

GLOBAL AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT NEWS

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Europe

LATVIA

Riga Airport (Latvia) is advancing two major infrastructure projects: expanding its passenger terminal and reconstructing Apron 4. The terminal expansion project has entered its final tender phase, with four bidders invited to submit financial proposals by 31 March. The project, funded through the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Northern Investment Bank, and OP Corporate Bank, includes a new passenger terminal, baggage handling and sorting complex, access roads, and a multi-storey car park, covering approximately 45,000 m². Construction is expected to begin in the second half of 2025 and be completed by 2029.

Simultaneously, **the airport has launched the first stage of contractor selection for the reconstruction of Apron 4, an 80,000 m² project funded by the European Union.** This development will provide ten aircraft stands for Class A–E aircraft, along with new taxiing and service roads, enhancing military mobility and expanding cargo handling capacity. The project also includes an upgraded electrical substation, aerodrome lighting, video surveillance, and a rainwater drainage system. The first-stage tender deadline is 8 April 2025, with completion expected by the end of 2027. The Apron 4 project aligns with Riga Airport's long-term strategy to develop its Cargo City hub, integrating recent expansions such as a dedicated cargo apron, DHL's regional logistics centre, and airBaltic's Baltic Cargo Hub. #1238.DEV1

GERMANY

Lübeck Airport is investing EUR 50 million to expand its facilities. Airport owner Winfried Stöcker is leading the investment, which includes new hangars, a congress centre for 400 visitors, and a fine-dining restaurant featuring top-tier chefs.

The investment supports the return of Ryanair, which will resume flights from March 2025 after a ten-year absence. The Irish low-cost airline plans to carry 82,500 passengers this year, operating routes to London-Stansted, Palma de Mallorca, and Málaga, with four weekly flights to Stansted. The airport aims to increase passenger traffic to 200,000 by 2026.

Ryanair's return is driven by Lübeck's lower airport fees, making it more attractive than Hamburg, Dortmund, or Leipzig.

Lübeck's management is optimistic about profitable operations with Ryanair, while Stöcker has stated he can subsidise the airport for another decade if necessary, following the sale of his company, Euroimmun. However, he criticised the Kiel state government for obstructing airport expansion plans. Currently, 120 people are employed at the airport, including IT, parking, and architectural services staff. #1238.DEV2

DENMARK

Odense Hans Christian Andersen Airport is undergoing a major expansion, adding four hectares in the Allesø business area to accommodate drone companies and manned aviation.

The airport, which has attracted global interest due to its test facilities and large airspace, needs additional space to meet the growing demand from drone businesses and private aviation.

The expansion will include hangars and office spaces for private aircraft, while new companies will construct their own facilities after the airport completes infrastructure work such as electricity, water, heating, and access roads.

HCA Airport is owned by Nordfyns and Odense municipalities, and the Odense City Council's finance committee has approved a municipal loan guarantee to support the project. Construction is expected to begin early next year, further strengthening HCA Airport's position as a hub for aviation and drone technology. #1238.DEV3

UNITED KINGDOM

The UK government has given provisional support for a second runway at Gatwick Airport, provided noise mitigation measures, and included improved public transport access. Transport Secretary Heidi Alexander stated she is "minded to approve" the GBP 2.2 billion (USD 2.8 billion) privately funded expansion, but final approval depends on further consultations, with a decision expected in October.

Gatwick plans to shift its northern runway from backup use to full operation by the end of the decade, potentially **increasing annual movements by 100,000 to a total 386,000 by the late 2030s**. The expansion aims to boost capacity for short-haul leisure and business travel. While industry and union representatives back the project, it faces strong opposition from environmental groups and local residents concerned about noise, pollution, and climate impact. Gatwick insists it will reduce noise below 2019 levels and enhance passenger choice by adding new routes and airlines. #1238.DEV4

Jersey Airport (Channel Islands) is set to enhance its passenger experience with proposed improvements to its public areas. The plans, announced by Ports of Jersey, focus on upgrading the arrivals and parking zones in front of the terminals. A significant aspect of the project involves dismantling an old hangar to create open spaces offering runway views and sheltered waiting areas for onward transportation. Additionally, the proposal includes relocating hire car facilities closer to the terminal and enhancing the waiting area for bus passengers.

Airport Director Ashley Maggs expressed optimism that these developments will enrich the passenger experience. A planning application for the project is expected to be submitted in the coming weeks. #1238.DEV5

PORTUGAL

The Lisbon New Airport project has entered a stakeholder consultation phase, led by ANA, the airport concessionaire, as part of the mandated 2012 concession contract. This process involves key industry players, including potential TAP Air Portugal bidders Air France-KLM, IAG Group, and Lufthansa, as well as Lisbon's five largest airlines—TAP, Ryanair, easyJet, Vueling, and SATA. Regulatory bodies, air traffic management authorities, security forces, and ground handling companies like Menzies are also engaged in discussions.

The consultation covers the airport's location, infrastructure specifications, and proposed airport charges. While the contract stipulates two parallel 4,000-meter runways, ANA has suggested adjustments to align with industry trends and optimise costs. The Portuguese Government has expressed openness to revising specifications to improve efficiency and reduce the project's EUR 8.5 billion CAPEX. However, a controversial element is ANA's proposal to increase airport charges next year to pre-finance construction, a move opposed by the Portuguese Airlines Association, Ryanair, and the Government, as it would impose costs before the airport becomes operational.

According to Nicolas Notebaert, CEO of Vinci Concessions and president of Vinci Airports, the project will be optimised over the next three years instead of entering immediate negotiations with the Portuguese Government. Speaking during an official visit as part of

Emmanuel Macron's delegation, Notebaert reaffirmed Vinci's commitment to investing in Portugal, where it acquired ANA through privatisation in 2012. He also confirmed that the environmental impact study for the Alcochete site is underway, though some aspects of the project may advance before the study's completion. #1238.DEV6

ITALY

Rome Fiumicino Airport is set for a EUR 5 billion expansion, aimed at transforming it into one of Europe's leading hubs. The project includes the construction of a fourth runway, a new terminal, and exclusive lounges to accommodate increasing passenger numbers. In 2024, the airport handled 49.2 million passengers, a 21.3% increase from the previous year, and projections for 2025 estimate 53.7 million travellers. With these upgrades, Fiumicino aims to double its capacity in the coming decades, reaching 100 million passengers annually.

The expansion will cover 260 hectares, with 33 hectares allocated for new infrastructure, while the remainder will be preserved as green space. The new runway will improve operational efficiency, reducing delays during peak hours. The new terminal will feature advanced security screening, baggage handling, and modern passenger services. Transport links and parking areas will also be upgraded to improve accessibility and reduce congestion.

By late 2025, more than 1,000 m² of premium lounges will open, providing enhanced comfort for business and first-class travellers. Existing lounges will be expanded to accommodate growing demand, with new spaces dedicated to work, relaxation, and entertainment.

Sustainability is a key focus, with plans to return 80 hectares of airport land to a nature reserve, integrate energy-efficient designs, and reduce emissions. The project is pending approval, with an environmental impact assessment underway. If approved, Fiumicino will solidify its position as a major European hub, strengthened by the ITA Airways-Lufthansa partnership, which is expected to drive further international connectivity. #1238.DEV7

MALTA

Malta International Airport (MIA) is reviving its departure terminal expansion project, which was postponed in 2020 due to COVID-19. The airport will submit plans to the Planning Authority in March, aiming for approval by the second quarter of 2025. The expansion will double the terminal's size, increasing check-in desks from 36 to 68 and departure gates from 18 to 24.

Part of a EUR 345 million four-year investment programme, the project will significantly enhance passenger space, baggage handling, and commercial areas, with retail space increasing from 6,000 m² to 7,250 m². The new east wing will maintain the architectural style of the original 1990 terminal, featuring limestone, arches, and glass for natural lighting.

Construction is expected to begin by late 2025, though a completion date has not been confirmed.

Additional projects include the VIP terminal and SkyParks expansion, a fifth solar farm, and a transition to LED lighting. The arrivals terminal expansion is already complete, with a new corridor for Schengen passengers, allowing more space for non-Schengen border checks. #1238.DEV8

ALBANIA

Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama has announced plans to build a seasonal airport near Saranda, directly across from Corfu, Greece. Speaking at the ITB Berlin 2025 tourism exhibition, he stated that the new airport aims to ease congestion at Corfu Airport and boost tourism in southern Albania. The facility will operate only during the summer months to accommodate high visitor demand. The project is separate from the nearly completed Vlora Airport, which will be Albania's third international airport. Funding is still being sought, with major airlines such as Qatar Airways reportedly in discussions. The Munich Airport authority is expected to manage operations once the airport is completed.

Rama highlighted that the airport is part of a broader tourism strategy aimed at increasing visitor numbers beyond 11 million, supporting luxury resorts in Saranda and other destinations. The new airport is expected to impact Corfu's tourism industry, potentially creating both competition and opportunities for cross-border cooperation. #1238.DEV9

NORTH MACEDONIA

North Macedonia will invest EUR 2.7 million in upgrading Ohrid International Airport. Works include the construction of a new 250 m² administrative building and the reconstruction of the 2,000 m² terminal building and parking area. The works are expected to be completed by March 2026.

The upgrades are part of a concession agreement with TAV Macedonia, a subsidiary of Turkey's TAV Airports Holding. The government previously amended the concession to redirect funds from the cancelled Stip cargo airport project toward infrastructure improvements, including expansions at Skopje and Ohrid airports.

In 2024, passenger traffic at Skopje and Ohrid airports reached 3.17 million, a 0.8% increase from the previous year, according to Aeroports de Paris (ADP), which owns 46% of TAV Airports. #1238.DEV10

GREECE

Athens International Airport is fast-tracking its terminal expansion, accelerating plans to reach an annual capacity of 33 million passengers ahead of schedule, with a long-term target of 40 million by 2032. This decision follows strong financial performance and record-breaking passenger growth in 2024, when traffic surged to 31.85 million—a 13.1% increase from 2023 and 24.5% higher than 2019.

To support the expansion, AIA will finance part of the investment through a share capital increase, using an optional Scrip Dividend Program. This will allocate up to EUR 100 million from 2024 profits and an additional EUR 140 million from profits over the next three years for aviation-related developments. The airport's 2024 financial results showed a 1.9% rise in after-tax profits to EUR 235.9 million, with total revenue growing by 10.2% year-on-year to EUR 665.5 million. #1238.DEV11

In Crete, the new Heraklion Airport in Kastelli, under construction since 2020, has surpassed 40% completion and is set to open in 2027. The new facility, replacing the existing Nikos Kazantzakis Airport, will feature a 91,000 m² terminal, a 3,600-metre runway, and capacity for up to 15 million passengers annually. The project is being developed through a concession with GEK TERNA-GMR. #1238.DEV12

Greece is preparing a tender for the development of 22 regional airports, currently managed by the Civil Aviation Authority, as part of an effort to modernise infrastructure, boost tourism, and support local communities. The government, through Growthfund, is accelerating the process of improving airports in key tourist destinations such as Paros, Milos, and Naxos.

In 2024, these airports handled approximately 8 million passengers, reflecting an 8% increase from the previous year. The airports included in the tender serve Alexandroupoli, Araxos, Astypalaia, Chios, Ikaria, Ioannina, Kalymnos, Karpathos, Kasos, Kastelorizo, Kastoria, Kozani, Kythira, Leros, Limnos, Milos, Naxos, Nea Anchialos, Paros, Sitia, Skyros, and Syros.

Due to the limited commercial viability of many of these airports, Growthfund is exploring concession models with tax and investment incentives to attract private investors, while the state will retain a stake in ownership. Unlike previous tenders for individual airports, this project will bundle all 22 airports into a single tender to ensure a comprehensive development strategy. #1238.DEV13

POLAND

Poland plans to adapt all civilian airports for military use. The Minister of National Defence, Władysław Kosiniak-Kamysz, announced that all 15 civilian airports in the country will be upgraded to support military operations. This initiative aims to enhance national security by doubling the number of facilities available for military aircraft.

The concept includes creating transport hubs, evacuation points, support facilities, and cargo hubs within existing civilian airports. Some projects are already underway, including airport expansion in Rzeszów and the construction of cargo hubs, railway sidings, and fuel storage facilities in Katowice and Wrocław.

Similar preparations are planned for Kraków and Szczecin.

Kosiniak-Kamysz highlighted the existing dual-use model at airports in Kraków, Warsaw, and Rzeszów as examples. Warsaw's new greenfield airport (CPK) is also intended to support military operations, boosting the operational capabilities of Polish and allied forces.

In Świdnik, the military adaptation will focus on a helicopter base for the Polish Land Forces. Initially, the plan involved acquiring 100 hectares of land from the airport, but this was revised due to the presence of protected European ground squirrels in the grassy area. The new location will take up less space, and the base is expected to accommodate Apache attack helicopters purchased from the United States.

#1238.DEV14

Russia & C.I.S.

RUSSIA

A concession agreement has been signed for the reconstruction of Gorno-Altaysk Airport with a total investment of RUB 10.2 billion (USD 114 million). The project, running from 2025 to 2028, will be jointly funded, with RUB 7.9 billion (USD 88 million) from the federal budget and over RUB 2.3 billion (USD 26 million) in private investment. The upgraded airport is expected to handle 1.3 million passengers annually by 2030 and will receive international status.

The agreement, signed by the Russian Federal Air Transport Agency (Rosaviatsia) and Gorno-Altaysk Airport JSC, is the first of its kind for an airport in Russia and is implemented in partnership with Sberbank. The concession model aims to accelerate construction by leveraging private funding.

This project is part of the federal "Development of the Core Aerodrome Network" programme under the "Efficient Transport System" national project. In 2025, similar agreements will be signed for airports in Kemerovo, Stavropol, and Chita, with a total of 28 airport concessions planned across the country.

#1238.DEV15

Rosaviatsiya, Russia's Federal Air Transport Agency, and Rostec, a state-owned corporation specialising in high-tech industrial development, have agreed on the location for a new airport in Irkutsk. The chosen site, Klyuchevaya, situated between Angarsk and Shelekhov, was selected after evaluating multiple options. Officials now have a clear understanding of the steps required to move the project forward.

The next steps include resolving land issues, modifying territorial planning, and adjusting business operations at the aviation plant. The project has received official backing from the Russian President, and efforts are now focused on developing its legal and financial framework.

Rosaviatsiya emphasised that locating the airport outside the city has several advantages: proximity to Irkutsk, Angarsk, and Shelekhov, minimal noise impact on residential areas, and no need for relocation of buildings or infrastructure. The agency cited successful examples of similar projects, including Platov Airport (opened in 2017, over 30 km from Rostov-on-Don) and Gagarin Airport (2019, 20 km from Saratov), highlighting their positive impact on urban development and aviation safety.

The site selection involved multiple organisations, including Rostec, Rosaviatsiya, the State Corporation for Air Traffic Management, and the research institute AeroProject. As the project moves forward,

authorities will focus on finalising legal and financial aspects to ensure the successful development of the new airport. #1238.DEV16

UKRAINE

Zhytomyr International Airport, located approximately 120 km west of Kyiv, is seeking USD 20 million in investment for restoration and relaunch efforts. Local authorities are assessing the project, which aims to position the airport as a competitive alternative to Boryspil and Zhuliany airports, particularly for low-cost airlines and air cargo operations.

Once operational, the airport will accommodate Airbus A320 aircraft, serve over 300,000 passengers annually, and handle 5,000 tons of cargo. Potential funding sources include the Ukraine Facility program, EU initiatives, international financial institutions such as the World Bank and EBRD, and investments from both domestic and foreign businesses. #1238.DEV17

KAZAKHSTAN

Shymkent Airport plans to build a second runway, with construction set to begin in April 2025 and completion expected by December 2026. The new 3,300m-long runway will be located 210m from the existing one and will include taxiways, lighting systems, and de-icing facilities. The project aims to support increasing passenger and cargo traffic, particularly following the launch of SCAT Airlines' new passenger terminal in December 2024.

The airport's master plan also includes expanding the airfield, adding new engineering infrastructure, and improving aircraft operations. The second runway is designed to accommodate large aircraft such as the Boeing 777-300 for passenger flights and the Boeing 747-8F for cargo operations. The entire construction process is expected to take 21 months, including a two-month preparation period.

In December 2024, SCAT Airlines opened a new 35,000 m² passenger terminal with a capacity of 2,000 passengers per hour, allowing simultaneous service for up to 16 aircraft. The airport, which handled its two-millionth passenger in 2024, operates domestic flights across Kazakhstan and international routes to Moscow, Dubai, Istanbul, Delhi, and other destinations.

Shymkent Airport was transferred to SCAT under a 10-year trust management agreement in early 2024 after previous privatisation attempts failed. SCAT has been involved in developing the airport since 2018 and has successfully contested previous tenders that attempted to transfer management rights.

#1238.DEV18

KYRGYZSTAN

Manas International Airport is set to undergo a major reconstruction, expanding its passenger terminal by 18,000 m² to enhance passenger convenience and service quality. The project will increase check-in desks, expand waiting areas, and introduce modern recreation and dining facilities. New technologies will be implemented to improve operational efficiency and the overall customer experience. A key upgrade includes the construction of a skywalk, a covered passage connecting airport buildings, providing weather protection and faster terminal access for passengers.

According to Manasbek Samidinov, Chairman of the Board of Airports of Kyrgyzstan OJSC, the reconstruction will align Manas Airport with international standards, improving comfort for passengers and airlines alike. #1238.DEV19

North America

UNITED STATES

JetBlue, in partnership with Fraport USA and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, has announced a major revamp of Terminal 5 at John F. Kennedy International Airport (New York). The project, part of JFK's USD 19 billion redevelopment, will introduce over 40 new concessions, redesigned communal spaces, and art installations, creating a stronger New York

identity within the terminal. The first upgrades will open throughout 2025, with the full transformation expected to be completed by the end of 2026.

The centre concourse will be redesigned to reflect New York's city parks, featuring greenery, chess tables, and park benches, while interactive events and live performances will enhance the customer experience. Additionally, a curated art collection with over 30 works by New York-based artists will be displayed across the terminal.

The new retail and dining options will showcase a mix of globally recognised brands and local favourites, including Eataly, The Halal Guys, Shake Shack, Jacob's Pickles, DiFara Pizza, and Neir's Tavern. The project will also prioritise small businesses through the Airport Concessions Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (ACDBE) programme, helping local entrepreneurs establish themselves in airport retail. JetBlue has operated Terminal 5 since 2008, handling 165 flights and over 35,000 passengers per day. The airline is also leading the development of JFK's new Terminal 6, which will seamlessly connect to Terminal 5, ensuring a cohesive experience for travellers. #1238.DEV20

The Maryland Board of Public Works has approved a USD 22.2 million project to construct a new air traffic control tower at Martin State Airport (Maryland), replacing the 80-year-old existing facility. The new midfield tower will enhance aviation safety and efficiency, providing greater visibility for air traffic controllers, modern equipment, and ADA-compliant access for the first time. The Maryland Aviation Administration (MAA) emphasised that the project aligns with the state's strategic goals to improve airport infrastructure and support long-term growth.

Martin State Airport, located 10 miles northeast of Baltimore, serves general aviation, corporate, law enforcement, military, and flight school operations. As a federally designated reliever airport, it helps divert noncommercial traffic from Baltimore/Washington International (BWI) Airport and supports approximately 2,300 regional jobs. #1238.DEV21

Miami International Airport (Florida) is making significant progress on its USD 9 billion Future-Ready Modernization in Action Plan to support its continued growth. As part of the plan, major upgrades are underway across key infrastructure areas:

- **Conveyance Systems:** 33 escalators, elevators, and moving walkways have been renovated, improving passenger flow. Currently, 95% of MIA's 616 conveyance units are operational, up from 85% last year. Thirty more units are scheduled for modernisation in 2025.
- **Restrooms and Boarding Bridges:** 48 restrooms and 32 boarding bridges have been upgraded, including two energy-efficient glass bridges.
- **Flamingo Garage Expansion:** The **USD 136 million, 2,240-space garage** project, which broke ground in early 2024, is progressing on schedule for completion by the end of 2025.
- **Westin MIA Hotel:** A **USD 350 million, 546-room hotel** at MIA's entrance is set to break ground this summer, with completion expected in 2027.
- **Concourse K Expansion:** A **USD 750 million expansion** to add six new passenger gates to the South Terminal is under review by the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners. If approved this year, the three-level concourse will be completed by 2029.

MIA continues to implement efficiency improvements, with the **I AM MIA customer service program** enhancing maintenance response times. The newly created **Lightning Crew** has already filled 90 of 135 positions, completing an average of 23 maintenance jobs per day. #1238.DEV22

The Naples Airport Authority (Florida) is continuing an exploratory study on relocating Naples Airport by shifting its focus to financial feasibility. The board has asked consultants to narrow Phase 2 of the study to evaluating funding options for a potential USD 2 billion airport at one of four identified sites in East Collier County. The study, which began in October 2023, will now concentrate

on potential revenue sources, including municipal bonds, land sales, and possible financial contributions from the City of Naples, Collier County, or the State of Florida.

Naples City Council, which leases the airport land to NAA for USD 1 per year through 2068, voted 4-3 in November to continue the study, citing concerns over aircraft noise. However, Collier County commissioners have stated they are not interested in being involved in relocating the airport. Any major changes, including airport closure or relocation, would require Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) approval. The FAA has determined that noise levels at the airport remain within acceptable limits.

Naples Airport, established as a civilian facility in 1943 and now operating independently from the city since 1969, has an annual economic impact of over USD 780 million. The current facility is self-sustaining with a USD 67.35 million budget for fiscal year 2025. The discussion on relocation resurfaces every few years due to noise concerns, but financial and regulatory challenges remain significant hurdles to any potential move. #1238.DEV23

McKinney International Airport (Texas) is advancing a USD 72 million expansion project to develop a new commercial terminal. The McKinney City Council approved a contract with Swinerton Builders, with construction expected to begin by May 2025. The 4,180 m² terminal will initially have three gates, with plans to expand to five gates and support up to 20 flights per day. By 2040, the airport could grow to 16 gates and 40 daily departures.

The terminal will feature a 1,500-space parking lot, six aircraft parking positions, a dedicated de-icing pad, above-ground jet fuel tanks, and central concessions.

McKinney is negotiating with two airlines for passenger service, with flights expected to begin in mid-2026, potentially connecting to Orlando, Denver, Las Vegas, New York, and Los Angeles. Initially, the airport aims to serve 200,000 passengers in the first year, with projections of up to 1 million passengers annually within five years. #1238.DEV24

Denver International Airport (Colorado) has announced a USD 13 billion expansion plan to accommodate increasing passenger traffic, with major upgrades set to continue over the next 12 years. The airport, which celebrated its 30th anniversary, is preparing for 120 million annual passengers by 2045, more than double its original capacity of 50 million when it opened in 1995.

As part of the expansion, a seventh runway is planned by 2035, followed by an eighth by 2045, making DEN one of the largest airfields in the United States. Inside the terminal, passengers will face ongoing construction over the next five years, including an expansion of Concourse C, new ticketing facilities, security upgrades, and additional international baggage claim areas.

The USD 12.8 billion investment follows the completion of the USD 2.1 billion Great Hall renovation, expected to finish by 2027. Denver City Councilman Kevin Flynn noted that travelers should expect continuous construction, similar to past experiences at Stapleton Airport, which DEN replaced.

Colorado Governor Jared Polis hailed DIA as a key economic driver, employing over 40,000 workers. At the 30th anniversary event, futurist Crystal Washington emphasised the importance of embracing change and technological advancements to keep up with the rapid pace of transformation in air travel.

#1238.DEV25

Latin America & The Caribbean

BAHAMAS

The Bahamas government has secured USD 10 million for the first phase of Deadman's Cay Airport (Long Island) redevelopment, which includes a 305 m runway extension and the removal of a safety hazard. The improvements will allow Bahamasair to operate at full capacity, and construction will be carried out by local Long Islanders, with work set to begin soon.

Future phases include a 557 m² terminal building, modeled after Great Harbour Cay's, and potentially a customs and immigration facility. While the airport apron will be slightly reduced, it will still accommodate

Boeing 737 aircraft. The runway extension will be completed without a full closure, with any temporary shutdowns redirecting flights to Stella Maris Airport. #1238.DEV26

BELIZE

The Belizean government is considering the construction of an international airport in northern Ambergris Caye, with a focus on charter and private flights. While no concrete steps have been taken, Prime Minister John Briceño and Area Representative Andre Perez recently discussed the project, highlighting the island's growing tourism sector and the limitations of the existing John Greif II Municipal Airport in San Pedro. Perez, a former Minister of Civil Aviation, emphasised that Ambergris Caye needs a larger airport as it continues to attract high-end travellers.

Briceño addressed the proposal during the recent inauguration of upgrades to the island's airport, noting that local airlines, including Tropic Air and Maya Island Air, may need to expand their fleets to support future growth. He also reiterated that the Philip Goldson International Airport near Belize City will remain the primary hub for international carriers.

The idea of an international airport on the island first surfaced in 2019 when investors visited the Basil Jones area, but the project stalled due to a change in government and the COVID-19 pandemic. At the time, the estimated cost was around USD 100 million. Discussions on infrastructure requirements, including roads, telecommunications, and fuel distribution, are expected to take place after the general election on 12 March. #1238.DEV27

COSTA RICA

San José's Juan Santamaría International Airport has launched a USD 62.2 million expansion project to accommodate increasing passenger traffic. The new west terminal, known as T-01, will add 16,500 m² to the airport and is expected to be completed by early 2027. The four-story terminal will feature a state-of-the-art baggage handling system, expanded customs and arrivals facilities, and a modernised international departures area with self-bag drop counters and check-in kiosks. Administrative offices will be housed on the mezzanine level.

According to Minister of Public Works and Transportation Efraím Zeledón, the airport is projected to handle 6.5 million passengers by 2027 and 10.4 million by 2042, making the expansion a crucial step in preparing for long-term growth. The project coincides with Costa Rica's record-breaking tourism boom, which generated USD 5.4 billion in 2024 and created nearly 20,000 new jobs. #1238.DEV28

EL SALVADOR

Construction has begun on the Pacific Airport, a.k.a. Bitcoin City Airport, in La Unión, with operations set to start in the second half of 2027. The airport will be built in three phases, with an estimated total cost of USD 386.4 million for the first phase. This phase will include a 2,400-metre runway and a passenger terminal with two gates, with the capacity to handle 300,000 passengers annually. It is funded by USD 320 million from the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), USD 16.4 million from the Spanish government, and USD 50 million from the Autonomous Executive Port Commission (CEPA).

The second phase will add eight more gates and expand the terminal to 300,000 m², increasing capacity to one million passengers per year. The third phase will add eight additional gates, bringing the total to 18, and will accommodate five million passengers annually. The runway will remain the same, as it will already be capable of handling all aircraft types.

The project is expected to generate 10,000 jobs and includes environmental mitigation measures such as sediment control barriers, native tree reforestation, air quality monitoring, and noise control. The government has relocated 39 families from the construction area, providing financial compensation and assistance in finding new homes. #1238.DEV29

PERU

The USD 2 billion expansion of Jorge Chávez International Airport in Lima is unlikely to open as planned on March 30, despite 99.4% completion. Key security systems, including fire alarms and flight tracking, are still pending, and implementation will take more time.

Additionally, construction of temporary access roads Vía Expresa and Ovalo Santa Rosa is progressing slowly, with delays linked to the transport and communications ministry. Regulating traffic in Callao's busy port district is expected to remain a challenge even after the airport becomes operational.

Despite leaked letters from suppliers stating the work cannot be completed by the deadline, concessionaire Lima Airport Partners (LAP) insists it will meet the timeline. However, Ositran, Peru's transport regulator, has warned of penalties if the airport is not operational by March 30.

An aviation specialist, speaking anonymously, suggested that with most systems still needing to be installed, full operations are unlikely to begin before September 2025. #1238.DEV30

BRAZIL

Expansion of the passenger terminal at Fernando de Noronha Airport (Pernambuco state) is set to begin in March. The project will increase the airport's capacity from 260,000 to 400,000 passengers annually. The concessionaire Dix confirmed that construction will start by mid-March 2025, following the approval of an environmental license. Initially planned for November 2024, the project faced delays due to regulatory requirements but is now expected to be completed by July 2026. The BRL 57 million (USD 11.4 million) investment will expand the terminal from 1,000 m² to 3,300 m², modernising the airport's infrastructure to meet growing tourist demand.

Meanwhile, runway resurfacing, which began after its closure by ANAC in October 2022 due to structural damage, is progressing. The BRL 60 million (USD 12 million) project will allow large aircraft to return by April 2025, enabling jet operations. With this, Gol will resume flights, and Latam will begin services to the archipelago, joining Azul and Voepass. #1238.DEV31

ARGENTINA

Aeropuertos Argentina has announced a USD 10 million expansion project for El Plumerillo International Airport in Mendoza. The project will add 1,400 m² of new space and renovate 2,100 m², expanding the terminal to 14,400 m², allowing an increase of capacity by 40% and allowing seven flights to board simultaneously. Construction will focus on larger departure lounges, a new VIP area, and improved passenger services.

Mendoza Airport, which handled 2.3 million passengers in 2024, is seeing record growth, with December 2024 marking an all-time high of 230,000 travellers. #1238.DEV32

The final phase of the USD 15 million expansion of San Rafael Airport is moving forward. The new terminal will cover 2,350 m², featuring expanded check-in areas, a new baggage handling system, and a dedicated boarding gate. This upgrade will allow the airport to handle two Boeing 737-800 aircraft simultaneously.

These projects are part of Aeropuertos Argentina's broader investment strategy, which has exceeded USD 1 billion over the past five years, modernising airports across the country, including major upgrades at Ezeiza, Aeroparque, Bariloche, and Iguazú. #1238.DEV33

CHILE

The Chilean government has chosen to expand Santiago's Arturo Merino Benítez Airport instead of building a new airport, aiming to meet growing air traffic demands. The expansion will include a third runway and a new passenger terminal, with construction expected around 2035 when the current concession with operator Nuevo Pudahuel expires. The Ministry of Public Works (MOP)

determined this approach is more viable than alternative sites in Isla de Maipo, Linderos, and Graneros, as it offers better social profitability and operational efficiency. Upgrades will increase the airport's operational capacity from 40 to 84 movements per hour, accommodating over 30 million passengers annually before 2030 and up to 51 million by 2045. #1238.DEV34

Africa

TANZANIA

The Tanzanian government is moving forward with plans to construct an airport in the Mara Region near Serengeti Park, a project that has been stalled for 15 years due to environmental concerns. The airport is expected to handle 1.6 million passengers per year and feature a 4,000-meter runway, capable of accommodating large aircraft. Once operational, it will provide direct access to Serengeti National Park, reducing the need for a 300 km journey from Kilimanjaro International Airport. The Tanzania Airports Authority (TAA), which oversees airport infrastructure in the country, has signed a contract with Saba Engineering for a six-month feasibility study to determine the best approach for the project (see CON section for more details). TAA Director General Abdul Mambokaleo stated that once completed, the airport will allow direct flights for tourists, with expectations of up to 100 daily arrivals during peak season.

This development will make Serengeti the second airport in Mara, following the government's USD 14 million (TZS 35 billion) investment in expanding and upgrading Musoma Airport, which also serves as a gateway for tourists entering Serengeti National Park through the Ndabaka Gate in Bunda District. #1238.DEV35

The Tanzania Airports Authority (TAA) has issued a tender for the construction of a new VIP terminal building at Kilimanjaro International Airport. The tender, classified as small works, was published on 20 February 2025, with a bid submission deadline of 10 March 2025. The project aims to enhance facilities at the airport, with interested bidders required to submit their proposals before the deadline. #1238.DEV36

MADAGASCAR

Ravinala Airports is investing EUR 23.57 million to modernise Madagascar's airports, aiming to boost tourism and accommodate 200,000 additional passengers by 2025. The investment targets Antananarivo and Nosy Be airports, aligning with the government's goal of attracting one million tourists by 2028.

At Antananarivo International Airport, EUR 12.57 million will fund infrastructure upgrades, including EUR 11.47 million for runway and tarmac renovations, in partnership with Total Énergies and ASECNA. An additional EUR 1.1 million will improve the domestic terminal, increasing capacity from 120 to 216 passengers per hour and doubling the boarding hall size. Domestic departures will temporarily move to the old international terminal in June 2025, with the new terminal launching in October 2025.

At Nosy Be Airport, EUR 11 million will be allocated for modernisation. EUR 7.75 million will improve drainage, access roads, and wastewater management between December 2024 and February 2025. Another EUR 3.25 million will be used to enhance VIP lounges, cargo and dining areas, and tarmac lighting in collaboration with Adema and Total Énergies. **Discussions are ongoing for terminal expansion.** #1238.DEV37

Middle East

SAUDI ARABIA

The King Salman International Airport Development Company (KSIADC) has issued a design-and-build tender for the third runway at King Salman International Airport (KSIA) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The bid submission deadline is 24 March 2025, with the third and fourth runways planned

to complement the two existing runways at King Khalid International Airport, which will eventually be incorporated into KSIA.

The prequalification process for the runway and taxiway development began in September 2024, with firms submitting prequalification forms on 18 January 2025. KSIADC has also prequalified firms for key engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) packages, covering early enabling works, specialist systems, environmental and social governance (ESG), modular installation, and prefabrication.

The KSIA project, backed by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF), is divided into eight key assets, including an iconic terminal, Terminal 6, a private aviation terminal, hangars, cargo buildings, landside transport, and real estate development. For supplier registration, interested parties can visit:

<https://www.pif.gov.sa/en/vendor-gate/>. For daily alerts on global market opportunities, please subscribe to *Worldwide Airport Tenders* [here](#). #1238.DEV38

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

The Sharjah International Airport expansion project is progressing toward its goal of accommodating 20 million passengers annually by 2027, with several key developments underway. Recent updates highlight the completion of critical infrastructure, including a public services building, new aircraft parking stands, a redesigned road network, and expanded vehicle parking areas. Several ongoing construction phases are in various stages of design, supply, and tendering, with a focus on improving airport facilities and operational efficiency.

Future developments include an additional runway, a new passenger terminal, and upgraded road links to enhance connectivity within the airport. The expansion project has a total investment of AED 2.4 billion (USD 654 million) and is aligned with sustainability goals, integrating measures to reduce carbon emissions while enhancing service quality.

The Sharjah Airport Authority is implementing a comprehensive strategy to improve logistics operations, infrastructure, and environmental standards, with the objective of positioning the airport among the top five regional airports for travel experience and customer service. #1238.DEV39

Asia Pacific

MALDIVES

The Maldives Airports Company Limited (MACL) and the Maldives Transport and Contracting Company (MTCC) have signed an agreement to develop an airport on R. Fainu island. This project aims to boost local businesses, create employment opportunities, and facilitate tourism growth in Raa Atoll. Currently, Ifuru Airport is the only operational airport in the atoll. The development will involve feasibility studies, environmental impact assessments (EIA), and design work to ensure efficiency and environmental responsibility. #1238.DEV40

NEPAL

Tarigaun Airport plans to invest USD 7.5 million into extending its runway from 750 to 1500 metres. The airport, established in 1954, can only accommodate 19-seater aircraft. The extension would allow 72-seater aircraft to land and improve the airport's capacity. #1238.DEV41

INDIA

Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport will undergo a major expansion, with the construction of Pier E at Terminal 3 to increase annual passenger capacity from 45 million to 55 million. The project is part of Delhi International Airport Limited's (DIAL) broader INR 24.2 billion (USD 291.2 million) expansion plan, with Pier E alone costing INR 16.6 billion (USD 200 million). The expansion, set to begin in April 2025, will also include revamping Terminal 2, upgrading Runway 10/28 for low-visibility operations, and reallocating operations across terminals. Once Terminal 1 is fully operational, all flights from Terminal 2 will be shifted, allowing for T2's temporary closure for 4-5 months.

DIAL has submitted its proposal to the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA), which has proposed a reduced budget of INR 12.4 billion (USD 149.4 million) for Pier E. The new pier will reconfigure 3,600 m² of Terminal 3 to enhance domestic operations, with Piers A, B, and C designated for international flights, while Piers D and E will serve domestic traffic. The expansion is expected to accommodate increasing passenger demand, with existing domestic capacity projected to be fully utilised by 2027-28. #1238.DEV42

The Karnataka government has proposed three potential locations for Bengaluru's second international airport, with a formal proposal sent to the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation for approval. The sites include two locations along Kanakapura Road in Bangalore Urban and Ramanagara districts, covering 1,942 hectares and 2,023 hectares, and a third location along Kunigal Road in Nelamangala, spanning 2,104 hectares. The state has committed to providing at least 1,821 hectares for the project, which aims to address the increasing air traffic demand as Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) approaches capacity.

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) will assess the proposed locations, followed by a financial feasibility study before a final site is selected. The Karnataka government has assured that all locations fall within a 50 km radius of Bengaluru city centre, ensuring accessibility via major roads and highways. State Heavy Industries Minister M B Patil emphasised the need for a second airport, noting that Bengaluru's airspace is already congested, shared between Bangalore International Airport Ltd (BIAL), Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd, and the Indian Air Force's Yelahanka airbase. However, **a concession agreement signed with BIAL in 2004 prevents the development of a competing international airport within 150 km of KIA until 2033.** The exclusivity clause will expire by that time, and KIA is expected to reach its 100 million passenger capacity by 2030, necessitating an alternative. Passenger traffic at KIA grew by 9% in 2024, reaching 40.73 million, reinforcing the urgency for additional airport infrastructure. The government estimates that the new airport could take seven to eight years to develop, ensuring Bengaluru remains well-connected as demand for air travel continues to rise. #1238.DEV43

A meeting in New Delhi in mid-March will discuss the potential reopening of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) Airport in Bengaluru (Karnataka state). The discussion, led by the civil aviation minister, will include stakeholders such as the Airports Authority of India (AAI), Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), and HAL. HAL Airport, which served Bengaluru until 2008 before the opening of Kempegowda International Airport (BLR) in Devanahalli, could operate as a domestic airport to boost regional connectivity. Supporters argue that reopening HAL would ease congestion at BLR, provide an airport within the city, and benefit business travelers. However, an existing agreement prevents a second airport within 150 km until 2033, and urban planners question the long-term impact on city development. Aviation experts stress that allowing multiple airports could foster competition, lower airfares, and improve accessibility, similar to major global cities. Some suggest additional airports in Bidadi, Tumakuru, or Hosur to decentralise growth. The meeting is expected to explore the feasibility of HAL's reopening within these constraints. #1238.DEV44

The Tamil Nadu government is expected to finalise the location for the planned Hosur airport by April, with the Airports Authority of India (AAI) completing a detailed study of two shortlisted sites within a week. AAI is currently surveying locations near the private airport owned by Taneja Aviation and Aerospace Limited (TAAL) in Belagondapalli, Hosur. Factors such as minimal human habitation, fewer environmental disturbances, and government land availability will influence the decision.

The airport is expected to cater to Hosur and South Bengaluru due to its proximity. However, its construction requires a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from Bengaluru International Airport Limited (BIAL) due to a concessionaire agreement restricting new airports within 150 km of Bengaluru until 2030. The Tamil Nadu government has been in discussions with BIAL and TAAL, and Union Civil Aviation Minister K Rammohan Naidu has suggested a joint decision between Tamil Nadu, BIAL, and the Union Government. The airport will initially have a single runway and cover 2,000 acres. #1238.DEV45

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) is set to build a new airport in Mamnoor, Warangal, Telangana, following clearance from the Union government. Construction will begin once the Telangana government completes land acquisition and will be completed within two-and-a-half years from the start of work, according to Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu.

The project is expected to require an investment of USD 60 million, covering the runway, terminal building, and additional facilities. The terminal building's capacity will be determined after a survey, and Warangal's heritage and culture will be incorporated into its design. The airport is expected to handle Airbus A320 and Boeing 737 category aircraft.

A no-objection certificate (NOC) from GMR Hyderabad International Airport Limited (GHIAL) was required since the site falls within 150 km of Hyderabad's Shamshabad airport. The clearance was granted after the new Telangana government issued an order for land acquisition.

Warangal will become Telangana's third airport, following Shamshabad and Begumpet. While there are requests for additional airports, feasibility studies are required, particularly in areas where Indian Air Force and Defence Ministry permissions are necessary. #1238.DEV46

Chennai International Airport (Tamil Nadu) is advancing its Phase 2 expansion, with the new integrated terminal expected to open by March 2026. Initially scheduled for completion in July 2025, the timeline was revised by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) to December 2025, before setting a final target of March 2026. The Rs 24.67 billion (USD 297 million) project, launched in 2018, will expand the airport's annual passenger capacity from 23 million to 35 million, covering 236,000 m². The airport currently operates three terminals (T1, T2, and T4), with the addition of Terminal 3 (T3) set to increase daily flight operations beyond 500 and improve passenger flow. Authorities have also announced plans for a dedicated cargo terminal (T5), with construction expected to begin once T3 is operational.

The expansion will modernise facilities, reduce wait times, and accommodate growing demand, reinforcing Chennai Airport's position as a key aviation hub. #1238.DEV47

The Andhra Pradesh Airports Development Corporation Limited (APADCL) has invited tenders for feasibility studies for two greenfield airports, including an international airport in Amaravati and another greenfield airport in Srikakulam. Consultants will be selected to prepare a Techno-Economic Feasibility Report (TEFR) for Srikakulam and a pre-feasibility study along with a TEFR for Amaravati.

According to the APADCL tender notification, the deadline for submission is 21 March 2025, with technical and financial bids set to be opened on 24 March and 27 March, respectively. The proposed Srikakulam airport will be located 70 km from the city near the coastline, and consultants must assess technical and economic viability, conduct site-specific studies, create a Master Plan, and develop a financial model. They will also handle environmental and social impact assessments and secure government approvals for both projects.

The Amaravati greenfield airport is intended to serve as an independent civil airport for the state capital, located 40 km from Greater Guntur, 22 km from Vijayawada, 90 km from Machilipatnam Port, and 35 km from Gannavaram Airport. #1238.DEV48

VIETNAM

Phu Quoc International Airport is set for a major expansion to accommodate growing passenger demand, with capacity targets of 10 million passengers per year by 2030 and 18 million by 2050. Vietnam's Civil Aviation Authority has submitted the proposal to the Ministry of Transport, outlining upgrades under the 2021-2030 master plan.

The airport will be classified as a 4E international airport and a Level II military airport, with cargo handling capacity reaching 25,000 tons per year by 2030. The expansion includes 30 aircraft parking positions for large aircraft such as the Boeing 747, Boeing 787, and Airbus A350. The existing T1 terminal, which serves 4 million passengers per year, will remain in use, while a new T2 terminal will be built east of T1, adding capacity for 6 million additional passengers annually.

A VIP lounge will be developed near the air traffic control tower for leaders attending the APEC 2027 summit in Phu Quoc, with plans to convert it for international or general aviation use afterward.

By 2050, the airport will expand further to handle 18 million passengers and 50,000 tons of cargo per year. Aircraft parking positions will increase to 45. The T1 terminal will continue to serve 4 million domestic passengers annually, the T2 terminal will be expanded for 8 million domestic passengers, and a new T3 terminal will be constructed west of T1 to accommodate 6 million international passengers per year. #1238.DEV50

Vietnam's aviation sector is set for a major upgrade in 2025, with expansion and infrastructure projects planned at five airports: Cát Bi, Vinh, Đồng Hới, and Cà Mau. At **Cát Bi Airport (Hải Phòng)**, construction of Terminal 2 (T2) will begin in June 2025, funded by the Airports Corporation of Vietnam (ACV). The new terminal will have a capacity of 5 million passengers per year and include support facilities such as a technical building, multi-level roads, and parking areas. The city of Hải Phòng is working to clear over 18 hectares of military land for the project. Once completed, T2 will handle domestic flights, while Terminal 1 (T1) will be converted into an international terminal.

At **Đồng Hới Airport**, construction of Terminal 2 is scheduled to start on 30 April 2025, increasing the airport's capacity to 3 million passengers per year. The project includes expanding the aircraft apron by 15 hectares and adding four new parking positions for a total of eight. The investment, led by ACV, is valued at approximately USD 74 million (VND 1.844 trillion) and aims to address congestion, as the existing terminal serves only 500,000 passengers annually.

At **Vinh Airport**, ACV is investing nearly USD 40 million (VND 1 trillion) in three projects: upgrading Terminal 1 to handle 3-3.5 million passengers per year, expanding the aircraft apron to accommodate nine Code C aircraft, and repairing the 2,400m runway. These projects will start between April and June 2025 and are expected to be completed by the end of the year. However, the airport will need to close for six months during construction to ensure safety.

At **Cà Mau Airport**, a new 2,400m-long, 45m-wide runway will be built, along with a two-story terminal covering 2,660 m². The terminal will initially support 500,000 passengers per year, with potential expansion to 1 million. The USD 96.5 million (VND 2.4 trillion) project will allow the airport to accommodate larger aircraft like the Airbus A320 and A321, significantly surpassing its current capacity of 200,000 passengers per year and a 1,500m runway. #1238.DEV51

THAILAND

The USD 4 billion expansion of Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport is moving into key phases, with bidding for the USD 340 million East Expansion project opening in May. A contractor is expected to be selected by July, and construction will begin in November 2025, with completion targeted for 2028. This expansion will increase the airport's capacity by 15 million passengers per year, bringing the total to 80 million annually.

The USD 3.7 billion South Terminal project, designed to boost capacity by an additional 70 million passengers, is scheduled to enter the bidding and construction phase in 2027, with completion expected by 2033. This terminal replaces the previously planned SAT-2, west, and north expansions, as AoT determined it would offer a more efficient long-term solution.

Meanwhile, ongoing upgrades have already improved immigration processing from 5,500 to 7,200 passengers per hour, and further enhancements to check-in and security systems are planned. Suvarnabhumi is expected to handle nearly 65 million passengers this year, solidifying its role as Thailand's primary aviation hub. #1238.DEV52

CHINA

Construction has begun on the Terminal 3 expansion at Xishuangbanna Gasa International Airport (Yunnan Province) as part of its Phase IV expansion project. The groundbreaking ceremony took place on 7 March, marking progress in the airport's expansion efforts, which began in December 2022.

T3, the core of this phase, will cover 100,000 m² and is designed to handle 12.5 million passengers and 96,300 aircraft movements annually by 2030. The project, valued at USD 250 million (CNY 1.8 billion), also includes a parking structure, elevated roadway, and supporting infrastructure. Located just 300 meters from the train station, the new terminal aims to enhance seamless air-rail connectivity, with a modern, passenger-friendly, and intelligent design to improve travel efficiency and comfort.

#1238.DEV53

SOUTH KOREA

The construction of Jeju's Second Airport is progressing, with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport (MOLIT) set to begin basic design and environmental impact assessments (EIA) in March. This follows the announcement of the basic plan in September 2024.

The basic design, covering a 5.5 million m² site, a 2,300-metre runway, taxiways, and navigation systems, will cost USD 224 million (KRW 299 billion) and is expected to be completed by September 2026. The EIA, led by engineering firm Yooshin, will assess environmental risks, including bird strike hazards and potential lava caves, with local government approval required before proceeding.

MOLIT estimates that design, environmental assessments, and land acquisition will take about five years, with construction starting in 2030 at the earliest. However, opposition to the project remains a significant factor, and delays beyond 2030 are possible.

Jeju's Second Airport Plan includes developing a smart innovation city and a national industrial complex, with the potential for an Airport City near the airport. A separate study will be conducted to establish a basic master plan for these airport-related urban developments. #1238.DEV54

Gyeongnam Province is planning to upgrade Sacheon Airport to an international airport and expand its facilities. The proposed expansion will proceed in two phases. The first phase includes expanding the passenger terminal, installing customs, immigration, and quarantine (CIQ) facilities, and launching irregular international flights to test international airport operations. The second phase involves expanding the apron, building new passenger and cargo terminals, and extending the runway.

Sacheon Airport currently shares its two runways with the Air Force and operates limited domestic routes to Gimpo and Jeju, with only a few flights per day. Due to low passenger demand, these routes are sustained through subsidies from Gyeongnam Province, Sacheon City, and Jinju City. #1238.DEV55

JAPAN

Fukuoka Airport (Japan) will develop an "Airport City" complex at its domestic terminal, featuring a hotel, bus terminal, and Japan's largest airport commercial space. The project, led by Fukuoka International Airport Corporation (FIAC), aims to transform the airport into a vibrant hub where visitors can spend extended time. Construction will begin in April 2025, with completion expected in summer 2027.

The 11-story complex, located between the domestic terminal and the multi-storey car park, will have commercial facilities on the first four floors, a bus terminal on the first floor, and a shuttle bus stop on the second floor. The fifth to eleventh floors will house a 165-room hotel operated by Nishitetsu Hotels under the "SOLARIA" brand, offering runway-view rooms, a communal bath, and a fitness centre.

The commercial space will include 270 stores, with 180 new outlets featuring travel goods, souvenirs, and an Asian-themed food zone. The terminal's access roads will be upgraded with dedicated lanes, reducing travel time between terminals from 15 minutes to five minutes. The project, estimated to cost JPY 45 billion (USD 300 million), is being designed by Azusa Sekkei, Kengo Kuma & Associates, and the West Japan Technology Development Joint Venture, with Taisei Corporation handling construction.

#1238.DEV56

Izumo Airport (Shimane Prefecture) plans to expand the boarding lounge at to alleviate congestion and facilitate future international flights. The project, estimated at USD 4.7 million (JPY 700 million), is scheduled for completion in the 2027 fiscal year.

Currently, the airport has no scheduled international flights and operates a combined domestic and international waiting area. With passenger numbers recovering post-pandemic, congestion occurs during peak domestic departure times. To prepare for potential international routes, the expansion will convert a 100 m² administrative office into additional waiting space, while a new office building will be constructed to relocate administrative functions. Shimane Prefecture has allocated USD 5.7 million (JPY 85.28 million) in the 2025 budget for design costs. Passenger numbers at Izumo Airport reached 874,114 as of January 2024, with the potential to exceed one million for the first time in six years. #1238.DEV57

THE PHILIPPINES

The Philippine Department of Transportation (DOTr) is fast-tracking the approval process for the Villar Group's PHP 21.16 billion (USD 380 million) unsolicited proposal to rehabilitate and take over operations at Iloilo International Airport. Transportation Secretary Vince Dizon, during an inspection of the airport on 8 March, assured local officials that the DOTr would expedite the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) proposal to support Iloilo's economic growth. The Prime Asset Ventures Inc. Consortium, led by the Villar Group, aims to enhance the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines' (CAAP) operational and management capabilities under an Operate-Add-Transfer (OAT) contract. The proposal is currently being negotiated, with the PPP Center overseeing the process. #1238.DEV58

Clark International Airport Corp. (CIAC) is advancing the development of Clark Aviation Capital, a 2,367-hectare aviation-centric business hub aimed at enhancing aviation, logistics, and commercial activities. The project includes major infrastructure initiatives such as the construction of a direct access link to the airport, a multi-modal transport hub, and upgrades to open spaces, parks, and airport roads.

Additionally, CIAC is supporting ongoing transport projects, including the North-South Commuter Railway (NSCR), which will link Clark International Airport to Metro Manila and New Clark City, improving regional connectivity. The corporation aims to accelerate these developments under the guidance of the newly appointed Transportation Secretary and CIAC Board Chairperson Vivencio B. Dizon, who was previously involved in the expansion of Clark International Airport's New Terminal Building. #1238.DEV59

AUSTRALIA

Launceston Airport (Tasmania) is set to undergo its biggest terminal renovation in nearly 20 years, with a multi-million-dollar upgrade to its Departures Hall. The project will expand the hall's footprint, introduce new leisure spaces, modern traveller conveniences such as fast Wi-Fi and charging points, and additional seating with scenic views. Three amenity blocks will also be fully refurbished.

As part of the redevelopment, three new dining venues—Gatty's Bar and Kitchen, Kanamaluka Café, and Tasmania's own Liv Eat—will open later this year, alongside an expanded Launceston Store. The new outlets will showcase Tasmania's local food, wine, and landscapes, with designs inspired by the region's natural beauty.

CEO Shane O'Hare described the project as a key milestone in Launceston Airport's history, following the AUD 14 million Check-in Hall and security screening project. The airport is working with Tasmanian architects Cumulus to ensure the renovations reflect the region's identity and heritage.

SSP, the hospitality partner behind the new dining options, emphasised its commitment to enhancing the passenger experience and celebrating local flavours. #1238.DEV60

Vertiports

Orlando International Airport (MCO) is moving forward with plans to develop a vertiport for future eVTOL operations, with a tender expected to be released in March 2025. The Greater Orlando Aviation Authority (GOAA) has outlined a two-phase procurement process to select a developer and operator for potential vertiport sites at MCO.

The primary site under consideration is in the East Airfield region on the airport's northeast side, with another potential location near the Train Station on the south side. The project aims to integrate Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) at the airport, ensuring the facility is designed to accommodate all FAA-certified AAM aircraft for commercial operations.

GOAA CEO Kevin J. Thibault emphasised that developing a vertiport at MCO aligns with Central Florida's ambition to lead in mobility innovation, supporting the region's AAM initiatives. The vertiport is expected to be operational by 2028. #1238.DEV61

Skyports Infrastructure and its joint venture partner Groupe ADP have secured support from Manhattan Community Board 1 (CB1) for their plan to transform the Downtown Manhattan Heliport into a vertiport for all-electric aircraft. The project aims to introduce quieter and cleaner aviation while integrating sustainable last-mile delivery solutions as part of the New York City Economic Development Corporation's "Blue Highways" initiative.

The revamped heliport will serve as a micro-distribution hub, supporting e-cargo bikes, e-quads, and other low-emission freight transport modes, helping to reduce pollution and traffic congestion in the surrounding area.

As the recently selected preferred operator of the heliport, Downtown Skyport is working with local stakeholders, including CB1 and the New York City Department of Transportation, to ensure smooth integration with the city's transportation network. #1238.DEV62

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