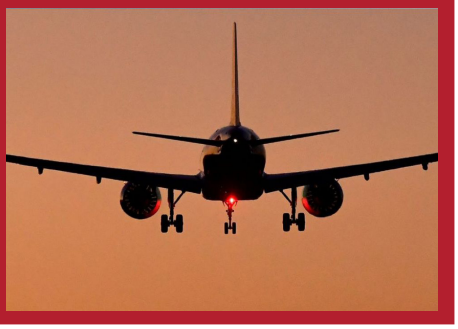
Hospitality and residential projects worth US$1.9 trillion are currently under development in the Middle East, with Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Egypt at the helm of these investments, accounting for 90 per cent (US$1.7 trillion) of the total, according to research by global independent real estate consultants Knight Frank. Saudi Arabia tops the region's project investment table with US$1.2 trillion worth of developments in the pipeline. Following closely are the UAE and Egypt with investments valued at US$300 billion and US$200 billion, respectively, highlighting the region's commitment to reaching 160 million annual tourists by 2030. The Middle East was the first region globally to make a complete business recovery after the pandemic. While much of the world still faces challenges in its return to normality, this region is set to surpass pre-pandemic levels in terms of hospitality and tourism-related revenue and employment. The region's travel and tourism sector witnessed significant growth with a 46.9 percent increase in its contribution to GDP in 2023.

Source –Yahoo

KIA begins international flight operations at T2

International flight services from Terminal 2 (T2) of Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru, the southern city dubbed as the Silicon Valley of India. Saudia flight from Jeddah was the first to arrive followed by an Oman Air flight from Muscat, followed by two Indigo flights from Bangkok and Colombo. A Royal Nepal Airlines flight arrived from Kathmandu. Apart from international flights, domestic flights of four airlines — AirAsia, Air India, Star Air, and Vistara — will also operate from T2. The duty-free shop was also inaugurated. The construction of the terminal began in October 2018, with BIAL planning to build it in two phases. Phase 1, covering 255,645 square metres, will cater to 25 million passengers per annum (MPPA), while the second phase, which is in the planning stage, will be able to handle 20 MPPA. Once both phases are complete, T2 will be able to handle 70 MPPA.

Source – The Hindu



Schiphol Airport permitted about 500,000 flights

Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport has been given a nature permit that allows it to operate 440,000 to a maximum of 500,000 flights per year. Schiphol requested the permit in October 2020 and that request has been added to several times since then. The new permit means the airport is complying again with current laws and regulations in the Netherlands and meets the requirements of the Nature Conservation Act, after a long court battle between the government and the airport and airlines. Schiphol can keep operating its 500,000 yearly flights for the time being. The permit enables the government to introduce new policies for Schiphol, such as an Airport Traffic Decree containing a new approach with hard environmental and noise limits for the aviation industry. The airport hopes that the government will now look at a different approach to the environmental issues they have been fighting over, with a system put in place by 2026 at the latest. The Dutch government announced in July 2022 plans to cut Schiphol Airport's operations by around 20 per cent to reduce noise pollution. A maximum limit of 460,000 flights at Amsterdam's Airport was to be introduced in November 2023 and 440,000 by the end of 2024. The measure has gone back and forth, with the IATA challenging the legality of the measure for breaking EU law and bilateral air services agreements connected with the Balanced Approach to noise.

Source –Travel Tomorrow

JAL named best international airline

Japan Airlines has been ranked as the best international airline in Bounce's 2023 Airline Index. Bounce, a luggage storage company, compared 60 airlines from around the world to determine the best international airline. The factors Bounce considered for the ranking included on-time arrivals, flight cancellations flights, in-flight entertainment, seat comfort, staff service, free carry-on allowance, domestic allowance and checked international allowance. JAL is the highest-ranking international airline, with an overall score of 8.28. The Japanese airline scored four out of five in meals, seat comfort, staff service, and in-flight entertainment. It also had a record 88.36 per cent of on-time arrivals. Japan Airlines offers many direct routes from the United States to Japan's major transport hubs like Tokyo, Osaka, and Nagoya. The airline's operations include international and domestic passenger and cargo services to 220 destinations and 35 countries worldwide. Singapore Airlines was ranked second international airline. Among the toppers on the list were international airlines Qatar Airways, Korean Air, Vistara, All Nippon Airways, Ethiopian Airlines, Air India, Azul Airlines, Emirates and Vietnam Airlines

Source -CNBC

PAL eyes growth after a successful restructuring

Philippine Airlines (PAL) is enjoying the fruits of a major restructuring exercise undertaken during the coronavirus pandemic, with a reduced cost base helping the carrier to profitability. PAL's President and Chief Operating Officer Stanley Ng is upbeat about its prospects, stating a long-term ambition to add services to support the Philippines' global diaspora, and the potential long-term addition of European routes. At the IATA World Safety & Operations Conference in Hanoi, he said 2022 was a very good year for the company. A post-pandemic travel boom helped it swing to an operating profit of US$298 million in 2022, its first positive performance since 2019. "The restructuring did its part to reduce lots of liabilities, and we were able to restructure a lot of loans, which we are still paying today," he remarked. However, operating costs have come down, allowing it to price its fares quite competitively with other carriers.

The strong 2022 result saw staff receive a "significant bonus," which goes some way to supporting morale at the airline. About 76 aircraft are in service in its fleet. Supply chain issues and the problems facing the Pratt & Whitney PW1100 engine have made to ground a trio of Airbus A321neos, nearly one-half of the carrier's eight-strong fleet of the type. In June, PAL ordered nine A350-1000s to be delivered in the 2025-2027 timeframe, ultimately replacing the 777s. Should demand to prove exceptionally strong in the coming years, however, the carrier may consider extending the leases of the Boeing 777s.

Source –Flight Global

London has the world's highest global flight connections

London Heathrow Airport (LHR) has more global connections than any other airport in the world. It is the largest of the six international airports in the London airport system. In 2022, it was the eighth-busiest airport in the world by international passenger traffic and the busiest airport in Europe handling approximately 61.6 million passengers, up from 19.4 million recorded in the previous year. For the highest passenger volume comes Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International, which served close to 94 million travellers in 2022. Others excel in passenger satisfaction in North America, like those in Detroit and Minneapolis, which triumphed in a new study by J D Power. A few lead the way when it comes to innovation, such as Singapore's showstopper Changi Airport, which is about to introduce automated immigration clearance, meaning passengers can transit through it passport-free. However, three international airports punch above their weight when it comes to their rich array of connecting flights around the world. London Heathrow is number one, according to a new report by travel data provider OAG, followed by New York's JFK and Amsterdam's Schiphol. World-class cities need world-class airports after all, and the top five are rounded out by two Asian mega hubs of Kuala Lumpur International and Tokyo Haneda.

Source - CNN

2024 to be a milestone for global passenger traffic

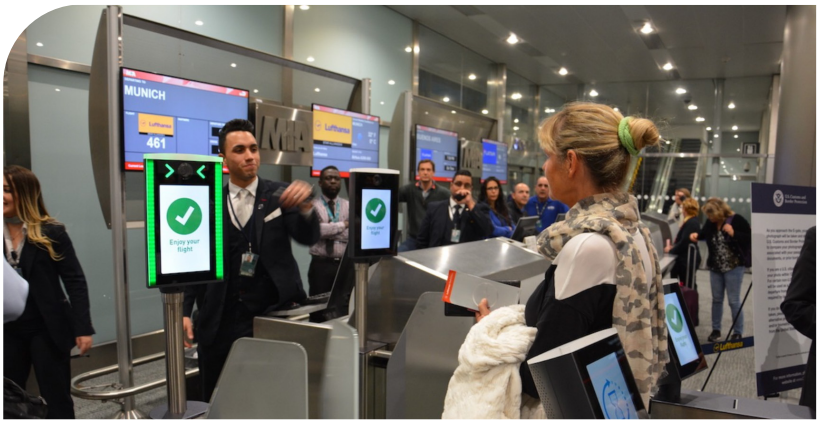
The Airports Council International (ACI) World has revealed global passenger traffic is set to recover in early 2024 as it reaches 9.4 billion passengers. Highlights from its 14th Advisory Bulletin on the impact of the pandemic on the airport business—and the path to recovery included predictions that global passenger volume in 2023 would reach 8.6 billion passengers, which is 94.2 per cent of the 2019 level. The year 2024 is expected to be a milestone for global passenger traffic recovery as it will reach 9.4 billion passengers, surpassing the year 2019 which welcomed 9.2 billion passengers (102.5 per cent of the 2019 level). The Latin America-Caribbean region is forecasted to be the first region to surpass its 2019 level. In 2023, the region is estimated to reach 707 million passengers or 102.9 per cent of the 2019 level. While the Asia-Pacific region is expected to have a substantial jump in passenger traffic in the first half of 2023 along with the ongoing opening of the Chinese market, its recovery is predicted to slow down significantly in the second half of the year due to challenges in overseas tourism and looming economic concerns. The region is expected to reach approximately 3.4 billion passengers in 2024, or 99.5 per cent of the 2019 level.

Source - ACI

Delta Sky Way project opens at LA International Airport

Los Angeles World Airports and Delta have celebrated the opening of the US$2.3 billion Delta Sky Way project at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). The project represents a joint US$2.3 billion investment of both LAWA and Delta funding to modernize one of the airline's key global hubs. Opening ahead of schedule and on budget, the final section of the project – a new enclosed passageway that creates a direct post-security connection between the upper floors of Terminal 3 and Tom Bradley International Terminal (TBIT) – will eliminate the need for bussing between Terminals 2, 3 and TBIT. With the post-security Terminal 3 and TBIT passageway open, ticketed passengers and airport employees can journey from Terminal 1 to Terminal 8, post-security inside the airport. This highly beneficial update to LAX's airside infrastructure provides new, unimpeded access to connecting flights. Los Angeles World Airports has prohibited the sale of single-use plastic water bottles at both Los Angeles International Airport and Van Nuys Airport.

Source -Future Travel Experience



Miami Airport trialling cutting-edge technologies

Miami International Airport is trialling cutting-edge technologies, enhancing passenger experience dramatically and making the process from entry to boarding simpler than before. Chief Innovation Officer of Miami International Airport, Maurice Jenkins, said new technologies are likely to have on passengers as well as the overall experience within the airport, stating. “Our approach to this new level of engagement is to roll out the technology in a way that it is embraced by all, including upfront our vision of transformative innovation to create efficiencies and improve the customer experience. After we have deployed for its initial scope, we want to exploit the technology fully into additional venues.” The innovations include multiple self-service technologies, integration of biometrics systems, and even virtual queuing. This is expected to be fully implemented across Miami International Airport, along with ‘smart restroom trials.’ The strategic vision has also become a reality in opening new North and South terminals within the international airport. Passengers can board effortlessly without the hassle of long queues, thanks to biometric boarding. With a touchless click of a camera at over 130 gates in MIA, passengers can be on their flight in no time by simply standing in front of a camera at their designated gate for identity confirmation.

Source -Travel Radar

Airport Handling secures Milan deal for Chinese airline

Airport Handling, a joint venture of dnata of Emirates Airlines Group, has won a multi-year contract to manage the ground handling operations of Hainan Airlines at Milan Malpensa Airport. The agreement will see Airport Handling provide the airline with a range of passenger, ramp and baggage services. Hainan will operate three weekly flights between Milan and Shenzhen Bao’an International Airport in China, using a Boeing 787-9 aircraft. Airport Handling is the main air services provider at both Milan airports, Malpensa and Linate. Established in 2014, its majority stakeholder is dnata, a global player in the combined air services industry, serving more than 300 airlines at over 120 airports globally. A trusted partner of over 60 airlines, the company’s dedicated teams handle more than 25 million passengers and 96,000 flights annually.

Source - Airports International

Dubai is among the world’s 30 busiest airports by flights per day

The latest list of the world's busiest airports with the highest number of flights based on data from the Swedish firm West Coast Digital’s Flights Forum has placed Dubai on the list at 18 for handling 529 daily scheduled outbound flights. Los Angeles International Airport tops the list with 653 daily scheduled outbound flights. Los Angeles International Airport is one of the largest airports on the American West Coast. The other airports with flights per day are Xianyang International Airport – 487; Boston Logan International Airport -491; Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport – 494; Kunming Changshui International Airport – 508; Orlando International Airport – 508; George Bush Intercontinental Airport- 509 and LaGuardia Airport with 513 flights a day. Also on the list were Frankfurt Airport with 514, Beijing Capital International Airport with 523 and Soekarno-Hatta International Airport with 524 flights. London Heathrow Airport had 524 flights, Harry Reid International Airport 529 outbound flights and Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport with 538 flights. Shenzhen Bao'an International Airport has 541 outbound flights a day; Amsterdam Airport Schiphol 562, and Newark Liberty International Airport 566. Chengdu Tianfu International Airport and Shanghai Pudong International Airport had 576 and 582 flights a day respectively.

Source - Yahoo

Leadership Matters in Civil Aviation

Willie Walsh
Director-General
IATA

The International Air Transport Association (IATA), representing about 300 airlines comprising 83 per cent of global air traffic, has launched its Safety Leadership Charter at the IATA World Safety and Operations Conference in Hanoi, Vietnam, in the presence of leaders from more than 20 airlines as the first signatories. The Safety Leadership Charter is aimed at strengthening organizational safety culture through a commitment to eight key safety leadership guiding principles. It was developed in consultation with IATA members and the wider aviation community to support industry executives in evolving a positive safety culture within their organizations.

By signing up for the IATA Safety Leadership Charter, these industry leaders are visibly demonstrating their commitment to the criticality of safety culture within their airlines and the need to continuously build on the work that has gone before. Safety Leadership Guiding Principles include leading the obligation to safety through both words and actions; fostering safety awareness among employees, the leadership team, and the board; and creating an atmosphere of trust, where all employees feel responsible for safety and are encouraged. It is expected to report safety-related information; guiding the integration of safety into business strategies, processes, and performance measures and creating the internal capacity and regularly assessing and improving organizational safety culture. The IATA Safety Leadership Charter is open to all airlines that subscribe to the document's Guiding Principles. As stated, our mission is to represent, lead and serve the airline industry.

The airline body has marked the first 20 years of the IATA Operational Safety Audit (IOSA) at the IATA World Safety and Operations Conference. IOSA has made a major contribution to improving safety while reducing the number of redundant audits. It is a condition of membership in IATA. However, more than 100 non-IATA member airlines also see the value of participating and we welcome others. Likewise, more than 40 governments use or intend to use IOSA in their safety oversight programs.

The safety data confirm that in aggregate, airlines on the IOSA registry have a lower accident rate than airlines that are not on the IOSA registry. Since 2005, the all-accident rate for airlines on the IOSA registry is 1.40 per million sectors, compared with 3.49 per million sectors for non-IOSA airlines. In 2022, IOSA-registered carriers outperformed those not on the registry by a factor of four (0.70 accidents per million sectors vs. 2.82 accidents per million sectors). IATA has called upon regulators to recognize the significant contribution to safety that IOSA makes as the global standard for airline operational safety and to incorporate IOSA into their own safety regulatory oversight programs. Currently, 417 operators are on the IOSA registry, of which 107 are non-IATA members. IOSA has been a requirement for IATA membership since 2006. The audit assesses an airline's conformity with the IOSA standards and recommended practices (ISARPs). Last year, IATA began evolving IOSA to a risk-based model under which audits are tailored to the operator's profile and focusing on high-risk areas. The new approach also introduces a maturity assessment of the airline's safety-critical systems and programs.

Enabling the Next Revolution in Aviation

The pace of technological advancement has been astonishing and never-ending - and the hard-won lessons from experience have transformed aviation. Aviation now stands on the cusp of its next – and potentially biggest – revolution since the invention of the jet engine with the coming of radically different types of platforms; unscrewed systems; artificial intelligence; novel propulsion systems; and the drive towards sustainability surfaces. Systems with impacts that span a far wider range of sectors, users and novel applications, are challenging us to change the way we think about aviation. As the UK's aviation and aerospace regulator, we have an important role in helping enable innovation and technological advances.

We continue to take on the enormous challenge of regulating for the future collaboratively. One of those new technologies is electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft. The eVTOL aircraft are designed to land and take off like helicopters, but are powered by electricity, and have the potential to provide more efficient and sustainable ways to travel between cities and airports. The UK Civil Aviation Authority has published its requirements for initial airworthiness certification requirements for VTOL aircraft, which will help standardize an approach to safety certification for eVTOL aircraft, accelerating their development.

We are in the process of engaging with various manufacturers. Vertical Aerospace became the first eVTOL company in the UK to fly after receiving a test permit from us. We have also set out how everyday Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) flight could happen and have granted permission for its trials. We also supported Apian and Skyports in demonstration trials that involved making time-sensitive medical deliveries for the NHS. ZeroAvia, a company developing hydrogen-electric engines, has undertaken test flights this year following a test permit from us.

As a forward-thinking regulator, what are our goals? It's about regulating for the future. We've launched sandbox trials across a variety of areas since 2019, including BVLOS in controlled and uncontrolled airspace, Unmanned Traffic Management (UTM), and Airspace Integration. We are currently working with three eVTOL operators – including Vertical, Joby, and Volocopter - as they develop and move through the certification and validation process, and others are coming on stream. We will continue to engage with other member states and regulators, including ICAO – we know there are different paces of change when it comes to innovation and nations are at different points in their journey, but all shared learning is important.

Edited extracts from a speech at the Global Urban & Advanced Air Summit Asia 2023 in Singapore.

Sir Stephen Hillier
Chair
UK Civil Aviation Authority

Dubai ANSP deploys SWIM ATM solution

Indra, through its company Indra Avitech, has made the Dubai Air Navigation Services (dans) one of the pioneers of the deployment of the SWIM (System Wide Information Management) system, the intranet that will globally connect all the players in the aviation world to facilitate much more coordinated and efficient Air Traffic Management. The ANSP has chosen Indra to move to this state-of-the-art platform, which will connect the different aeronautical information systems used by airports, air navigation service providers, airlines, air forces and meteorological services. The SWIM system has been designed to facilitate seamless exchanges of information, in such a way that the different parties involved in the efficient provision of traffic operations share the same view of the situation and make decisions more collaboratively, thus helping us increase the safety and improve the traffic flow. Ibrahim Ahli, Deputy CEO of Dubai Air Navigation Services (dans), said: "Dubai continues to invest in the latest technologies to expand and overcome future challenges in Air Traffic Navigation services and to ensure its superiority in the field to reflect on the ongoing growth of aviation industry across the globe." He added: "We believe and work to be the top institution in the world. Continuous innovation in the infrastructure and service facilities in the aviation industry is of great importance to achieving success, competitiveness, and efficiency in operations." With this project, the two organizations have set the bar for the world's other air navigation service providers, which will have to deploy the new system in the coming years. They are also forging ahead in defining the first use cases of the system in the region, thereby benefiting the rest of the sector and helping facilitate the work of the regulators. Indra is also working on the renewal of the dans Aeronautical Information Management (AIM) system, the information system that is being used currently and that will also connect to SWIM in the future.

Source – Air Traffic Management

Canberra's Skykraft take to space with PIP grant

A Canberra-based company is taking their satellites to space and notching up world-first achievements in both the space industry and the global air navigation sector. Skykraft is developing a constellation of more than 200 satellites in low-earth orbit to provide global Air Traffic Management (ATM) services from space. These services will provide surveillance and communication capabilities for air traffic control, especially over remote or oceanic regions not covered by ground-based infrastructure. In 2018-19, it applied for and won US$1 million in matched funding from the ACT Government's Priority Investment Program (PIP). PIP grants foster innovation and collaboration between, industry, research institutions and universities to solve industry needs. The company was established in 2017 as a spin-off from The University of New South Wales (UNSW) Canberra. Its recent successful trial of space-based voice communications in the Very High Frequency (VHF) aviation band demonstrated the feasibility of satellite communication directly with aircraft using existing equipment. This use of satellites in place of ground-based radio systems will allow global real-time communications between pilots and air traffic controllers for the first time. VHF voice and data communication that covers the entire extent of an aircraft's journey is the missing piece for Air Traffic Management and will unlock efficiency gains globally, an official said.

Source –ACT

Drones are changing the business world

Technology has transformed almost every industry over the recent years. However, the processes and costs related to shipping have remained relatively unchanged. Traditional service providers such as USPS, UPS (UPS), and FedEx (FDX) remain the primary source of shipping services for online retailers in the US. Their services are augmented by no fewer than 275,000 delivery drivers who contract with Amazon to handle its overflow. Drones have the potential to change the delivery industry, but it has been a long, hard slog for companies that are struggling to introduce drone use commercially. By early 2022, more than 2,000 deliveries by drone were being completed every day globally, according to a report by McKinsey & Co. That's quite an achievement, but Amazon alone delivers 1.6 million packages a day, and its drone delivery service is up and running in only two towns in the US. Drone introduction commercially has been hampered by strict regulations related to safety and privacy concerns. Commercial drone delivery services are rolling out slowly in the US due to the restrictions. Amazon has been working on drones since at least 2013 when company founder Jeff Bezos announced that the company was preparing for a drone delivery trial. As of mid-September 2023, Amazon Drone Delivery is up and flying in two locations in the US: College Station, Texas, and Lockeland, California. Homeowners who sign up for drone delivery first get a visit from a surveyor who identifies a landing spot on their lawns and provides a mini marker to identify it. Eligible apartment buildings can set aside a drone delivery area. Alphabet, the parent company of Google, is using drones to capture some of the high-resolution images it uses in Google Maps. Another subsidiary of Alphabet, called Wing, has announced plans for its Wing Delivery Network to ramp up enough capacity to handle millions of deliveries by mid-2024. As of mid-September 2023, Wing Delivery was being tested in Logan, Australia, and was delivering up to 1,000 packages a day. Wing signed an agreement with Walmart in August 2023 to launch local drone delivery of purchases, beginning with two Walmart Supercenters in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. The companies say their drones can cruise at 65 miles per hour but can drop off a carton of eggs from a tether without breaking them. FedEx is partnering with Elroy Air to launch test flights of Elroy's Chaparral aircraft.

Source –Investopedia

FAA allows BVLOS drone operation for UPS deliveries

The US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has authorized another pair of companies to operate drones beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS). The agency announced that UPS Flight Forward, operating its Matternet M2 quad-copter style delivery drone, can conduct small package deliveries, and uAvionix can operate its Rapace can use the Vantis Network to test its detect and avoid technology. uAvionix states that the Rapace UAS is a combination of an air vehicle, ground control station (GCS), and command and control (C2) system. The uAvionix, based in Bigfork, Montana, says its Rapace UAS is capable of vertical takeoff, hover, and forward flight using a combination of four vertical lift motors and one rear-facing pusher motor. The agency authorized Phoenix Air Unmanned to operate SwissDrones SVO 50 V2 drones beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) for aerial work, aerial photography, survey and powerline and pipeline patrol and inspection. The FAA issued the approvals after asking for public input on four BVLOS requests. The agency is reviewing one additional request. Data collected from these operations will inform the FAA's ongoing policy and rulemaking activities. Learn more here and here.

Source - Military Aerospace

FedEx to open-air transit facility at Istanbul Airport

FedEx Express Europe, a subsidiary of FedEx, the world's largest express transportation company, has signed an agreement to build a new global air transit facility at Istanbul Airport by November 2024, reflecting its rapid rise as a strategic cargo hub connecting businesses across six continents. Its infrastructure, connectivity, technology, and location make it a global center for passenger, cargo, and logistics traffic. It is the world's second busiest airport for international passengers and in the top five cargo airports in Europe. FedEx currently supports its customers on key intercontinental trading routes through a shared third-party facility at the airport. The new facility strengthens its presence at IST, in-sourcing operations for greater reliability on a site covering more than 25,300 square meters – more than two times the size of the current operation. It includes three parking spots for FedEx aircraft, space for 32 vans, and seven truck doors. It will use state-of-the-art sorting technology with the capacity to handle 3,000 pieces per hour. The facility is also designed with separate parcel and freight processing, benefitting businesses who want to bundle both shipment types in a single network with a single interface – a unique feature of the FedEx Europe value proposition. Processing parcels and freight separately also creates operational efficiencies, including reducing forklift movements. The facility will offer a smoother customer experience for pick-ups and drop-offs.

Source -FedEx

Air India eyes 300 percent growth in cargo capacity

Air India is ranked fifth behind global players in the country's international air cargo business. As Air India gears up to fly a soaring number of passengers with its rapidly expanding fleet, it is also spreading its wings in the cargo sector. Targeting a bigger market share of international cargo, the airline has deployed six wide-bodied Boeing 777 aircraft in recent months, besides initiatives such as temperature-controlled transport solutions and 'bonded truck service' — transport of freight that has been checked and sealed by customs for import or export. Indian carriers command around 44 percent of the country's international passenger traffic, but it is the foreign carriers that dominate its air cargo business with more than 87 percent share. With a 6.7 percent share of India's international air freight in the April-June quarter, Air India was ranked fifth behind Emirates, Qatar Airways, Aerologic, and Cathay Pacific. Now the Tata-owned erstwhile national carrier's cargo division is undergoing a makeover as it attempts to become more agile, integrated, and responsive to the needs of industry. Delhi is the biggest cargo hub for Air India with flights to the US, Canada, Europe, and Australia. It recently launched a feeder service to ferry bonded cargo from different parts of the country to Delhi by road and air, as this would help increase its cargo load on outbound flights from Delhi. To strengthen its global reach, Air India is forging strategic partnerships and collaborations. Air India is eyeing a 300 percent growth in cargo capacity in five years. Its bonded truck service currently operates on nine routes, and it aims to gradually increase it to 200 routes.

Source - The Hindu

Scan Global Logistics to buy Belglobe in Switzerland

Scan Global Logistics has finalized its third acquisition in 2023 by adding Belglobe to its growing global portfolio of 48 countries. SGL will gain immediate proximity to multinational companies' central procurement and supply chain management. Another advantage is Switzerland's proximity to major European markets such as Germany, France, Italy, and Austria, enabling efficient distribution of goods throughout the continent. Belglobe provides SGL with the foundation and capabilities to grow the Swiss market and further develop key industries. Founded in 1994 and located in Avenches, the company provides special logistics solutions within temperature-controlled pharma transport (BelCool) and offers customers high-security transport of luxury goods, such as watches and jewelry (BelSafe). In addition, Belglobe holds a strong position in the Latin American market cultivated through many years of special airfreight services and close customer relations. Since 2016, SGL has grown from being present in 17 countries to 48 countries today. The goal is local representation in 60 countries and presence in 24 out of 25 of the world's largest economies to ensure its global customers receive the best available service and flexibility wherever they operate.

Source –The Loadstar

A P Moller–Maersk takes its first multimodal solution via Oman

A P Moller – Maersk (Maersk), in collaboration with the Port of Salalah and Oman Airports, has successfully undertaken a Sea-Air logistics solution via Oman for cargo moving from Colombo to Cairo. Oman is increasingly becoming an important hub for logistics, owing to the strategic location of its seaports and airports and a strong presence of network catering to customers regionally and globally. Our multimodal solution via Oman offers agility and resilience to our customers' supply chains by giving access to a priority product balancing between market demand, product safety, transit time, and cost. The pilot cargo movement on the Sea-Air solution is a shipment of retail and lifestyle cargo from Colombo to Cairo. The first leg of transportation had been carried out on a Maersk vessel from Colombo to Salalah. From the Port of Salalah, the cargo was discharged and transported to Salalah Airport under a customs-bonded corridor. On arrival at the cargo terminal at Salalah Airport, the shipment underwent security clearance and was air freighted on priority to Cairo. The Sea-Air solution has several benefits for Maersk's customers. It can help reduce transit times on traditional east-to-west trade routes by 20-40 percent compared to pure ocean transportation and generate a cost saving of 10-20 percent compared to pure Air Freight solution. Maersk's strong collaboration with all involved stakeholders means that customers will get prioritized bookings, loading & stowage, clearances, and airlifting the cargo. Besides the obvious time and cost savings, the strategic location of Salalah Port and Salalah Airport allows Maersk to offer multiple service products, including a hub solution to connect new and emerging markets, making Oman a perfect gateway to the rest of the world. The facilities at the Port of Salalah and the Salalah Airport are capable of supporting different commodities, from general cargo to specialty products like pharmaceuticals and perishable products.

Source – Maersk

Solar and hydrogen-powered aircraft to fly for 20 days without a break

Euro Airship is developing Solar Airship One, a whale-shaped aircraft that plans to fly around more than 25 countries for 20 days without stopping using solar power and hydrogen. It plans to take off in 2026, and the team is hustling to make sure that the first non-stop world tour flight without fossil fuels will meet its deadline. Euro Airship believes that its aircraft will be flying without any noise, fossil fuel, or carbon emissions, given that it will rely on the sun and hydrogen. The aircraft, powered by solar and hydrogen, is expected to be 151 meters long with a rigid airship and a helium expansion volume of 53,000 m3. Almost its entire surface will be covered with 4,800 square metres of solar film to fully capture sunlight. By day, it collects the sun's energy; by night, the surplus electricity is stored in fuel cells that produce hydrogen via water electrolysis. To avoid the inertia related to the use of helium, the airship will be made up of 15 gas envelopes, each individually managed to enable an instant response and anticipation of meteorological events. Solar Airship One wants to go on a non-stop round-the-world tour from West to East, flying close to the equator, with more than 40,000 km to cover in 20 days at an average altitude of 6,000 meters. All of this should take place without fuel and stopovers. India, China, Mexico, the USA, Mauritania, Mali, and France are only a few of the countries the pilots want to cross in 2026 using aircraft powered by solar and hydrogen. Euro Airship is set to make the aircraft autonomous too by ensuring that it will not need any heavy infrastructure on the ground to be secured. To make it steady or ballasted, a classic water-based system and a second compressed-air-based system will be developed. Solar Airship One will emerge from over 10 years of research and development, followed by 3 years of industrial design in partnership with 100 Capgemini engineers. Euro Airship says the aircraft's crew will be in constant communication with schools, universities, and governments of the countries flown over, as well as with international institutions.

Source –Design Boom

FAA explores new cockpit technology to avoid airport near-misses

The US Federal Aviation Administration has asked a panel of experts to provide recommendations on cockpit technologies that could warn pilots that they are about to land on the wrong runway or a taxiway. The request is a step toward the agency potentially requiring the alerting systems and part of the FAA's efforts to eliminate near misses that have alarmed the aviation industry this year. Its associate administrator for aviation safety requested in a brief letter to the chairs of an advisory committee, saying the technology had the potential to give pilots time to take corrective actions. The independent National Transportation Safety Board is continuing to investigate several near misses involving airliners that occurred this year. The cases appear largely the result of human error: In one incident the board has finished investigating, the pilot of a charter jet thought he had been cleared to take off despite reading back an air traffic controller's instructions to wait. The FAA has issued advisories urging pilots to take more care during takeoffs and landings to avoid miscommunication, but is also examining the role airport design and detection technology could play in helping to eliminate close calls. The agency has recently announced that it awarded US$121 million to eight airports for projects to reconfigure taxiways and install new lighting.

Source – The Washington Post

NASA and Boeing unveil the X-66A aircraft

NASA, in partnership with Boeing, has introduced a new livery for the X-66A aircraft, a part of the Sustainable Flight Demonstrator initiative. The X-66A is a pioneering X-plane dedicated to the aim of the US of achieving net-zero aviation greenhouse gas emissions, as stated in the US Aviation Climate Action Plan. They unveiled a new livery for the X-66A aircraft that will be produced through the agency's Sustainable Flight Demonstrator. The X-66A is the first X-plane specifically focused on helping the US achieve the goal of net-zero aviation greenhouse gas emissions, which was articulated in the US Aviation Climate Action Plan. The Sustainable Flight Demonstrator project seeks to inform a potential new generation of more sustainable single-aisle aircraft – the workhorse of passenger airlines around the world. Boeing will work with NASA to build, test, and fly the X-66A, a full-scale demonstrator aircraft. The X-66A with extra-long, thin wings stabilized by diagonal struts, known as a Transonic Truss-Braced Wing concept. The X-66A is the X-plane specifically aimed at helping the US achieve the goal of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. To build the X-66A, Boeing will work with NASA to modify an MD-90 aircraft, shortening the fuselage and replacing its wings and engines. The resulting demonstrator aircraft will have long, thin wings with engines mounted underneath and a set of aerodynamic trusses for support. The design, which Boeing submitted for NASA's Sustainable Flight Demonstrator project, is known as a Transonic Truss-Braced Wing. The X-66A aims to pave the way for more eco-friendly single-aisle aircraft, which are fundamental to passenger airlines worldwide. A standout feature of the X-66A is its Transonic Truss-Braced Wing design—extra-long wings stabilized by diagonal struts. This aircraft is instrumental in NASA's commitment to leading in aeronautics and environmental conservation. The primary goal of the X-66A is to bolster efforts towards achieving net-zero aviation greenhouse gas emissions, in line with the US Aviation Climate Action Plan.

Source – SciTech Daily

A humanoid robot that can safely pilot an aircraft

The Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) is making groundbreaking advancements in aviation with the development of 'Pibot', a humanoid robot designed to fly aircraft using its own dexterity and advanced AI capabilities. Its ability to manipulate flight instruments, understand complex manuals, and react quickly to emergencies showcases its potential to transform aviation and other industries. It represents a groundbreaking innovation to enable autonomous flight in existing aircraft without requiring any cockpit modifications. Through emulating human pilot actions and choices, Pibot envisions a revolutionary phase of automated aviation. It boasts state-of-the-art robotic arms and fingers integrated with cutting-edge high-precision control mechanisms. This enables it to adeptly handle flight instruments and oversee cockpit switches, even when faced with challenging conditions such as intense vibrations. It harnesses the power of artificial intelligence to comprehend and retain intricate flight manuals presented in everyday language. It surpasses human pilots by effortlessly memorizing extensive sets of Jeppesen aeronautical navigation charts, an accomplishment beyond human capabilities.

Source - Adda247