Robin Hayes Becomes the 79th Chair of the IATA Board of Governors

The IATA announced leadership changes approved by the 76th IATA Annual General Meeting.

Robin Hayes, CEO of JetBlue is now the Chair of the IATA Board of Governors (BoG), succeeding Carsten Spohr, Chair IATA BoG (2019-2020) and CEO of Lufthansa. Hayes will serve a term commencing immediately and ending at the conclusion of the Association's 78th Annual General Meeting to be held in 2022. Hayes will serve an extended term as Chair covering two AGMs due the disruption to governance cycles necessitated by the COVID-19 crisis.

"The expectations for IATA's leadership are high. Managing through the crisis is, of course, at the top of the agenda. We must safely re-open borders and build back the vital global connectivity that has been lost in this crisis. There is a great expectation for aviation's role in the global distribution of a vaccines when they are ready. Safely re-starting large parts of the industry after months of being grounded is a challenge that will require the IATA to work with governments globally. And, in additional COVID-19 related work, we have a clear mandate to meet our 2050 goal to cut net aviation emissions to half 2005 levels; and to explore pathways to net zero globally. I look forward to driving these priorities forward with the support of Alexandre, Willie, the BoG and all our members," said Hayes.

Hayes was named president of JetBlue in 2014 and was appointed CEO in 2015, a position that also encompasses subsidiaries JetBlue Technology Ventures and JetBlue Travel Products. He joined JetBlue in 2008 as Executive Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer after a 19-year career with British Airways.

Collins Aerospace Systems Signs a Collaboration Agreement with Boom Supersonic

Collins Aerospace Systems, a unit of Raytheon Technologies, has signed a collaboration agreement with Boom Supersonic, the aerospace company building the world's fastest airliner, to advance nacelle technology on Boom's forthcoming flagship supersonic airliner, Overture. Overture will be the world's fastest airliner and is designed and committed to industry-leading standards of speed, safety, and sustainability.

Collins Aerospace engineers will work in concert with Boom to develop inlet, nacelle, and exhaust system technologies that enable fuel-burn reduction and cutting-edge acoustics for cleaner and quieter supersonic flight. They will do this via lightweight aerostructures and variable nacelle geometry. Collins Aerospace has been providing innovative nacelle technology for more than 70 years, including development of the first commercial variable fan nozzle for high-bypass-ratio geared turbofan (GTF) engines.

The combined engineering team will be exploring the development of advanced acoustics and variable inlet and exhaust technologies required to minimize aircraft noise for passengers and airport communities while enhancing performance.

Boom's mission is to make the world dramatically more accessible by making supersonic travel mainstream. Overture is in its design phase with plans to finalize the configuration and begin building the first airliner while XB-1 is flying supersonic. Boom will roll out the first completed Overture aircraft in 2025, with entry into service planned for 2029.

Iridium Partner Collins Aerospace Passes Development Milestone for Iridium Certus

Iridium Communications Inc. partner Collins Aerospace continues to make progress in bringing its new Iridium Certus aviation terminal to market. The company passed a major development milestone and is the first among Iridium Certus aviation partners to connect an aviation-grade antenna, in this case an Active Low-Gain Antenna (ALGA), to the Iridium constellation.

Collins Aerospace's Iridium Certus solution is designed to meet the connectivity needs of commercial, business and government aircraft. The service will enable a variety of capabilities for cockpit safety, graphical weather, electronic flight bags, enhanced aircraft reporting, and other operational aircraft services for airline and government customers. It will offer this through small form factor antennas currently in testing, and terminals that are ideal for operators of smaller aircraft requiring internet connectivity.

Collins Aerospace was announced as an Iridium service provider for the aviation industry in 2018, and continues to make progress in its solution to enable a faster, more reliable SATCOM experience. Enabled by Iridium's upgraded constellation, Iridium Certus is a multi-service communications platform that offers the highest speed L-band connectivity and only truly global mobile satellite service on the market.

"Collins Aerospace continues to play a critical role in bringing the next-generation L-band broadband solution to customers around the world," says Iridium Executive Vice President of Sales and Marketing, Bryan Hartin. "The progress of its Iridium Certus SATCOM solution is paving the way for safer and more connected skies.

3M and Safran Announce Partnership to Design Cleaner Aircraft Interiors

3M and Safran Cabin are bringing together their strengths and technologies in a partnership. Known for its multiplatform technologies and efforts in the fight against COVID-19, 3M will provide technologies to help design cleaner aircraft cabin interiors for 'Travel Safe' – in a joint initiative of Safran Interior companies to verifiably elevate the hygiene of aircraft interiors.

Safran will certify 3M technology that enhances cleaning and protection features of aircraft cabin equipment and provides the capability to mitigate or improve the removal of bacteria and viruses, including SARS-CoV-2.

"Clean interiors are an industry imperative, and we have with 3M an innovative partner and expert in cleaning, disinfection and protection, who can blend the latest in clean technology with the specialized plastics, decors, and composites used in aircraft interiors," said Norman Jordan, CEO of Safran Cabin.

The partnership will leverage the research capability of both companies to realize a shared vision for seamless, safe and stress-free travel. It's expected that these new aerospace materials will be available in 2021.

FAI Receives ITIJ's Air Ambulance Company of the Year

The Air Ambulance Division of German Special Mission Operator FAI rent-a-jet AG has won the prestigious 2020 International Travel & Health Insurance Journal (ITIJ) Air Ambulance Company of the Year Award. The winners were revealed virtually at the ITIJ Awards ceremony on the 5th of November. The company overcame stiff competition from fellow finalists, Air Ambulance Worldwide and Jet Rescue. This marks the second award win for FAI having first won in 2012. The ITIJ awards, now in their 18th year, honors these companies that have made an outstanding contribution to the global travel and health insurance industry over the past year.

Accepting the award, Volker Lemke, head of FAI´s Air Ambulance Division, said: "On behalf of the division, I am pleased and proud to have won this important award. The win is particularly sweet given the incredibly challenging and extraordinary year we have had to meet demand during the pandemic. I would like to thank the entire team who have shown dedication, professionalism and incredible resilience particularly during the past nine months. Without them, our work would not be possible."

"Congratulations to the team at FAI for this well-deserved win," said Ian Cameron, ITIJ editor-in-chief. "Our judging panel commented that FAI demonstrated 'quality standards of the highest level' and put 'operational safety first, always guided by ethical principles, governing how they treat their colleagues, clients, and the patients entrusted to their care'."

Earlier this year, FAI rent-a-jet emerged from its busiest period in its 30-year history due to the coronavirus pandemic. During this time the division was operating at maximum capacity and worked hard to fulfill all the requests coming in 24/7 for repatriation and medevac flights utilizing its 10-strong fleet of air ambulance jet aircraft, covering all corners of the globe.

© FAI
Volker Lembe

Demand was particularly strong for FAI's EpiShuttle isolation pod patient transfer system which enables self-contained oxygen and air ventilation directly to the patient, isolated from the cabin's airflow. Since April, the division has been managing a very challenging and fluid situation with fluctuating demand coming mostly from COVID-19 patient transfers.

FAI is one of the world´s largest air ambulance jet operators by revenue, logging far above 10,000 hours per year flying air ambulance missions. The fleet comprises Bombardier Global Express, Challenger 604 and Learjet 60 is based at FAI´s Headquarters at Albrecht Dürer International Airport in Nuremberg. It is supported by more than 200 full time staff plus 50 part-time physicians and paramedics.

The company specializes in air support in hostile areas for the world´s largest NGO. It currently averages four intercontinental medical evacuations per day for its global client base.

Kuwait Airways Takes Delivery of its first two A330neos

Kuwait Airways, the national airline of Kuwait, received its first two A330neos on 29 October 2020. These aircraft are the first of eight A330neos ordered by the airline. The carrier currently operates a fleet of 15 Airbus aircraft comprising seven A320ceos, three A320neos and five A330ceos.

This event also marks Airbus' first A330-800 delivery. The new generation widebody aircraft is the latest addition to Airbus' product line, highlighting the company's strategy to keep offering its airline customers unbeatable economics, increased operational efficiency and superior passenger comfort with proven latest technology platforms.

Thanks to its tailored mid-sized capacity and its excellent range versatility, the A330neo is considered the ideal aircraft to operate as part of the post-COVID-19 recovery.

Kuwait Airways Chairman, Captain Ali Mohammad Al-Dukhan stated: "Kuwait Airways takes pride in its continued relationship and cooperation with Airbus for the past four decades.

The delivery of the first two A330neos is yet another significant milestone for Kuwait Airways as we progress towards our goals and implementation of our fleet development strategy," said Al-Dukhan. "The introduction of the A330neos to our expanding fleet strengthens Kuwait Airways' position as a prominent airline in both the regional and global aviation sector. As we are continuously reviewing our passenger requirements to provide excellent services, combined with comfort and safety during each flight, the arrival of the A330neos commences a new phase in the services we provide to our passengers on board, in addition to efficient and comfortable air transport services with Kuwait Airways", added Al-Dukhan.

Kuwait Airways' A330neo will comfortably accommodate 235 passengers, featuring 32 fully-flat beds in Business Class and 203 spacious seats in Economy Class while offering a large cargo hold capable of accommodating generous passenger baggage allowances.

"The A330neo is the right aircraft for Kuwait Airways in these challenging times. This unique product is spot-on with Kuwait Airways' ambition to expand its network in the most efficient and versatile way," said Christian Scherer, Airbus Chief Commercial Officer. "With its Airspace best-in-class cabin comfort the aircraft will quickly become a passengers' favorite. Thanks to its high level of commonality and cost advantages, the A330neo will easily and efficiently integrate into Kuwait Airways' current fleet of A320s, A330s and its future fleet of A350s" he added.

© Kuwait Airways

SunExpress Attains Authorized Economic Operator Status

SunExpress has become the second airline in Turkey to get an Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Certificate after Turkish Airlines


© SunExpress

As a result of this initiative launched in the last quarter of 2018, SunExpress, a joint venture of Turkish Airlines and Lufthansa, has obtained the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) Certificate by fulfilling all the necessary obligations in September 2020.

SunExpress is the second company in the Turkish aviation industry to gain this status following Turkish Airlines, while in Antalya the airline has managed to become one of four companies operating in the logistics sector authorized with the respective certificate.

Authorized Economic Operator Status is an internationally recognized valid status provided to reliable companies that fulfill customs obligations, have a regular and traceable registration system, are able to meet financial competence and safety standards and perform auto control. This status provides companies with many privileges and convenience in customs practices. Therefore, the Authorized Economic Operator is one of the main elements of the international foreign trade structure.

The Authorized Economic Operator certificate enables SunExpress to take advantage of status privileges in the countries covered under the mutual recognition agreement as well as time and cost savings in import and export processes, positive contribution to operational capabilities, competitiveness in international markets as well as a significant increase in brand value and reliability.

Currently, there are 19,001 companies in the European Union region and 11,605 companies in the United States that have qualified for the AEO certification.

Turkish Cargo, From China to Brazil

Turkish Cargo, which provides services to 127 countries, carried COVID-19 vaccines 17 thousand kilometers away, from China to Brazil.

COVID-19 vaccines, loaded in 7 containers with special cooling systems, were transported from Beijing to Sao Paulo, the largest city in South America, through Istanbul.

During the pandemic period, Turkish Cargo has carried medicine all over the world, and has achieved more than 50% in growth in drug shipments during this period.

© Turkish Cargo

WMO and IATA Agree to Improve Aircraft Meteorological Reporting

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) and World Meteorological Organization have signed an agreement to increase and improve the automated reporting of meteorological data by commercial aircraft.


© IATA

The new initiative, called the WMO and IATA Collaborative AMDAR Program (WICAP), aims to expand the existing WMO Aircraft Meteorological Data Relay (AMDAR) system to ensure coverage over data-sparse areas. It is expected to bring many additional and new partner airlines into the program, which is already supported by approximately 40 airlines and covers several thousand passenger and cargo aircraft.

"One of the many unfortunate aspects of the COVID-19 crisis has been the severe loss – of up to 90% - of aircraft-derived meteorological data as a result of the steep decline in airline operations and passenger flights since March 2020," said WMO Secretary-General Professor Petteri Taalas.

"Meteorological services and other data providers have tried to offset this loss, but there has been a measurable negative impact on the accuracy of weather forecasts as a result of AMDAR data reductions," said Professor Taalas.

"Safety is aviation's highest priority and ensuring airlines and other safety stakeholders have access to the most comprehensive and reliable weather forecast data is vital to achieving this," said Alexandre de Juniac, IATA's Director General and CEO.

"It is important that in rebuilding and re-establishing their operations, airlines are able to take advantage of all available cost and operational efficiencies. One such efficiency can be derived from the enhanced use of better-quality weather forecasts and other meteorological information that results from the improved availability of AMDAR data," said de Juniac.

The AMDAR observing system produces over 800,000 high-quality observations per day of air temperature and wind speed and direction, together with the required positional and temporal information, and with an increasing number of humidity and turbulence measurements being made.

This information is provided to meteorological agencies and computerized weather prediction systems. These in turn support the generation of forecast and weather service products for aviation.

The AMDAR system has made a positive contribution and improvement to weather forecasts. These are vital to airline and aviation efficiency and safety in an era when the industry is striving to make flying more sustainable and limit its contribution to climate change.

Under the new WICAP collaboration, the WMO community will take on the role of establishing a regionally based operational framework for reception and processing of the data. The IATA will be responsible for promoting airline participation in the program and help coordinate technical solutions for data relay, while protecting the airlines' ownership of the data.