

Published biweekly – available by annual subscription only – details & order online at: www.mombergerairport.info
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GLOBAL AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT NEWS

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North America

UNITED STATES

St. Louis Lambert International Airport (Missouri) has obtained approval from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for its 2040 master plan, which outlines the integration of Terminal 1 and Terminal 2 into a unified building. The next step in the process involves conducting an environmental impact study in collaboration with the FAA to evaluate the potential effects of the plan. In addition, ongoing negotiations with airlines are being emphasized by St. Louis Airport Commission Chairwoman Hamm-Niebruegge, highlighting the importance of reaching an agreement to move the plan forward.

A key element of the plan involves a partial rebuild of Terminal 1, which would entail **replacing the terminal's three concourses with a single, linear, 62-gate concourse constructed in two phases.** Public feedback has resulted in the decision to preserve Minoru Yamasaki's iconic domes, while Terminal 2 will either be demolished or repurposed.

The primary goal of this consolidation is to enhance traveller navigation and operational efficiency within the airport. By unifying the checkpoints, passengers will have access to all retail and concession options. Furthermore, the plan encompasses improvements to the airport's entry road system and the expansion of parking options.

The estimated cost for implementing these improvements is approximately USD 2.8 billion, which will be offset through additional revenue generated from parking, retail, and concessions, as well as airline fees and federal grants. #1194.1

Gerald R. Ford International Airport (Michigan) has begun a multi-million-dollar expansion project with the construction of a new USD 156 million rental car facility. This facility, the first of its kind in the state, is part of ongoing investments to improve airport capacity and amenities. The five-story building will consolidate all rental car services under one roof, providing a seamless journey for passengers connected to the terminal. The relocation of rental cars will free up covered parking spaces, and the airport plans to expand overall parking availability in the future. The new facility will also contribute to sustainability efforts by reducing travel distances and carbon emissions associated with car pick-up and servicing. Kent County is supporting the project through backing bonds that will be repaid by the airport. The expansion is expected to be completed by summer 2025, benefiting both the local economy and the overall travel experience for passengers. #1194.2

Worldwide Flight Services (WFS), a member of the SATS Group, has expanded its cargo capacity at Chicago O'Hare International Airport by over 10% with the opening of a new cargo terminal. The 15-year lease on the facility provides an additional 122,000 ft² of warehouse space, 10,000 ft² of office accommodation, and 200,000 ft² of ramp space. WFS, a provider of cargo and ground handling services, has a track record of nearly 40 years at Chicago O'Hare and serves various airlines and logistics providers. The new facility, equipped with sustainability features and advanced storage systems, reinforces WFS' commitment to the airport and supports future growth. #1194.3

The Austin City Council has approved an USD 88 million settlement with LoneStar Airport Holdings, LLC, allowing Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (Texas) to proceed with its Airport Expansion and Development Program (AEDP). The expansion program aims to address the increasing demand for capacity and modern infrastructure to accommodate future growth. The settlement resolves two existing lawsuits between the city and LoneStar Airport Holdings.

Funding for the program comes from the airport's general fund, which is separate from the City of Austin general fund and does not involve local taxpayer money. The program includes the construction of a new midfield concourse, a connector tunnel, new taxiways, and the removal of the South Terminal facility and other airport-owned buildings. The South Terminal will continue operations until its removal in 2025. AUS will work with airlines to relocate them to other facilities during the transition.

The settlement marks a significant milestone in progressing the expansion program and enhancing the airport's capacity and infrastructure. Short-term improvements such as a new checked luggage handling system and TSA checkpoint remodelling are already underway, while long-term improvements are in the pre-design and programming phase. #1194.4

McAlester Regional Airport (Oklahoma) is moving forward with plans to build a new passenger terminal that will be nearly double the size of the current one. The new terminal will cover 418 m², compared to the existing 232 m². The project, costing USD 2.7 million, is being made possible through federal and state grants, with the city of McAlester participating in a three-way partnership. The funds will be split between the Federal Aviation Administration (USD 919,307), the Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission (USD 869,880), and the city of McAlester (USD 972,028.47). The city's share may be reduced if another partner joins the project. The current terminal will be demolished to make way for the new building, and airport operations will be relocated during construction. The new facility will include conference rooms and classrooms for aerospace instruction. Construction is expected to begin in the third quarter of 2023 and will take approximately one year to complete. The city council has taken necessary steps to advance the project, including authorizing grant applications, accepting grant funds, and approving construction and inspection services contracts. #1194.5

The Dane County Regional Airport (Wisconsin) is set to unveil its new south terminal, which is part of an USD 85 million project. The terminal consists of two floors, with 4,180 m² dedicated to restaurants, retail, and public space on the upper floor, and an equal area for maintenance workshops and infrastructure on the lower floor. The addition of the new terminal brings the total number of gates at the airport to 16, with three new gates being introduced.

The project aims to accommodate the airport's growth and offer more flight options. The completion of the first phase will be marked by the inaugural flight from the south terminal. The second phase, involving the removal of the former south terminal, is scheduled for completion in early 2024. #1194.6

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has awarded the Spokane International Airport (Washington) with a USD 25.8 million grant for its terminal ramp expansion and parallel taxi lane project. The grant will help build additional ramp space to support the ongoing Concourse C Expansion project. The airport says the west terminal ramp expansion and parallel taxi lane project will expand the existing ramp near Concourse C and add two new Remain-Over-Night (RON) aircraft parking positions. In addition, a parallel taxi lane will be constructed to allow aircraft to manoeuvre behind other aircraft that are pushed back from the terminal.

That project consists of constructing approximately 17,000 m² of concrete ramp and 1,400 lineal feet of concrete taxi lane. The airport says the project will begin later this spring and is expected to be completed by Summer 2024.

Spokane is also planning a USD 12 million project to modernize and expand its fuel facility.

The project, currently in the preliminary design stage, aims to upgrade the existing facility without adding an additional fuel tank. However, the consulting services provided by the project's engineers include preliminary design efforts for a future 500,000-gallon fuel tank. The project will involve improvements to the automated gauging, controls, heat dissipation, and air venting replacement at the three existing tanks. Burns & McDonnell Engineering Co. Inc. is listed as the engineer for the project. The timeline for the project has not been established yet. #1194.7

Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) and Delta have unveiled the new West Headhouse and Delta One Check-in and Ticketing Lobby at Los Angeles International Airport (California) Terminal 3.

The West Headhouse offers self-service kiosks for baggage drop-off and boarding pass printing, while the Delta One check-in area provides a private TSA screening lane and direct access to the Delta Sky Club. The project also includes additional seating in the Delta Sky Club, the reopening of the original Terminal 3 passenger tunnel, an enlarged T3 Help Center, and a second connection point to LAX's People Mover train. The space features artwork from local artists and emphasizes sustainability, meeting LAWA's commitment to carbon emissions reduction and aiming for LEED Silver certification. The completion of this phase marks significant progress towards the full Delta Sky Way project, a joint \$2.3 billion investment between LAWA and Delta to modernize the airport. #1194.8

Latin America & The Caribbean

CAYMAN ISLANDS

The runway of Owen Roberts International Airport runway in Grand Cayman will be extended 1,900 feet into the North Sound at a cost of USD 28 million. With a total length of nearly 10,000 feet, the runway will be able to accommodate direct long-haul flights to Europe, a long-coveted desire by the Cayman Islands government. The plan is part of the recently approved master plan for the Cayman Islands airports, which was prepared by Stantec. #1194.9

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

The United Kingdom has granted approval for the construction of a new passenger terminal at the Howard Hamilton International Airport, formerly known as Providenciales International Airport.

The redevelopment project includes the expansion of the airport's airside, extending the runway, adding a taxiway, and increasing the current apron.

The UK's approval, received in a letter from Paul Chandler of the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office, is considered a crucial step towards the construction of the new passenger terminal. The next steps involve appraisal by the House of Assembly and pre-qualification of interested bidders.

The project is planned to be pursued through a Public Private Partnership (PPP) program.

The government aims to ensure the redevelopment is economically viable, efficient, effective, and equitable, with a lifespan of at least 40 years. The decision to pursue a PPP is based on a comprehensive understanding of value for money and the social benefits it can bring. The TCIAA has been working with consultants and advisors to develop the project and will retain ownership of the airport with a maximum 30-year funding arrangement. The CEO of the TCIAA emphasized the importance of continuously assessing risks and opportunities throughout the project's development. The procurement stage is expected to begin in late June 2023 or early July 2023, pending swift approvals. #1194.10

MEXICO

A group of Spanish entrepreneurs has shown interest in the project to convert the Cd. Obregón airport in Sonora state, into an international cargo airport, announced state

Governor Alfonso Durazo Montañó. One of the required investments necessary to enable long-haul cargo flights is extending the runway from 2,300 to 3,100 metres at a cost of USD 28.3 million. In 2022, the airport handled 430,276 passengers and 294 tons of cargo. #1194.11

EL SALVADOR

El Salvador's Pacific International Airport project is moving forward despite criticism from political opposition figures and reports of conflicts with landowners. A large extension of the required terrain has been acquired, the president of the autonomous ports commission (CEPA), Federico Anliker, said in an interview posted on social media. The airport will be located in the country's La Unión department. Anliker also said that geotechnical studies are now being carried out after the completion of environmental impact studies.

According to opposition lawmakers cited by news outlet Estrategia y Negocios in April, members of the communities Flor de Mangle in La Unión department and Condadillo in Conchagua department allege that lies and blackmail were used by CEPA to push them to relocate. There are also claims that CEPA did not pay a fair price for the land.

Social conflicts and a lack of funding transparency have been issues since the project was announced, without a clear plan on how works will be carried out.

The proposed airport will serve tourist areas such as El Cuco beach, the Fonseca Gulf, and the Conchagua volcano. It will boast a 3,000-metre runway, and a passenger terminal with a floor area of 11,755 m². It is expected to handle 1-3 million annual passengers in the first years. #1194.12

BRAZIL

VINCI Airports, concessionaire of Boa Vista airport (Roraima state), started the modernization and expansion works at Boa Vista airport, with the objective to make operations more efficient, enable better flow and improve airport experience for passengers.

The works, which should be completed in the second half of 2024, include the full renovation of the runway, the doubling of the passenger terminal area, with the expansion of the departure lounge. VINCI Airports will also expand the baggage handling system (BHS), remodel the food court, and add four new boarding gates. Upgrades are also planned for vehicle parking, air-conditioning and lighting system, with the objective to improve the airports' environmental performance.

VINCI Airports has awarded the works to a consortium formed by the companies Teixeira Duarte Engenharia e Construções S.A, Alves Ribeiro S.A do Brasil and Actemium (VINCI Energies), all with extensive experience in infrastructure projects, including Lisbon airport, which is also operated by VINCI Airports. #1194.13

Europe

LITHUANIA

Kaunas Airport in Lithuania has announced international tenders for the selection of contractors for the expansion of its passenger terminal and northern apron. The airport has seen record-high passenger flows this year, surpassing previous forecasts. If the trend continues, Kaunas Airport is expected to handle over 1.3 million passengers this year, exceeding its design capacity. The development of the airport's infrastructure is considered important for the state's economic and national development plans. The expansion projects will not only increase passenger capacity but also support the growth of aircraft maintenance services and freight traffic. The completion of these projects in 2025 will enable Lithuanian airports to serve over 10 million passengers annually. The expansion works are planned to begin at the end of this year.

The expansion of the passenger terminal will increase its total area by approximately 4,300 m² and allow for the handling of over 800 passengers and up to 6 aircraft simultaneously. The northern apron expansion will provide additional aircraft parking and engine testing facilities, increasing the number of

aircraft stands at the airport by more than one and a half times. These developments aim to strengthen Kaunas Airport's position as a leader in aircraft maintenance in the Baltic region and improve Lithuania's logistics capabilities for NATO partners. The projects will contribute to the sustainable development of the Lithuanian airport network and enhance revenue from aviation and non-aviation activities. #1194.14

IRELAND

Dublin Airport operator, DAA, is planning to expand its existing US Customs Pre-Clearance and Border Protection (CBP) facility to accommodate the growing number of US-bound passengers. The expansion plans will be lodged with Fingal County Council as part of DAA's EUR 1.9 billion capital investment plan for the airport. In 2023, approximately 1.7 million passengers traveling to the US will utilize the CBP facilities at Dublin Airport. The CBP facilities allow passengers to complete all necessary immigration, customs, and agriculture inspections before departure, treating them as domestic arrivals upon entering the US. The proposed expansion includes a three-story CBP building with additional entry gates and screening lanes. DAA will also seek permission to partially demolish, refurbish, and upgrade an existing building to create the South Apron Support Centre (SASC). The refurbishment is expected to begin in early 2024, with completion scheduled for late that year. The expansion plans aim to meet the current demand for pre-clearance services and do not involve an increase in passenger capacity at Dublin Airport. #1194.15

AUSTRIA

The state of Lower Austria has granted an extension until June 2033 for the construction of the third runway at Vienna Airport. The airport cited lengthy approval procedures and the decline in passenger numbers as reasons for the extension.

The exact start date for the construction has not yet been determined, but the airport stated that the third runway project will continue to be pursued with determination.

With the approved extension, the construction of the third runway can now be planned to correspond to the airport's economic viability and actual development of flight numbers. When applying for the extension in mid-May, the airport cited the long duration of the approval process and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on passenger numbers. #1194.16

FRANCE

Bordeaux Mérignac Airport in France is seeking expressions of interest for the design, construction, and operation of a new building dedicated to air logistics. The building will be located in the southern zone of the airport apron, as an extension of the existing Chronopost building. The project aims to meet the evolving needs of air logistics activities in the Bordeaux metropolitan area and the New Aquitaine region. The land available for the project includes approximately 25,000 m² of airside access land with code C and code D aircraft stands. The site has direct ring road access and is designated as a PLU zone US3 Industry and logistics platform. Interested companies specializing in airfreight operation are invited to submit their documents before 15 August 2023. More information can be obtained by calling: +33-33 5 5634 5050. #1194.17

SLOVENIA

Slovenia has launched formal procedures to build a railway linking Ljubljana's city centre to its airport, as it seeks to improve rail infrastructure and promote green mobility. The Infrastructure Agency has published a public tender to obtain "an expert opinion" for the project and launched an initiative for the drafting of a relevant national spatial plan. The tender is the first stage in the process to build the approximately 20-kilometre rail line. The expert opinion will be completed by

2025. Feasibility studies will then take place and the spatial plan adopted between 2026 and 2030, according to the agency. #1194.18

CROATIA

Osijek Airport is starting a project to build a passenger terminal. A tender worth EUR 9.29 million has been published for a "turnkey" package, which includes the creation of design and technical documentation and building permits, as well as the execution of works.

According to the tender documentation, it can be read that the project will reconstruct the existing building with an emphasis on ensuring the conditions that must be met due to entry into the Schengen area, as well as arranging and upgrading the exterior of the building.

For the reconstruction, Osijek Airport obtained building permits for the completed project back in 2015, but the project was abandoned and now it is necessary to adapt the project to new needs.

The need to redevelop the terminal and border controls are ever pressing, as the low-cost airline Ryanair is started flights from London to Osijek, twice a week from 2 June. As the UK has left the EU, every passenger needs to have their passport stamped and scanned.

The deadline for the tender is 11 July. More information can be obtained from sanela.vidic@osijek-airport.hr or by calling +385 31514403. #1194.19

KOSOVO

The operator of the Pristina airport, Limak Kosovo International Airport (LKIA), plans to add four gates to the terminal, investing EUR 3 million (USD 3.2 million) in the expansion, the finance ministry said. Following the expansion, the airport will have twelve boarding gates, the ministry said in a notice published in its website.

In 2022, the airport handled 3 million passengers, a 37% increase compared with the previous year, data from its website show. LKIA is an arm of Turkish conglomerate Limak Holding, which invests in the sectors of energy, tourism, food, construction, and infrastructure. It has operations in 14 countries, according to its 2022 report. #1194.20

Africa

MOZAMBIQUE

Mozambique Transport Minister Ricardo Viegas D'Abreu has signed an Assistance Agreement with ICAO for the operation of the New International Airport of Luanda (NAIL). The

agreement includes the monitoring and supervision of the operational transition process of the AIAAN "ORAT" of the New International Airport. The agreement also covers the certification process and the transfer of management of the operation, with the concessionaire to be selected through a public tender. According to the Ministry of Transport's statement, the agreement will come into effect in August of this year and will last for two years.

Due to the strategic nature of the operational transfer project, the Ministry of Transport requested the assistance of the ICAO's Technical Cooperation Bureau (TCB), now called the Capacity Development and Implementation Bureau (CDIB), to supervise the operational aspects. This led to the signing of the Operational Assistance Agreement for NAIL. As part of the implementation of Project AGO23801, ICAO will assign an expert in Airport Operational Assistance (OPAS) to assist the Ministry of Transport in the necessary supervision and support activities.

The Ministry of Transport's document indicates that as the construction of the New International Airport of Luanda is in its final phase, the possibility of commencing cargo operations will soon arise after the infrastructure's inauguration. This considers the interface between the construction of the project and the operational systems and stakeholders. #1194.21

ZAMBIA

Zambia Airports Corporation Limited (ZACL) has announced plans to develop an airport city around Simon Mwansa Kapwepwe International Airport (SMKIA) in Ndola. The corporation aims to transform the surrounding land into a model airport city and is seeking partnerships with the local business community to achieve this vision. Kephass Phiri, the acting director for general-commercial services at ZACL, shared this information during a seminar at the Copperbelt Agriculture Mining Industrial and Networking Exposition (CAMINEX) in Kitwe. ZACL owns 2,153 hectares of land around SMKIA, which can be utilized for the development of the envisioned airport city. The project presents various opportunities in sectors such as housing, retail, hospitality, maintenance, cold storage facilities, and other related industries that are essential for the city's growth.

The company is now seeking consultancy services for the preparation, procurement, and management of the Airport City development. The objective of the consultancy service is to develop a design plan that is technically, economically feasible, and socially/environmentally sustainable for the implementation of extensive services. The plan should include details such as layout plans of utilities and road networks, bill of quantities, and preliminary designs for necessary infrastructure. The consultant is expected to conduct a survey of the land, update maps, preserve natural features, design civil infrastructure based on water supply, waste treatment, electricity/solar, and communication, and determine the phasing of development. The consultant will also be responsible for procuring and managing the construction and implementation of the proposed design. Interestingly, only local firms are eligible, which does not bode well for the development. The deadline for bids is 16 June. More information can be obtained from this email address: zacl@zacl.aero. #1194.22

SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa's Gauteng provincial administration will develop a new international airport located south of Johannesburg on the banks of the Vaal river. The airport is part of a larger urban development called Mega River City. The airport is meant to cater to 27 million annual passengers and 500,000 tonnes of cargo, with space to grow to 40 MPPA. Phase 1 will cater to 7 million annual passengers and 150,000 tonnes of cargo.

Citigroup Inc. is teaming up with South Africa's Gauteng provincial administration to fund almost 1.4 billion rand (USD 72 million) of investment in the new development. The US lender, through its South African unit, will make a seven-year loan facility available to a special purpose vehicle that will directly invest in infrastructure. The development could attract as much as ZAR 30 billion (USD 1,52 billion) in additional investment.

Phase 1 of the airport includes a single runway with 4.2 km² of land; a passenger terminal with a capacity of seven million passengers per annum; and a cargo terminal with a capacity of 150 million tonnes per annum. The developer expects that the first phase could open as soon as late 2028 or early 2029. #1194.23

Middle East

SAUDI ARABIA

Dubai's Al Maktoum International Airport, also known as Dubai World Central (DWC), is poised to become the world's largest airport upon completion, as stated by urban master developer Dubai South. The ambitious project, with an estimated value of AED 120 billion (USD 33 billion), was launched in 2010 for cargo operations and expanded to accommodate passengers in 2013. The development aims to establish itself as a multi-modal transport hub, seamlessly connecting air, land, and sea transportation. In addition to offering a business-friendly free zone, Dubai South has plans to provide a diverse range of residential options, creating a holistic community within the airport's vicinity. In April, it was reported that Dubai is considering restarting the expansion of Al Maktoum International Airport, which is considered its most significant construction endeavour. By 2050, the airport aims to

secure its position as the world's largest, **capable of handling up to 255 million passengers annually. The first phase of expansion, projected to conclude by 2030, will boost the airport's capacity to accommodate 130 million passengers per year.** Spanning across an area of 56 km² this ambitious undertaking is expected to contribute significantly to Dubai's economy. Although the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the progress of the Al Maktoum International Airport project, the recent rebound in traffic numbers has reinvigorated prospects for expansion. Dubai International (DXB), the city's primary airport, handled 66.1 million passengers in 2022. It is anticipated that around 78 million passengers will utilize the airport this year, with a return to pre-pandemic levels anticipated in 2024.

Preparations are currently underway to resume the project, which includes a USD 2.7 billion substructure contract encompassing Concourse 1 and the West Terminal building. These facilities will incorporate essential components such as tunnels, baggage handling systems, road networks, and support facilities, providing an efficient and seamless travel experience for passengers.
#1194.24

SAUDI ARABIA

Jeddah Airports Company (Jedco) has unveiled an ambitious plan to transform King Abdulaziz International Airport (KAIA) into one of the world's largest airports with a SR 115 billion (USD 31 billion) expansion project. The key components of the plan include the design and expansion of Terminal 1 and the construction of a new Terminal 2. By completion in 2031, the **airport's capacity will increase to accommodate 114 million passengers annually.**

The Terminal 1 project focuses on enhancing infrastructure and enabling works, installing new gates, boarding bridges, parking aprons, and extending the automatic people mover. The aim is to increase the annual passenger capacity by 15 million. The multibillion-dollar scheme is set to commence this year, with a targeted completion date of 2026.

Terminal 2 aims to nearly triple the airport's current capacity of 40 million passengers per year. The project, slated to begin in 2026 and conclude by 2031, entails constructing a brand-new terminal building, including new taxiways, aprons, roads, utilities, and advanced baggage handling and software systems. The estimated cost of this project exceeds USD 10 billion.

To handle the increased traffic, Jedco plans to construct a fourth runway, starting in 2025 and expected to be completed by 2029. Due to space constraints, substantial infrastructure relocation work will be required.

In addition to passenger-focused developments, the airport's commercial proposition will be bolstered by **the development of a new logistics area covering over 3 km².** This facility will house new customs and service buildings, along with several leasable warehouses for the private sector. Construction will be carried out in phases, with a scheduled completion date of 2029.

Simultaneously, Jedco is building a new Hajj and Umrah terminal to cater to the large number of pilgrims. The arrivals and departures hall for budget airlines will be capable of accommodating 15 million passengers annually, and the project is expected to be finalized by 2025.

Further initiatives include the construction of a new baggage handling facility adjacent to Terminal 1, integrating with the existing conveyor belt systems to expand the airport's capacity.

Jedco's investment program is driven by the forecasted annual demand of 114 million passengers by 2030. Saudi Arabian Airlines is expected to contribute 51 million passengers, followed by 21 million from international airlines, and 13 million each from budget airlines Flynas and Flyadeal.

The forecast and plans were developed in collaboration with key stakeholders, including giga-project real estate developers, air cargo handler Saudi Logistics Services (SAL), the General Civil Aviation Authority

(Gaca), and engineering firms Atkins, Mace, and DGJ. These companies serve as consultants on the capital projects investment plan.

Currently, KAIA operates three terminals, with Terminal 1 catering primarily to the state carrier and domestic flights, the North Terminal serving international airlines, and the Hajj Terminal dedicated to pilgrim traffic. Terminal 1, opened in 2018, is already one of the world's largest passenger terminals. #1194.25

Saudi Arabia's giga-project, The Red Sea, is preparing to launch its inaugural international airport this summer. Initially, the Red Sea International Airport will cater to domestic arrivals and gradually expand to accommodate international flights within the following year. The airport has been designed as a comprehensive boutique facility capable of handling a wide range of aircraft sizes, from private jets to the massive Airbus A380. Notably, it will be the sole airport in the region to feature a dedicated runway for seaplanes.

Red Sea International Airport will operate entirely on renewable energy, aligning with the sustainability practices implemented across other Red Sea Global destinations, namely The Red Sea and Amaala. To streamline processing times, the airport will eliminate the traditional baggage claims area, opting instead to deliver luggage directly to guests' hotel rooms. The airport will also offer top-notch amenities, including a spa and high-quality restaurants, with an expected capacity to serve one million passengers. The Red Sea International Airport also aims to be the Middle East's first carbon-neutral airport. This achievement marks a significant milestone for Red Sea Global and positions it as the first among Saudi Arabia's original giga-projects to welcome visitors. #1194.26

Russia & C.I.S.

GEORGIA

Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili on 5 June unveiled his office's plans to build a "new, modern and international-standard" airport, which he said would respond to the Government's intentions of transforming the country into a regional hub. In his comments at the weekly cabinet meeting, the head of the Government said "disadvantages and limitations" of Tbilisi International Airport, which currently serves the city, were being revealed by increased tourist traffic. He also cited conclusions by the country's Economy Ministry that said the current airport had "failed to provide opportunities for further expansion and development", hampering the Government's plans to promote the country's role in the South Caucasus region. It is not clear if the PM was referring to physical limitations to expansions or issues with the airport's current operator TAV.

The PM said the location of a former airfield in Vaziani, near Tbilisi, could become the site for the new airport, and added the Government would invite foreign professionals to study the prospective area and its potential. The Government has repeatedly said the country has a potential to be a regional hub, and the country's Economy Ministry has been working [over the topics related to airports] over the past several months", he noted.

Garibashvili said the new facility would mean future generations would have a "high-class" airport. The final decision about the location of the new airport will be made after professional assessments of the former airfield are completed, he added. #1194.27

Asia Pacific

MALDIVES

President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih has officially commenced the construction of Gan International Airport in Addu City, Maldives. Solih had previously announced plans to expand Gan International Airport to accommodate 1.5 million tourists annually. The project is being financed through a line of credit from the Exim Bank of India. The contract for the expansion was awarded to India's Renatus Projects Private Limited on 5 March 2023.

Upon completion, the airport will feature essential facilities such as duty-free shops, restaurants, lounges, a passenger terminal capable of serving 1.5 million passengers per year, cold storage and cargo facilities, a control tower, a fire station, parking zones, and roads.

The project is expected to bring significant socioeconomic growth to the southern region of the Maldives and enhance Addu City's role in the country's development. It is also anticipated to strengthen the city's connection with the international community, boost tourism, and stimulate economic activity in the south. #1194.28

Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih has announced plans to expand the runway of the Faafu Atoll Magoodhoo Airport, which is currently being constructed. President Solih made the announcement during a visit to the atoll, emphasizing the need for a more contemporary development. The expansion of the runway aims to accommodate private jet landings and enhance the airport's capabilities. The project scope includes expanding the runway from 1,500 to 1,800 meters, constructing a tarmac for private jets, establishing a taxiway and parking area with a fuel farm, and building a VIP lounge and a city hotel. President Solih expressed confidence that Magoodhoo Airport would become one of the best regional airports. The airport is being developed by the Maldives Transport and Contracting Company (MTCC) at a cost of MVR 213.5 million (USD 13.9 million). The land reclamation has been completed, and the construction of the runway and airport terminal is currently underway. The government also plans to allocate land plots from the reclaimed area. President Solih highlighted that the airport would address transportation challenges for approximately 6,000 residents living in the Faafu Atoll, as the atoll currently lacks an airport. In addition to the airport project, President Solih inaugurated the water and sewerage system and the new office of Fenaka Corporation. #1194.29

INDIA

The Airports Authority of India has inaugurated a new Civil Enclave at Kanpur Airport in Uttar Pradesh, India. The upgraded infrastructure spans 50 acres and includes a terminal building that is 16 times larger than the previous one, covering an area of 6243 m². The event was attended by notable dignitaries, including the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and the Union Minister for Civil Aviation and Steel.

The new Civil Enclave aims to enhance aerial connectivity in the region. It has the capacity to handle 400 passengers during peak hours, compared to the previous capacity of 50 passengers. The apron can accommodate three A321/B737 aircraft, and a new link taxiway has been constructed. The terminal building features eight check-in counters, three conveyor belts, and a retail and F&B area of 850 sqm.

The parking capacity has also been increased to accommodate 150 cars and two buses.

The inauguration of the new civil enclave is expected to boost local industries, tourism, and employment opportunities, benefiting the region's economy. #1194.30

India is set to significantly expand its airport infrastructure in the next few years, according to Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia. He announced that India will have 200-220 airports, heliports, and water aerodromes within the next two to three years. Prior to 2014, only 74 airports were operational in the country, but by March 2023, an additional 74 airports, helicopters, and water aerodromes have been successfully established. The objective is to reach a total of 220 airports by 2024-25, including four recently declared international airports in Tirupati, Vijayawada, Kushinagar, and Mopa, bringing the total number of international airports in India to 30.

Efforts are also underway to enhance capacity at metro airports. **The plan is to increase the overall capacity from the current 221 million passengers per annum (MPPA) to over 456 MPPA in the next decade.** Expansion projects are already in progress or completed at airports such as Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (DIAL), Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Chennai. Moreover, the

construction of Greenfield Airports in Jewar and Navi Mumbai will further boost capacity expansion in Delhi and Mumbai.

In addition, 11 more Greenfield airports, including Dholera and Hirasar in Gujarat, have received in-principle approval.

Regarding investment, the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) projects a capital expenditure (CAPEX) of over USD 13.4 billion from FY2019-20 to FY2024-25. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) is expected to contribute approximately USD 3.3 billion, while the remaining expenditure will be borne by airport developers under the public-private partnership (PPP) model. As of March 2023, USD 7.2 billion has already been spent, and the AAI has made a capital expenditure of over USD 2.6 billion in the past nine years to strengthen the civil aviation sector. #1194.31

CAMBODIA

Cambodia is seeking partners for the development of an airport in Monduliri province after PowerChina International Group Ltd (PIG) withdrew due to the COVID-19 crisis, and negotiations with other foreign companies failed. The airport, planned for a 300-hectare site in Sen Monorom commune, is expected to cost over USD 80 million. Companies from China and South Korea have expressed interest in the project. The airport aims to facilitate travel for domestic and foreign tourists, as well as expedite freight movement. The State Secretariat of Civil Aviation is actively seeking reliable partners for the investment. Monduliri province, located in the northeastern region of Cambodia, is part of the government's broader initiative to attract more tourists to the area. The Monduliri Tourism Development Master Plan was approved in August 2021 to support the province's economic growth and tourism industry. Prime Minister Hun Sen highlighted the potential for economic development in the province and expressed the master plan's importance in guiding tourism development in Monduliri. #1194.32

VIETNAM

The Airports Corporation of Vietnam (ACV) will commence construction on the T2 terminal of the Cat Bi International Airport in Q4 of 2023. The site clearance and land transfer will be completed by Q3 2023 before early works begin. The project is expected to cost USD103 million. Terminal T2 will serve domestic flights, while the existing T1 will serve as the main international terminal of the airport.

Once operational, the T2 terminal will increase the airport's capacity to handle 5 million passengers annually, which will be increased to 10 million passengers in the future. #1194.33

Vietnam will add two more airports in its airport construction agenda until 2030, bringing the total number of planned airports to 30. In a decision approved by Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh on 7 June, the Thanh Son Airport in the central province of Ninh Thuan and the Bien Hoa Airport in Dong Nai Province that borders HCMC will be added to the roster of new airports. By 2030, Vietnam will still have the same 14 international airports it has now, as well as 16 domestic airports. Thanh Son and Bien Hoa airports will be used for both civilian and military purposes.

By 2050, Vietnam will have 33 airports in total. The total number of international airports will remain the same at 14, but the Cat Bi Airport will be replaced by the Hai Phong Airport. Three more domestic airports: Cat Bi, Cao Bang and an airport in the capital area will be added, bringing the roster of domestic airports to 19.

Regarding proposals to build local airports, the government said it would look into the possibilities of doing so for certain airports with defence and security purposes, as well as those in vital positions with potential for tourism and service development. Twelve such airports have been proposed.

Certain important international airports would be prioritized for construction and expansion, such as Long Thanh, Tan Son Nhat, Noi Bai, Da Nang, Cam Ranh and Phu Quoc.

The government will continue to upgrade and utilize new and existing airports, aiming for 95% of the population to be able to reach at least one airport within a 100 km radius.

By 2030, the number of passengers at airports should reach around 275 million, accounting for 1.5-2% of transport demand. The amount of goods transported through airports should also reach 4.1 million tons, accounting for 0.05-0.1% of transport demand.

Besides the airports, the agenda also includes logistics centres at airports with transport demands greater than 250,000 tons a year. These logistics centres will provide traffic connectivity to transport goods at certain airports. The Chu Lai Airport will have a logistics centre that acts as a hub for international goods. The airport agenda until 2030 will require around VND420 trillion (USD 17.88 billion), derived from both the national budget and other sources. New airports will be invested under public-private partnerships.
#1194.34

LAOS

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is announcing a contract for the Preparatory Survey for the Development of Vientiane International Airport in Laos. The project aims to expand the passenger terminal, pave taxiways and aprons, and improve safety and efficiency at the airport. The execution period is from. The selection method is a planning competition, and the estimated work volume is 26.00 person-months. The proposal submission deadline is June 23, 2023, at 12:00. The competition is open to all ministries and agencies with valid qualifications and registered corporations in Japan. The details and requirements can be found in the planning competition manual. More information can be found on the [JICA website](#). #1194.35

P.R.C.

Construction on the Baoji Airport project (Shaanxi Province) will start in 2023. The feasibility study report for the airport project has recently been completed, and the preliminary design of the terminal building has been determined. Baoji Airport involves the reconstruction of the Fengxiang Military Airport.

The newly constructed Baoji military-civilian airport aims to accommodate 1.2 million passengers and handle 4,800 tons of cargo and mail by 2030. It will operate at Flight Area Level 4C and require a total investment of USD 182 million. The main construction components include a runway measuring 3,200 metres in length and 50 meters in width, a terminal building covering an area of 14,000 m², 11 C-type parking stands, and supporting facilities such as air traffic control, power supply, water supply, and fuel supply. #1194.36

Sunan Shuofang International Airport, which serves the cities of Wuxi and Suzhou in southern Jiangsu Province, will expand at a cost of USD 492 million. The project will see the construction of an entirely new area east of the airport with cargo facilities, aircraft hangars, and a fuel installation. The project will include a large aircraft apron and taxiway and will be finalized in 2025.
#1194.37

THE PHILIPPINES

The Department of Transportation (DOTr) and the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA) have jointly submitted a proposal to the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Board, outlining their plans to modernize the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA). The proposal seeks to address the need for increased capacity at NAIA and ensure safe operations while significantly enhancing the passenger experience through reduced waiting and

processing times, upgraded facilities, and improved terminal connectivity, according to a statement from the DOTr. To achieve these objectives, the government plans to require a private concessionaire to invest in modern air traffic control equipment, rehabilitate runways and taxiways, and enhance existing terminal facilities.

On 2 June, the DOTr and MIAA submitted their joint proposal for consideration. Under the proposal, the private concessionaire would operate the airport for a period of 15 years to recoup its investment. This duration is designed to ensure sufficient capacity to meet the growing demand in the Greater Capital Region, particularly as other airports in the region are still in various stages of development and planning. Transport Secretary Jaime Bautista expressed confidence in the ability of private companies to deliver excellent airport services, citing the positive examples set by Cebu and Clark airports. He emphasized the goal of bringing efficiency and service improvements to Manila, the country's primary international gateway, through the involvement of world-class airport operators and investors.

The DOTr has adopted both solicited and unsolicited modes for the NAIA rehabilitation project, with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) serving as their transaction advisor. The ADB, in collaboration with the Public-Private Partnership Center, is assisting in the completion of the terms of reference for the bidding process to operate and maintain NAIA.

Additionally, the DOTr will review a separate unsolicited proposal worth P100 billion put forward by the Manila International Airport Consortium (MIAC) for the operation and maintenance of NAIA. This assessment will be conducted in accordance with the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) principle.

The MIAC is comprised of Aboitiz InfraCapital, Inc.; AC Infrastructure Holdings Corp.; Asia's Emerging Dragon Corp.; Alliance Global – Infracorp Development, Inc.; Filinvest Development Corp.; JG Summit Infrastructure Holdings Corp.; and Global Infrastructure Partners, a prominent investor and operator of airports worldwide.

The MIAC believes that with its substantial capital investment and the implementation of proposed operational and technological enhancements, NAIA will have the capacity to efficiently serve up to 62.5 million passengers per year by 2028—more than doubling its current design capacity, which stands at only 31 million passengers annually. #1194.38

Transport Secretary Jaime Bautista is advocating for the transformation of Clark International Airport (CRK) into a transshipment hub for international cargo, supported by aviation-related facilities. Bautista emphasized the potential of CRK's location as an ideal hub for efficient movement of international cargo. He cited the presence of logistics giants FedEx and UPS as evidence of the airport's potential for cargo traffic. Bautista also urged the development of attractive incentives to encourage airlines to return and establish Clark as an aviation hub. While the pandemic has affected cargo volumes at CRK, Bautista highlighted that the airport's cargo registrations in 2022 are rapidly catching up with the levels seen in 2014. He expressed hope for increased regional and international flights from Philippine Airlines, Cebu Pacific, and Air Asia. As part of CRK's master plan, the development of a 750-hectare civil aviation complex adjacent to the airport terminal is also underway. #1194.39

The Western Visayas Regional Development Council (RDC) is advocating for the development and rehabilitation of the Iloilo International Airport in order to accommodate the increasing number of tourists visiting the region. The call for the airport's expansion and upgrading under a private-public partnership (PPP) scheme was made by Iloilo City Mayor Jerry P. Treñas, who is also the chairman of the RDC's Infrastructure Development Committee. The airport experienced a significant rise in passenger traffic in 2022, reaching 3.4 million passengers and handling 4.2 million cargo movements. **The estimated cost for the airport's expansion and development is around PHP 25 billion (USD 445 million).** Various companies, including Aboitiz InfraCapital Inc. and

Prime Asset Ventures, Inc., have submitted unsolicited proposals for the project. The Department of Transportation (DOTr) and the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) are currently reviewing these proposals, with a decision expected in the coming months. The RDC believes that the development of the Iloilo International Airport will boost the region's tourism industry and create employment opportunities. The airport serves as an important gateway with direct flights to Manila, Cebu, and other key cities in the Philippines. #1194.40

AUSTRALIA

Berwick MP Brad Battin has advocated for the construction of a new airport in Melbourne's Southeast. During a parliamentary session, he requested Treasurer Tim Pallas to release economic data regarding the feasibility of establishing an airport in the region, which is projected to experience significant growth. Battin emphasized the area's potential for businesses, factories, and access to ports. The idea of a new airport in the Southeast has been previously proposed in plans such as Plan Melbourne 2017-2050 and Melbourne 2030. Potential sites mentioned include Hastings, Tooradin, and Caldermeade. Considerations include the impact on existing airports, smaller airports, and businesses. Battin believes it is important to explore potential land for the airport to facilitate economic development and job creation in the region, beyond housing sprawl. #1194.41

Vertiports / Urban Air Mobility

VPorts, a company which develops advanced air mobility (AAM) infrastructure, has begun the certification process for its vertiports as part of the world's first AAM integrator center at the Mohammed bin Rashid Aerospace Hub (MBRAH) in Dubai South. The certification process aligns with the regulations of the UAE General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) and will ensure that the vertiports meet industry standards for the safe operation of electric vertical take-off and landing aircraft. The construction of the vertiports is scheduled to start in 2024.

VPorts' vertiports will incorporate advanced technologies, including automated landing systems and smart charging infrastructure, to enhance functionality and passenger comfort. These transportation hubs will contribute to reducing traffic congestion, improving accessibility, and promoting sustainable transportation solutions in Dubai.

Additionally, VPorts plans to establish its Vertiport Operation Control Centre (VOCC) as part of the AAM integrator centre. The VOCC will manage air traffic integration, communication protocols, and resource management using artificial intelligence. By aligning with GCAA requirements and implementing standard operating procedures, VPorts aims to deliver operational excellence, ensuring the highest levels of safety, security, and a seamless client experience. #1194.42

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