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GLOBAL AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT NEWS

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Europe

ICELAND

Plans for Hvassahraun Airport, intended to serve as a backup for Keflavík International Airport, remain under review, with a recent report indicating minimal weather-related obstacles to its development. Located on the Reykjanes Peninsula, the proposed airport would offer a domestic hub and serve as a base for private and training flights. The site lies largely outside of defined volcanic systems, minimising the risk of eruptions or lava flows, though not entirely eliminating the possibility.

The report, which has been in progress since 2020, also highlights that Hvassahraun is less vulnerable to turbulence than Reykjavík Airport under certain wind conditions. It suggests **building two 3,000-meter runways and a 1,500-meter runway** to accommodate aircraft with low crosswind resistance.

Despite these promising findings, enthusiasm for the project has diminished following recent volcanic activity in the area. The 2,200-hectare property has since been listed for sale, signalling the landowners' belief that the airport's development is unlikely. Icelandair's CEO and local authorities have expressed doubts about the necessity of a new airport at Hvassahraun, instead suggesting that existing airports be strengthened to meet future needs. #1228.DEV1

ESTONIA

The cornerstone has been laid for the first cargo terminal at the Airport City business complex at Tallinn Airport. The facility, which will be completed in July 2025, will include a 5,250 m² cargo terminal for FedEx Express Estonia, with 1,450 m² allocated for office space and 3,800 m² for warehouse space. It will also feature loading bays for 57 vehicles and 123 parking spaces for staff and visitors.

The terminal was designed by Norte OÜ, with engineering by Enn Rajasaar and Priit Ehala, while Maru Ehitus is responsible for the construction. #1228.DEV2

UNITED KINGDOM

Edinburgh Airport has launched a USD 7.1 million project to redesign its check-in hall. The project aims to enhance the passenger experience with more space, self-service technology, and digital wayfinding. Zones A and D will be revamped, with Zone A, currently used by Ryanair, set to increase its space by 70%. It will feature new self-service machines, video walls, and digital navigation tools. Zone D, used by Jet2.com and other carriers, will also see improvements, including an open collector and digital wayfinding. The layout of the check-in desks will be reconfigured to improve passenger flow, creating a more open environment for travellers.

The works, which draw on expertise from VINCI Airports' global network of more than 70 airports, are expected to be completed by spring 2025, just in time for the busy summer season. #1228.DEV3

FRANCE

The new passenger terminal at Basel/Mulhouse EuroAirport will be completed in 2031, with construction scheduled to start in 2028. The project aims to significantly enhance passenger quality by expanding the terminal to accommodate the increasing volume of passengers, which has outgrown the current facility's capacity.

The expansion will cost approximately CHF 150 million (USD 175 million) and will include a new building adjacent to the existing terminal. Key improvements include the centralisation of security checks and an enlarged arrival area, with the goal of creating more space for passengers and improving overall comfort. The existing viaduct will be removed to facilitate the expansion. Additionally, the airport is planning further projects to improve passenger experiences, such as upgrading the post-security areas near the gates. #1228.DEV4

SPAIN

The Catalan government aims to finalise a plan to expand Barcelona's El Prat Airport by early 2025. A technical commission, which met recently, will form working groups with environmental and infrastructure experts to ensure the project balances intercontinental flight growth with environmental considerations.

The expansion, particularly the extension of the third runway, has sparked controversy, especially among government coalition partners and environmentalists. The commission, including representatives from AENA, local and national officials, and aviation experts, is tasked with creating a technical proposal for the airport's development. While business leaders support expanding intercontinental flights, environmental groups oppose some proposals, such as relocating birds from the nearby La Ricarda wetland. #1228.DEV5

The Balearic government has announced a new rail service on the island of Mallorca connecting the cities of Palma and Lluçmajor, with a stop at Palma Airport. The project is estimated to cost EUR 700 million and is expected to be completed by 2032.

The 27.4-kilometre route will include 7.3 kilometres of underground tracks, starting from the Son Costa-Son Fortesa station in Palma. The line will travel above ground before going underground again near Mercapalma and Son Oms, passing through Palma airport and then continuing to Lluçmajor.

The route will pass through densely populated areas and is expected to reduce traffic congestion. The Balearic President, Marga Prohens, mentioned that financial support from the central government in Madrid would be necessary to fund the project. #1228.DEV6

ITALY

Lufthansa's efforts to revive Italy's ITA Airways are closely linked to the ambitious expansion plan for Rome's Fiumicino Airport. CEO Carsten Spohr sees this investment as key to the German airline's growth strategy despite challenges such as high costs and delays in Boeing plane deliveries.

Fiumicino, owned by infrastructure group Mundys, is awaiting approval from the Italian regulator ENAC to double its capacity to 100 million passengers annually, with **plans for a third terminal and more runways**. While Lufthansa views the airport as a gateway to Africa and Latin America, some analysts question its focus on Rome, arguing that Milan may be better positioned for business travellers. However, the airport's lower costs and growing intercontinental traffic are seen as advantages.

Uncertainty around Fiumicino's expansion adds complexity to Lufthansa's investment in ITA, which faces challenges similar to its predecessor, Alitalia. The Italian government appears supportive of Fiumicino's growth, though concerns about Milan's role remain. #1228.DEV7

SERBIA

The Serbian government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with China Shandong International Economic & Technical Cooperation Group for the second phase of the construction and modernisation of Niš Constantine the Great Airport. This USD 153 million phase, set for completion by 2027, includes the demolition of the old terminal and the construction of a new facility that will integrate with the recently opened terminal, as well as upgrades to the runway, apron, taxiways, and a new control tower.

Serbian Minister for Construction, Transport, and Infrastructure Goran Vesić stated that construction permits are already in place for some of the projects, with work expected to begin soon. China's Ambassador to Serbia, Li Ming, highlighted that the project would strengthen bilateral ties and increase passenger traffic.

This development comes as Niš Airport faces a 20.4% drop in passenger numbers due to reduced Wizz Air operations. The Serbian government has pledged subsidies to encourage low-cost carriers to expand routes, with the goal of handling over 500,000 passengers next year. #1228.DEV8

MONTENEGRO

Plans to upgrade Berane Airport in northeastern Montenegro are set to begin by spring 2025, according to Maik Steinmuller, CEO of Germany's Elite Private Jet Service. The project, which includes the construction of a new cargo terminal and passenger facilities for tourist flights, is now awaiting final approval from the Montenegrin government after four years of discussions. A feasibility study has been completed, and financing is secured for the airport, which has been inactive for nearly 50 years.

The EUR 75 million (USD 83 million) investment, backed by Steinmuller's company and US-based Future World Technologies, aims to revitalise the airport as a cargo transport hub while serving around 500,000 people near the borders of Serbia, Kosovo, and Albania. The airport will complement Montenegro's existing international airports in Podgorica and Tivat. #1228.DEV9

GREECE

Fraport Greece has entered the third phase of runway reconstruction at nine regional airports: Zakynthos, Kavala, Kefalonia, Corfu, Mykonos, Santorini, Samos, Rhodes, and Mytilene. This phase follows the completion of previous restructuring efforts as part of an ongoing upgrade of the 14 regional airports operated by Fraport Greece. During the reconstruction periods, commercial and private flights will be suspended, though emergency services like ambulance helicopters and government flights will still operate.

These works aim to enhance safety by reconfiguring Runway Strips and Runway Safety Areas (RESA), ensuring regulatory compliance and sustainability. The runway closures will be done in the shortest time possible, given the scale of the project. This initiative is part of a broader upgrade funded by the Recovery and Resilience Fund. #1228.DEV10

Russia & C.I.S.

RUSSIA

The runway reconstruction at Novosibirsk Tolmachevo Airport is set to be completed by 2025, two years ahead of schedule. Originally planned for 2023-2027, this phase of the project received funding of approximately USD 52 million. The contractor has already completed much of the work, including additional taxiways, exceeding the initial expectations. To finish early, the remaining funds will need to be allocated for 2025. The airport also anticipates another phase of reconstruction, estimated at an additional USD 52 million, which will further enhance capacity.

The reconstruction, which has been ongoing since December 2019, includes the renovation of two runways and a terminal expansion. Over USD 187 million has already been invested, with plans for Novosibirsk to establish direct flights to every city in Russia with an airport. #1228.DEV11

Irkutsk Bratsk International Airport is gearing up for significant future developments as the first phase of its reconstruction nears completion. On 11 October 2024, officials reviewed the progress and discussed upcoming projects. The second phase of reconstruction will focus on expanding the airport's runways, upgrading taxiways, and installing new lighting systems, enhancing the airport's capacity to handle more flights and attract new airlines. Additionally, plans for building a modern terminal are currently in the approval stage, aiming to provide improved services for passengers.

As part of broader improvements, the airport also intends to expand its parking facilities and improve transport connections, with a new intercity bus route starting on 15 October 2024.

These developments align with the federal "Development of Regional Airports" project, ensuring that Bratsk Airport plays a vital role in regional aviation for years to come. #1228.DEV12

By 2030, Russia plans to build 14 new airports, bringing the total number of airports in the country to 242, including those in newly annexed territories. Deputy Prime Minister Vitaly Savelyev announced this target, noting that Russia currently has 228 airports. Among these, 75 have been designated as priority projects, with USD 2.5 billion (250 billion) allocated for their development. The government is focused on managing these funds efficiently to ensure effective use of the federal budget. #1228.DEV13

GEORGIA

Kutaisi International Airport in Georgia has commenced a significant runway construction project, marking the first phase of a master plan aimed at expanding the airport's capabilities. The new 3,500-metre runway, built to international standards and equipped with modern navigation systems, will enable the airport to handle passenger and cargo aircraft of all sizes. This project is part of a USD 90 million investment, which exceeds the total prior investment of USD 75 million in the airport. **In future phases, the airport's passenger terminal will be expanded, increasing capacity from 1.7 million to 5 million passengers annually.**

This expansion reflects the growing importance of Kutaisi Airport as a hub for both tourism and business, with the airport already serving 1.2 million passengers this year and operating 127 weekly flights, including 86 to Europe. #1228.DEV14

North America

CANADA

Toronto City Council has voted in favour of extending the runway at Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport (Ontario) to comply with new federal safety regulations. The council passed the motion 17 to 8 to build runway end safety areas (RESAs), which are designed to minimise damage to aircraft in the event of an overrun.

The selected option, which is the least expensive at an estimated cost of USD 61-64 million, involves the smallest amount of lake fill and can be completed by the federal deadline of 12 July 2027. PortsToronto, which operates the airport, will cover the cost. The vote also sparked discussions about extending the airport's lease by 40 years, though a final decision on that matter has been deferred for further consultation. #1228.DEV15

UNITED STATES

New York State Governor Kathy Hochul has announced up to USD 25 million in state funding to enhance public-use airports across New York, focusing on safety improvements, environmental resilience, and boosting regional economic competitiveness. This funding, part of the AIR NY Aviation Capital Grant Program, aims to modernise airports as critical gateways for tourism and economic growth.

Administered by the New York State Department of Transportation, the program supports projects that enhance public and employee safety, promote sustainability, and improve operational efficiency. In 2023, the program awarded USD 49 million to upgrade 36 public-use airports across New York. The latest round of funding is open to public-use airports listed in the 2018 State Airport System Plan, and eligible projects include safety upgrades, new construction, and initiatives for business development and energy efficiency.

Applications will be accepted through 22 January 2025, with projects evaluated on economic impact, safety, and environmental benefits. New York State Transportation Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez highlighted that these investments position local airports as modern hubs fostering economic growth and long-term prosperity. #1228.DEV16

Wilmington Airport in Delaware has begun a nearly USD 10 million terminal expansion project to address growing passenger demand and outdated infrastructure. The expansion, which started on 30 September 2024, is supported by a USD 5.6 million federal grant from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Act.

The project will add 557 m² (6,000 ft²) to the terminal, including a new boarding gate, enhanced food and beverage options, a new baggage claim conveyor, and an additional TSA security lane. Completion is expected by late 2025, creating 60 temporary construction jobs and 100 permanent positions. The Delaware River & Bay Authority (DRBA) is also expanding parking by purchasing a nearby facility. This comes as American Airlines is set to begin a coach bus service from Wilmington to Philadelphia Airport on 7 October 2024. #1228.DEV17

Miami-Dade commissioners will soon vote on a USD 39 million contract with Carty Architecture for the rebuild and expansion of the Central Terminal at Miami International Airport. The project aims to create a futuristic, technology-driven facility. Plans include a four-level infill building between concourses E and F, a new security checkpoint, expanded concessions, and a raised roof for increased natural light. Some existing areas will be demolished for construction.

They will also vote on a resolution authorising a feasibility study for a new airport serving Miami. Sponsored by Commissioner Kevin Marino Cabrera, the study will explore creating an airport capable of handling cargo, commercial passengers, and general aviation in response to the rapid growth at Miami International Airport (MIA).

The study will assess potential locations, funding sources, economic impacts, and obstacles. It will include examining existing properties such as Opa Locka, Kendall, and Homestead. The report is expected within 90 days if the resolution is approved, with the goal of supporting future growth in the county's aviation industry.

The vote was to take place during the Airport and Economic Development Committee meeting on 9 October 2024 but has been postponed. #1228.DEV18

Gary/Chicago International Airport (Indiana) has officially launched a USD 24 million infrastructure project aimed at expanding its cargo operations. The project, which includes federal, state, and local funding, will create facilities to accommodate 18 wide-body cargo planes.

The first phase involves installing a jet fuel pipeline, upgrading the sanitary sewer system, and constructing a new cargo logistics apron and de-icing facility capable of handling eight air cargo planes simultaneously. Federal Community Project Funding, the Federal Aviation Administration, and the State of Indiana are providing the majority of the project's financial support.

The expansion follows the start of large-scale cargo operations at the airport in late 2022 with UPS flights. Once complete, the project will streamline fuelling operations and enhance the airport's capacity for cargo logistics, further positioning it as an economic driver for the region. Additional airport developments include a new corporate hangar and terminal renovations in preparation for the anticipated return of commercial service. #1228.DEV19

The location for the first air traffic control tower at Mankato Regional Airport (Minnesota) has been selected near existing roads, parking, and utilities. The project, estimated to cost over USD 20 million, aims to enhance aviation safety at the increasingly busy airport. With the site chosen, design work and more precise cost estimates will follow, and construction is expected to begin in 2025, with the tower operational by April 2027, pending an FAA readiness evaluation.

The FAA will cover 90% of the construction costs and 100% of the payroll for future air traffic controllers, while state funding could reduce Mankato's share to as little as 5%. The public is invited to an open house at the airport to learn more about the project. #1228.DEV20

Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (Texas) has celebrated the completion of structural steel installation for the West Infill project, marking a key milestone in the Barbara Jordan Terminal improvements. This project is part of the broader Journey With AUS programme aimed at enhancing the airport's capacity.

The West Infill, which began construction in April 2024 and is expected to be completed by early 2026, will add 6,968 m² (75,000 ft²) across four levels of the terminal. It will expand TSA Checkpoint 3, allowing space for six to eight additional security lanes and increase ticketing counter and kiosk capacity. Despite the closure of TSA Checkpoint 3 for construction, capacity was maintained by expanding Checkpoint 2 West. The project will also improve the outbound baggage handling system, enhancing processing capabilities to meet growing passenger demand.

Partially funded by USD 15.9 million from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the project progresses alongside other major developments, including the Midfield Taxiways and the new Arrivals and Departures Hall. Austin City Council recently approved key procurements for the design and construction of Concourse B and Tunnel projects. #1228.DEV21

Dallas Love Field (Texas) is facing significant challenges as it struggles to accommodate growing passenger numbers, currently reaching 17 million annually. With limited space and restrictions on adding more gates due to the Wright Amendment, the airport is operating at capacity, leading to congestion in terminals, long security lines, and traffic issues around the airport.

Airport Director Patrick Carreno acknowledged the need for a long-term solution and is **working on a 20-year master plan to address growth, sustainability, and emerging technologies like electric air taxis.** Love Field's growth is further complicated by the expiration of certain Wright Amendment restrictions in 2025, allowing Southwest Airlines, its largest customer, to expand elsewhere in North Texas. Traffic congestion around the airport, particularly on Mockingbird Lane, and issues with rideshare services add to the pressures on airport infrastructure.

Sustainability is also a key focus for the future as the airport looks to reduce its environmental footprint. Despite these challenges, Love Field is working to balance its future growth while maintaining harmony with the surrounding community. #1228.DEV22

George Bush Intercontinental Airport (Texas) is set to open its expanded Terminal D-West Pier on 22 October 2024, after nearly five years of construction. The expansion adds six new gates for wide-body aircraft, convertible for narrow-body planes, along with 16 new retail and dining outlets, a LEGO store, a sensory room, and a mother's room.

The 14,864 m² space is part of a larger USD 1.5 billion modernisation project. A new international central processor is expected to open in late 2024 or mid-2025. Additional construction includes work on United's Terminal B, part of a USD 2.6 billion expansion project. #1228.DEV23

Denver International Airport (Colorado) has fully opened its Concourse A-East expansion, an 11,148 m² facility developed in partnership with Frontier Airlines. The USD 220 million projects, completed on time and within budget after construction began in the summer of 2022, include 7,710 m² of remodelled space and 3,438 m² of new construction.

The expansion provides access to six new gate waiting areas, nine remodelled gates, and five new gates, for a total of 14 gates. Additional features include an 8,000-square-foot airline maintenance facility, charging stations, a nursing room, a pet relief area, and dining options such as Snarf's Sandwiches and Breckenridge Brewery. DEN CEO Phil Washington emphasised that the project is key to reaching the airport's goal of serving 100 million passengers annually in the coming years. An additional dining concept is expected to open by mid-2025. #1228.DEV24

Los Angeles World Airports has commenced relocating nine segments of the Midfield Satellite Concourse South project to its final construction site at Los Angeles International Airport (California). Using the innovative Offsite Construction and Relocation (OCR) technique, segments are constructed offsite and then transported to the airfield. The third segment was successfully delivered, with the remaining six to follow. Each relocation occurs overnight with runway closures to minimise airport disruption.

The project, which involves over 30% of its workforce from local hires, will add 150,000 square feet of space and eight gates for narrowbody aircraft, extending the West Gates at Tom Bradley International Terminal. Construction will continue through 2025, and the project aims to achieve LEED Silver certification. #1228.DEV25

Sacramento International Airport (California) has begun construction on a new 5,500-space parking garage near Terminal B, replacing the recently closed Hourly Lot. This state-of-the-art garage will feature a passenger guidance system, reserved parking, electric vehicle charging stations, and close-in covered parking.

The project is part of SMF's USD 1.3 billion SMForward capital program, which aims to improve airport infrastructure to meet growing passenger demand, with completion expected by autumn 2026. With over 13 million passengers projected this year, the garage will significantly improve the airport's parking capacity and customer experience.

The project, with a budget of USD 390 million, is Sacramento County's first design-build project, awarded to locally-owned Otto Construction. #1228.DEV26

The Redmond Municipal Airport (Oregon) has received a USD 10 million grant from the Connect Oregon program, contributing to its USD 180 million terminal expansion project.

This grant is part of a broader funding effort supporting multi-modal non-highway projects, with the airport's renovation expected to begin in late summer 2025 and take two years to complete. The project will add nearly 100,000 m² of new terminal space, including a second-floor concourse with seven jet bridges, retail concessions, and upgraded restrooms.

Earlier this year, the airport secured USD 7 million from federal infrastructure funds and has also submitted a request for an additional USD 15 million. If additional funding becomes available, further upgrades, such as replacing the baggage claim equipment, may be included in the project. #1228.DEV27

Latin America & The Caribbean

COSTA RICA

The Civil Aviation Authority of Costa Rica has selected a company to design the master plan for expanding Daniel Oduber International Airport in Liberia, with the plan expected to be completed in one year. While the company name has not yet been disclosed, resources are in place to finance the project. Currently, airport operations are split between the concessionaire Coriport, which manages the terminal, and the state, which oversees the runway.

Future plans include expanding private aviation parking by an additional 20,000 m², developing a multimodal cargo terminal, and constructing a new control tower in 2025. Coriport is also working on expanding commercial spaces and plans to build an independent terminal. #1228.DEV28

PANAMA

Tocumen International Airport has begun urgent repairs on the apron and taxiways of Terminal 2 (T2) due to significant damage that has affected 11 of its 20 boarding gates, reducing the terminal's operability by 50%. The issues have impacted both aircraft operations and duty-free store commerce in the affected areas. The damage is particularly severe in the "Sierra 8" taxiway, rendering four gates unusable. The airport has had to redistribute operations to Terminal 1 and other functional gates in T2. With the high-traffic holiday season approaching, rehabilitation work is being prioritised to ensure safe operations. Initial repairs, covering 3,055 m², are being conducted by Pavimentos Especializados at an estimated cost of USD 288,000.

The final solution will depend on a technical study by the Technological University of Panama, which is evaluating whether the issue is structural and may require a switch from asphalt to concrete. A second phase of repairs will address additional areas with work done at night to minimise operational disruptions. Three of the 11 damaged gates have already been restored to use. #1228.DEV29

COLOMBIA

After a 50-year wait, construction is set to begin on Colombia's long-delayed 'Coffee Airport' in Palestina, Caldas, following the government's commitment to finance the project. Initially conceived in 1977, the airport will boost air connectivity, export competitiveness, tourism, and economic growth in Colombia's Coffee Axis (el Eje Cafetero).

The first phase will involve an investment of approximately USD 197 million to build key infrastructure, including a 1,460-meter runway, taxiways, hangars, and aprons. The new airport will address the limitations of the region's current main airport, La Nubia, by providing greater capacity for passengers and cargo.

Strategically located 26 km from Manizales, the Coffee Airport will enhance regional accessibility and allow both day and night operations for aircraft like the ATR72. The project has faced multiple delays over the years due to geographical, technical, and financial challenges, but with strong government backing, it is expected to drive significant development in the coffee-growing region.

The first major contract for the project is expected to be awarded next year. #1228.DEV30

Aena, in partnership with Corficolombiana's subsidiary C.F.C Energy Holding and Grupo Aval, has proposed an investment of EUR 500 million to expand Cali's Alfonso Bonilla Aragón Airport. The project aims to renew the airport and increase its capacity, with the goal of securing a 30-year concession, set to go to tender next year.

Currently in the pre-feasibility phase, the project could soon advance, potentially creating 34,000 jobs and involving a total investment of around USD 4 billion. The expansion would include a new dual-purpose terminal for national and international passengers, enhancing service levels and infrastructure in southern Colombia.

The project is expected to be awarded in 2025, and discussions have already begun with local authorities, including a recent meeting between the president of Colombia's National Infrastructure Agency (ANI), Francisco Ospina, and Cali's mayor, Alejandro Éder. #1228.DEV31

The expansion of the runway at Simón Bolívar Airport in Santa Marta will require an investment of USD 490 million, according to Transport Minister María Constanza García. The current 1,700-metre runway will be extended by 500 meters, allowing for larger aircraft and improved international connections.

The project is part of an updated Airport Master Plan, with discussions considering private investment. While infrastructure improvements are underway, local business leaders stress the urgent need for runway expansion to boost the city's competitiveness. In 2023, the airport handled over 2.8 million passengers, ranking among Colombia's busiest airports. #1228.DEV32

PERU

Chiclayo is set to modernise its José Abelardo Quiñones Gonzales International Airport with an investment of USD 300 to 350 million. Aeropuertos del Perú (ADP) plans to begin the project by the end of the first half of next year, pending the completion of preliminary agreements. The modernisation aims to boost both passenger and cargo operations, making the airport a key hub for the northern region of the country.

ADP's general manager, Evans Avendaño Tapia, emphasised the importance of the project for regional and national development, while local authorities, including Mayor Janet Cubas, highlighted their commitment to advancing the necessary agreements to expedite the project's start. #1228.DEV33

BRAZIL

The Regional Airport of Sorriso (Mato Grosso) will receive an investment of USD 20.8 million for expansion. This investment is part of the Novo PAC (Growth Acceleration Programme) and will include the construction of a new 6,000 m² passenger terminal, as well as improvements to the operational capabilities of the airport.

The project will allocate USD 5 million for the expansion of the aircraft apron, a new taxiway, improved access to hangars and the terminal, and the completion of the perimeter fence, which has already seen USD 620,000 invested. These upgrades are designed to accommodate larger aircraft, such as the Boeing 737-800 and Airbus A320, and are expected to be completed by the first half of 2026. #1228.DEV34

Jacarepaguá Airport, located in Barra da Tijuca, a western suburb of Rio de Janeiro, is set to undergo significant improvements, including the construction of a hotel, by the end of 2025.

Managed by PAX Aeroportos, the project will retrofit and modernise an existing building to create a hotel with over 100 rooms. The first phase of the hotel is expected to be completed by late 2025. Additionally, the access road to the airport, the Ayrton Senna corridor, will be upgraded, with plans for a boulevard featuring bars and restaurants.

As the airport introduces new flight routes, including international ones, it is becoming a key alternative for residents and tourists in Rio de Janeiro's western zone. The airport, which handled 81,000 landings and take-offs last year and accounts for 5% of global offshore helicopter operations, recently completed a terminal renovation and will open a VIP lounge and an exclusive terminal for executive aviation next

month. XP Asset, the airport's operator, also plans to expand real estate in the area, capitalising on growth in the oil and gas sector. #1228.DEV35

Africa

EGYPT

Egypt is set to establish a new airport in Ras El-Hekma as part of major construction projects on the North Coast, according to Minister of Civil Aviation Sameh El-Hefny. During the American Chamber of Commerce Conference on infrastructure, the minister outlined plans to boost connectivity between Egypt's economic zones, such as Sokhna, Gargoub, Arish, and Taba. This includes expanding total airport capacity to 50.9 million passengers and increasing the number of airports to 24 in key economic areas. A new airport in Bardawil, North Sinai, has already been built to support regional development, particularly in fish transport. #1228.DEV36

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

The provincial government of Lualaba has announced plans to construct a modern airport in Kasaji, as confirmed by the Provincial Minister of Infrastructure on 6 October 2024. The airport will be built on a 10,000-hectare site, located more than 10 km from the city centre, following feasibility studies ordered by Governor Fifi Masuka Saini. This project will be the second airport in the province, following the one nearing completion in Kolwezi, and aims to provide modern airport infrastructure to the people of Kasaji. #1228.DEV37

Sud-Kivu is set to modernise its Kavumu Airport, with renovation work beginning on 15 October 2024. The project aims to boost the region's economy by lengthening the 2000-metre runway by 800 metres and building a modern terminal. This will allow larger aircraft and enhance trade and tourism. Funding for 30% of the project is already secured, and the contractor has been chosen. Alongside this, road rehabilitation in Bukavu and other areas is underway, funded by the African Development Bank, to improve regional connectivity. #1228.DEV38

Bunia Airport is undergoing significant modernisation, starting on 3 October 2024. The three-month project, led by Mont Gabaon Airlines, aims to expand the runway from 1,850 to 2,500 metres and widen it by 30 meters.

Once completed, the upgraded airport will meet international standards, potentially boosting economic and logistical development in Ituri province. #1228.DEV39

Middle East

BAHRAIN

The feasibility study for a new USD 10 billion greenfield airport in Bahrain, being conducted by Netherlands Airport Consultants, is expected to be completed by the end of 2024 or early 2025. This new airport, planned for a reclaimed island north of the current facility, would replace Bahrain International Airport (BAH), which is nearing its capacity limits.

BAH, designed to handle up to 14 million passengers annually, is projected to recover to pre-pandemic levels of 9.6 million travellers by the end of 2024. Despite recent upgrades, including a state-of-the-art terminal with a five-star Skytrax rating and advanced technologies such as single-token and self-service systems, the current airport is facing space constraints and limited opportunities for further expansion. The new airport would require extensive dredging, infrastructure development, and a bridge or causeway to connect it to the mainland, with plans for comprehensive road and rail systems to ensure seamless access. As part of Bahrain's national air connectivity plan, the new facility would help expand the airport's reach to 100 destinations, enhancing connections to North America, Europe, Africa, and Asia and positioning Bahrain as a key player in global aviation. #1228.DEV40

Asia Pacific

INDIA

On 11 October 2024, an Indian Air Force C-295 aircraft made the first landing on the south runway of Navi Mumbai International Airport (Maharashtra). The airport, which has been under construction since August 2021 and is scheduled for completion in early 2025, aims to serve both domestic and international passengers.

The successful landing, attended by high-ranking officials including Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, showcased the readiness of key infrastructure such as runways, taxiways, and air traffic control systems. The event demonstrates the airport's capability to handle joint civilian and military operations, as well as large commercial aircraft, with Terminal 1 expected to manage up to 20 million passengers annually. #1228.DEV41

Noida International Airport in Uttar Pradesh is scheduled to begin commercial operations for both domestic and international flights on 17 April next year, after initially planning to open in September. This new deadline was confirmed during a high-level meeting led by Noida International Airport Ltd (NIAL) and Yamuna International Airport Ltd (YIAPL), a subsidiary of Zurich AG. NIAL CEO Arun Vir Singh emphasised the importance of this date, noting that any delay could push the project back by six months. The airport, which will be the second serving the Delhi-NCR region, is expected to handle up to 65 daily flights, including 62 domestic, two international, and one cargo flight. #1228.DEV42

India's Supreme Court has confirmed GMR Airports' right to proceed with the upgrade and operation of Nagpur Airport (Maharashtra) after years of legal disputes. The final ruling on 27 September 2024 upheld a previous decision from May 2022, directing Mihan India Limited, the current operator, to honour the original concession agreement signed with GMR in 2019.

Mihan, a joint venture between Maharashtra Airports Development Company and Airports Authority of India, had attempted to annul the bidding process in 2020, but this was overturned by the Bombay High Court and upheld by the Supreme Court. With the legal hurdles now resolved, GMR will proceed with plans to expand the airport, including constructing **a second runway, a new terminal, and a cargo complex.**

Nagpur Airport, strategically positioned in India, handled 2.9 million passengers in the year ending March 2024 and aims to develop international routes linking Europe, Southeast Asia, South Africa, and Northeast Asia. #1228.DEV43

Biju Patnaik International Airport (Odisha) is set to undergo significant expansion with the construction of a new terminal. The expansion aims to accommodate the growing passenger traffic, which has surged to 5 million passengers annually, exceeding the current terminal's capacity of 4 million. The new terminal will increase capacity to 8 million passengers, with permission for the project expected within a month and completion within two years. The airport currently connects 20 Indian cities and four international destinations. In addition, a Category-II Instrument Landing System is being installed and is expected to be operational soon. BPIA, Odisha's only international airport, has seen a sharp increase in domestic and international flights, further emphasising the need for expansion. The airport's location within the city limits has been noted as a challenge for its growth, but the expansion is aimed at overcoming space constraints and improving facilities. #1228.DEV44

Bengaluru Kempegowda International Airport (Karnataka) is set to begin work on an elevated taxiway in the first quarter of 2025, aimed at improving aircraft movement efficiency. The project, expected to be completed in three years, involves the construction of two parallel taxiways, each 1.4 km long, connecting the North and South runways. These taxiways will

accommodate large aircraft, including Code F (Airbus A380) and Code E (Boeing 777) planes, and will cross various city-side roads, including the North Cargo Road and the proposed metro corridor. The new taxiways will enhance airfield circulation, reduce taxi times, and save fuel.

Additionally, the airport's North runway will be upgraded to CAT-III standards by December 2024, allowing for better handling of low-visibility operations. The South runway already meets CAT-IIIB standards, enabling both runways to be used during foggy conditions, thereby reducing flight disruptions this winter. Once upgrades are completed, the airport will have a declared capacity of 60 air traffic movements per hour during peak times. #1228.DEV45

A project to double the railway line between Bengaluru Airport and Yelahanka (Karnataka) has been announced by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw. This initiative aims to increase traffic capacity and ease congestion in the region. Additionally, the Minister plans to work with Bengaluru Airport authorities to bring the railway station closer to the airport's terminals, streamlining passenger commutes. #1228.DEV46

Construction has begun on development projects in Maharashtra valued at over USD 915 million as of 9 October 2024. Among the major initiatives is the upgrade of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport in Nagpur, with a projected cost of USD 842 million.

This project is expected to significantly boost sectors such as manufacturing, aviation, tourism, logistics, and healthcare in Nagpur and the wider Vidarbha region. Additionally, a New Integrated Terminal Building at Shirdi Airport, costing USD 77 million, will provide enhanced facilities for the growing number of religious tourists. #1228.DEV47

India is set to invest over USD 11 billion in expanding its airport infrastructure, aiming to have 200 operational airports by 2025, according to Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu. Speaking at an event hosted by the French Aerospace Industries Association, Naidu revealed that the expansion plan includes constructing new airports and upgrading existing ones to accommodate India's growing demand for air travel. This is part of a broader strategy to enhance connectivity across the country, driven by its large population and increasing economic activity. In addition to the goal of 200 airports by 2025, the government plans to add another 200 airports over the next two decades. Airlines in India have also ramped up their capacity, adding 9% more seats this year, totalling 240 million across domestic and international routes.

However, the sector faces challenges, particularly with engine supplier Pratt & Whitney, whose engine faults have grounded over 70 IndiGo aircraft. Go First, another Indian airline, filed for bankruptcy last year due to issues with the same engines. Naidu assured us that the government is actively working with the engine manufacturer to expedite repairs and maintenance, aiming to bring grounded planes back into service and reduce airfare prices. #1228.DEV48

LAOS

The Japanese government has announced a grant to support the development plan for Vientiane's Wattay International Airport. Concerns have been raised over the insufficient passenger handling capacity of the terminal, as well as damage to the taxiways and aprons due to ageing. To address this, Japan will fund the expansion of the terminal and the resurfacing of the taxiways and aprons to improve both convenience and safety. The grant amount is capped at JPY 2.836 billion (USD 18.9 million).

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has supported projects since 2011, including apron expansion, the installation of new taxiways, and upgrading lighting and security equipment. The

construction has been carried out by Ando Hazama, a contractor hired by the Laos government and the Civil Aviation Authority. #1228.DEV49

VIETNAM

Bien Hoa Airbase in Dong Nai, Vietnam, is set to be upgraded into a dual-use facility capable of serving 5 million passengers annually. The existing airfield covers approximately 967 hectares, with 50 hectares designated for civil aviation use.

Located about 30 km from Tan Son Nhat Airport in Ho Chi Minh City and 32 km from the under-construction Long Thanh International Airport, Bien Hoa will play a significant role in the region's aviation infrastructure.

Upon completion, Dong Nai will become the first locality in Vietnam to operate two commercial airports. The upgrade is part of a long-term development plan for the 2021-2030 period, with a vision toward 2050. #1228.DEV50

The Ministry of Transport in Vietnam has proposed postponing the completion date of phase 1 of Long Thanh International Airport to 2026 and adding a third runway. The proposal also suggests that the government be allowed to make investment decisions for each phase without requiring approval from the National Assembly.

The construction of the third runway, initially planned for phase 3, would now be included in phase 1 to improve management and operations. The total investment for the third runway is estimated at VND 3,455 billion (USD 139 million), with phase 1 including two runways, a passenger terminal, and auxiliary facilities to accommodate 25 million travellers and 1.2 million tons of cargo annually.

The project was originally scheduled for completion by the end of 2025. #1228.DEV51

The Ministry of Transport of Vietnam is advancing plans for the Thu Thiem - Long Thanh railway project, a mass rapid transit (MRT) urban railway connecting Ho Chi Minh City and Long Thanh International Airport. The project is designed for a maximum speed of 120 km/h on the main line and will span 48.23 km, with 20 stations, including 16 elevated and four underground. The railway will have two depots, located in Cam Duong and Thu Thiem, and is projected to use electric multiple units (EMU) with a 1500 VDC overhead power supply.

The project, valued at USD 3.5 billion, aims to begin construction in the fourth quarter of 2026, with equipment procurement starting in 2028 and operations expected by 2029. #1228.DEV52

THAILAND

Bangkok Airways is accelerating plans to expand Samui Airport to transform it into a tourism hub for the Gulf of Thailand. With Thailand's aviation industry recovering post-COVID-19, the airline is capitalising on the increasing number of international passengers, with Samui now accounting for 70% of its revenue. Plans include increasing daily flights from 50 to 73, pending approval from the Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand, with expected completion by 2024.

The airport's capacity will rise to 6 million passengers annually by 2027, up from the current 2 million. Expansion projects include enlarging the terminal from 7 to 11 buildings, adding ten new check-in counters, and increasing commercial space from 1,800 m² to 4,000 m². New facilities will include shops, cafes, and massage parlours. Additionally, self-service technologies will be implemented to streamline passenger processes. #1228.DEV53

MALAYSIA

Tawau Airport (Sabah, Malaysia) will undergo a RM130 million (USD 27.5 million) revamp starting in 2025, aimed at increasing its passenger capacity from 1.3 million to 2.5 million annually. The three-year project will expand the airport's floor area by 50%, from 15,800 m² to 23,500 m², and will include more check-in counters, larger waiting areas, and enhanced tourist-friendly facilities. Federal Transport Minister Anthony Loke confirmed the upgrade will transform the airport into a fully air-conditioned terminal to address current overcrowding issues, with the airport already handling 1.7 million passengers.

Tawau Airport, the second busiest in Sabah, currently operates international flights to cities like Chengdu, Nanjing, and Guangzhou. #1228.DEV54

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

A new air traffic control tower is set to be constructed at Goroka Airport as part of a broader infrastructure upgrade project supported by the Asian Development Bank. This initiative aims to enhance the airport's operational capabilities and modernise its facilities to improve air traffic management in the region. The project includes not only the construction of the control tower but also other related works necessary to support the airport's growth and safety standards.

The tender for this project is open for international competitive bidding, with a submission deadline of 5 December 2024. *For daily alerts on global market opportunities, please subscribe to Worldwide Airport Tenders [here](#).* #1228.DEV55

MACAU S.A.R.

Macau has allocated approximately 3.25 million m² for the expansion of Macau International Airport, with the aim of increasing its annual passenger capacity to 15 million, exceeding half of its current capacity. The decision, announced by the city's Secretary for Transport and Public Works, follows adjustments to the original land plans. The expansion involves reclaiming nearly 1.4 million square meters of land for airport purposes.

The project, approved in October 2022, is set to start later this year and will play a key role in attracting more international visitors and reducing reliance on Greater China. In the first half of 2024, the airport handled over 3.73 million passengers, marking a 91 per cent increase compared to the same period in 2023. #1228.DEV56

SOUTH KOREA

Incheon International Airport is planning a fifth phase of expansion to accommodate future aviation demand and stay competitive with nearby airports. Following the completion of the fourth phase at the end of 2024, which includes expanding Terminal 2 and adding a new 3,750-metre runway, Incheon will be able to handle 106 million passengers annually, making it one of the largest airports globally. **The fifth phase, estimated to cost USD 4.4 billion, will include a third terminal and a fifth runway, targeting a capacity of 130 million passengers by 2033.** This expansion is crucial as the airport is expected to reach full capacity by 2033, driven by a 4.1% annual growth in global air traffic. The plan aims to ensure Incheon remains a leading global hub, competing with major airports like Singapore's Changi, which is also expanding. #1228.DEV57

JAPAN

Tokyo Haneda Airport is planning to build its fifth runway, "Runway E," with a length of 3,000 metres, aiming for operation in the 2030s. This runway, to be constructed parallel to the existing C Runway, will increase the airport's capacity by up to 130,000 additional flights annually,

bringing the total to 616,000 flights. The most likely option is the "semi-open parallel" design, placing the new runway 760 metres offshore, which would minimise interference with Tokyo Bay's flight paths. This expansion responds to the high demand for international flights at Haneda and will further boost Japan's aviation capacity. #1228.DEV58

Japan's Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport has announced the completion of the second runway at Fukuoka Airport. After a decade of construction, carried out only at night to avoid disrupting air traffic, the new 2,500-metre runway is set to be fully operational by March 2025. Tests and safety checks will begin next month, and the runway will be dedicated solely to international take-offs. #1228.DEV59

THE PHILIPPINES

The Philippine aviation sector is addressing years of under-investment in airport development, according to Transportation Secretary Jaime J. Bautista. The Department of Transportation (DOTr) aims to position the Philippines as a leading regional player in aviation by 2028 through a series of expansion and modernisation projects.

These initiatives, which are expected to boost economic growth, include rehabilitating Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) and upgrades at Tuguegarao, Bacon, Loakan, Daet, and other regional airports. Additional airports in the Visayas and Mindanao regions, such as Siargao, Dumaguete, and Zamboanga, will also undergo improvements.

Furthermore, the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP), with assistance from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), will commence upgrades to air navigation systems in November. #1228.DEV60

AUSTRALIA

Menzies Aviation will open a 22,500 m² cargo facility at Western Sydney International (New South Wales) as part of a long-term lease agreement starting in late 2026. The company will specialise in handling pharmaceuticals, cool chain products, e-commerce, and heavy cargo from a 12,500 m² warehouse. Equipped with a state-of-the-art elevating transfer vehicle system, the facility is expected to handle over 150,000 tonnes of cargo annually. With direct airside access, multiple freighter bays, and compatibility with autonomous vehicles and robotic solutions, the facility will significantly benefit Menzies' airline and freighter customers.

WSI's Cargo Precinct, located strategically on Australia's east coast, will increase Sydney's air cargo capacity by 33% and offer 24/7 operations, boosting supply chains and creating more job opportunities. Around 50% of the current construction workforce is local to Western Sydney, and the project is expected to generate thousands more jobs during construction and operations. #1228.DEV61

Tests have commenced at Western Sydney International Airport (New South Wales) using a Piper PA-30 Twin Engine Comanche to ensure the new runway is ready for operations. The aircraft performed take-offs and landings under various conditions, testing the airport's 3,000 Aeronautical Ground Lights (AGLs), which are a critical commissioning requirement from the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA).

The runway, measuring 3,700 metres, is equipped with advanced lighting systems, including 348 High Intensity Approach Lights (HIAL), and will feature a modern CAT III-B instrument landing system for safe operations in adverse weather. The runway's design includes rapid exit taxiways to reduce taxiing time and grooved surfaces to improve friction and drainage. Built with 5.5 million tonnes of sandstone and surfaced with asphalt, it is set to open in late 2026, accommodating 10 million passengers annually. #1228.DEV62

Vertiports

Skyports Infrastructure, SEA Milan, and 2i Aeroporti have launched a joint venture (JV) called VEGA to advance air mobility in Milan and the Lombardy region. VEGA, which stands for Vertical Gateway, aims to develop vertiport infrastructure that supports electric vertical aviation and air taxi services. The partnership leverages Skyports' expertise in vertiport operations, SEA Milan's experience managing Milan's airports, and 2i Aeroporti's national airport network. Initially, VEGA will focus on launching services between Malpensa Airport and central Milan, with plans to expand to other regions. The initiative aligns with Italy's ambitions to promote zero-emission, efficient transport solutions for passengers and goods. #1228.DEV63

Parkin Company PJSC, Dubai's largest public parking provider, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Skyports Infrastructure, a specialist in vertiport infrastructure, to collaborate on parking facilities and develop new air taxi infrastructure at applicable vertiport sites across Dubai. This partnership aims to integrate Parkin's parking network and technological capabilities with Skyports' air taxi infrastructure expertise to enhance mobility and connectivity for residents and visitors.

The MoU supports Skyports' ongoing partnership with Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) and Joby Aviation to launch the world's first commercial air taxi network by 2026. This agreement aligns with Dubai's Green Mobility and Smart Autonomous Mobility Strategy 2030, promoting the adoption of electric and autonomous transport solutions. #1228.DEV64

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