

GROUND SUPPORT NEWS

Airport Terminal News

Etihad Airways has partnered with Dubz, which claims to be the UAE's first specialised off-airport solutions provider, on a service to allow customers to check in their bags, pick their seats and collect their boarding passes and luggage tags from their homes in Abu Dhabi.

Travellers can book the service up to seven hours before their flight and check-in agents will arrive at the location booked at the chosen time, between 8:00am and 8:00pm. The agent will check travel documents, complete the check-in process, and collect the bags. Seat selection can be made at the same time and extra baggage allowance can be purchased if required. Guests who want to board their flights early and receive their luggage first can add priority boarding and priority bag tags for an additional fee. Once at Abu Dhabi International Airport, all non-transit passengers who used the home check-in service can skip the queues bag-free.

John Wright, VP global airport, network and cargo operations for Etihad Airways, remarked: "Etihad is continuously looking to enhance the travel experience and with this latest initiative, the airline is giving guests more convenient travel options. Especially during the Covid pandemic, the home check-in service also limits human interaction at the airport as guests are able to head straight to immigration and avoid long lines at the airport." #1145.GSE1

The US FAA has awarded the City of Brownsville USD 1.6 million which will be used to replace the two existing passenger boarding bridges (PBB) at Brownsville South Padre Island International Airport (BRO), TX. A portion of the funds has been allocated from the CARES Act, which included provisions to alleviate any financial burden airports incurred during the Covid-19 pandemic. The City of Brownsville said the monies are "entitlement funds," meaning that as part of the nation's Airport Improvement Programme, all compliant airports receive a direct award based on their passenger numbers for the previous fiscal year. Due to Covid-19, the FAA is using 2019 data, which is positive, as it does not reduce the amount eligible to be awarded. The funds and the improvements envisioned are to pay for new passenger boarding bridges included in phase three of the new passenger terminal project. Airport management had agreed with the FAA to break down the funding in multiyear awards to position BRO and the city to better compete for federal funds. #1145.GSE2

IT company Unisys has signed a six-year contract with an international airline consortium operating to and from Australia to deliver a Baggage Reconciliation System (BRS). The deal, signed in Q1 2021, covers seven Australian international airports at Sydney, Melbourne, Cairns, the Gold Coast, Perth, Brisbane, and Adelaide. It is said to be a multi-million dollar contract, though the exact value has not been revealed. Furthermore, the company will offer fully managed services such as network infrastructure, security architecture, training, end-user device management, onsite support, and application management.

Since 2004, Unisys has worked with the Board of Airline Representatives Australia (BARA) to supply the system that connects travellers with their luggage, tracking both along their journeys. It uses artificial intelligence (AI) for tracing and detecting data breaches for securing the passenger data associated with the luggage. The system provides a new Android-based interface for the hand-held scanners that are utilised by baggage handlers. With the help of the BRS, BARA can track the baggage as per IATA's Resolution 753 on baggage tracking. After check-in, each bag gets a barcode, which is scanned and integrated with the passenger's record before being loaded on the aircraft. The record of baggage loading order allows fast identification and recovery of luggage in case the passenger misses the flight.

This procedure not only enhances security but also eliminates the chances of passenger and baggage mismatch. #1145.GSE3

Japanese airport operator, Kansai Airports, has announced that an automated Polymerase chain reaction (PCR) robotic system has been deployed at Kansai International Airport (KIX). The new system has the capacity to process up to 2,500 samples in a span of 16 hr per day for departing travellers on international flights. Developed by Kawasaki Heavy Industries, the new system is planned to be put in service in the 4F outdoor space of Terminal 1 later in 2021. In a statement, Kansai Airports said: "The rapid testing service at the airport is expected to contribute to delivering a safe and healthy travel experience and, consequently, boosting recovery in future aviation demand." By using the real-time RT-PCR testing method, this system will be able to complete the rapid testing within 80 min. Through automated and unmanned operations, the robotic system is expected to provide precise and constant mass testing. The system allows distant monitoring for secure and simple operations along with the minimisation of manpower. Kansai Airports stated that the mass testing will be carried out in accordance with the recommendations of the Japanese Health Ministry and the medical association. The automated PCR robotic system has been designed to save space, enabling it to fit into a 40-ft container. #1145.GSE4

Airport Ramp & Airfield News

Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport (CVG), KY, is experimenting with autonomous technology in the vehicles carrying luggage between the terminal and aircraft.

One of the airport's luggage-transporting ground tugs has been fitted with technology from ThorDrive, a maker of AV tech. "We enacted an ordinance allowing autonomous vehicles and equipment to operate on airport property," said a spokesperson for CVG. "Now, airline partners, both passenger and cargo, have the opportunity to partner with ThorDrive to utilise this technology to retrofit their ground equipment." The project began in February 2020, said Edward Shelton, vice president for business development at ThorDrive, a company formed in 2016. Earlier this year, the project moved into the actual testing phase. "In that time, it was adapting the software to the environment, but also training it to recognise the aircraft," said Shelton. "There are other airports interested," he said of the ThorDrive AV technology. "But to our knowledge, no airport is as far along as Cincinnati is, and we believe that Cincinnati has the only active autonomous tractor running in North America." Closed, relatively predictable settings like an airport can be ideal use cases for AVs, Shelton said. Factors such as navigating a "highly critical safety environment" still loom large, said Shelton. Namely, avoiding a collision with an aircraft is of utmost importance. #1145.GSE5

The German Airport Technology and Equipment organisation (GATE) is hosting a number of its members at the German pavilion at the Dubai Airport Show. While it is fewer than at previous events, Jens Reinhard, managing director, feels that it is a strongly positive move. He said: "This gives a signal to the aviation industry and the world that we are back and heading towards normal operation." This is the organisation's first show since the pandemic hit, and Reinhard is happy to be in Dubai and meeting industry members. "You can do business digitally, but it is not the same feeling. People like to meet and see each other."

GATE has been busy during the pandemic. Reinhard explained: "**Last year we founded InnoAirport in co-operation with Rostock-Laage Airport in northern Germany.** This is an active airport where our members, and other industry operators, can present and test their developing technology in a real-life environment. Not only do they share technology and best practice, but this is a place where you can demonstrate in a real time. The airport is a closed eco-system. Here you can learn and gather data

without worrying about the effect on the public. We have had a lot of development in autonomous driving vehicles on the apron, for buses and baggage handling. They can test the vehicles without worrying about kids or dogs running out and getting hurt.”

While the InnoAirport is open to all, Reihard encourages users to become members of GATE. “They can then benefit from the networking and marketing offered to work together. We have one member who produces sensors for cars, and another who makes trolleys. We have brought them together and they are now developing the technology for different uses. #1145.GSE6

Safety & Security

US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has implemented biometric facial comparison technology at Charlotte Douglas International Airport (CLT) as part of its efforts to secure and streamline international travel. “CBP is expanding the use of facial biometrics at Charlotte Douglas International Airport to provide travellers with a safe, touchless international arrival process that further secures and modernises air travel,” said Barry Chastain, CBP director for Charlotte. “Our valuable partnership with CLT continues to enhance the travel experience. In addition, CBP looks forward to partnering with stakeholders at other international ports of entry across NC to implement Simplified Arrival.”

The Simplified Arrival scheme is an enhanced international arrival process that uses facial biometrics to automate the manual document checks that are already required for admission into the United States. This process, states CBP, provides travellers with a secure, touchless travel experience while fulfilling a longstanding congressional mandate to biometrically record the entry and exit of non-US citizens. The biometric facial comparison process occurs only at a time and place where travellers are already required by law to verify their identity by presenting a travel document. When a traveller arrives at CLT, he or she will pause for a photo at the primary inspection point. A CBP officer will review and query the travel document, which will retrieve the traveller’s passport or visa photo from government holdings and compare it with the new photo. The system is claimed to be more than 98% accurate. Furthermore, foreign travellers who have travelled to the United States previously may no longer need to provide fingerprints, as their identity will be confirmed through the biometric process. #1145.GSE7

The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) has signed an agreement with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of the Republic of Korea (MOLIT), which authorises the two countries to conduct a field demonstration of S&T-funded technology in civil aviation security. This joint field demonstration will pilot the Common Viewer Air System, a cloud-based baggage pre-screening software system that will support the missions of US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). The signed letter of intent results from ongoing collaboration among TSA, CBP, and their South Korean counterparts to share information, identify risks, and enhance safeguards to improve international aviation security. “With this pilot, security officers will be able to remotely screen checked baggage before arriving in the US and landing at ATL. The goal is to maintain strong security while enhancing the passenger experience and providing another means of contactless screening,” explained David Taylor, S&T’s CBP portfolio manager.

The field demonstration facilitates alternative methods of TSA screening to be implemented at Hartsfield–Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL), GA, and Incheon International Airport (ICN) outside Seoul, South Korea. The joint pilot programme will run in the summer of 2021. #1145.GSE8

Rohde & Schwarz (R&S) has been chosen to supply its QPS201 quick personnel security (QPS) scanners to London Heathrow Airport (LHR) in the UK to reduce wait times for

passengers and enhance security checkpoints. The scanners will be rolled out across the airport, ensuring that all passengers, staff, and contractors accessing airside locations are scanned on entry. The installation enables the airport to achieve its vision of a safe and secure environment while providing a positive passenger experience by making journeys through the airport as fast and efficient as possible. "Heathrow Airport is the latest leading international airport to adopt the R&S QPS201, reinforcing our position as the go-to solution for airports around the world," said Frank Mackel, VP at Rohde & Schwarz. "This scanner addresses the three key airport requirements: high accuracy of threat detection, low frequency of false alarms to minimize time-consuming manual pat-downs, and fast throughput to reduce passenger wait times even at busy periods."

According to R&S, Heathrow sought a solution that fully addressed current security and throughput requirements but could also be improved to meet future security needs. The airport was reportedly impressed with Rohde & Schwarz's commitment to upgrade its scanners with new algorithms after they have entered service. The units allow for an easy, hands-down posture for scanning, which is comfortable while ensuring effective screening for safety and security. A full body scan is completed in seconds, and any suspect objects are indicated on an image to preserve passenger privacy.

The QPS201 also features technology that increases sensitivity to boost threat detection, says R&S, while reducing false alarms and processing time. In addition to strengthening security, these performance gains reduce post-alarm manual checks, thus helping to avoid physical contact to ensure social distancing. The security scanner restores parity to baggage- and personnel-scanning times, helping security staff manage throughput at checkpoints and avoid excessive queueing. #1145.GSE9

Catering & Flight Kitchens

The new industrial kitchen on the grounds of one the Arab world's busiest airport would not be remarkable except for one fact: it's kosher. Kosher Arabia at Dubai World Central Airport (DWC) is a registered producer of kosher food in the United Arab Emirates, set up in partnership with Emirates Flight Catering and CCL Holdings. Inside the 20,000-sq ft facility, a team of just 20 chefs work to prepare a variety of innovative kosher meals. The opening of Kosher Arabia, which was launched on 12 April 2021, is the latest sign of the lifestyle and cultural changes resulting from the UAE's normalisation with Israel in September 2020. However, plans for Kosher Arabia had been in the works for several years, catering to the growing demand for kosher food in the Emirates even before normalisation took place, said Ross Kriel, founder of CCL, the joint venture partner for Kosher Arabia. For now, Kosher Arabia has the capacity to produce up to 2,000 meals per day, and as direct flights to Tel Aviv from Dubai kick off on flydubai, Dubai's government-owned budget airline and soon, on Emirates, Kosher Arabia expects business to increase. The facility, which is billed as using state-of-the-art eco-friendly and energy-efficient technologies, will be able to cater 4,000 meals per day. #1145.GSE10

A new report from Allied Market Research - 'Global In-Flight Catering Service Market by Aircraft Class, Flight Type, Food Type, and Region: Global Opportunity Analysis and Industry Forecast, 2019–2026' - says the global in-flight catering service market, valued at USD 18 billion in 2018, is expected to reach USD 24 billion by 2026. North America held the leading position in the global in-flight catering service market size in 2018 and is expected to maintain its dominance in the future. The full-service segment is expected to retain its dominant position, in terms of revenue generation, throughout the forecast period. The global in-flight catering service market is projected to witness significant growth during the forecast period, owing to rise in number of passengers across the globe. According to IATA, more than seven billion passengers are expected to opt for air travel by end of 2036.

The in-flight catering service market is segmented based on aircraft class, flight type, and food type. Depending on aircraft class, the in-flight catering service market is classified into economy class, business class, and first class. The flight type segment comprises full service and low cost. Based on food type, the in-flight catering service market is classified into meals, bakery & confectionary, beverages, and others. The market is analysed across North America, Europe, Asia-Pacific, and LAMEA. Economy class was the highest revenue generator and is expected to witness a CAGR of 3.61% in-flight catering service market forecast, followed by first class segment at 3.39%.

Europe was the second largest market in terms of revenue generation and is expected to register a CAGR of 2.91% during the forecast period. In North America, in-flight catering service has ceased expanding in recent years, however, in South America it has shown strong and continuous growth, particularly in Brazil and Peru. This is attributed to technological developments in South America. Moreover, rapid development in the Middle East, in terms of infrastructure and technology, drives the growth of the LAMEA in-flight catering service market. However, weak economies in Africa hamper the spending of consumers, which in turn restrains the market growth.

Key Findings of the In-Flight Catering Service Market report include: North America is expected to lead the global in-flight catering service market, growing at the highest CAGR of 3.78%, in terms of revenue; based on aircraft class, the economy class segment occupied around 51% of in-flight catering service market share of the total market in 2018; and by flight type, the full-service segment occupied a major share of the global market in 2018, in terms of revenue. The major players in the industry have adopted strategies such as acquisition, partnership & agreement, merger, and geographical expansion to expand their market share and increase profitability. The key players operating in the in-flight catering service industry include Gategroup, Newrest Group International S.A.S, LSG Sky Chefs, Do & Co, Emirates Flight Catering, SATS Limited, Cathay Pacific Airways Limited, Flying food Group LLC, Saudi Airlines Catering Company, and Royal In-Flight Catering.

To download a sample of the report, go to: www.alliedmarketresearch.com/request-sample/5281
#1145.GSE11

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