

GLOBAL AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Top Stories

Vertiports / Urban Air Mobility from page 16

Europe

IRELAND

A private company, D.A Terminal 3 Ltd, established by Des and Ulick McEvaddy, has submitted concept plans for a third terminal at Dublin Airport to Fingal County Council. This proposal is part of a larger "Western Campus" project, which aims to align with the council's strategy for the airport as detailed in the Fingal Development Plan 2023 to 2029 and the Dublin Airport Local Area Plan 2020.

The McEvaddys, who own land between the airport's two runways, envision the new terminal as the centrepiece of this development, which would also include a logistics park, cargo terminal, car parks, a hotel, and office space. The estimated cost is EUR 2.2 billion.

The proposal comes when Dublin Airport's growth is limited by a cap of 32 million passengers per year, a restriction that followed the permission to build Terminal 2. D.A Terminal 3 Ltd argues that their plan offers a realistic and sustainable approach to significantly increasing passenger capacity, critiquing the Dublin Airport operator daa's expansion plans as "short-sighted" and lacking vision.

Despite this ambitious proposal, daa has distanced itself from the concept, focusing instead on its infrastructure application, which was submitted to the council in December. daa also noted that the McEvaddys have been attempting to sell this land for decades and are now proposing these plans as a potential development for the area. daa emphasizes its commitment to addressing the practical needs of passengers and airlines with its own infrastructure plans. #1215.1

A Middle Eastern investment consortium is progressing with plans to construct an international airport in Wicklow, Ireland, specifically near Arklow, 60 km south of Dublin, after reaching provisional agreements to acquire over 600 acres of land from local landowners. The investors aim to secure up to 1,000 acres for the East Leinster International Airport Project, which is estimated to generate 47% of its revenue from airport charges such as aircraft parking, boarding bridge, and passenger charges.

According to the investors, preliminary discussions have been held with the Irish Aviation Authority and Wicklow County Council, and the project is awaiting further land acquisition to finalize planning details. However, according to The Irish Times, Wicklow County Council said it has yet to receive any contact about the plans.

The proposed airport, which would feature at least two runways, aims to serve as a transport hub for a major airline upon completion. The location near Arklow was chosen for its existing motorway and rail infrastructure and its Class G airspace status, which is outside Dublin airport's controlled airspace. The project has attracted experienced professionals for its development, including project manager Michael Kane, but the identities of the Middle Eastern investors remain undisclosed. **The airport is positioned as an alternative to Dublin Airport**, offering lower costs to international and national carriers.

The development is expected to create 18,500 jobs directly and includes plans for housing and retail projects post-completion. This ambitious project, distinct from a previous airport proposal in 2010,

promises a significant return on investment based on its projected revenue streams and the economic viability of the construction and land costs.

This is not the first time that such a proposal has been mooted. In 2010, plans backed by businessman Pascal Taggart envisaged Arklow becoming an international transit hub. The idea of an international airport was given an enthusiastic welcome by members of Wicklow County Council, The Irish Times reported at the time. #1215.2

UNITED KINGDOM

East Midlands Airport (EMA) has embarked on a GBP 120 million modernisation project aimed at enhancing the terminal, taxiway, and air traffic control (ATC) facilities. The project's initial focus is on repairing the departure lounge's roof, which has been prone to leaks. EMA's Managing Director, Steve Griffiths, highlighted the importance of this investment for improving passenger experience and supporting growth, especially with passenger numbers nearing pre-Covid levels and the expansion potential offered by the East Midlands Freeport.

The modernisation will include an extension of the security hall, upgrades to comply with new UK government regulations for body and baggage scanning, and the elimination of 100ml liquid restrictions. Additionally, taxiway reconstruction will accommodate modern aircraft more effectively. #1215.3

London Luton Airport (LLA) is progressing with a major reconstruction project following the destruction of one of its main car parks in a fire six months ago. Currently, over 60% of the car park has been dismantled, and 75% of the 1,300 affected vehicles have been removed. The clearance and dismantling process is expected to be completed next month, with significant recycling efforts underway for the demolished materials.

The airport plans to start the construction of a new four-storey car park later this year, designed to accommodate 1,940 vehicles and include a ground-level drop-off zone. This new structure will meet all fire and safety regulations and feature a fire suppressant system. Completion is anticipated in late 2025, restoring short-term parking capacity to around 4,000 vehicles.

To improve passenger access during the rebuild, LLA is developing a temporary drop-off zone near the terminal, expected to open this summer. Additionally, the airport is enhancing passenger facilities, including a second premium lounge, new restaurants, a mezzanine bar and diner, and completing a GBP 20 million refurbishment of the security hall with advanced scanner technology to expedite processing times. #1215.4

SWITZERLAND

Zurich Airport is constructing a new cargo hall to meet the modern demands of the freight business, replacing the oldest cargo halls from the 1950s and 1960s. The construction of the "Fracht Rächtenwisen" cargo hall in the eastern part of the airport, to be utilized by dnata Switzerland AG, begins in April.

This development reflects the shift in cargo business towards transporting goods with varying requirements, such as temperature-sensitive items, necessitating more appropriate cargo spaces. The new facility, covering approximately 9,500 m², will feature 20 truck docking ramps, areas for import and export processes, customs and security checks, and specialised handling areas for pharmaceuticals and hazardous materials. Additionally, an office mezzanine is planned on the south side. The cargo hall will be constructed with a concrete column structure, wooden framework, and a rooftop photovoltaic system.

Scheduled to open in 2027, this initiative underscores Zurich Airport's crucial role in Switzerland's import and export activities, with about 50% of the country's value-based exports being air freight,

highlighting the importance of a functioning infrastructure and an international route network to meet demand. #1215.5

POLAND

Polskie Porty Lotnicze (PPL), the owner and operator of Warsaw Chopin Airport, aims to increase its passenger handling capacity from 20 to 28 million passengers annually.

According to a local media report, Marcin Danił, PPL's vice president, indicated that the airport is nearing its current capacity and expects to handle up to 20 million passengers this year. The expansion plans, set to raise the passenger capacity by 8 million, will start with the passenger terminal in 2026.

The expansion is interesting in the context of the ongoing debate and audit regarding the construction of the Central Communication Port (CPK), which is officially scheduled to open in 2028 but will likely be delayed and could theoretically even still be cancelled.

Meanwhile, Warsaw's Modlin Airport has secured USD 50 million for its expansion, which includes enlarging the current terminal with an underground section for technical rooms and toilets and expanding the building on two sides.

The number of gates will increase from four to twelve, and aircraft parking stands will be increased to 16. The expansion work is scheduled to begin in autumn 2024, aiming to increase the airport's capacity to 8-12 million passengers annually. #1215.6

ROMANIA

Bucharest Henri Coandă/Otopeni International Airport is set to expand with the construction of a new passenger terminal, according to Valentin Iordache, the communication director of the Bucharest National Airports Company. According to Iordache, the land acquisition for this project has already been completed, and the new facilities will be built on the west side of the airport between the runways toward the Tunari-Dimieni highway.

The expansion will include a passenger terminal and developments such as a new control tower and aircraft hangars. #1215.7

BULGARIA

The construction of a railway line connecting the Central Railway Station with Burgas Airport in Bulgaria is set to begin by 2025. This project aims to enhance connectivity within Burgas, a key city on the Black Sea. The railway, spanning approximately 11 kilometres, is designed to offer a travel time of just 14 minutes between the two endpoints.

The plan includes several pedestrian overpasses and new stops at strategic locations in Burgas, alongside infrastructure designed to ensure quiet railway operations. The estimated construction cost is around USD 57 million, with partial funding from the Operational Programme Transport Connectivity 2021-2027. The project's completion is expected within 3-4 years from its commencement. This development is part of a broader transport connectivity initiative, with potential future expansions including a railway connection to Sunny Beach. #1215.8

Russia & C.I.S.

RUSSIA

Kirov's Pobedilovo Airport plans to build an international passenger terminal. This development is part of a federal project to develop regional airports. The local government has applied to the Ministry of Transport to include this new building in the project.

Pobedilovo Airport recently underwent renovations and expansions, doubling its capacity, which includes modernized waiting areas, security zones, a new business lounge, and parking facilities.

Currently, the airport operates regular flights to five destinations, with plans to add routes to Kaliningrad, Mineralnye Vody, Makhachkala, and Samara. This development comes as Kirov celebrates its 650th anniversary in 2024, with an expected increase in tourist flow through the airport. #1215.9

GEORGIA

Georgian authorities have provided more details about the reasons for developing a new airport for Tbilisi. The decision to construct a new facility stems from the financial impracticality of expanding the existing Tbilisi International Airport. The airport handles about 4.5 million passengers annually, and terminal facilities can be expanded up to a capacity of 15 million, requiring an investment of USD 900 million. Vaziani Airfield, located seven kilometres southeast of the existing airport, could be developed at a cost of USD 1.26 billion and can be developed to handle 20 million annual passengers and more if needed.

Design and tender procedures for the new airport are expected to be finalized next year, and construction is scheduled to commence by the end of 2025. The Georgian government anticipates the new Tbilisi International Airport will be ready to receive its first flight by the end of 2028.

The airport will open with a single runway and 10 million annual passengers capacity. By 2050, the airport will be able to handle 20 million annual passengers.

Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development, Levan Davitashvili, emphasized that the state would maintain full control over the new airport and introduce a management company to oversee its development. #1215.10

UZBEKISTAN

The government of Uzbekistan has unveiled plans to upgrade Urgench International Airport through a Public Private Partnership (PPP) initiative. This effort is part of a comprehensive reform to revitalise public sector investments and services, including transportation. Located in the Khorezm Region, near the historic city of Urgench and close to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Khiva, the airport is crucial for tourism, trade, and cultural exchange, serving as a vital domestic and international link.

In 2023, Urgench Airport catered to 8 regular airlines, around 40 charter-flight airlines, 590,000 passengers, and 105.8 tons of cargo. With passenger traffic expected to grow annually by 7.5% and cargo volume by 8.2%, there is a pressing need for expansion to accommodate this increasing demand.

The modernization project will include constructing a new 3,500-meter runway, main and high-speed taxiways, new passenger and cargo terminals, a government terminal, a special equipment building, and a catering complex, alongside the reconstruction of existing infrastructure like the apron.

The Uzbek government is inviting expressions of interest from firms experienced in airport construction, reconstruction, and management to participate in this PPP project. The deadline for submissions was 15 April 2024.

A formal prequalification process will commence in the spring, which will be detailed on the Government of Uzbekistan and UzAirports portals. PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) and White-and-Case (W&C) have been appointed specialized consultants to assist UzAirports in selecting a private partner through a competitive bidding process. #1215.11

North America

CANADA

Aéroports de Montréal has announced a USD 3 billion plan to improve access and modernize the infrastructure at Montréal-Trudeau Airport. With 21 million passengers last year, a 32.3% increase from 2022, and an even busier year ahead, the plan aims to accommodate an additional four million people within four years, increasing airport capacity to 25 million. The initiative includes adding

parking, enhancing baggage handling, building a new drop-off area, improving road access to the airport, and adding a boarding concourse with new boarding gates.

In 2023, J.D. Power ranked Montréal-Trudeau as the third worst major airport in North America regarding customer satisfaction. The extensive projects, valued at USD 3 billion, are scheduled for completion by 2028, without interrupting the airport's operations, which run 24/7. Further investments and developments are planned through 2035, including constructing new multi-storey car parks, and implementing an express drop-off area to alleviate current congestion. The anticipated opening of the Réseau Express Métropolitain (REM) by 2028 is expected to reduce vehicular traffic and parking demand.

A satellite boarding concourse with around ten boarding gates will be built by 2028 to accommodate more aircraft and passengers, significantly expanding the airport's capacity.

Despite the challenges of undertaking such major projects within a tight timeframe and after financial losses during the pandemic, the airport is confident in meeting the deadlines and financial requirements, including potentially seeking private capital to support the projects slated for completion by 2035.

Currently, the airport's financing is restricted to bond issuance, but there's openness to involving private investors in future developments. #1215.12

The Quebec government has allocated approximately CAD 90 million (USD 67 million) to renovate the airport network in Nunavik. Upgrades are planned for seven airports over the next two years. This funding is part of a broader CAD 7.7 billion investment to enhance transport network efficiency and security across Quebec.

The airports set for renovation include Akulivik, Kangiqsujuaq, Kuujjuarapik, Puvirnituq, Salluit, Tasiujaq, and Umiujaq, supporting nine projects in total. Notable projects include a significant runway renovation in Puvirnituq, with CAD 25 million to CAD 50 million budgeted, and two projects in Salluit totalling CAD 15 million to CAD 30 million for runway renovation and culvert replacement. Kuujjuaraapik is also slated for a CAD 10 million to CAD 25 million investment for airport hangar demolition. Other projects involve runway renovations, upgrades to electrotechnical systems, and installing surveillance cameras at various airports. Calls for tenders for these projects are expected to be launched in 2024 and 2025. #1215.13

Alberta's provincial government has announced a CAD 1.13 million (USD 830,730) investment in regional airports to support the development of business cases and feasibility studies for infrastructure and air transportation improvements. The funding is distributed among 10 airports for various projects aimed at enhancing their capabilities and services:

- **Cold Lake Regional Airport:** CAD 144,000 for a Feasibility Study for Airport Certification to support Scheduled Air Services.
- **Whitcourt Airport:** CAD 78,684 for a Commercial Development Feasibility Study.
- **Lloydminster Municipal Airport:** CAD 113,988 for a Commercial Air Services Feasibility Study.
- **Peace River Regional Airport:** CAD 57,552 for a Peace River Airport Master Plan.
- **Lethbridge Airport:** CAD 150,000 for a Hangar Development Feasibility Study and Business Case.
- **High Level Airport:** CAD 56,000 for a High-Level Airport Master Plan.
- **Red Deer Regional Airport:** CAD 120,000 for a Land Development Strategy and Implementation Plan.
- **Medicine Hat Regional Airport:** CAD 150,000 for a Feasibility and Business Case for Airport Growth and Development.
- **Grande Prairie Airport:** CAD 140,000 for a Canadian Border Services Agency Facilities Study.
- **Fort McMurray International Airport:** CAD 119,200 for a Business Case to Recapture Lost Passenger Traffic.

This investment is aimed at strengthening and diversifying Alberta's economy by expanding market access, creating jobs, and enhancing the connectivity between regional and international airports. Red

Deer Regional Airport, specifically, will use its funding to develop a strategy for leveraging infrastructure improvements for potential terminal expansion and airside land development. The investment signifies the province's commitment to supporting the growth of Alberta's regional airports and the broader economic landscape. #1215.14

British Columbia is investing CAD 11 million (USD 8 million) to modernise airports in rural and Indigenous communities through the BC Air Access Program. This investment will support 26 upgrades across two dozen airports, enhancing safety, reliability, and capacity. Key projects include runway improvements in Kamloops, Castlegar, and Terrace, an emergency helipad for the Metlakatla First Nation, and a backup generator for Tofino for emergency preparedness. The funding aims to bolster vital connections for freight movement, economic strength, healthcare access, and firefighting support. This initiative is significant for the province's remote, rural, and Indigenous communities, and it builds on a history of investment. Over CAD 63 million (USD 47 million) has been awarded to projects at 71 airline facilities since 2017, targeting facilities serving fewer than one million passengers annually. #1215.15

UNITED STATES

The Philadelphia International Airport (Pennsylvania) is planning a significant expansion and infrastructure upgrade, focusing on adding 20 new gates by 2040 as part of its USD 556 million budget proposal for 2025. This expansion is anticipated to increase traffic and better serve international destinations, especially in South and Central America and Asia.

The airport's officials are currently updating the master plan, which began in 2019, to accommodate this future growth within the constraints of the existing land and water boundaries.

The need for expansion and rebuilding terminals stems from the age of the current terminals, some of which date back to the 1950s and 1970s and no longer meet the needs of modern passengers. Only Terminal A-West was constructed in a contemporary manner. **Strategic planning for building new facilities is slated to start between 2027 and 2028, with a phased approach to rebuilding terminals one by one,** ensuring operations are not disrupted.

This comprehensive upgrade and expansion plan are part of PHL's larger efforts to enhance its role in global aviation by increasing its capacity to handle more flights and passengers, thus supporting Philadelphia's economic growth and accessibility. This significant investment in infrastructure aims to prepare PHL for future demands, making it a more efficient and passenger-friendly hub. #1215.16

Thanks to a USD 23 million federal funding allotment, Charleston International Airport (South Carolina) is moving forward with plans to add a new five-gate East Concourse.

The money will fund the construction of an overnight plane parking area and is the first step to supporting the new concourse. The concourse will allow the airport to increase its capacity from 6 to 9 million annual passengers, with Charleston County Aviation Authority outlining a long-term expansion plan divided into two phases. **Phase One (3-5 years)** includes an extension of the ticketing hall and TSA checkpoint, a new concourse and retail spaces, expansion of parking facilities, and provision of five overnight aircraft parking spaces.

Phase Two entails introducing Concourse C following Phase One's completion, expanding baggage claim areas, adding 23 more overnight aircraft parking spaces, and including new retail spaces and a VIP Traveler Lounge.

The City of Atlanta (Georgia) is advancing with a USD 8.7 million expansion plan for the plane train at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, including purchasing 29 new cars. This initiative, recently reviewed by the city council's transportation committee, is part of a broader

effort to enhance the world's busiest airport, featuring a 700-foot extension of the plane train system. #1215.17

The U.S. Department of Transportation has awarded Orlando International Airport a USD 61.9 million federal grant for expansions and improvements. This funding will be used to expand Terminal C's apron by an additional 115,787 m² and construct four Multiple Aircraft Ramp System gates to support four wide or eight narrow-body aircraft. Additionally, USD 20 million of the grant will finance part of the 450-foot Pedestrian Connector Bridge, facilitating direct access between the Train Station and Terminal C.

In 2023, Orlando International experienced a 15% increase in traffic, reaching 57.7 million passengers. International traffic returned to pre-pandemic levels, and domestic traffic increased by 13.6%. #1215.18

St. Pete-Clearwater International Airport in Clearwater, Florida, is set to undergo renovations and a significant expansion. The USD 110 million project is expected to increase the airport's capacity by 1 million passengers annually. Currently, the airport offers 64 nonstop flights and boasts some of the lowest average domestic airfares in the nation. Last year, the airport accommodated approximately 2.49 million passengers, contributing to a USD 3.4 billion economic impact and supporting nearly 21,000 local jobs.

The expansion will include four new gates, boarding bridges, more concessions, and a centralised TSA checkpoint, enhancing the traveller experience and potentially attracting new airlines to the airport. Allegiant is the primary carrier, but officials are marketing to other airlines for more options. The design phase of the expansion is estimated to take 18 months, with construction expected to last about five years, aiming for completion by 2032. Airport officials are scheduled to seek final approval from the county commission in the coming months. #1215.19

Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GRR) in Grand Rapids, Michigan, has commenced a significant terminal enhancement project with an investment of USD 135 million. This expansion, focused on the terminal's west side, aims to improve the airport's sustainability and operational efficiency. Key upgrades include a consolidated baggage inspection system, an individual carrier system for screened baggage, new ticket counters, and larger baggage claim carousels. This project is part of a broader USD 600 million initiative to upgrade the airport's infrastructure in response to rapid passenger growth, which saw a record-breaking year in 2023. Completion of the project is anticipated in 2027. #1215.20

Quad Cities International Airport in Moline, Illinois, has initiated phase one of Project Gateway, a comprehensive terminal renovation master plan aimed at modernising the facility. This project, which began in 2021, addresses the need for updates to the airport's infrastructure, originally built in 1985. The renovation will relocate TSA baggage screening equipment to a less visible area, enhance the ticket counter areas, and improve the overall passenger experience by offering more open and efficient spaces.

The project, valued between USD 40 and USD 60 million, aims to create a future-proof facility that will serve the Quad Cities for generations. Phase one of Project Gateway is expected to last 13 months, with the entire project estimated to take five to six years to complete. #1215.21

North Platte Airport (Nebraska) will commence construction on a new USD 29 million passenger terminal later this year, with completion scheduled for 2025. The 2,300 m² building replaces the 1950 terminal, which will be converted into an office building.

The project responds to the need for modernised facilities to support regional economic development and meet current and forecasted demands. The new facility will feature a single boarding bridge, modern restrooms, natural light, and improved food and beverage services. It will also address security and baggage screening limitations, pursue LEED certification for sustainability, and enhance accessibility to meet or exceed ADA standards.

Other planned improvements for the airport include a new FBO complex; a solar farm; runway, taxiway, and apron pavement maintenance and upgrade to LED runway lighting; extension of road and utilities to future aircraft hangar sites; construction of a self-serve aviation fuel facility; construction of a snow removal equipment storage building; and infrastructure needed for electric aircraft and Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS). #1215.22

North Las Vegas Airport (Nevada) is considering expansion plans to widen and lengthen its parallel runways. Plans include extending the 5,000-by-75-foot Runway 12R/30L to over 6,000 feet in length and 100 feet in width and Runway 12L/30R from 4,199 by 75 feet to more than 4,300 feet long and 100 feet wide. Runway 7/25 will remain unchanged.

These expansions, developed in cooperation with the FAA and Clark County Department of Aviation, will utilise land already reserved for the project. Additionally, the Instrument Landing System (ILS) will need to be moved, and several small hangars may be removed to accommodate the runway extensions.

However, new hangar space will be considered due to a waiting list of over 100 aircraft owners.

The study excludes scheduled airline operations or a non-municipal-run Fixed Base Operator (FBO). #1215.23

The Clark County Department of Aviation (Nevada) has made significant progress in planning a second commercial airport in the Las Vegas area. This development aims to alleviate the growing demand at Harry Reid International Airport, which recorded a record 57.6 million passengers in 2023.

The Southern Nevada Supplemental Airport site, to be located in the Ivanpah Valley near the California border, encompasses 6,000 acres, with an additional 17,000 acres allocated for airport compatibility and infrastructure. Featuring a single terminal and two runways, the new airport will support commercial, general, and cargo aviation.

The project, which began consideration in the 1990s and was officially proposed with the signing of the Ivanpah Valley Airport Public Lands Transfer Act of 2000, had been delayed due to economic downturns and the pandemic. Now moving into the environmental phase, the airport's completion is targeted for 2037. The selection of Ivanpah Valley was based on various factors, including user convenience, access routes, and development costs, after considering other locations and overcoming airspace constraints related to Nellis Air Force Base.

The CCDOA will soon approach the Clark County Commission to award project-related contracts. Despite its significant development, questions such as which airlines will operate and the final costs, in collaboration with the Bureau of Land Management and Federal Aviation Administration, remain undecided. However, the project is seen as crucial for supporting Las Vegas's growth and not becoming a constraint, especially considering major international events that underscore the demand for airport services. Additionally, water consumption concerns have been addressed, with assurances that the airport's design includes water recycling and treatment processes. #1215.24

The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors has approved a USD 229 million contract for Otto Construction to build a new 6-story parking garage at Sacramento International Airport (California), part of a USD 1.3 billion expansion plan. The Terminal B Parking Garage will replace the existing Hourly B Parking Lot and increase the airport's parking capacity by about 4,500 spaces,

offering up to 5,500 spaces in total. Construction is set to begin in October and is expected to be completed by May 2026.

This garage is one of several projects under the "SMForward" plan, aimed at enhancing the passenger experience and accommodating projected passenger growth. Additional projects include a new pedestrian walkway, expansion of terminals and concourses, a ground transportation hub, and a consolidated rental car centre. A USD 40 million budget has also been allocated for contingency and escalation costs associated with the garage project. #1215.25

Stockton airport is slated to receive USD 28.75 million in upgrades aimed at attracting major airlines and revitalising the airport, a development residents and officials consider long overdue. The investment will cover the addition of five gates, improvements to aprons, and the construction of a new hangar. These enhancements are part of the airport's strategy to increase air traffic and serve the San Joaquin County region more effectively. Additionally, the airport is hiring a marketing and business development administrator to foster relationships between airlines and the airport, with interviews for the position expected to start in the next few weeks. #1215.26

Tri-Cities Airport (Washington) is planning expansions to accommodate the growing demand for air travel due to the expanding Tri-Cities area. Plans include the aging air traffic control tower, which is over 51 years old and poses restrictions and issues for terminal expansion. Additionally, there are plans for terminal expansion projects that require federal funding. With the FAA Reauthorization approaching, there's an opportunity to allocate extra resources to help airports like Tri-Cities Airport expand and improve. #1215.27

The Biden-Harris Administration, through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), is allocating USD 148.3 million for 73 airport infrastructure projects across 28 states and Guam. Funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Airport Infrastructure Grants (AIG) program, which provides USD 15 billion over five years, these projects aim to enhance safety and efficiency at airports. The grants support various improvements, including aircraft apron parking expansion, runway lighting, and taxiway enhancements.

Significant projects include:

- USD 61.9 million for Orlando International in Florida to expand the Terminal C apron.
- USD 22.1 million for General Edward Lawrence Logan International in Boston for taxiway rehabilitation and safety enhancements.
- USD 13.6 million for Dallas Love Field in Texas to construct a new aircraft rescue and firefighting building.
- USD 12.0 million for Rhode Island T.F. Green International for a new cargo apron.
- Additional projects in Guam, Pennsylvania, Nebraska, Virginia, Colorado, Wisconsin, Washington, Michigan, and Missouri focus on various infrastructure upgrades, from terminal expansions to road rehabilitations and hangar constructions.

This investment demonstrates the Administration's commitment to modernising the U.S. aviation system, aiming for a safer, more efficient future in air travel. Nearly USD 9 billion in AIG funding has already been distributed as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's broader initiative to enhance the nation's infrastructure and stimulate economic growth. For a complete overview, go [here](#). #1215.28

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), under the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), has announced the availability of approximately USD 269 million in FY 2023 Supplemental Discretionary Grants for airport development and improvement. This competitive grant program aims to support the development of a nationwide airport system, focusing on

safety, equity, climate and sustainability, and workforce development. Applications are open to various entities, including public agencies, states, Indian Tribes, and private entities owning public-use airports listed in the National Plan of Integrated Airport Systems (NPIAS).

The total funding of USD 268,707,225 is split between medium and large hub airports (\$235,677,112) and small hub, non-hub, and nonprimary airports (USD 33,030,113), available through September 30, 2025. The FAA encourages applications for projects that align with DOT's strategic priorities and demonstrate readiness for prompt implementation. Priority project categories include Airfield Operational Resiliency (AOR), Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), and Emissions and Energy Improvements (EE). The application process requires submitting an SF-424 form and a project narrative with a financial plan by 2 May 2024.

The FAA anticipates making at least 50 awards from this funding opportunity, emphasising projects that advance aviation safety, enhance operational resiliency, support sustainable aviation practices, and promote equity and economic opportunity in line with federal policies.

Recipients of these grants must comply with various federal regulations, including SAM registration, Buy America requirements, and adherence to civil rights and labour standards. The FAA outlines specific administrative and policy requirements for grant recipients, aiming to ensure that funded projects contribute positively to the aviation infrastructure and community welfare.

You can find more information [here](#). #1215.29

Latin America & The Caribbean

SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

The Nevis Island Administration (NIA) is making significant strides in expanding the Vance W. Amory International Airport (VAIA), with plans to start construction in 2024. Premier Mark Brantley has announced that land negotiations are nearing completion, with agreements for acquisition and exchanges being finalised. Design teams are concluding the airport's expansion plans, which include a realigned road to reduce the impact on local homes and businesses.

Consultants from Perez Engineering Construction and Consulting Services Limited are already on-site to support the project, which is set to commence this year, subject to finalising financing details. The expansion project aims to enhance the airport's runway, control tower, lighting, fencing, fuel storage, fire services, parking apron, and terminal facilities. #1215.30

COLOMBIA

Colombia's infrastructure agency ANI invited those interested in a USD 265 million project to modernize Gustavo Rojas Pinilla airport on San Andrés Island to participate in the selection process. The concession will be for 30 years and involves expanding the terminal and building 3,516 m² of commercial areas, among other works.

ANI head Francisco Ospina said that with the planned expansion and the improvement of the counter, security and boarding lounge areas, among other works, the airport will be able to serve 2.8 million passengers a year. Those interested can submit their application by July 12. The contract is due to be awarded by the end of the year. #1215.31

PERU

The Ministry of Transport and Communications (MTC) has announced that a private airport operator will operate and maintain the new international airport in Chinchero, Cusco. This operator will also handle the modernisation, rehabilitation, improvement, operation, and maintenance of several other airports across Peru, including Jaén, Huánuco, Jauja, Ilo, Rioja, Chimbote, and Yurimaguas. The project, known as the Third Group of Airports, aims to enhance air connectivity and will be managed by the Private Investment Promotion Agency (Proinversión). Proinversión will structure and launch the selection process for finding a top-level operator, in line with the MTC's technical conditions, to develop

efficient and safe airport services and promote private sector participation in aeronautical activities. This initiative, executed as a Public-Private Partnership without funding from the state, is set to benefit over 6 million Peruvians by providing better transportation facilities, saving time, and improving quality of life. The operation activities will cover firefighting and rescue services, security, landing and take-off services, and aircraft parking services. Additionally, MTC has entrusted Proinversión with 22 other projects, including 20 road and two port projects, requiring a total investment of USD 3.5 billion. #1215.32

The Ministry of Transport and Communications (MTC) in Peru has initiated a USD 96 million project to upgrade the Francisco Carle Airport in Jauja, Junín. This project aims to allow the airport to accommodate larger aircraft, such as Airbus 319, Airbus 320, and Boeing 737, with a capacity of over 100 passengers, thereby boosting tourism and the regional economy. The project includes upgrading the runway and enhancing the passenger terminal, with a significant investment to promote tourism in the central jungle region. #1215.33

BRAZIL

The government of the State of Bahia is set to invest BRL 1.5 billion (USD 297 million) in constructing a new international airport in the Discovery Coast region (Costa do Descobrimento), located in the southern part of Bahia. This strategic initiative aims to address the overcrowding issue at Porto Seguro Airport, which, despite handling international flights, cannot be further expanded due to urban growth.

Facilities will include a 3,000 X 45-metre runway, a passenger terminal with a capacity of 4 million annual passengers, which can be expanded to 8 million annual passengers, and 27 aircraft stands.

The bidding process for the project's design will begin on 16 May, with the chosen location being Santa Cruz Cabralia, a key municipality in the area. The new airport is expected to boost tourism and facilitate national and international cargo transport, including seafood exports like fish and lobsters. #1215.34

Africa

EGYPT

Egypt has designated two land plots in Matrouh, northwest of Cairo, for the construction of Ras El-Hekma International Airport. This airport will serve a new metropolis being developed by the UAE's sovereign wealth fund ADQ. This development is part of a USD 35 billion investment agreement with ADQ to establish Egypt's "largest new city" to boost tourism and economic growth. The project spans 170 million m² and will feature tourism facilities, a financial centre, and a free zone.

The Egyptian government will hold a 35% stake in this venture. Construction of the airport is scheduled to start in early 2025, with the overall development expected to draw over USD 150 billion in investments. #1215.35

SOUTH AFRICA

George Airport is set to undergo a significant expansion to its terminal facilities. Announced by the Minister of Transport, Sindisiwe Chikunga, this initiative is part of the Airports Company of South Africa (ACSA)'s broader plans, which also include expanding Chief Dawid Stuurman International Airport in Gqeberha. The expansion at George Airport is prompted by passenger numbers that have exceeded the airport's design capacity pre-Covid-19.

The expansion aims to increase the airport's passenger traffic capacity from 900,000 to two million per year over the next five years. Improvements will include enlarging the departure and arrival halls and the parking area.

This expansion is part of what's described as ACSA's largest capital investment since the 2010 Soccer World Cup, reflecting significant growth and development for the region's tourism and business economy.

ACSA has launched a construction tender with a deadline of 13 May 2024. #1215.36

Middle East

SAUDIA ARABIA

Red Sea Global (RSG), owned by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund, is set to modernise Al Wajh Airport to international standards. This renovation is part of RSG's efforts to foster a sustainable travel industry within the Kingdom, aligning with Vision 2030's goal to diversify the economy, especially through tourism development along the Red Sea coast. The refurbishment includes upgrading the existing terminal and infrastructure, with plans to add an international terminal to enhance direct flight offerings, travel connectivity, and local job opportunities.

This initiative aims to make Al Wajh Airport a modern facility serving the Tabuk region's growing needs and a gateway to luxury destinations like AMAALA, which RSG also developed. Furthermore, the airport will become the operational hub for the Kingdom's first seaplane company, Fly Red Sea. As this project begins, certain Saudia flights will shift from Al Wajh Airport to the newly operational Red Sea International Airport, part of RSG's broader aviation project portfolio, which includes developing a second private airport near The Red Sea and AMAALA destinations. #1215.37

Saudi aviation authorities have approved the construction of a large cargo terminal at King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh. This development, spearheaded by the General Authority of Civil Aviation and Singapore-based SATS, aims to enhance Saudi Arabia's position as a major transport hub connecting three continents.

The terminal will be built in two phases, covering 60,000 m², and is expected to handle 600,000 tons of cargo annually upon completion. The first phase is targeted for completion by mid-2022. This project aligns with Saudi Arabia's goal to improve its logistical services and achieve a top 25 global ranking in service quality. Additionally, the new Riyadh cargo village, also part of this initiative, will be the first of its kind in the Middle East, with a capacity to handle 1.6 million tons annually.

Meanwhile, **a tender for consultancy and project management services for constructing an airfreight terminal at Jeddah Airport has been announced.** SATS is also developing this project. The tender will close on 22 May 2024, at 1400 Singapore Time. Interested parties can direct specification enquiries to Mr Ernest Lim at Ernest_Limla@sats.com.sg and pricing enquiries to Ms Chan Ying Ying at Yinying_Chan@sats.com.sg. A compulsory briefing or site show round is scheduled for the 22nd of April at 1000hrs Saudi Arabia Time at the SATS Saudi Arabia Riyadh Cargo Terminal. Richard Lee (Richard_LeeVK@sats.com.sg) is the contact person for this event. *For daily alerts on global market opportunities, please subscribe to Worldwide Airport Tenders [here](#).* #1215.38

Saudi Arabia is moving forward with the privatisation of Abha International Airport (AHB) in the Aseer region, with an expression of interest (EOI) phase launched in mid-January and final Requests for Proposals (RFPs) expected by July 2024. The project, a collaboration between the Saudi Civil Aviation Holding Company (Matarat) and the National Center for Privatization & PPP (NCP), is part of the Kingdom's Vision 2030 Plan, which emphasises privatisation. AHB's redesign will challenge traditional airport designs, aligning with the Aseer region's heritage to become a landmark.

The development aligns with Saudi Arabia's National Transportation and Logistics Strategy and aims to stimulate regional growth. The winning bidder will enter a 30-year PPP agreement covering the construction and operation of a new terminal and facilities. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman announced the project, which includes a new master plan that reflects the Aseer region's architectural heritage.

Scheduled for completion by 2028, the airport aims to serve up to 8 million passengers by 2030, exceeding 13 million by 2054, and will feature a new aircraft apron, a rapid-exit taxiway, additional access roads, a new car park, and essential support facilities. #1215.39

IRAQ

The Iraqi Ministry of Transport has initiated a strategic plan to rehabilitate airports across the country, as announced by the Ministry's Media Director, Maytham Al-Safi. This plan was developed in collaboration with the International Finance Corporation (IFC), part of the World Bank Group, and aimed at enhancing and renovating airport facilities. Transport Minister Razzaq Al-Saadawi is closely monitoring the progress at Baghdad International Airport, focusing on improving traveller services and addressing maintenance needs swiftly. #1215.40

Asia Pacific

INDIA

The Kolkata Airport is undergoing a significant expansion at the T2 terminal to increase its capacity to accommodate 28 million flyers annually, up from 26 million. This expansion includes adding 5,600 m² of floor space and enhancing the terminal's facilities. The airport also plans to construct a new taxiway and expand flight handling from 35 flights per hour to 45. Moreover, plans are underway for a more considerable two-phase expansion, increasing the airport's total capacity to 61 million passengers annually. The project is being carried out at the cost of approximately INR 1.3 billion (USD 15.6 million). #1215.41

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) is reconfiguring 57 existing passenger terminals across India to increase passenger capacity without the need for costly new construction. The project is expected to help accommodate around 200 million passengers annually, up from the current 105 million, and is expected to save AAI more than USD 1.23 billion in capital investment. The comprehensive strategy includes reconfiguring terminal layouts to optimise functionality and efficiency and increasing check-in counters, security equipment, and boarding areas. Additionally, this forms part of a significant investment in airport infrastructure, with USD 12.06 billion earmarked for projects from 2019 to 2024, including new airports, terminal expansions, and runway enhancements to support the rising air traffic demand. #1215.42

SRI LANKA

Hingurakgoda airport will become the country's sixth international facility, joining Ratmalana, Colombo, Mattala, Jaffna, and Batticaloa. This initiative is part of a significant investment by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Aviation, which plans to spend USD 6.7 million on the project this year. The initial phase will extend the existing runway from 2,287 meters to 2,500 meters, enabling it to accommodate Airbus A320 and Boeing B737 aircraft. The Sri Lanka Air Force is tasked with the construction work.

This development aims to leverage Hingurakgoda's central location to boost the economy and the tourism sector. Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva highlighted the government's vision to modernise the airport and transform it into an international hub.

The airport was initially constructed for the Royal Air Force of England during World War II and was known as RAF Minneriya. #1215.43

THAILAND

A feasibility study for the expansion of Samui airport, aimed at accommodating larger aircraft and increasing visitor capacity, is currently being conducted. At present, the airport's 2,100 metre runway can only support small aircraft such as the Airbus A319.

The expansion seeks to enhance the airport's capability to support bigger planes such as the Airbus A320 and to boost its annual passenger handling capacity from its current capability of accommodating 6 million passengers. This move aligns with efforts to promote tourism in Koh Samui, Surat Thani, and is expected to bring significant economic benefits to the local community.

The feasibility study is anticipated to conclude by early 2025, with Bangkok Airways, the airport's owner, in the process of acquiring additional land for the expansion.

The government and local authorities are also planning to develop public utilities to support the influx of tourists post-expansion. Additionally, discussions on further promoting tourism on the island and enhancing local hospitality skills are underway, along with a proposal for a cruise terminal project to attract more high-end visitors, signalling a comprehensive strategy to boost Samui's appeal as a top destination for foreign visitors. #1215.44

VIETNAM

By 2030, Cà Mau Airport aims to accommodate 1 million passengers annually. The Civil Aviation Authority of Vietnam has submitted a development plan for the airport to the Ministry of Transport. This plan includes transitioning the facility to serve civil and military purposes and upgrading it to a 4C category civilian airport and a grade II military airport, with a minimum capacity for 1,000 tons of cargo annually.

Key infrastructure developments by 2030 include constructing a new 2400 m x 45 m runway, taxiways, and aircraft parking areas with a minimum of 4 positions for aircraft like the A320 and A321. By 2050, the airport aims to serve 3 million passengers and handle at least 3,000 tons of cargo annually, with at least 10 Code C aircraft parking positions.

The passenger terminal will undergo renovations to accommodate 0.5 million passengers by 2030, with potential for expansion to meet the 1 million passenger target. By 2050, a new terminal is planned to support a capacity of 3 million passengers annually.

Additional projects include upgrading access roads and parking areas and constructing facilities like cargo warehouses and a fuel station. The current air traffic control tower will remain until a new one is built, with plans for comprehensive infrastructure development to support the airport's expansion and meet the growing aviation demand in Cà Mau. #1215.45

MALAYSIA

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Lee Kim Shin emphasised the urgent need for a master plan to expand Miri Airport, Sarawak, due to its exceeded passenger capacity. Initially built for two million passengers, the airport saw 2.434 million in 2019 and 2.201 million passengers after COVID-19, with expectations for continued growth.

The minister highlighted the importance of an upgrade and extension to accommodate the increasing passenger numbers and improve services. An interim optimisation plan, involving rehabilitating existing boarding bridges and pavement and adding a new bay with additional boarding bridges, is currently being implemented. This includes a MYR 1.4 million rehabilitation of Bay 3 and a plan to tender for new aerobridges costing about MYR 2 million. The optimisation, aiming to expand the departure area and other infrastructure, is set to continue until 2030, but a more comprehensive, long-term development plan is deemed necessary. Lee referenced a previously approved MYR 258 million upgrade from 2017, including a multi-storey car park and terminal extension, expressing hope for its inclusion in the 13th Malaysia Plan. #1215.46

INDONESIA

Dhoho Airport in Kediri, East Java, began operations on 5 April, with low-cost airline Citilink operating the inaugural round-trip flights from Jakarta to Kediri. The flights, utilising an A320

CEO aircraft capable of carrying 180 passengers, will run twice a week. This event marked a significant development in air connectivity and economic growth in Southern East Java. Constructed by PT Surya Dhoho Investama, a subsidiary of PT Gudang Garam, Dhoho Airport meets international standards with a 3,300-meter runway suitable for wide-body jets.

Initially, its passenger terminal is designed to handle 1.5 million passengers annually, with a future capacity expansion of up to 10 million passengers annually. #1215.47

P.R.C.

The construction of the new Pearl River Delta Hub (Guangzhou New) Airport is set to begin this year, with completion expected by 2027. This project is part of Guangdong Province's critical construction plans for 2024 and is undertaken by Guangdong Airport Group Foshan Gaoming Airport Co., Ltd. The first phase includes two parallel runways of 3,600 metres and 3,800 metres, a passenger terminal building of 420,000 m² with an annual capacity of 30 million passengers, and cargo facilities. This development will place Guangzhou among cities like Beijing, Shanghai, and Chengdu, which operate dual-airport systems, addressing the saturation at Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport, which has been leading in passenger traffic nationally. The new airport aims to enhance Guangzhou's connectivity within the Greater Bay Area and support its development as an international air transport hub. #1215.48

The Civil Aviation Administration of China has approved the Master Plan for Shijiazhuang Zhengding International Airport (Hebei Province). The plan outlines significant expansions and enhancements to accommodate projected growth by 2035, aiming for a passenger throughput of 38 million and cargo throughput of 500,000 tons. Key developments will include the construction of a corridor between Terminals T1 and T2, a new T3 terminal, a second runway, and expanded flight and freight facilities, with 166 aircraft parking positions.

Further long-term expansions by 2050 are planned to support 66 million passengers and 1.1 million tons of cargo, including a third runway and a new T4 terminal. The airport will also integrate urban rail with stations between Zhengding Airport high-speed rail station and the T2 and T3 terminals, enhancing connectivity for city and rail travellers. #1215.49

JAPAN

The runway of Yakushima Airport will be extended to accommodate jet aircraft. The plan is to expand the runway from 1500 meters to 2000 metres, with USD 330,000 allocated for surveying costs this year.

The project is scheduled to span ten years, concluding in 2033. Yakushima Airport operates propeller planes to and from Kagoshima, Fukuoka, and Osaka. The extension will allow direct jet flights from major urban areas like Tokyo, which is expected to boost the local economy. Governor Shiota has commented that this development is anticipated to invigorate the regional economy. #1215.50

AUSTRALIA

The Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport is introducing a new Business district, inviting companies to establish operations at the future airport. This development is spearheaded through a 50/50 joint venture with Charter Hall Group, a leading Australian property group.

The 20-hectare mixed-use development will feature up to 40,000 square meters of modern warehouse space, office facilities, a 150-room hotel for flight crews, retail outlets, and recreational amenities. The first stage, including infrastructure developments, is targeted for completion by the end of next year. The project is positioned as a benchmark for future developments in the transformative project of the airport area.

WSI is scheduled to commence international, domestic, and air cargo services by late 2026. #1215.51

Vertiports / Urban Air Mobility

Crisalion Mobility, a Spanish company specialising in electric mobility solutions, has entered into a strategic partnership with Swedish vertiport developer Kookiejar to advance the development of vertiports for electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft. This collaboration marks a significant step forward in urban air mobility, focusing on creating an action plan and setting shared goals for the integration of eVTOLs and vertiports. Their efforts will concentrate on identifying synergies, analysing operational efficiencies, and developing strategies to reduce environmental impacts while enhancing safety and sustainability in air mobility. The partnership aims to leverage both companies' expertise in innovating safe and efficient vertiport solutions, with a vision to revolutionise urban transportation and make air mobility accessible to all. Kookiejar's modular, low-cost vertiport designs promise to expand the Vertiport network, making commercial real estate fly-ready and supporting a new era in urban air mobility. #1215.52

Did you know?

Our *Ongoing and Planned Projects* bonus data report is fully updated with every Momberger Airport Information newsletter issue.

You can download the latest version by logging in to www.mombergerairport.info and scrolling down to the bonus section in the control panel.

For late-breaking stories, please visit our LinkedIn page by clicking on the logo. 

WORLDWIDE AIRPORT TENDERS (WAT) portal with daily project alerts, the exclusive, customisable business opportunities portal dedicated to the airport industry by **Momberger Airport Information. **FREE trial** for 7 days - [follow this link](#) for more information and to sign up for your free trial.**