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Established by Manfred Momberger - Publisher / Managing Editor: **Marnix** (Max) **Groot** max@mombergerairport.info

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GLOBAL AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT NEWS

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Europe

UNITED KINGDOM

Heathrow Airport has unveiled a two-year accelerated investment plan worth GBP 2.3 billion (approximately USD 2.87 billion), marking the largest private sector investment in UK transport infrastructure. This represents an increase of USD 305 million (converted from GBP 244 million) compared to previous projections. The investment focuses on upgrading all terminals, improving baggage systems, supporting punctual departures and arrivals, and enhancing passenger experience, sustainability, and resilience.

Key projects under the plan include the Independent Journeys Project, empowering passengers requiring additional support, and Active Travel initiatives promoting walking and cycling, scheduled for completion by 2027. Heathrow's CEO, Thomas Woldbye, emphasised the airport's commitment to investing over USD 1.25 billion annually to enhance facilities, support the UK economy, and create opportunities nationwide. The investment supports the UK Government's growth strategy, with contract opportunities for businesses and SMEs nationwide through the Heathrow Business Summit programme. Notable investments include USD 1.37 billion in 2024, USD 1.31 billion planned for 2025, and USD 1.62 billion in 2026, all aimed at securing Heathrow's position as a world-class hub and preparing for future demand. In parallel, **Heathrow's CEO has urged the UK Government to provide "clear direction" by the end of 2025 on the long-debated third runway expansion.** Approved by parliament in 2018, the project has faced delays due to legal challenges, environmental concerns, and the pandemic. The proposed expansion would include a third runway northwest of the existing two, a new terminal, and rerouting the M25, increasing capacity by 260,000 flights annually. The project, estimated at over USD 17.5 billion, aims to bolster the UK economy, which generates over USD 250 billion annually through Heathrow.

While the Department for Transport supports expansion aligned with economic growth and environmental obligations, the plans face opposition due to concerns over air quality, noise, climate impact, and the destruction of nearby villages. Heathrow is addressing these challenges by engaging with local communities, reducing noise emissions, and supporting jobs. However, Woldbye noted that without clear government backing, the third runway project may not proceed. #1233.DEV1

Gatwick Airport expects a decision from the UK Department for Transport (DfT) on its northern runway expansion plan by 27 February 2025. The project aims to bring the airport's northern runway, currently a backup, into regular use by the end of the decade. Gatwick CEO Stewart Wingate described the plan as a GBP 2.2 billion (approximately USD 2.8 billion) privately financed investment, which includes developing taxiways, expanding terminal facilities, building a new pier, and enhancing lounges and passenger services.

The project has already received significant backing, with GBP 200 million (approximately USD 255 million) invested in improving services and a GBP 300 million (approximately USD 382 million) rail station upgrade, of which GBP 50 million (approximately USD 64 million) was contributed by Gatwick. Wingate confirmed that investors are prepared to provide GBP 2 billion (approximately USD 2.55 billion) in funding if government approval is granted.

The proposal follows Gatwick's unsuccessful bid to construct a second runway and has progressed through a fast-track planning process. Planning inspectors submitted their report to the government in November, and statutory bodies have resolved many objections. The project awaits a decision from the transport secretary, with local authorities supporting several aspects of the plan.

While supported by business groups like the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the expansion faces opposition from local residents and environmental groups. The Labour government, led by transport secretary Heidi Alexander, is under scrutiny for its stance on airport expansions, with some ministers expressing reservations over environmental concerns. The decision is seen as a critical test of the government's commitment to economic growth. #1233.DEV2

The decision on the USD 3 billion expansion of London Luton Airport has been delayed for a third time, with a new verdict now expected on 3 April 2025. The project seeks to increase the airport's passenger capacity from 18 million to 32 million annually by developing the existing terminal and constructing a second one.

The delay follows the appointment of Transport Secretary Heidi Alexander, who is reviewing the "complex" details of the proposal after her predecessor's resignation. Luton Rising, the council-owned company behind the plans, expressed disappointment over the repeated delays but emphasised the project's potential to create over 11,000 jobs and add USD 1.9 billion annually to the economy. The expansion includes commitments to sustainable operations, aiming to minimise environmental impact while addressing economic challenges in the region. This decision adds to delays in other infrastructure projects, such as the Lower Thames Crossing. Despite the setback, the government remains generally open to airport expansions, as shown by recent approvals for London City Airport and ongoing discussions about Heathrow's third runway. #1233.DEV3

THE NETHERLANDS

Schiphol Airport plans to build a second terminal as part of a long-term expansion project between 2025 and 2035. The airport, currently accommodating nearly 70 million passengers annually, has not expanded its main terminal since 2003, when it served just over 42 million passengers. Schiphol's CEO, Pieter van Oord, stated the expansion is necessary to address spatial constraints and accommodate larger aircraft, enabling growth in passenger numbers without increasing the government-imposed cap of 478,000 annual flight movements.

The estimated cost of this new terminal, including departure halls and piers, is EUR 6 billion, in addition to the EUR 6 billion already allocated for renovations and upgrades through 2030. The funding will come from internal revenue, loans, and increased airport charges. Plans include rebuilding the outdated C-Pier and completing the delayed A-Pier by 2027 at a cost of EUR 800 million more than originally projected. Schiphol is engaging with local communities and municipalities to clarify that the project focuses on improving passenger capacity and infrastructure without increasing flight frequency. However, concerns remain among stakeholders about balancing expansion with commitments to reduce noise and environmental impacts. The exact location of the new terminal will be decided in 2025, with potential sites including the central terminal area ("Terminal South") or an area adjacent to the Zwanenburg Runway.

Despite government-imposed reductions in annual flight movements from 500,000 to 478,000, Schiphol anticipates passenger growth to 90 million annually, driven by the adoption of larger, quieter aircraft such as the Airbus A321neo. These developments align with efforts to modernise infrastructure, improve sustainability, and maintain the airport's critical hub function for the Dutch economy. Schiphol is also implementing measures to reduce noise, including limiting night flights, optimising flight routes, and discouraging noisy aircraft through higher charges.

Meanwhile, the Dutch parliament has called for an even stricter cap of 466,000 flight movements, citing the need for greater noise reduction, which has sparked opposition from the aviation industry and raised concerns about potential economic impacts. This proposal must gain European Commission approval, as EU rules stipulate that flight reductions are only permissible as a last resort. #1233.DEV4

BELGIUM

Brussels Airport Company (Zaventem) plans to enhance its terminal and pier with the B-Connect project, aiming to improve passenger experiences and operational processes. The project involves creating additional floor space to reduce waiting times, streamline border controls, and upgrade facilities such as dining, shopping, and other services. The development will prioritise sustainability, incorporating energy-efficient, carbon-neutral designs and renewable energy sources while ensuring minimal environmental impact and accessibility. The project also includes re-engineering outdated technical systems in existing buildings and designing modern installations for the extensions, all connected to a central infrastructure.

The airport has launched a call for design and engineering services under an 8-year contract. Applications must be submitted by 21 February 2025, 13:00 (UTC+1). *For daily alerts on global market opportunities, please subscribe to Worldwide Airport Tenders [here](#).* #1233.DEV5

SPAIN

Aena has announced an investment of EUR 3.4 million (approximately USD 3.7 million) to upgrade the Seve Ballesteros-Santander Airport in Cantabria, Spain. The enhancements aim to improve passenger flow and optimise both interior and exterior facilities, with a particular focus on accommodating international Non-Schengen flights.

One of the major projects includes the construction of a new 16,000 m² rental car area with 400 covered spaces located on adjacent land. This relocation will free up 246 parking spaces in the general lot for passenger use, easing congestion around the airport. The project, awarded for EUR 2.79 million, also includes the installation of new shelters for rental car services and is expected to be completed within 14 months.

Inside the terminal, several improvements are already underway. The ground floor will be reconfigured to allow Gate 1 to handle both Schengen and Non-Schengen flights, enabling simultaneous operations for two Non-Schengen destinations. This work, budgeted at EUR 78,943, is expected to be completed within four months. Additionally, a 290 m² annex built in 2022 for passport control will be integrated directly into the baggage claim area, streamlining the process. This project, costing EUR 194,007, will be completed within five months. Further upgrades include expanding the airside pavement and replacing the current canopy to facilitate smoother passenger movement between aircraft and the terminal. Temporary walkways will also be installed to ensure safety during construction, with this phase costing EUR 338,341 and requiring five months.

To improve passenger flow during peak periods, the airport will introduce a third security checkpoint. #1233.DEV6

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Bosnia and Herzegovina's Federation has issued urban planning approval for the first phase of construction at Bihac Airport, with an investment of over USD 52 million.

This phase includes a 1,800-meter runway, a passenger terminal, an apron for three Airbus A220-100 jets, an ATC tower, support buildings and infrastructure. The building permit is expected in early 2025, with the tender and construction planned for later that year.

The project, estimated to cost around BAM 100 million (approximately USD 53.2 million or EUR 51.1 million), aims to transition Bihac from a small sports airport to a facility capable of handling civilian

flights. Initiated in 2016, the project seeks to boost regional economic development. The Federation, one of Bosnia and Herzegovina's two autonomous entities, is leading the initiative. #1233.DEV7

CYPRUS

The expansion of Larnaca and Paphos airports, managed by Hermes Airports, will see a combined investment of EUR 170 million (USD 185 million). Public consultation on the environmental impact studies for the projects will run until 15 January 2025.

At Larnaca International Airport, EUR 95 million (USD 103 million) will be invested to increase terminal capacity to accommodate 12 million passengers annually. The project, expected to take 24 months, includes an eastward terminal extension for improved passport control, security operations, and expanded retail and seating areas. Additional ground-level gates with future provisions for passenger boarding bridges are also planned.

At Paphos International Airport, EUR 75 million (USD 82 million) will be allocated for an 18-month expansion to handle 5 million passengers annually. The work includes constructing a southern parallel taxiway with lighting and safety features alongside terminal improvements.

The projects comply with International Civil Aviation Organisation standards and have been planned in collaboration with Bouygues Batiment International and Egis Aviation, with environmental assessments led by Egis Structures et Environment and local consultancy La Solas Services Ltd. #1233.DEV8

POLAND

Centralny Port Komunikacyjny (CPK), Poland's flagship transportation project, has launched a tender for ground investigation studies for its planned airport in Baranów, approximately 37 km west of Warsaw. This new airport is a key component of CPK, which aims to create a major transport hub integrating air, rail, and road networks in Poland.

The tender involves a framework agreement for assessing and analysing the construction ground conditions, a critical step for both the design and construction phases of the airport. The maximum value of the contracts is approximately USD 3.03 million, with submissions due by 17 January 2025. The agreements will span eight years, until April 2033, and involve up to 15 contractors.

These studies will evaluate the geotechnical, geological, and hydrogeological characteristics of the site, covering the design, preparation, and construction stages. They will also ensure additional ground studies beyond the scope of the initial agreements are conducted as needed to support the successful delivery of the airport. #1233.DEV9

Rzeszów-Jasionka Airport has signed agreements with the Centre for EU Transport Projects to receive over PLN 31 million (approximately USD 7.3 million) in EU funding for three major investment projects under the European Funds for Infrastructure, Climate, and Environment (FEnIKS) programme. The total investment is valued at approximately PLN 51 million (USD 12.1 million), with the remaining PLN 20 million (USD 4.8 million) provided by the airport's own resources.

- The largest project, costing PLN 30.8 million (USD 7.3 million), involves constructing a new restricted-access entry to separate passenger and cargo traffic, improving airport efficiency. This is scheduled for completion by the end of 2027.
- A second project, worth nearly PLN 11 million (USD 2.6 million), focuses on modernising the central security checkpoint with advanced scanners to streamline baggage screening, targeted for completion by the end of 2026.
- The third project, valued at PLN 9.2 million (USD 2.2 million), will procure two modern fire rescue vehicles, enhancing airport fire safety. This purchase will also be finalised by the end of 2026.

While these projects are in the planning and funding stages, the airport has initiated other infrastructure developments. Notably, an open tender was announced in September 2024 for the construction of a

parallel taxiway and the first phase of runway reconstruction, with work planned for 2025-2026.
#1233.DEV10

BULGARIA

Burgas Airport will undergo a EUR 50 million runway rehabilitation during the winter of 2025/26, announced by Fraport Twin Star Airport Management AD. The project will modernise the runway, originally built in 1962 and upgraded in 1980, with improvements to drainage systems, surrounding areas, and a new airfield lighting system to meet modern safety standards.

The airport will temporarily close from November 2025 to April 2026 to minimise disruptions to Bulgaria's peak summer tourism season, with preparatory maintenance planned for March 2025. Additional investments will enhance apron areas, supporting long-term traffic growth and operational efficiency. The rehabilitation aligns with the airport's 2022-2026 Master Plan and aims to sustain growing traffic volumes over the next two decades. Since taking over the concession in 2006, Fraport has invested over EUR 110 million in Burgas Airport, transforming it into a modern gateway. #1233.DEV11

TÜRKIYE/TURKEY

Türkiye/Turkey is set to open two new airports as part of its ambitious expansion of air transport infrastructure. Minister of Transport and Infrastructure Abdulkadir Uraloğlu, speaking at the 2025 Central Government Budget discussions, announced that Gümüşhane-Bayburt Airport and Yozgat Airport will become operational in 2026. Additionally, the third runway and tower at Esenboğa Airport will open in 2025, and the second runways at Çukurova International Airport and Sabiha Gökçen Airport are now in service.

Over the past two decades, Türkiye has expanded its airport network from 26 to 58 airports, with terminal capacity growing from 55 million to 347 million passengers annually. International air agreements have increased from 81 to 179 countries, and flight destinations abroad have risen from 60 to 348. The number of aircraft has also grown from 150 to 702.

In 2023, Türkiye ranked third in Europe and seventh globally in air transport. The country expects passenger numbers to increase from 213 million in 2023 to 231 million in 2024. Furthermore, 52 environmentally friendly airports in Türkiye have received certification under the Airport Carbon Accreditation Programme by the Airports Council International. #1233.DEV12

Russia & C.I.S.

RUSSIA

Construction of the new Omsk-Fedorovka Airport (Omsk Region) is scheduled to begin in 2026 and be completed by the end of 2028. The RUB 43 billion (approximately USD 475 million) project is currently in its preparatory phase and will replace or complement the existing Omsk Tsentralny Airport.

The airport is being developed under a concession agreement with Airports of Regions, signed at the St. Petersburg Economic Forum in June 2024. Federal funding of RUB 12.3 billion (approximately USD 128 million) has been allocated over the next three years, alongside regional and private contributions. The facility will feature a 3,200-meter-long runway, a terminal capable of handling 3.5 million passengers annually, an apron for 25 aircraft, and parking for 500 cars.

Once completed, the new airport will enhance regional connectivity, increase flight destinations, and support the economic growth of the Omsk Region, meeting its long-term aviation needs. #1233.DEV13

Construction of a new airport near the Sheregesh ski resort in Siberia is planned to begin in 2027, supported by the federal budget. The project includes a runway estimated to cost over RUB 20 billion (approximately USD 212 million), with the total airport cost projected at RUB 35 billion (approximately USD 370 million).

The airport, currently undergoing state review with results expected in 2025, will accommodate up to 1.7 million passengers annually upon completion. Federal funds will cover infrastructure and air navigation systems, with potential adjustments to the timeline based on budget readiness.

Sheregesh, a major ski resort visited by 2.5 million tourists in the 2023–2024 season, is 180 km from the nearest airport in Novokuznetsk. The new airport aims to enhance accessibility and is part of the socio-economic development programme for the Kemerovo region, approved by Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin. #1233.DEV14

Salekhard Airport in Russia's Arctic Zone will see significant development with a RUB 19.1 billion (approximately USD 200 million) investment in a new passenger terminal, forecourt upgrades, and airfield infrastructure reconstruction. The new terminal, capable of handling 600 passengers per hour, is scheduled to begin operations in 2028. The project is being implemented under a concession agreement between Novaport and the Yamal-Nenets Autonomous Region government. The development aims to improve passenger comfort, attract additional airlines, and expand flight routes, significantly boosting connectivity in the Arctic.

This project is part of broader efforts in the Arctic and Far East, where similar initiatives are underway, including new terminals and airports in Murmansk, Kamchatka, and Habarovsk. #1233.DEV15

Nalchik Airport in Kabardino-Balkaria is set to undergo a major runway reconstruction in 2026-2027, with a budget of RUB 7 billion (approximately USD 74.2 million). The project, scheduled for design in 2025, will be funded by RUB 1 billion (USD 10.6 million) from the airport's owner, Novaport, and the remainder from the federal budget.

The reconstruction aims to increase runway capacity and accommodate larger aircraft. Two options are being considered: a full renovation of the existing runway or extending it by 800 meters. The final decision will be made after the completion of project documentation.

The airport, part of the Novaport holding, served 141,000 passengers between January and October 2024, a 21% increase compared to the previous year. #1233.DEV16

MOLDOVA

Chişinău International Airport is set to undergo significant modernisation, focusing on the expansion of the terminal and the introduction of self-service check-in systems and facial recognition for security. These plans were discussed in a meeting with the Minister of Infrastructure and Regional Development, Vladimir Bolea, the State Secretary for Transport, Mircea Pascăluţă, and airport representatives.

The adoption of advanced verification technologies aims to reduce waiting times and ensure a faster, safer process for passengers. Minister Bolea highlighted the importance of enhancing airport infrastructure and services, with a strong emphasis on citizen comfort and safety. He described the project as a necessary step towards digitising operations, improving service quality, and optimising operational efficiency. #1233.DEV17

KAZAKHSTAN

Turkish firm YDA Holding, which has managed Aktau International Airport since 2008, is proposing a USD 442 million investment to transform the airport into a multimodal regional aviation hub. The plan includes extensive upgrades such as a new cargo terminal, a second runway, expanded passenger facilities, and infrastructure like a railway link and road access. Key features include a 2,500m² business terminal and a 15,000m² business centre with a hotel.

YDA Holding has requested government support, including tax incentives, discounted aviation fuel, reduced tariffs from Kazakhstan's air navigation services, and simplified customs and border procedures.

The project is expected to generate 500 jobs, increase annual cargo capacity from 3,000 to 40,000 tonnes, and grow passenger numbers from 1.5 million to 2.5 million, including 600,000 tourists annually. Over 10 years, it could boost the regional GDP by 12% to 3 trillion tenge (approximately USD 6.4 billion). Highlighting Aktau's strategic location, open skies policy, and multimodal potential, YDA seeks support similar to Azerbaijan's Alat SEZ, which provides comprehensive incentives to investors. Since taking over Aktau Airport, YDA has already tripled its annual passenger traffic from 360,000 to 1.2 million. #1233.DEV18

KYRGYZSTAN

Japan will allocate approximately KGS 1.15 billion (USD 12.6 million) to modernise the air traffic control infrastructure at Kyrgyzstan's international airports. The grant agreement, facilitated by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), was ratified following a law signed by Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov. The agreement, formalised in Bishkek on 1 August 2024 and adopted by Parliament on 20 November 2024, aims to enhance flight safety and airspace efficiency.

The project includes constructing a new air traffic control tower at Osh Airport, extending its runway by 400 meters, and modernising air navigation equipment at Manas and Issyk-Kul airports. In addition to replacing outdated systems with modern technology, the initiative will improve the training of air traffic control specialists, ensuring sustainable operational improvements. #1233.DEV19

North America

UNITED STATES

Arnold Palmer Regional Airport in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, has begun a USD 22 million terminal expansion, marking its first major upgrade in over 25 years. The project, funded by a mix of local, state, and federal funds and grants, will feature new ticketing counters, waiting rooms, and security screening areas to improve passenger comfort and efficiency.

The expanded terminal will address TSA requirements for dual screening lanes, reducing long queues, and will accommodate two aircraft simultaneously, enhancing operational capacity. The improvements aim to support existing flights with Spirit Airlines and attract additional carriers like Breeze or Allegiant. The first phase is expected to be completed by the end of 2025, with the entire project scheduled for completion within three years. #1233.DEV20

Renovations on Concourse D at Charlotte Douglas International Airport (North Carolina) are set to begin in January 2025. The concourse, which primarily handles international flights for airlines including American, Lufthansa, and Volaris, processes an average of 160 arriving and departing flights daily. With 2024 expected to be a record-breaking year for passenger traffic, the renovations aim to enhance the airport's capacity and passenger experience.

The project will upgrade approximately 9,200 m² of space, including fully renovated restrooms, modernised seating with charging capabilities, and upgraded interiors with new finishes, ceilings, lighting, carpet, and paint. The Charlotte City Council approved the initial contracts for the project in 2023, allocating a budget of approximately USD 42.8 million. Renovations are expected to be completed by mid-to-late 2026.

This project complements ongoing renovations at nearby Concourse E, which are scheduled for completion in 2025, as part of broader efforts to enhance infrastructure at one of the world's busiest airports. #1233.DEV21

Miami International Airport (Florida) has provided updates on its ambitious USD 9 billion improvement program, detailing both upcoming and ongoing projects aimed at transforming the airport into a more modern, efficient, and sustainable hub. Key future developments include the South Terminal expansion, which will feature Concourse K with six new gates, additional concessions,

and airline lounges. Construction is scheduled to begin in fall 2025, with completion expected by spring 2029. The Central Terminal redevelopment is also a significant undertaking, with the first phase focusing on four levels of renovations, modernised interiors, and new retail spaces. This phase is set to break ground in 2028, followed by a second phase that will enhance TSA checkpoints, expand ceilings for natural light, and improve passenger circulation, targeting completion by 2033.

Other planned projects include the Concourse D West expansion, which aims to reconfigure 17 ground-boarding gates into 19 contact gates suitable for larger aircraft, and the complete replacement of the terminal roof, incorporating drainage improvements and solar panel installations. These projects, alongside an extended Flamingo Garage with 2,240 parking spaces, reflect the airport's commitment to accommodating its rapid growth and improving passenger experiences.

Ongoing efforts include the replacement of 126 passenger bridges, 32 of which have been completed, and the renovation of 447 restrooms, with 48 already modernised. The conveyance system is also being overhauled, with 34 elevators, escalators, and moving walkways updated so far. Additionally, the Flamingo Garage extension, which broke ground earlier this year, is on track to be completed by late 2025.

Miami International Airport is addressing record-breaking passenger growth, with 57 million travellers expected in 2024 and projections reaching 77 million by 2040. Funded entirely by airport-generated revenue, these improvements aim to enhance infrastructure, reduce congestion, and support sustainability through energy-efficient systems and solar power integration. The updates reflect MIA's vision to transform into a state-of-the-art facility while meeting the demands of an ever-growing aviation market. #1233.DEV22

Construction on Tampa International Airport's (Florida) new Airside D terminal officially began on 17 December with a groundbreaking ceremony. The USD 1.5 billion project, spanning 55,750 m² (600,015 ft²), is expected to be completed by 2028 and will accommodate growth as annual passenger numbers are projected to increase from 25 million to 35 million by 2037.

Airside D, Tampa's first new terminal in 20 years, will feature 16 gates across two levels, glass boarding bridges, a mezzanine, two passenger lounges, an international arrivals processing area, retail and dining spaces, and a shuttle system. The terminal is being built where the old Airside D once stood before its demolition in 2007.

The project marks the final phase of Tampa International's Master Plan, which previously included upgrades to the main terminal, construction of the rental car centre, SkyCenter One office building, and the SkyConnect Automated People Mover, as well as roadway expansions. #1233.DEV23

San Antonio International Airport (Texas) has commenced construction on a USD 1.4 billion terminal designed to modernise the airport and accommodate its growing passenger base.

The new terminal will feature up to 17 domestic and international gates by mid-2028, spanning 78,968 m², including 3,809 m² for concessions and 2,694 m² for lounges. Amenities will include a federal inspection station for international services, expanded seating, food and retail options, and improved traffic flow.

The project has faced legal challenges from Southwest Airlines, the airport's largest carrier, which has filed a lawsuit against the City of San Antonio. Southwest alleges it was excluded from the new Terminal C despite prior commitments, leaving the airline assigned to the smaller Terminal A. Despite these disputes, city officials emphasise the terminal's importance in supporting the region's aspirations and economic development. #1233.DEV24

Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (Arizona) is set for significant developments in 2025, building on a record-breaking 2024. Key projects include the construction of a new Terminal 3 north concourse with six gates, restaurants, shops, and a lounge offering airfield views, as well as a post-security pedestrian bridge connecting Terminals 3 and 4. This expansion follows a USD 590 million Terminal 3 modernisation completed in 2020. The concourse is expected to open in 2027.

Terminal 4 will see USD 71 million in federally funded upgrades to its Central Utility Plant, improving air conditioning efficiency. Construction begins in 2025, with completion expected by 2027. Additional projects include rooftop solar panels to power the utility plant and the PHX Sky Train, alongside elevator and escalator upgrades, part of a USD 500 million infrastructure investment.

Behind the scenes, the construction of Taxiway U, a 655-metre-long taxiway connecting the north and south airfields, will enhance aircraft flow, reducing passenger wait times. The project is scheduled for completion in 2027. The airport also received USD 66.7 million in federal grants for relocating cargo operations and reconfiguring roadways on the west side.

Looking ahead, planning begins for the West Terminal, featuring 40-60 gates, with construction anticipated in the 2030s. The terminal is expected to cost around USD 4 billion and will support long-term growth.

In air service, Aeromexico will reintroduce flights to Mexico City in 2025, and Breeze Airways plans to expand routes from Phoenix, focusing on underserved Northeast cities. New domestic routes include Allegiant Air to Pittsburgh and Frontier Airlines to Austin.

Sky Harbor will also enhance dining options with new restaurants in Terminal 4, including Guy Fieri's Phoenix Kitchen + Bar and SanTan Spirit House, addressing feedback for more diverse food and beverage offerings. These developments solidify Sky Harbor's position as a key hub for international and domestic travel while supporting long-term sustainability and infrastructure growth.

At Phoenix-Mesa Gateway, space constraints have led to plans for a new terminal east of the current site. Estimated to cost between USD 800-900 million, the project's first phase will include 14 gates with jetways and is expected to be completed in approximately 10 years as funding is secured. #1233.DEV25

The Sioux Falls Regional Airport (South Dakota) is pursuing expansion plans to address increasing passenger demand, with 2024 marking another record year for traffic. The proposed base expansion, estimated at USD 65 million, along with an additional USD 18 million for apron expansions, would add four new gates, expanded waiting areas, and enhanced security to alleviate bottlenecks. A full build-out costing USD 108 million includes a fifth gate, an atrium with more amenities, and facilities for international arrivals.

Current funding includes USD 59.6 million in federal funds and USD 2.5 million from state sources, with USD 26 million in bonds being considered. However, USD 20 million is still needed to fund the project fully. If funding is secured, construction on the base expansion could begin next year, with completion targeted for 2027. This expansion is crucial for attracting new carriers and destinations, accommodating regional growth, and keeping fares affordable for travellers. #1233.DEV26

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has awarded USD 20 million to 20 airports across 15 U.S. states to upgrade or construct air traffic control towers. This funding, issued through the FAA's Contract Tower Competitive Grant program, aims to enhance safety and support critical aviation operations, including passenger and cargo flights, emergency services, agricultural aviation, and flight training.

The FAA highlighted that these upgrades would provide controllers with more secure, sustainable, and accessible work environments. Additional funding of up to USD 100 million may be available in 2025 through expiring fiscal year 2022 funds under the Airport Infrastructure Grant (AIG) program.

This announcement follows significant FAA investments in 2024. In October, USD 970 million was allocated to 125 airports under the Airport Terminal Program (ATP), part of the USD 25 billion designated for infrastructure improvements in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Earlier funding includes USD 1.9 billion in Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grants in September and USD 566.4 million in AIG grants in August, supporting modernisation projects nationwide. #1233.DEV27

Latin America & The Caribbean

COLOMBIA

The long-awaited modernisation of Rafael Núñez International Airport in Cartagena is set to begin in 2025, with completion expected in 2027. This COP 1.4 trillion (approximately USD 350 million) project, led by OINAC under Colombia's 5G concession framework, will feature a new 17,300m² international terminal, a 40% expansion over the existing facility. Five new swing gate boarding bridges will serve both international and domestic passengers, alongside a 15,000m² expansion of the apron and an upgraded taxiway to increase runway frequency from 19 to 24 movements per hour.

Additional upgrades include 330 new parking spaces, solar panel installations, and energy-efficient features in the new terminal. The airport will maintain operations during construction, with careful coordination to minimise disruptions. The project is financed through national and international banks, including BBVA, Bancolombia, JP Morgan, and Goldman Sachs.

The airport, now Colombia's third busiest, expects to close in 2024 with a record 7.5 million passengers, reflecting a 17% growth in passenger volume and a 15% increase in flight frequencies over the previous year. Sustainability efforts include converting coffee waste into fertiliser and maintaining green spaces, with further improvements planned for energy efficiency and landscaping. This redevelopment aligns with Rafael Núñez Airport's growing role as a hub for international traffic, with notable connections to the United States, Panama, South America, Europe, and the Caribbean. #1233.DEV28

BRAZIL

Congonhas Airport in São Paulo has commenced a transformative modernisation project with a record investment of BRL 2.4 billion (approximately USD 472 million). The project aims to double the airport's capacity and establish it as a benchmark for sustainability and efficiency, aligning with international standards. Upon completion in 2028, the airport's capacity will increase from 22 million to nearly 30 million passengers annually.

Key upgrades include the expansion of the passenger terminal to 105,000 m², doubling its current size, and the addition of seven new boarding bridges, increasing the total from 12 to 19. The terminal will feature a new check-in area with up to 108 counters, enhanced baggage handling systems, and an increase in security checkpoints from 10 to 17. To streamline passenger flows during peak times, 10 remote boarding gates and 13 automated boarding card readers will be introduced.

The operational infrastructure will also be significantly enhanced with a 215,000 m² aircraft apron, increasing parking positions from 30 to 37, and strengthening runways and taxiways to accommodate modern aircraft.

Road access improvements are part of the initiative, including a new rideshare plaza with 72 spaces, a 250-meter extension of curbside areas for pickups and drop-offs, and direct access to a future metro station on the Ouro line. The project is being executed by Aena in collaboration with Brazil's Ministry of Ports and Airports and other federal partners, ensuring minimal disruption to current operations.

#1233.DEV29

The city of Guarujá, in São Paulo state, has signed a contract for the construction of a passenger terminal at the future Civil Metropolitan Airport, with an investment of approximately USD 540,000 funded by the Ministry of Ports and Airports. The contract, awarded to Paradigma Projetos e Obras, includes a five-month timeline for completion, with the first flight expected in the first half of 2025.

The project's first phase, set to conclude by the end of this year, includes the renovation and adaptation of the runway and taxiways, supported by a USD 3.8 million federal investment. The upgrades aim to enhance regional connectivity, boost development, and generate employment opportunities.

At the signing ceremony, held on 12 December 2024 and attended by Minister Silvio Costa Filho, additional announcements were made, including a modern complex within the Forte da Vera Cruz do Itapema and the implementation of 5G technology and a Digital Twin system for the Port of Santos, enabling real-time simulations and technological advancements. #1233.DEV30

The government of Paraná state has approved an investment of BRL 20.4 million (approximately USD 4.1 million) for the development of the new Municipal Airport of Francisco Beltrão. This funding, a partnership between the state government and the local municipality, will finance the first phase of modernisation works, focusing on the paving and widening of the runway, covering a total area of 87,555 m².

The project aims to enhance regional aviation in southwestern Paraná and boost the economic development and connectivity of Francisco Beltrão and its surrounding areas. Additional work includes drainage, base and sub-base preparation, surface finishing, traffic signage, and technological testing to ensure safety and functionality. The investment is a significant step forward for regional aviation infrastructure in the state. #1233.DEV31

ARGENTINA

The government of Neuquén has announced a tender for national and international investors to develop, construct, and operate a new passenger and cargo airport in Zapala. Located in the heart of the Pehuén region, Zapala is a key town in central Neuquén known for its strategic position as a gateway to the Andes and its potential as a regional trade and logistics hub. The project aims to enhance air connectivity, promote trade and tourism, strengthen regional logistics, and generate employment opportunities during both the construction and operational phases.

The proposed airport will include a runway, a passenger terminal capable of handling 500,000 passengers annually and cargo infrastructure designed for 100,000 tonnes per year. Additional facilities will feature auxiliary areas, commercial spaces, and complementary services.

Selected preliminary designs will form the foundation for a public tender, granting a 20-year concession for the airport's operation. Investors will benefit from tax exemptions for the first five years and revenue opportunities through airport fees, commercial concessions, and cargo rights.

The deadline for inquiries is set for 18 January 2025, with proposal submissions scheduled for 20 January 2025 in Neuquén.

Proposals will be evaluated based on technical and financial feasibility, environmental and social impact, and the operational experience of applicants. This initial phase is non-binding and will help define the final terms for the tender, with the ultimate goal of positioning Zapala as a strategic hub for air transportation and logistics in central Neuquén, leveraging its unique location and regional importance. #1233.DEV32

Africa

MOROCCO

Morocco plans to double its airport capacity to 80 million passengers by 2030, up from the current 38 million, as part of preparations to co-host the 2030 FIFA World Cup alongside Spain and Portugal. Prime Minister Aziz Akhannouch announced that expansions would include Casablanca Airport (23.3 million passengers), Marrakech (14 million), and Agadir (6.3 million), supporting Morocco's growing tourism sector, which welcomed a record 15.9 million visitors in the first 11 months of 2024.

The government is also extending its high-speed rail network to connect Marrakech and Agadir before the World Cup and aims to serve 87% of the population by 2040 by doubling the number of cities in the network. Additionally, 45 stadiums and training sites in six host cities will be upgraded, and a new 115,000-seat stadium near Casablanca will be built, with investments in stadium infrastructure estimated at MAD 5 billion (USD 500 million).

These projects align with Morocco's strategy to enhance infrastructure for tourism and major international events, including the Africa Cup of Nations in 2025. #1233.DEV33

MALI

Mali has announced the start of a modernisation project for Modibo Keita-Sénou International Airport, with the foundation stone for a new control tower and technical block laid on 19 December 2024. The project, costing USD 7.1 million (CFA 4.46 billion), is funded by the Agency for Air Navigation Safety in Africa and Madagascar (ASECNA) as part of its investment budget. Spanning 30 months, the project includes constructing modern facilities equipped with advanced technologies to enhance air traffic management and safety. It aligns with decisions made at the 73rd session of ASECNA's Council of Ministers in July 2024. This initiative aims to accommodate growing air traffic and meet international safety and efficiency standards. #1233.DEV34

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

The future of the new Kinshasa N'Djili Airport terminal project remains unclear as differing accounts emerge about the involvement of Turkish infrastructure firm Milinvest. Vice-Prime Minister for Transport Jean-Pierre Bemba recently announced that construction of the terminal is expected to begin in early 2025 but with a company other than Milvest, whose name will be disclosed later. Despite this, Milvest CEO Turhan Mildon insists his company is still committed to the project, emphasising its significant investments and readiness to proceed.

The project aims to modernise the DRC's primary aviation hub, enhancing both passenger and freight services to boost connectivity and economic development. As part of broader efforts to improve the country's aviation infrastructure, the terminal is designed to meet growing demand and international standards.

Milvest has proposed a financing model that requires no government funding and relies on guarantees instead. The company claims to have invested USD 15 million in feasibility studies and remains optimistic about delivering a state-of-the-art terminal. However, delays and unresolved issues have hindered formal agreements.

The government is expected to decide on the project by February 2025. If successful, it could significantly advance the DRC's aviation infrastructure and regional standing, with Milvest hopeful of playing a central role. #1233.DEV35

KENYA

The Kenya Airports Authority (KAA) has announced plans to construct a new Commercially Important Persons (CIP) Terminal at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) in Nairobi.

The project aims to enhance services for VIPs, business executives, and other high-profile passengers. A tender has been issued inviting expressions of interest (EOI) from eligible firms to design, build, and manage the facility. Interested parties must submit their EOIs by the deadline of 16 January 2025.

As part of the tendering process, a mandatory pre-bid site visit was scheduled for 17 December 2024 at JKIA. The project is part of KAA's broader strategy to align JKIA's infrastructure with international standards, modernise its facilities, and improve the overall travel experience.

This initiative comes in the wake of the recent cancellation of a partnership with India's Adani Group, which had faced significant public scrutiny. President William Ruto has reaffirmed the government's commitment to finding a new partner to support the modernisation of Kenya's airport infrastructure and ensure JKIA continues to serve as a key gateway for global travel. #1233.DEV36

Middle East

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Abu Dhabi Airports has commenced construction on the East Midfield Cargo Terminal (EMCT) at Zayed International Airport (formerly Abu Dhabi International Airport).

The new cargo terminal, covering 90,000 m², will handle between 1 million and 1.5 million tonnes of cargo annually, aiming to position Abu Dhabi as a key global logistics hub. The construction contract has been awarded to RAQ Contracting, a UAE-based firm committed to sustainable and high-quality standards.

The EMCT is part of Abu Dhabi's broader vision to diversify its economy and bolster trade and investment. #1233.DEV37

Asia Pacific

MALDIVES

President Dr Mohamed Muizzu has announced that constructing an airport on Mathiveri Island is a key infrastructure project slated to commence in 2025. He emphasised the airport's potential to enhance connectivity and stimulate economic growth for both Mathiveri and the surrounding region.

The President urged collaboration between the Mathiveri Island Council and relevant ministries to finalise plans, ensuring community input is incorporated. #1233.DEV38

BHUTAN

Bhutan has announced plans to construct a landmark international airport in Gelephu, targeting completion by the end of 2029. Plans include lengthening the runway from 1,500 to 4,000 metres and building a passenger terminal building with an annual capacity of 400,000 passengers and international facilities. Planning work is being undertaken by NACO Netherlands Airport Consultants, and construction is set to begin in 2025.

The airport will support the Gelephu Mindfulness City (GMC) initiative, positioning the area as an aviation and logistics hub for South Asia.

Bhutanese communities in Australia, the United States, and Canada have pledged USD 140 million toward the project through the Gelephu Investment Development Corporation.

Seow Hiang Lee, GMC Board Director and former CEO of Singapore's Changi Airport Group highlighted the significance of the airport as Bhutan's first major infrastructure project visible to the world. Drawing from Singapore's experience, he emphasised the airport's role as a symbol of national identity and economic potential, connecting Bhutan to two billion people in South Asia. While initial funding is secured, private investment opportunities will be explored to support its development. #1233.DEV39

INDIA

Kolkata Airport is set for major developments in 2025 including an expansion of the existing terminal and the construction of a new passenger terminal. The expansion will increase capacity of Terminal 2 from 26 million to 28 million passengers annually with an investment of INR 1.3 billion (USD 15.6 million). The modular terminal expansion will add space to boarding and security hold areas, addressing expected passenger growth over the next 4-5 years. Additionally, rehabilitation of the secondary runway will begin to handle flights during primary runway maintenance, with INR 2.24 billion (USD 26.9 million) allocated for this project.

Meanwhile, the construction of a new terminal, costing INR 45 billion (USD 540 million), will proceed in two phases. Demolition of the old domestic terminal is planned for 2025, with phase-1 construction expected to start later that year or by early 2026. The new terminal will feature twin passenger concourses, increasing capacity by 11 million passengers annually in its first phase. By 2029-30, the new terminal will handle both domestic and international operations, while the existing terminal will become a domestic-only facility, adding 6 million passengers annually. By 2032-33, the airport's total capacity will reach 45 million passengers per annum, representing a nine-fold increase over two decades.

A new air traffic control tower and technical complex, built at a cost of INR 3.5 billion (USD 42.1 million), will also become operational in 2025, initially running alongside the current tower before a full transition. #1233.DEV40

The Madurai district administration (Tamil Nadu state) has submitted a revised detailed project report (DPR) to the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (Tidco) for the expansion of Madurai Airport's runway. The plan involves extending the existing 2,286 m runway to 3,810 m. This project, initiated in 2009, has faced delays due to land acquisition challenges, including resistance from Chinna Udaippu villagers.

Approximately 259 hectares (640 acres) of land have been acquired for the expansion. After setbacks, including the cancellation of an underpass plan, an alternative route bypassing the Madurai Ring Road was finalised in late 2022. #1233.DEV41

GMR Airports is planning further expansion of Hyderabad International Airport (Telangana state) following a rapid surge in passenger traffic. After completing a recent upgrade to accommodate 34 million passengers annually (up from the initial capacity of 12 million), traffic has already reached nearly 30 million within six months. To address this growth, plans for a second terminal and a northern runway are underway, with construction expected to commence in the next few years if traffic continues to rise.

The airport is leveraging technology to extend its current capacity to 45-50 million passengers annually while aiming to handle over 55 aircraft movements per hour by benchmarking global best practices. Currently, the airport manages 43-44 movements per hour. Regulatory approvals and environmental clearances for the second terminal and runway are anticipated to take three to four years, aligning with the continued growth in Hyderabad's aviation and economic sectors. #1233.DEV42

Hisar Airport (Haryana state) is set to transform into an integrated cargo and logistics hub with support from the US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA). The USTDA has awarded a technical assistance grant to the Haryana Airports Development Corporation Limited (HADC) to facilitate the redevelopment of Maharaja Agrasen International Airport. This project aims to enhance air cargo throughput and bolster local supply chains, benefiting businesses in the National Capital Area, which includes Delhi.

Since its opening in 1967, Hisar Airport has primarily served general and business aviation, but its location—over three hours from the nearest international airport—has limited its potential. The

redevelopment, supported by USTDA's expertise, will address these challenges by transforming the airport into a key cargo complex, fostering two-way trade and improving India's aviation infrastructure. #1233.DEV43

VIETNAM

Gia Bình Airport (Bắc Ninh Province) is undergoing significant development to transform it into a major international aviation hub. Initially launched as a dual-use facility for civil and military purposes, the airport spans 245 hectares and features a 3,050-metre runway, parking areas, and facilities for flight management and barracks. Classified as a national key project, it is designed to meet 4E international standards and is aligned with Vietnam's broader plans to modernise airport infrastructure and strengthen national defence. The project, with a total investment of approximately VND 9 trillion (USD 367 million), is being developed by Sun Group, which has committed to completing the first phase within 12 months.

The airport's Phase 2 expansion will increase its size to over 400 hectares, extending the runway to 4,500 metres to accommodate the world's largest aircraft and enabling it to serve international diplomatic delegations, passenger transport, and cargo logistics. #1233.DEV44

Tho Xuan Airport (Thanh Hoa province) is set for a major upgrade through a public-private partnership, raising its capacity to 5 million passengers annually. Designated as an international airport and a backup for Hanoi's Noi Bai International Airport, the facility has exceeded its current capacity after more than a decade of operation.

The VND 8.2 trillion (approximately USD 321.67 million) investment will focus on renovating and upgrading Terminal T1 to accommodate 1.5 million passengers annually and constructing a new Terminal T2, an international terminal with a capacity of 3.5 million passengers per year. Additionally, the aircraft parking apron will be expanded to provide 16 positions. This development underscores the airport's role as a key driver of regional growth and connectivity.

Originally built as a military airbase in 1965, Tho Xuan Airport transitioned to civilian use in 2013 and has since become a vital economic driver for the region. With passenger traffic surpassing 1.5 million in 2022—25% over its design capacity—the need for infrastructure improvements has become critical. The project, proposed as a public-private partnership (PPP), will address ageing infrastructure, ensure safer operations, and support the economic growth of Thanh Hoa by enabling increased domestic and international trade and tourism. #1233.DEV45

MALAYSIA

Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) is set for a major expansion under the KLIA 2020 Masterplan, nearly doubling its passenger capacity. Transport Minister Anthony Loke Siew Fook announced plans to increase Terminal 1's capacity from 30 million passengers per annum (mppa) to 59 mppa and Terminal 2's from 45 mppa to 67 mppa, raising KLIA's combined capacity from 75 mppa to 140 mppa. The project also includes considerations for a fourth runway and a new Terminal 3.

Aircraft movements are expected to rise from 108 to 154 per hour through phased upgrades. Additional proposals include a Private Premium Terminal (PPT) for up to 100 users, offering exclusive immigration and customs services, with construction starting in 2025. A dedicated Hajj and Umrah Terminal with a capacity of 5 mppa is also planned, enabling pre-clearance for pilgrims by Saudi Arabian immigration authorities. However, this terminal will depend on the Saudi government's approval of the pre-clearance facility. #1233.DEV46

SOUTH KOREA

The construction of Jeju's Second Airport, located in the Seongsan-eup area of Seogwipo City, is progressing as the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport (MOLIT) moves into the basic design phase. On 12 December 2024, the Jeju Regional Aviation Office released detailed evaluation criteria for selecting the engineering and design firm for the project and began collecting public feedback. Final criteria will be established following this process, with the contractor expected to be chosen early next year.

Environmental impact assessments and basic and detailed design processes will take two to three years, followed by a year for land acquisition and an estimated five years for construction. The airport is projected to open in 2034.

The Second Airport planned for Seongsan-up in Seogwipo City on Jeju Island's eastern coast will cover 5.51 million m² and feature a 3,500-meter runway, parking stands for 28 aircraft (311,000 m²), a passenger terminal (118,000 m²), a cargo terminal (6,000 m²), and a transportation centre.

Environmental impact assessments, led by the selected contractor, are expected to begin by the end of this year and will take 24 months to complete. #1233.DEV47

NEW ZEALAND

Independent commissioners have recommended approving planning changes at Nelson Airport, paving the way for a proposed northern runway extension from 1,347 metres to 1,510 metres. This extension, including runway end safety areas, aims to accommodate next-generation aircraft and improve operational safety and resilience. The recommendations will go before the Nelson City Council on Thursday for consideration.

Nelson Airport, located in the northern part of New Zealand's South Island, serves as a vital regional hub, accommodating over 1.2 million passengers annually as of recent years. Its single runway, currently 1,347 metres long, supports domestic flights connecting major cities like Wellington, Christchurch, and Auckland. The proposed extension aims to future-proof the airport by enabling larger aircraft operations, boosting connectivity, and enhancing economic growth in the region. #1233.DEV48

Vertiports

Skyports Infrastructure and Bicester Motion have begun construction on a vertiport testbed at the Bicester Motion mobility estate in Oxfordshire, United Kingdom. The 0.42-acre (0.17-hectare) facility, part of the Advanced Mobility Ecosystem Consortium under the Innovate UK Future Flight Challenge, will include a 160 m² passenger terminal and is expected to be completed by early 2025.

The vertiport will serve as a critical hub for testing electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) operations, ground infrastructure, and air traffic management, supporting the development of low-noise, sustainable aviation in the UK. Located adjacent to Bicester Motion's existing grass runways, the facility will host a launch event featuring demonstration flights by Vertical Aerospace, showcasing innovations from the consortium.

The facility aims to enhance understanding of eVTOL benefits and contribute to scaling electric air taxi services. #1233.DEV49

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