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GSE

GROUND SUPPORT

Airport Terminals

Istanbul Airport (Türkiye) has received 143 passenger boarding bridges and four elevators from thyssenkrupp Elevator as part of a major infrastructure contract. The systems form part of a wider mobility package delivered by thyssenkrupp Elevator, a global provider of transport and mobility solutions, supporting passenger movement from terminal entry to aircraft boarding. The equipment was manufactured in Spain and installed on site following the start of works in 2017, with delivery completed in 27 months.
The airport, developed with an investment of EUR 22.15 billion (USD 24.0 billion), is being constructed in multiple phases and is planned to include six runways and a total annual capacity of 200 million passengers. The initial phase includes two runways and a terminal designed to handle 90 million passengers.
thyssenkrupp Elevator will retain a long-term role at the airport through a maintenance contract for the installed boarding bridges. #1266.GSE1

Airports across Europe are reporting increasing disruption risks as the Schengen Entry-Exit System rollout coincides with the Easter travel peak in March and April 2026.
Following the requirement from 10 March 2026 to register 50% of third-country nationals, airports have recorded longer border control waiting times, regularly reaching up to two hours during peak periods. These delays persist despite authorities using partial or full suspension of EES processes to manage passenger flows and maintain operations.
Further pressure is expected as full registration of all third-country nationals becomes mandatory from 31 March, followed by the end of the transition period on 9 April. From that point, Member States will no longer be able to fully suspend the system during peak demand, removing a key operational safeguard. Airports and airlines, including industry associations ACI EUROPE and Airlines for Europe, cite ongoing challenges such as staff shortages at border control, technical issues with self-service kiosks, limited use of automated gates and concerns over the central IT system. They have called for continued flexibility to suspend EES processes during peak travel periods to mitigate operational disruption. #1266.GSE2

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport has awarded new contracts for the operation, maintenance and upgrade of its automated people mover systems, covering both the Plane Train and ATL SkyTrain networks. Alstom has secured a five-year extension, valued at approximately EUR 140 million (USD 160 million), to operate and maintain the airport's underground Plane Train system, which connects terminals and concourses via a 4.5 km tunnel and carried 95 million passengers in 2025. The contract includes full system operations, maintenance of vehicles and infrastructure, and cleaning services, with options for two additional one-year extensions. Alstom is also delivering capital upgrades, including the supply of 63 Innovia APM R vehicles to increase capacity and service frequency.
Separately, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, through Crystal Mover Services, has been awarded a ten-year contract running from March 2026 to March 2036 to upgrade the ATL SkyTrain system. The programme includes replacement of signalling systems, equipment upgrades and the provision of additional and replacement vehicles to support long-term performance.
The ATL SkyTrain connects the main terminal with the rental car centre via a 2.2 km elevated guideway and has been in operation since 2009. Together, the contracts form part of ongoing investment by the

City of Atlanta to maintain capacity, reliability and operational efficiency across its passenger transport systems. #1266.GSE3

Kuala Lumpur International Airport Terminal 1 (Malaysia) has completed a MYR 30 million (USD 6.4 million) upgrade programme in the first half of 2025. The works introduced 14 initiatives focused on passenger processing, accessibility and terminal facilities. These include mobile bag-drop systems capable of handling ten times more luggage than conventional counters, expanded self-service boarding pass scanners, and upgraded security screening lanes increasing capacity to 1,500 passengers per hour with waiting times under five minutes.
Passenger facilities were enhanced with 100 additional wheelchairs, 80 upgraded accessible washrooms and family parking spaces, alongside the replacement of 5,000 baggage trolleys. Emergency response capabilities were also expanded through the deployment of paramedics using e-scooters equipped with medical equipment.
The airport handled 30.1 million passengers in the first half of 2025, an increase of 9.9% compared with the same period in 2024, with the upgrades implemented ahead of the 47th ASEAN Summit scheduled for October 2025. #1266.GSE4

Brisbane Airport (Queensland, Australia) has commenced a programme to replace boarding bridges across both terminals between 2026 and 2029. The project will install 20 new boarding bridges in phases, beginning at Gate 77 in the International Terminal in early 2026, with work carried out gate-by-gate to maintain ongoing airport operations. Each unit is manufactured in New Zealand and undergoes testing prior to installation, with several months required for removal, installation, testing and commissioning.
The new aerobridges are designed to accommodate a wider range of aircraft and improve operational reliability, while also enhancing accessibility and reducing reliance on stairs for passengers. #1266.GSE5

Landside

Dublin Airport (Ireland) has announced a new rooftop parking concept at Terminal 1 called "Park & Slide," offering access to departures via enclosed slides. The seasonal service, planned from May to September, allows passengers to park on the rooftop and reach the terminal in approximately eight seconds, with options including hands-free baggage handling, direct access to security screening, priority lanes, and family or group bookings. Pricing starts at EUR 7 per person (approximately USD 8) or EUR 20 (USD 22) for a family of four.
The concept forms part of the airport's passenger service initiatives, introducing an alternative access method alongside existing parking and terminal entry options. #1266.GSE6

Airport Ramp & Airfield

Kaunas Airport (Lithuania) has conducted trials of a hydrogen-powered truck as part of a European Union-funded project focused on sustainable ground operations. The initiative forms part of the Interreg Baltic Sea Region HyAirport programme, with similar testing taking place at airports in Helsinki (Finland), Riga (Latvia) and Tallinn (Estonia). Lithuanian Airports, the state-owned operator of the country's airports, is overseeing the trials as part of its long-term sustainability strategy.
A 10-tonne hydrogen-powered Hyzon vehicle was tested over several days on apron, runway and taxiway operations, including snow and surface cleaning tasks, covering approximately 100 km. Test areas were selected to avoid disruption in case of operational issues, and the vehicle was reported to function without interruption.

Additional testing included a hydrogen-powered Toyota Mirai passenger vehicle, supported by the Latvian Hydrogen Association, which also supplied refuelling infrastructure and green hydrogen produced using renewable energy sources. #1266.GSE7

Shannon Airport (Ireland) has introduced an electric First Mover vehicle handling unit, becoming the first airport in the country to deploy this type of equipment. The First Mover R 3500 is a remotely operated electric system designed to lift and transport vehicles weighing up to 3,500 kg, including electric vehicles, which cannot be handled using conventional towing methods due to battery sensitivity. The unit uses a tracked platform and flatbed lifting mechanism, allowing operators to move vehicles from a distance of up to 100 m.
The equipment has been introduced in response to the airport's fleet electrification, with 24 electric vehicles representing approximately 50% of the total vehicles. It is intended to enable faster removal of disabled vehicles and support airfield operations by reducing disruption.
The deployment forms part of wider infrastructure and sustainability measures by The Shannon Airport Group, including a EUR 15 million (USD 16.3 million) terminal upgrade programme focused on energy efficiency and reduced reliance on fossil fuel systems. #1266.GSE8

Cornwall Airport Newquay (United Kingdom) has introduced three new aviation fire appliances supplied by Rosenbauer, an Austrian manufacturer of firefighting equipment, to replace its previous fleet. The new Panther vehicles replace units introduced in 2008 when the airport transitioned from military to civilian use under Cornwall Council ownership. Each appliance is equipped with high-reaching extendable turret technology, carries up to 12,000 litres of water, and can reach any point on the runway within three minutes in line with aviation firefighting requirements.
The fleet will operate on hydrotreated vegetable oil during a 12-month trial, with the fuel capable of reducing lifecycle carbon emissions by up to 90% compared with conventional diesel.
Cornwall Airport Newquay supports domestic and European passenger services as well as emergency operations, including air ambulance and coastguard missions, with the new vehicles forming part of its airside safety and operational infrastructure. #1266.GSE9

UK airports are exploring the use of autonomous vehicles for airside operations following new funding awarded to Fusion Processing. The company will lead a feasibility study under the CAM Pathfinder programme to assess the operational, economic and safety case for deploying fully autonomous, No-User-In-Charge vehicles for staff transport in restricted airport areas.
The study will initially focus on major airports in the United Kingdom, evaluating how autonomous fleets could replace fragmented ground transport systems with integrated, centrally managed operations.
The project builds on Fusion Processing's experience with its Level 4 automated driving system, already deployed in live public transport operations, and aims to adapt this technology to the safety-critical airport environment. #1266.GSE10

Technology Base, a joint initiative of the Province of Overijssel and the Municipality of Enschede, has launched a market consultation for runway rehabilitation at Twente Airport (Overijssel, Netherlands). Twente Airport is a former military airbase located near Enschede and the German border, currently used for business aviation, aircraft testing and drone operations. The airport features a single runway with an operational length of 2,405 m.
The project focuses on replacing the asphalt top layer across the full 45 m width of the runway, addressing surface cracking and extending operational life by approximately 20 years. Works also include repairs to underlying layers, while overruns and runway lighting are excluded from the scope.

The consultation will inform procurement strategy, construction planning and material selection ahead of a European tender expected in May 2026. Construction is planned for the second or third quarter of 2027, with a closure period of up to four weeks. #1266.GSE11

Munich Airport (Germany) has introduced electric apron buses supplied by MAN Truck & Bus, a German commercial vehicle manufacturer, to replace diesel-powered airside vehicles. The airport's ground handling subsidiary, AeroGround, is converting its apron bus fleet to electric vehicles, with up to 74 buses planned for deployment. Currently, 37 MAN Lion's City E buses are in operation, transporting passengers, crew and staff across the airfield.
The rollout forms part of Munich Airport's plan to achieve net zero emissions for Scope 1 and Scope 2 by 2035. The electric buses are intended to replace existing diesel units used for airside passenger and staff transport.
Alongside the deployment, MAN Truck & Bus and Munich Airport have launched a six-part social media series following daily operations with electric buses and presenting the role of airport bus drivers. #1266.GSE12

Federico García Lorca Granada–Jaén Airport (Andalusia) has launched a EUR 19.7 million (USD approximately 21.5 million) tender for runway rehabilitation works. The project, led by Aena, will involve renewal of runway pavement, resurfacing of taxiways and construction of a new helicopter taxiway. Works also include replacement of airfield lighting systems with LED technology, installation of new cabling and regulators, and ground stabilisation measures around navigation equipment.
The programme is scheduled over approximately 20 months and forms part of Aena's DORA III investment plan, which allocates around EUR 10 billion (USD approximately 10.9 billion) across its airport network between 2027 and 2031. Most works will be carried out during night closures to minimise operational disruption. #1266.GSE13

Electric ground support equipment adoption continues across airports and airlines despite recent changes to the United States environmental policy, according to an analysis in Aviationpros. In February 2026, the Environmental Protection Agency repealed greenhouse gas emission standards and the 2009 Greenhouse Gas Endangerment Finding, removing a key regulatory basis for electrification. However, manufacturers and service providers report continued demand, with adoption increasingly driven by operational performance, maintenance savings and lifecycle costs rather than regulation. Activity remains evident in states including California, Washington and New York.
Demand is expanding beyond smaller equipment such as baggage tractors to heavier categories, including pushback tractors, loaders and airport buses, supported by improvements in equipment design and battery performance. Manufacturers, including Mallaghan and Oshkosh AeroTech, have expanded electrical product portfolios, while ground handlers report increased customer interest following the Covid-19 pandemic.
Infrastructure remains the primary constraint, with limited grid capacity, space restrictions and long lead times for electrical upgrades affecting deployment. Suppliers are introducing solutions such as shared power systems, mobile charging platforms and wireless charging technologies to optimise existing capacity.
Advances in lithium-ion phosphate batteries allow faster charging, longer lifespan and reduced downtime, while telematics integration supports monitoring and predictive maintenance. Electric equipment offers lower maintenance requirements, improved reliability and reduced fuel costs, although higher upfront costs remain a consideration. #1266.GSE14

Fitiuta Airport (American Samoa, United States) has commissioned new runway lighting and navigational aids following successful certification by the Federal Aviation Administration. The project was delivered by the Department of Port Administration of American Samoa, with funding from the Federal Aviation Administration, the US aviation regulator. Design was undertaken by Woolpert, an engineering and design consultancy, with support from PIOA and installation by McConnell Dowell, an infrastructure contractor. Works began in February 2022 and were completed in March 2026.
The upgrade includes runway lights, precision approach path indicators and runway end identifier lights, all of which were validated during an FAA Flight Check conducted on 2–3 March 2026. This certification process confirms that systems operate correctly to support safe aircraft landings.
The installation enables night operations and improved navigation during low-visibility conditions, marking the first time in approximately 20 years that the airport has fully operational runway lighting and navigational systems. #1266.GSE15

Safety & Security

The United States government has proposed shifting airport security screening from the Transportation Security Administration to private contractors under a 2027 federal budget plan. The proposal encourages small and mid-sized airports to adopt the Screening Partnership Program, allowing them to contract private companies for passenger and baggage screening. The plan is expected to reduce federal expenditure by approximately USD 52 million, while maintaining existing security standards through regulated private operations. Major airports, including San Francisco Airport (California, United States) and Kansas City Airport (Missouri, United States), could be affected alongside regional facilities.
The transition would be implemented gradually rather than replacing the TSA entirely, with participating airports reporting comparable operational performance under private screening models. The programme allows airports to tailor contracts to local operational needs while retaining federal oversight.
The proposal has generated debate, with supporters citing cost savings and operational flexibility, while critics raise concerns regarding consistency, training standards and regulatory control. The plan will be subject to legislative review as part of the federal budget approval process. #1266.GSE16

The Turks and Caicos Islands Airports Authority, the operator of six public airports in the territory, has selected TrustFlight's Centrik 5 platform for safety and compliance management. The system will be implemented across all six airports, including Providenciales' Howard Hamilton International Airport, replacing the authority's existing safety management system. Centrik 5 provides integrated functions for safety reporting, document management, compliance tracking and risk assessment, with a focus on supporting the authority's quality management system programme.
The selection was influenced by alignment with Air Safety Support International, a subsidiary of the UK Civil Aviation Authority, which already uses Centrik for regulatory oversight and security audits in the territory. Using the same platform enables data sharing and coordination between the airport authority and its regulator.
TrustFlight, a technology company specialising in aviation safety and operational software, will support the deployment as TCIAA standardises safety and compliance processes across its airport network. #1266.GSE17

Catering & Flight Kitchens

gategroup and KLM Royal Dutch Airlines have agreed that gategroup will acquire a 75% stake in KLM Catering Services at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol (Netherlands).

KLM will retain a 25% share in the catering company, which will continue operating as an independent entity. Both parties state that existing operations, employees and customer arrangements will remain unchanged during the transition.
As part of the agreement, gategroup, a Switzerland-based airline catering provider, plans to invest in a new catering facility at Schiphol. The facility is expected to include increased automation, updated working conditions and sustainability-focused design features.
The partnership combines gategroup's international catering operations with KLM Catering Services' role supporting KLM at its hub. KLM will remain involved in onboard catering while focusing on its core airline activities. #1266.GSE19

Names

K2 Security Screening Group, a US-based provider of airport security screening systems, appointed former Transportation Security Administration executive Mara Winn as vice president of aviation with effect from 12 January 2026. In the role, Winn will lead airport-focused activities covering the design, planning, management and installation of security screening infrastructure. She brings more than 25 years of experience in programme management and technology deployment, including leadership of the Innovation Task Force at the Transportation Security Administration, where she oversaw airport technology roll-outs and acquisition modernisation.
Most recently, Winn held senior executive roles at the US Department of Energy, working on cybersecurity, emergency response and energy information systems, and previously supported federal radiation and nuclear detection technology programmes. #1266.GSE20