

Fiyat: 120 TL - Price: US\$ 5,99

ISSN 2667-8624
VOLUME 6 - ISSUE 29 - YEAR 2025

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VOLUME 6 - YEAR 2025 - ISSUE 29
ISSN 2667-8624

Yayıncı / Publisher

Hatice Ayşe Akalın
a.akalin@aviationturkey.com

Genel Yayın Yönetmeni Editor in Chief

Hatice Ayşe Akalın
a.akalin@aviationturkey.com

Haber Editörü / Editor

Şebnem Akalın
sebnem.akalin@aviationturkey.com

Çeviri / Translation

Tanyel Akman

Grafik & Tasarım / Graphics & Design

Gülsemin Bolat
Görkem Elmas

Yayın Danışma Kurulu / Advisory Board

Aslıhan Aydemir
Lale Selamoğlu Kaplan
Assoc. Prof. Ferhan Kuyucak
Şengür

Adres / Adress

Administrative Office
DT Medya LTD.STİ
İlkbahar Mahallesi Galip Erdem
Caddesi Sinpaş Altınoran Kule 3
No:142 Çankaya Ankara/Turkey

Tel: +90 (312) 5579020
info@aviationturkey.com
www.aviationturkey.com

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Sorumlu Yazı İşleri Müdürü

Managing Editor

Cem Akalın
cem.akalin@aviationturkey.com

Baş Yazar / Senior Editor

İbrahim Sünnetçi

Haber Editörü / Editor

Yeşim Bilginoğlu Yörük
y.bilginoglu@aviationturkey.com

Muhabir / Correspondent

Saffet Uyanık

Fotoğrafçı / Photographer

Sinan Niyazi Kutsal

İmtiyaz Sahibi

Hatice Ayşe Akalın

Basım Yeri

Demir Ofis Kirtasiye
Perpa Ticaret Merkezi B Blok
Kat:8 No:936 Şişli / İstanbul

Tel: +90 212 222 26 36
demirofiskirtasiye@hotmail.com

www.demirofiskirtasiye.com

Basım Tarihi

Nisan 2025

Yayın Türü

Sürelî

content



TAV Airports:
A 25-Year
Journey of
Global Growth
& Innovation



Turkish Airlines
Started 2025
with Strong
Performance
on International
and Domestic
Routes



More Than a
Gateway:
Dalaman
Airport's Role
in Shaping the
Turkish Riviera
Experience;
An Interview
with YDA
Dalaman Airport
CEO, Yiğit Laçın

nts



20
SunExpress Celebrates 35 Years of Bridging Nations at "35 Years of Sun and Beyond" Conference in Antalya



36
"Women Leading the Way in Aviation PR"



30
General Aviation Industry Surpasses \$30B in Annual Billings – GAMA's 2024 Report Reveals Strong Growth!



40
BookingAgora: Reshaping the Travel Industry with Technology and Trust

24
Innovation at 30,000 Feet: Emirates' Vision for a Greener, Smarter Future



50
Columbia Helicopters Secures Fifth Consecutive Year in Türkiye's Wildfire Response: Partnership with CMC Extended for 2025 Firefighting Season

Slots: The Strategic Currency of Airport Access

At first glance, airport slots might seem like a mere technicality—a matter of takeoff and landing times. Yet in reality, they represent one of the most powerful levers in shaping global air connectivity, market access, and competitive dynamics across the aviation industry.

As ACI World's recent analysis highlights, the slot allocation system is not just a logistical exercise—it is a strategic framework that determines who gets to fly where, when, and how often. In the world's most congested airports—designated as Level 3—the demand for slots often exceeds available capacity, turning these time-bound permissions into high-value assets. For incumbent airlines, historic slots offer stability and market control. For new entrants, they often represent barriers.

The Worldwide Airport Slot Guidelines (WASG), largely designed in the 1970s by and for airlines, reflect a different era—one dominated

by government-owned airports and national flag carriers. Today, the aviation landscape has shifted dramatically, with private airports, low-cost carriers, complex airline groups, and sophisticated traffic management technologies rewriting the rules of the game. And yet, the core principles of the WASG—certainty, flexibility, sustainability, and transparency—remain rooted in outdated assumptions.

This editorial does not argue against those principles, but rather invites a redefinition of how they are applied in today's context. "Certainty" for incumbents must not come at the cost of stagnation. "Flexibility" should not enable the underuse of scarce airport capacity. "Sustainability" must be understood not only as procedural durability but also in terms of economic value and environmental responsibility. "Transparency" must go beyond visibility to include accountability in aligning slot allocation



with broader public interest.

As airport traffic is expected to nearly double by 2043, and as infrastructure expansion struggles to keep pace, optimizing slot use becomes not just desirable but essential. The distinction between efficient slot utilization

and efficient airport capacity utilization is key: a system that rewards slot usage with minimal consideration for market relevance or load factors may be statistically full, but functionally inefficient.

This is not just an operational debate—it is a policy challenge. The



current slot allocation framework often privileges legacy over innovation, creating what some describe as a “tragedy of the commons,” where individual airline strategies, while rational on their own, result in a collectively suboptimal system.

Airports must have a stronger voice in how their constrained infrastructure is used. Local economies, environmental goals, and passenger interests deserve to be reflected in slot allocation decisions. ACI World’s push for greater balance through the Worldwide Airport

Slot Board is a welcome step, but meaningful change will require collective will across regulators, coordinators, airports, and airlines alike.

Slots are not just timings. They are access. They are opportunity. And how we manage them will define the shape of global

aviation for decades to come.

Enjoy the issue ... [▶](#)

Ayşe Akalın
Editor in Chief



TAV Airports: A 25-Year Journey of Global Growth & Innovation

TAV CEO Serkan Kaptan reflects on key milestones, strategic investments, and the future of airport operations in emerging markets.

✈️ Aviation Turkey: TAV Airports is celebrating 25 years of growth and transformation. Looking back, what are some of the key turning points that shaped the company's evolution into a global airport operator?

Serkan Kaptan: This year we are celebrating the anniversary of welcoming

our first-ever passenger at Istanbul Ataturk. Since that day, we have welcomed more than 1.5 billion happy passengers at our airports, which consists of a portfolio of 15 airports in eight countries.

When you look at the milestones, in 2000 we have set out for an extraordinary growth story that would bring TAV Airports to managing 10 airports in 10 years from just 10 million passengers a year.

In 2007 TAV Airport went public with a market capitalization of USD 1.7

billion. This has set out a new momentum for growth, while laying the strong corporate foundations of the company.

In 2010 we achieved a portfolio of 10 airports. By then, we had extended our footprint to Georgia, Tunisia and N. Macedonia, and to three additional airports in Turkey through the expertise accumulated in Istanbul.

In 2012 we witnessed yet another milestone as Groupe ADP bought into TAV Airports, the first step towards establishing the

largest airport management platform globally. In 2017, Groupe ADP further increases its shares to 46%.

In 2018 we partnered with Fraport to manage Antalya Airport - the biggest tourism hub in the Mediterranean. The same year TAV Airports portfolio reached 15 airports with additional operations in Turkey, Latvia, Saudi Arabia and Croatia.

In 2021 we had a strategic move into Central Asia and bought 85% shares of Almaty Airport in Kazakhstan.



When we came to 2022 our average maturity of the portfolio surpassed 30 years, with extensions of Antalya and Ankara concessions beyond 2050.

This year, as we celebrate our 25th anniversary, we are completing the largest investment program in our history. A total of EUR 2.5 billion invested, mainly in Almaty, Antalya and Ankara.

During these 25 years, we have witnessed many crises -pandemics, terror attacks, financial downturns, wars, political instability and



turmoil. We have always trusted the long-term growth of aviation and continued investing in this industry amid the worst crises. Our colleagues have shown incredible agility and resilience to weather the storms.

Yet, our ability to adapt, to find the best solutions and to be able to execute them have turned TAV Airports into a global brand. We have always focused on the developing markets, where growth is higher, and succeeded in excelling under global competition.

✈️ Aviation Turkey: One of your most recent and high-profile achievements is the expansion of Antalya Airport. How will the

new terminals and infrastructure enhance Antalya's positioning as a gateway for tourism and business? Could you walk us through the scale of the investment in Antalya? What are the expected operational and economic impacts of this development?

Serkan Kaptan: Antalya Airport is the largest holiday gateway in the Mediterranean. In 2024 it welcomed more than 38 million passengers. In terms of international traffic, it's Turkey's second largest hub.

We have been operating Antalya Airport, together with our partner Fraport, since 2018. In December 2021, the partnership extended their operation

period for another 25 years, until the end of 2051. For the 25-year period beginning December 2026, total concession rent to be paid is 725 billion EUR + VAT. A quarter of the total concession fee was paid upfront to the State Airports Authority.

Now, we have expanded terminal and airside capacity, introducing a brand-new passenger experience. In this first phase, we have invested EUR 850 million to increase annual capacity to 65 million passengers annually. This first phase of expansion works in Antalya are completed in less than three years. During the concession period the capacity will reach over 80 million passengers.





Area of international terminal T2 and domestic terminal almost doubled to 225 000 sqm and 75 000 sqm, respectively. Total commercial area almost tripled and the lounge, F&B and retail offers at T2 are completely redesigned.

Additionally, 14 million sqm of apron works significantly increased the number of aircraft parking spaces to 202. A multi-story carpark, new taxiways, connecting roads, aircraft maintenance hangars, general aviation terminal and other facilities are completed as part of this first phase of investments.

It's a strategic investment which lays the ground for airlines to base more aircraft in Antalya, and provides the necessary infrastructure to support the region's long-term development. Our service companies ATÜ Duty Free and BTA are now operating in Antalya, and they have significantly developed the retail and F&B offer at

the airport. Furthermore, the new lounges in T2 will provide an extraordinary service in different tiers. This will also complement the full travel experience provided by hotels and tour operators, enabling a seamless service from gate to hotel and back to the gate on the visitor's return flight.

This new investment will contribute to the development of the region, by creating jobs and enabling tourism stakeholders to welcome more visitors and provide an impeccable experience.

The new facilities have the highest environmental standards, and a 4MW solar energy facility is included. Lastly, I would like to note that the JV and its lenders have signed the financing agreements for the long-term project finance facility. This is a show of trust to the project and our reputation.

Aviation Turkey: Esenboğa Airport is another major project under TAV's umbrella.

What updates can you share on the modernization and capacity expansion efforts currently underway in Ankara?

Serkan Kaptan: We are operating Ankara Esenboğa -the gateway to the Turkish capital- successfully since 2006. The terminal which we built back then reflects the ambitions and the modern face of the Republic. During this period, we have quadrupled the passenger traffic in Ankara, and worked towards increasing direct flights in collaboration with our stakeholders. In addition to being the political center of the country, Ankara is a touristic hotspot with a rich history and a hub connecting eastern Anatolia.

In 2022, we have extended our concession until 2050. As part of this, we have been investing around 210 million euro in the first phase of investments. This project consists mainly of airside works - adding a new runway, a new traffic control

tower and cargo facilities. This first phase is expected to be completed in May 2025. The new traffic control tower will be an architectural landmark for Ankara and Ankara Airport.

Ankara Esenboğa was selected as the best airport in Europe in its category by the Airports Council International (ACI) Europe in 2009 and received the Airport Service Quality (ASQ) award in 2020. This year, for the first time it is ranked among the top 100 airports in the world in the Skytrax awards. We will continue our efforts to provide the best possible travel experience and increase connectivity in Ankara.

Aviation Turkey: In Kazakhstan, TAV is operating Almaty Airport, the largest hub in Central Asia. What developments are underway there, and how do you see Almaty's role evolving in the region's aviation and logistics ecosystem?

Serkan Kaptan: In Almaty Airport, the new international terminal opened in June 2024 following a €252 million investment comprising the construction and modernization of the new international terminal in addition to other miscellaneous investments. Since our acquisition, we have nearly doubled the number of destinations and by 2025, we expect

passenger traffic to have doubled compared to 2021. To support this rapid growth, we have announced an additional airside investment up to 300 million.

We are operating Almaty Airport since 2021. One of the main transit hubs between Asia and Europe, Almaty Airport is strategically located on the modern Silk Road, established from China to Europe and Africa, as well as the Middle Corridor -Trans Caspian International Transport Route. Kazakhstan is the largest country in the region -both geographically and economically- and Almaty is the largest city in the country producing 20% of Kazakhstan's GDP. Using our extensive know-how and global network, we are boosting air connectivity, creating jobs, and contributing to the sustainable development efforts in Kazakhstan.

✈️ Aviation Turkey: Sustainability and digital transformation are central to modern airport operations. How is TAV integrating these themes into your current and future projects?

Serkan Kaptan: Both sustainability and digitalization -together with hospitality- are at the heart of our strategic approach since 2020. At the time, we have initiated several projects and set



KPIs to follow development and I'm proud to say that we are progressing as planned.

As part of all the airports in the Groupe ADP network, we have announced our

common ambitions on environmental protection. Within this scope, we aim at reaching carbon neutrality by 2030 at the latest. And net zero emissions by 2050.

Today we have 12 airports in the ACI Europe initiative Airport Carbon Accreditation (ACA) program. Four airports are already at carbon-neutral status or above. We are investing USD 20 million to build a solar capacity of 16.1 MW, which will cover one-third of the energy consumption of Izmir, Bodrum and Ankara airports.

We are aiming at creating smart airports that will improve customer experience, supporting the development of the hospitality offer and creating additional revenues. Additionally, the program will help optimize operations, increasing terminal capacity, optimizing costs, and standardizing processes.

We will continuously develop our hospitality offer, through continuous evaluation of the changing needs of passengers and innovating to provide the best-in-class solutions.



INTERVIEW



Our comprehensive ESG strategy covers four areas: Complying with the highest international standards in corporate governance, minimizing the impact of our operations on the environment, advancing flexibility, innovation, and competitive advantage with a focus on diversity and inclusion and building long-term trust and cohesion with local stakeholders, reinforce the benefits of the airport activity for the local communities.

✈️ Aviation Turkey: Looking ahead to 2030 and beyond, what are the biggest opportunities and challenges TAV expects to face in shaping the next generation of airport experiences?

Serkan Kaptan: When we look at the analysis by

aircraft manufacturers and our industry associations, it's clear that in the long-term aviation will continue to grow. The trend shows that growing middle classes in developing economies will drive demand and low-cost airlines will make air travel more and more accessible

Airbus and Boeing expect a compound annual growth rate of 3.6% and 3.8% in global passenger traffic until 2042. Forecasts reveal that we will see that the global passenger traffic will more than double to around 20 billion by 2042. Of course, this growth will require investments on the ground and around 2.4 trillion USD will be needed to build and refurbish the airport infrastructure to welcome this traffic increase.

The main challenge of the industry is the transformation into zero-carbon operations. Aviation is thought to contribute 2 to 3 percent of global emissions. Manufacturers are working on more efficient aircraft and new fuel and we are seeing improvements. In this equation, airports can play a role to orchestrate and provide a platform for all stakeholders to collaborate. Otherwise, we are on track to decarbonize our own operations.

✈️ Aviation Turkey: In your view, what unique strengths does TAV bring to the table when it comes to developing regional hubs in emerging markets?

Serkan Kaptan: Our strengths are mainly two-folds. First, we have a unique business model in the industry as through

our subsidiaries we provide services in each step of the passenger journey. This model provides us invaluable insights to make our operations more efficient and to increase passenger satisfaction.

Second, we have a huge experience in operating airports with different DNAs. Operating a portfolio helps us transfer experience and best practices from one airport to another. Additionally, our diverse talent pool enables us to provide the best possible solution to an airport project, all around the world.

✈️ Aviation Turkey: Finally, what message would you like to share with your stakeholders, partners, and the millions of passengers who have been part of TAV's 25-year journey?

Serkan Kaptan: More than any other industry, aviation is based on collaboration. At any given time, there are more than 30 public and private stakeholders working at an airport, to provide a safe and comfortable travel experience to passengers.

TAV Airports' story would have been possible without the collaboration of our stakeholders, our partners, our investors, local communities and most importantly, our employees. I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all our stakeholders around the world 🌍

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BY TEXTRON AVIATION



Turkish Airlines Started 2025 with Strong Performance on International and Domestic Routes

National Flag Carrier of Türkiye, Turkish Airlines (THY), which reached 85.2 million passengers (increased by 2.1% compared to 83.4 Million passengers in the same period of 2023) in 2024, started 2025 with strong performance on international and domestic routes.

Turkish Airlines (THY) disclosed its traffic results for January 2025 through the Public Disclosure Platform (KAP) on February 7, 2025. According to consolidated January 2025 Traffic Results (including both Turkish Airlines main brand and AJet data) THY reached a figure of 6.8 Million passengers in January, representing an increase of 8.2% compared to 6.3 Million passengers in January 2024. According to a statement issued by the airline's Press Office, the number of international-to-international guests welcomed onboard increased by 8.5% to 2.8 Million from 2.6 Million

in the same period of 2024. The total volume of Available Seat Kilometers (ASK), which was 20 Billion in January 2024, increased by 7.5% to 21.5 Billion for the same period of 2025. These figures highlight THY's strong growth and operational efficiency.

According to THY's December 2024 Traffic Results, that publicized on January 8, 2025, during the period of January - December 2024, international to international passenger carried increased by 6.4% to 31.7 Million from 29.8 Million in the same period of 2023, while the international passengers



by İbrahim Sünetçi

increased by 2.9% annually to 54.6 Million. This rise is largely credited to THY's aggressive international expansion throughout 2024 which it intends to continue in 2025. The strong passenger traffic in December 2024, particularly the robust growth in international traffic compared to the same period last year, also indicates a continued recovery in passenger traffic.



Meanwhile, according to THY's January 2025 Traffic Results the total passenger load factor improved from 80.3% in January 2024 to 82.4% during January 2025 (2.1 points higher than the same period of 2024). The load factors for international and domestic routes stood at 82.3% and 83.5%, respectively. In January 2025 cargo-mail volume of the airline remained unchanged from January 2024, totaling 149.7 thousand tons. While, the seat capacity of the airline increased by 9.53% compared to January 2024, reaching 98.364,



and the fleet grew from 440 aircraft to 477 by the end of January 2025. The number of destinations served by the airline rose from 340 in January 2024 to 352 by the end of January 2025.

Target Fleet of 530 Aircraft by the End of 2025

In its December 2024 Traffic Results, the airline had disclosed that the number of aircraft in its fleet, which took delivery of its 400th aircraft on February 24, 2023 and carried its 1 Billionth passenger in April, reached 492 by the end of December 2024. Despite aircraft delivery delays and Pratt & Whitney's Geared Turbofan (GTF) engine-related groundings, Turkish Airlines (THY) aims to increase its fleet by 8-10% in 2025, contingent on manufacturer delivery schedules. This would bring the total number of aircraft in THY fleet to approximately 530 in 2025.

Turkish Airlines (THY) is aggressively expanding its fleet, with over 270 aircraft on order, including Airbus A321neos, A350s, and potential new Boeing

orders. This signals the airline's ambition to strengthen its long-haul and high-frequency operations, further cementing Istanbul as a major global aviation hub. With these new aircraft, THY is expected to enhance its ultra-long-haul capabilities, expand into new markets, and increase frequencies on high-demand routes. The addition of fuel-efficient Airbus A321neos and A350s, will not only enhance THY's long-haul and ultra-long-haul capabilities but also optimize operational costs.

THY's strategic plan up to 2033 foresees fleet growth to more than 800 aircraft, transporting more than 170 million of passengers, versus 492 aircraft as of the end of December 2024, and expected 600 aircraft by the end of 2026. Given the strategic location of Istanbul Airport (IST), which serves as a crucial global hub for the airline and bridging Europe, Asia, and Africa, THY's fleet expansion aligns with its goal of becoming one of the world's leading full-service carriers,

competing with leading carriers like Emirates, Qatar Airways, and Singapore Airlines. The fleet growth, coupled with the development of Ajet, THY's low-cost subsidiary, will gradually enhance THY's business profile, reinforcing its dominance in the Europe-Asia-Africa corridor.

THY Sets Guinness World Record™ for “Most Countries Flown To by an Airline”

In December 2024, Turkish Airlines has officially been recognized by Guinness World Records™ for holding the title of the “Most Countries Flown to by an Airline”. The airline, which has held this title since 2012, was presented with the record certificate at Santiago Arturo Merino Benítez International Airport following its inaugural flight to Chile. The ceremony was attended by Turkish Airlines executives and Guinness World Records™ officials. This recognition has solidified the airline's position as a truly global carrier.

ARTICLE

According to Guinness World Records™ evaluation criteria, Turkish Airlines set the record by flying to 120 active countries in 2024. However, when considering temporarily suspended routes and the recent addition of Chile to its network, Turkish Airlines' reach now extends to 131 countries, which is far ahead of competitors like Qatar Airways (90+ countries) and Air France (94 countries in 2022, 73 countries in 2024-2025).

As of February 7, 2025, flying to more international destinations than any airline in the world THY is operating flights to 131 countries worldwide, with 352 destinations, including Türkiye, across 6 continents. Turkish Airlines (THY), which has become an impressive force on the global airline stage in recent years, continues to expand its seamless connectivity through new destinations, while offering

unmatched service quality worldwide.

In January 2025 Turkish Airlines, has resumed its flights to Damascus, which were first started on February 1984 and suspended since April 2012. Starting from January 23, 2025, Turkish Airlines will operate three flights per week to Damascus on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.

As one of the world's largest and fastest-growing international carriers, Turkish Airlines (THY) is set to launch flights to Minneapolis, USA in April or May 2025 and later to Auckland, Auckland on New Zealand's North Island via Singapore, solidifying its status as the airline with the world's largest flight network. This move aligns with the airline's strategy of strengthening its presence in the South Pacific, following its successful entry into



Australia with flights to Melbourne and Sydney (via Singapore) in 2024. Currently, THY operates a mix of Airbus A350-900s, Boeing 777-300ERs, and

787-9s on its long-haul routes to the region. However, with the arrival of its Airbus A350-1000s in late 2025, the airline is expected to introduce non-stop services on select ultra-long-haul routes. This would enhance connectivity and reduce travel times, making THY even more competitive in the global aviation market. Given the airline's rapid growth and increasing demand for flights between Europe and the Asia-Pacific, these new routes mark a logical and strategic expansion. If the Auckland service becomes a reality, THY would be one of the few





European carriers directly connecting New Zealand with Europe via Istanbul, further solidifying its position as a global aviation powerhouse.

Turkish Airlines (THY) will also expand its African reach further in 2025. Flag carrier resumed its flights from Istanbul to Libya's northeastern city of Benghazi after 10 years on January 14, 2025. Turkish Airlines started flights to Benghazi in May 2009 and operated regularly until suspension in January 2015. The airline is now flying 3 times a week to Libya's second-largest city Benghazi. THY is set to expand

its flight network with 7 new African routes from Istanbul Airport. In this context THY will launch flights from Istanbul to Ouagadougou and Lusaka in June 2025. Beginning March 31, 2025, the airline also plans to replace its existing nonstop Istanbul-Juba service with a new triangular routing via Asmara, Eritrea.

Turkish Airlines had no regular connections to Africa until the early 2000s. Today, the airline serves 64 destinations across the continent, demonstrating its rapid expansion and commitment to strengthening global

connectivity. Of those, Cairo, Tunis, and Algiers in the north of the continent are the most served based on the number of flights. They also have the most available seat capacity. This growth aligns with THY's strategy of making Istanbul a key transit hub between Africa, Europe, and the rest of the world.

Istanbul Airport HUB

Handling 98.8% of all Turkish Airlines (THY) flights Istanbul Airport (IST) serves as flag carrier's primary hub. Istanbul Airport, a world-class facility with a current capacity of 90 million passengers, is set to increase its capacity to 120 million by the end of 2025 with the completion of the second phase of investments. With the fourth phase expected to be completed in 2028, this number is planned to reach 200 million passengers.

THY's biggest advantage is Istanbul Airport (IST)'s geographical location. Situated at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, Istanbul Airport gives THY a natural transit hub advantage allowing narrow-body Airbus A320 and Boeing 737 aircraft to reach over 100 countries and half of the world's population efficiently. Thus, Turkish Airlines can connect 35% of the world's GDP and 50% of trade volume in just 5 hours.

THY's dominance at Istanbul Airport (IST) further strengthens its position in international aviation. Istanbul Airport's expansion plans are one of the key pillars of the Turkish Airlines' (THY) global growth strategy.

THY continues to dominate global connectivity, leveraging Turkish Airlines continues to dominate global connectivity, leveraging Istanbul's geographical location. With a growing fleet and strategic expansions, THY aims to increase market share while maintaining its position as the world's most connected airline.

Fitch Upgraded THY Credit Rating from BB- to 'BB'

On February 5, 2025 the international credit rating agency Fitch upgraded the credit rating of Turkish Airlines (THY) to BB from BB-. The outlook affirmed as Stable. Fitch also affirmed BB+ rating on the flag carrier's USD-denominated Enhanced Equipment Trust Certificates (EETC) issued in 2015.

Despite being exposed to foreign exchange risks and relying on Türkiye as a key market, THY maintains solid EBITDAR margins of approximately 20%. Notably, THY's IDR rating remains one notch above Türkiye's Country Ceiling of 'BB-' [🔗](#)

**More Than a Gateway:
Dalaman Airport's Role in Shaping the
Turkish Riviera Experience;
An Interview with YDA Dalaman
Airport CEO, Yiğit Laçın**



Aviation Turkey: First of all, thank you for taking the time to speak with us. Mr. Yiğit, could you tell us a bit about yourself and your background in the industry? What are your main goals and strategies for your tenure?

Yiğit Laçın: I was born in Ankara in 1982 and graduated from the Faculty of Economics at Adnan Menderes University. My career in aviation began in 2006 during the opening of the new terminal at Ankara Esenboğa Airport. Since then, I have worked in various positions at Istanbul Atatürk Airport, Skopje and Ohrid Airports in North Macedonia, Milas-Bodrum, Monastir in Tunisia, and Gazipaşa-Alanya airports. I currently serve as the CEO of YDA Dalaman Airport.

During this time, I completed the "Airport Management Professional Accreditation" program organized in cooperation with ICAO and the Airports Council International (ACI), earning the title of "International Airport Professional." Most recently, I successfully completed the "Global Executive Program" jointly offered by the Financial Times and IE Business School.

One of my first actions upon taking office was to define a Vision Statement for our company. As an airport operator, we needed to decide how and where



we wanted to position ourselves and ensure this vision was embraced by the entire organization. We defined our vision as: "To operate a safe, secure, and sustainable airport, delivering a premium, stress-free passenger experience through innovation in the heart of the Turkish Riviera." Subsequently, we began developing and implementing strategies to support this vision.

Undoubtedly, a key priority is ensuring our passengers enjoy a unique and seamless experience. At the same time, we are focusing on

methods and marketing strategies to increase operational efficiency and address seasonality. Moreover, we aim to become the first airport in the world to meet 100% of its energy needs through solar power.

Aviation Turkey: Dalaman Airport ranked as the 6th busiest airport in Turkey in 2024. How would you evaluate the year in terms of total passenger traffic and the share of international passengers?

Yiğit Laçın: In 2024, we welcomed 5.6 million passengers, a major milestone for Dalaman Airport. By 2022, we had

recovered 93% of our pre-pandemic passenger volume, positioning us among Europe's fastest-recovering airports. On top of that, we achieved a further 25% increase in passenger numbers over the last two years.

Operating along a breathtaking 1,100-kilometer coastline, we primarily serve international tourists, boosting our ranking in international passenger traffic. This strong demand from abroad places us among the top airports in terms of international passenger traffic.



INTERVIEW



✈️ Aviation Turkey: Dalaman Airport is a vital hub for many domestic and international airlines. What new routes are planned for the 2025 summer season? Which airlines are adding new flights or increasing frequencies?

Yiğit Laçin: Thanks to its proximity to world-renowned tourist destinations like Dalaman, Fethiye, Ölüdeniz, Dalyan, Marmaris, and Kaş, our airport continues to attract more visitors each year. The 2025 summer season began with a flight from Bristol on March 14. In April, we anticipate a busy period with Jet2.com introducing new routes from Bournemouth and Luton.

As a result of our marketing efforts, EasyJet has launched flights from its new London Southend base and plans to increase its capacity for existing routes. SunExpress has added new routes from London Stansted, Glasgow,

and Newcastle while boosting capacity on UK and Germany routes.

Aeroflot and Pobeda are also set to increase Moscow flight frequencies, and we've expanded Baku services with Azerbaijan Airlines. Additionally, we are working with Pegasus Airlines to resume flights to Amman and Beirut.

✈️ Aviation Turkey: Have you observed shifts in demand among international destinations? Based on 2024 figures, which countries contributed most to the tourist influx in your region?

Yiğit Laçin: We've noted significant shifts in international travel demand in recent years, particularly post-pandemic, as traveler preferences evolved. Destinations once popular have seen reduced interest due to safety and health concerns, while regions offering natural beauty and outdoor activities have gained traction.

In 2024, tourism surged, with the UK leading as our largest visitor group, followed by strong numbers from Russia, Germany, and the Middle East. Visitors from diverse continents and countries further underscore our region's global appeal as a hub for both beach holidays and cultural exploration.

✈️ Aviation Turkey: How has the increase in passenger traffic impacted airport infrastructure? What new investments or improvements have been made or planned?

Yiğit Laçin: Although the increased passenger traffic hasn't negatively impacted our capacity yet, we've made significant investments to support our vision of providing a stress-free and unique experience. We are also adapting to changing passenger behaviors and new travel trends.

We've made physical improvements in security

and passport control points to enhance passenger comfort. Through our investments in digitalization, we aim to improve operational processes while enhancing passenger experience.

✈️ Aviation Turkey: Can you share Dalaman Airport's goals for 2025? What are your plans for capacity and traffic in the upcoming year?

Yiğit Laçin: At Dalaman Airport, we aim to be part of our guests' holiday experience during the busy summer season. With this in mind, we have fully renovated all commercial areas in our international terminal in line with new trends and passenger expectations. In 2025, we plan to expand our market diversity while prioritizing customer satisfaction.

✈️ Aviation Turkey: We know Dalaman Airport currently meets 55% of its energy needs with its rooftop Solar Power Plant (SPP). What led to the decision to build the SPP?

Yiğit Laçin: As outlined in our vision statement, implementing environmentally friendly projects for a more sustainable airport operation is among our top priorities. Therefore, we covered the roofs of our terminal building and connected the viaduct with solar panels, creating the world's largest rooftop solar power plant at an airport.

Today, we meet more than half of our annual energy needs from this facility. Our goal is to supply 100% of our energy needs from solar power by the end of 2025.

✈️ Aviation Turkey: How much has the airport reduced its energy consumption through the SPP? What impact has the project had on overall energy efficiency?

Yiğit Laçin: With the SPP, we now generate more than 55% of the airport's energy needs from solar power. This has significantly reduced our dependence on external energy sources. We've also achieved a notable reduction in carbon emissions by cutting down on fossil fuel use. By analyzing data from the SPP through our energy management system, we optimized consumption patterns, contributing significantly to environmental sustainability and reducing energy costs.

✈️ Aviation Turkey: How has the SPP contributed to Dalaman Airport's environmental sustainability goals? How much carbon emissions have been prevented?

Yiğit Laçin: Our SPP generates approximately 10,230 MWh of electricity annually. This allows us to meet more than half of our energy needs from renewable sources and prevents around 4,500 tons



of carbon emissions per year—the environmental equivalent of saving 200,000 trees. The SPP has been a vital and exemplary step toward achieving our sustainability goals.

✈️ Aviation Turkey: How does Dalaman Airport plan to expand solar energy use in the future?

Yiğit Laçin: Our goal is to meet 100% of our airport's energy needs through solar power by the end of 2026, setting a global precedent.

✈️ Aviation Turkey: Does the SPP project serve as a model for other airports and energy systems?

Yiğit Laçin: Yes, our SPP project serves as a benchmark not just for Dalaman Airport but also for other airports. In addition to sustainability, we aim to reduce aircraft emissions by minimizing APU usage. We are developing protocols in collaboration with

airlines and ground service providers to ensure APUs are turned off when not in use. We've also transitioned all airport lighting systems into LED technology and are replacing operational vehicles with electric ones. All these steps are part of our integrated sustainability approach, setting an example for the industry.

✈️ Aviation Turkey: Dalaman Airport aspires to become a "Green Airport." What environmental sustainability measures are required to achieve this status, and what are the main challenges?

Yiğit Laçin: Achieving Green Airport status involves meeting stringent environmental criteria, such as energy efficiency, renewable energy adoption, and effective water and waste management. Key challenges include integrating these standards into operational

processes and ensuring all stakeholders align with our sustainability vision. Long-term planning, sustained investment, and close collaboration with regulatory bodies are critical to success.

✈️ Aviation Turkey: Finally, Mr. Yiğit, do you have any closing thoughts or a message you'd like to share with our readers?

Yiğit Laçin: At Dalaman Airport, we see ourselves as more than a transit hub—we're a vital part of our passengers' holiday experience. By delivering exceptional service and pioneering eco-friendly initiatives, we aim to remain one of Turkey's leading airports. With passenger satisfaction at our core, we are committed to advancing a sustainable, nature-aligned aviation model for the future. We wish all readers safe and pleasant journeys 🌍

35 YEARS TO THE SUN & BEYOND.



SunExpress Celebrates 35 Years of Bridging Nations at “35 Years of Sun and Beyond” Conference in Antalya

Aviation and tourism professionals from across Europe and Turkey gathered in Antalya for a special conference celebrating the 35th anniversary of SunExpress, the joint venture between Turkish Airlines and Lufthansa. Under the theme “35 Years of Sun and Beyond,” the event brought together key stakeholders, business leaders, government representatives, and industry experts to reflect on SunExpress’ growth journey and explore the future of travel, connectivity,

and tourism in Turkey.

Founded in 1989 to enhance tourism between Germany and Turkey, SunExpress has grown from a modest charter operation to a leading leisure carrier serving more than 150 million passengers across three continents. The conference, held at the airline’s operational heart in Antalya, underscored the crucial role of aviation in driving tourism, regional development, and international cultural exchange.

An Industry Milestone: Celebrating the Past, Shaping the Future

Hosted by SunExpress CEO Dr. Max Kownatzki and Deputy CEO Tuncay Eminoğlu, the conference explored Turkey’s rising status as a global tourism destination, the impact of ongoing airport infrastructure investments, and the growing demand for travel to the country. In-depth

panels also highlighted opportunities in cultural tourism, gastronomy, and sports tourism—positioning Turkey as more than just a sun-and-sea destination.

Opening the event, SunExpress CEO Dr. Max Kownatzki highlighted the airline’s transformation over three and a half decades:

“What started in 1990 with a single aircraft connecting Frankfurt and Antalya has evolved into a world-class airline with over 85 aircraft, connecting more than 200 destinations.



Our mission goes far beyond transportation—we bring people together, we connect cultures, and we act as ambassadors for Turkey's tourism on the global stage. Our journey has been powered by the passion of our people, the trust of our passengers, and the commitment of our partners."

Tuncay Eminoğlu, Deputy CEO of SunExpress, emphasized the airline's unwavering dedication to operational excellence and customer satisfaction:

"For 35 years, we've consistently delivered safety, comfort, and exceptional service. These values have become the

DNA of SunExpress. As one of Turkey's major contributors to service exports, our growing network and expanding fleet continue to play a vital role in strengthening Turkey's economy, especially through tourism."

Strategic Discussions: Sustainability, Growth & Opportunity

The conference featured a series of panel discussions and roundtables focusing on:

- Turkey's rising profile in global tourism

- Investments in airport infrastructure and their impact on regional development

- Emerging opportunities in niche travel markets such as:

- Cultural and heritage tourism
- Gastronomy and culinary experiences
- Golf and sports tourism
- Sustainable travel practices

Speakers from both public and private sectors provided unique insights into the evolving travel

landscape, the challenges of sustainable aviation, and how Turkey can leverage its rich natural and cultural resources to diversify its tourism offering.

2025 and Beyond: Ambitious Expansion Plans

SunExpress unveiled its growth strategy for 2025, which includes:

- Growing its fleet to 85 aircraft
- Adding 15 new international routes
- Doubling seat capacity compared to pre-pandemic levels





- 1990: First flight from Frankfurt to Antalya
- 2001: First private airline in Turkey to operate scheduled international flights
- 2006: Launch of domestic services within Turkey
- 2014: Placed major Boeing order for 50 new aircraft
- 2019: Carried over 10 million passengers in a single year
- 2022: Named World's Best Leisure Airline by Skytrax
- 2023: Ordered 90 additional Boeing aircraft; named Europe's Best Leisure Airline
- 2024: Reached 77 aircraft in its fleet; expanded to the largest network in its history; again awarded Europe's

Best Leisure Airline by Skytrax

Connecting People, Cultures, and Destinations

With its dual headquarters in Antalya and Frankfurt, and operational bases in Izmir and Ankara, SunExpress continues to build bridges between Europe and Turkey—not only through air connectivity, but through the shared stories, experiences, and dreams of millions of travelers.

The “35 Years of Sun and Beyond” conference served as both a celebration and a springboard, launching SunExpress into a future marked by innovation, growth, and an unwavering commitment to excellence in leisure aviation 🌞

The airline reported a 27% increase in early summer bookings compared to the previous year, reflecting a strong and growing demand for travel to Turkey.

New destinations for Summer 2025 include:

- From Antalya: Glasgow, Liverpool, Amman, Chişinău
- From Izmir: Cork
- From Dalaman: London Stansted, Glasgow, Newcastle
- From Balıkesir:

Stuttgart

- From Bursa: Düsseldorf, Stuttgart
- From Ordu-Giresun: Düsseldorf
- From Erzurum: Düsseldorf
- From Kayseri: Hannover, London Stansted

A Legacy of Milestones

SunExpress' remarkable trajectory is punctuated by landmark achievements:

- 1989: Founded as a Turkish Airlines–Lufthansa joint venture



SAVVy Steps In: Sabiha Gökçen's New AI Assistant Makes Airport Travel Easier



In a strategic move to transform the passenger experience and optimize customer service frameworks, Istanbul Sabiha Gökçen (ISG) International Airport is pioneering a novel solution: SAVVy.

This groundbreaking GenAI Airport Assistant, a first of its kind, underscores ISG's unwavering commitment to proactively meeting the escalating demands of its passengers with both swiftness and effectiveness.

SAVVy, a revolutionary GenAI airport assistant

Named after ISG's IATA code "SAW", SAVVy is designed to provide instant responses to passenger inquiries in a conversational style, allowing call center staff to focus on more complex issues. Leveraging the power of natural language processing (NLP), SAVVy establishes a novel benchmark in airport customer service by facilitating real-time, intuitively human-like interactions.

Recognizing its pivotal role as Türkiye's second and Europe's eighth busiest air hub, Sabiha Gökçen International Airport is proactively addressing the burgeoning demands of its clientele through the implementation of this innovative digital assistant. Designed to elevate the passenger journey and

optimize service delivery, this initiative ensures a swift and efficacious response to the ever-increasing expectations of modern air travel.

SAVVy: Seamless Assistance at Your Fingertips

Key Capabilities of SAVVy include:

Real-Time Flight Intelligence: Offering passengers up-to-the-minute information on flight status, gate assignments, and potential delays, ensuring proactive awareness and minimizing uncertainty.

Authoritative Information Hub: Offering comprehensive and readily accessible answers to common queries regarding airport policies, required travel documentation, and operational procedures.

Parking Guidance: Empowering travelers with real-time insights into parking availability, facilitating proactive transportation planning for a seamless airport arrival.

A Catalyst for Superior Service: Delivering an automated and efficient support system that reduces waiting periods and significantly contributes to a more satisfying and stress-free passenger journey.

Driven by a commitment to superior passenger experiences and optimized customer service, Sabiha Gökçen International Airport continuously enhances the passenger experience and refines customer service protocols with forward-thinking solutions to directly address the growing complexities of passenger demands.

Located in Türkiye's most populous city, Istanbul, Sabiha Gökçen International Airport (ISG) serves as a hub on the metropolis' Anatolian side for major carriers operating in Europe and the Middle East. It has been one of the fastest growing airports over the past few years, named as Türkiye's 2nd and Europe's 8th busiest airport. ISG was founded by Limak-GMR-Malaysia Airports consortium and carried out its activities as of 1 May 2008. MAHB became the sole operator of Sabiha Airport on 23 October 2014 by acquiring 100% of ISG. Having served 41.5 million passengers in 2024, ISG serves 143 destinations (104 international and 39 local) across 52 countries.





Innovation at 30,000 Feet: Emirates', Vision for a Greener, Smarter Future

In this interview, I spoke with Mehmet Gürkaynak Emirates Country Manager for Türkiye, Romania, and Bulgaria about Emirates' operations, their growth strategy, and what passengers can expect in the near future.

Şebnem Akalın: First, thank you, Mr. Gürkaynak, for taking the time for us. Could you tell our readers a bit about yourself and your background in aviation?

Mehmet Gürkaynak: Thank you for having me. I'm honoured to serve as Emirates' Country Manager for Turkey, Romania, and Bulgaria, a role I began on 1 June 2023. My aviation

journey started at Turkish Airlines in 2011, where I worked as a Demand & Flight Analyst before taking on leadership roles. I've had the privilege of managing operations in key markets, including serving as General Manager in Algeria, Bulgaria, and Germany, with over a decade of experience in revenue management, sales, and marketing. I hold an undergraduate degree in

Electrical and Electronics Engineering from Istanbul University and an MBA in Financial Management from Johnson & Wales University in the USA. I take pride in leveraging my expertise and strong professional network to advance Emirates' commercial initiatives in the local market and help achieve the company's strategic goals.

Şebnem Akalın: Emirates operates flights on the Istanbul-Dubai route with iconic aircraft. Do you have any plans in the future to use different aircraft types on this route or increase the number of flights?

Mehmet Gürkaynak: We are constantly evaluating our fleet and routes to ensure we are providing the best experience for our passengers.

We're currently pleased with our 21 flights per week between Dubai and Istanbul with a mix of Airbus A380



Şebnem Akalın: Can you tell us about Emirates' sustainability efforts in the aviation industry? What specific initiatives are you undertaking in the Turkish market in this regard?

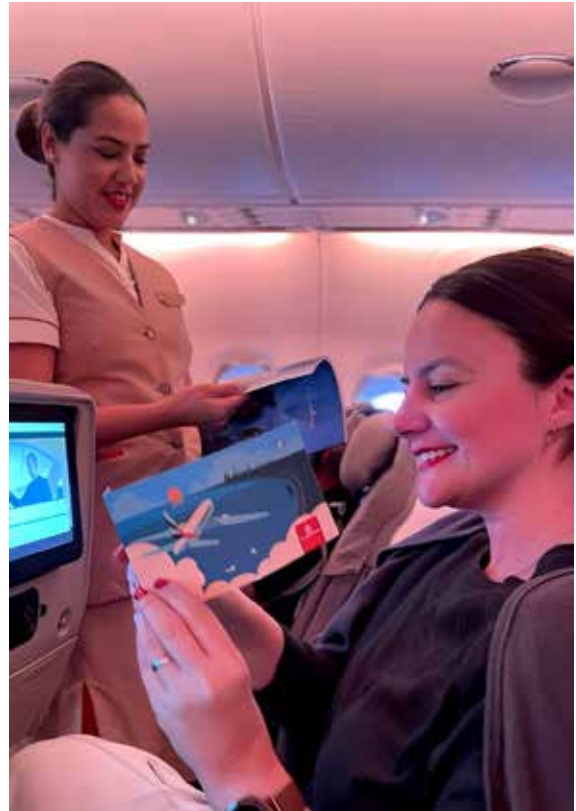
Mehmet Gürkaynak: Sustainability is a key priority for Emirates. As one of the world's leading airlines, our sustainability strategy focuses on three areas: reducing emissions, consuming responsibly and preserving wildlife and habitats. In line with these efforts, we are implementing the IATA Environmental Assessment (IEnvA) system, a comprehensive environmental management system that covers our flight operations, corporate activities and an illegal wildlife trade module that supports our commitment.

(one daily) and Boeing 777-300ER (Two daily). In addition to our two daily codeshare flights with flydubai to Sabiha. Also, verysoon we'll be welcoming the new Emirates A350 in Istanbul. This means that Turkey will be served with Emirates' entire current fleet.

Emirates' A350 featuring the latest cabins will land in Istanbul for the first time to commence daily operations on EK 117/118 on 1 July. However, if aircraft are delivered ahead of schedule, Emirates will bring forward the deployment.

We've also uplifted sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) where available and feasible. During the first six months of 2024-25, we uplifted SAF for the first time in Singapore, London Heathrow and Amsterdam.

We joined the Aviation Initiative for Renewable Energy (aireg) in Germany; and signed up as industry partner of the Aviation Impact Accelerator (AIA) at the University of Cambridge, contributing to the research and development of emissions reduction pathways.



The AIA partnership also marked Emirates' first activity under its US\$ 200 million fund, specifically set aside to support R&D to advance sustainability solutions for aviation.

Additionally, we invest in modern, fuel-efficient aircraft. Our fleet of A380s, A350s and Boeing 777s incorporate advanced technologies that reduce fuel consumption and emissions compared to older aircraft. We continuously evaluate new aircraft technologies and consider fleet renewal options to further improve efficiency. Also, we optimize flight routes, use advanced flight planning systems, and

implement fuel-saving procedures during flight. These measures, combined with initiatives like reducing aircraft weight and optimizing ground operations, contribute to significant fuel savings and emission reductions.

In Turkey, we're open to discussions with the local authorities and stakeholders around combined sustainability efforts. Although no such initiatives have taken place yet.

Şebnem Akalın: What are the biggest challenges and opportunities for Emirates in achieving its growth targets in Turkey?

INTERVIEW

Mehmet Gürkaynak:

Turkey is a dynamic market with enormous potential due to its strategic location and vibrant tourism sector. Our current operations are solid, offering seamless connectivity for travellers to and from Turkey using our modern aircraft fleet. We also offer an extensive global network allowing Turkish travellers to conveniently access more than 140 points via our Dubai hub.

As in any evolving market, we face challenges such as regulatory changes and heightened competition. However, we will continue to leverage our strong brand and operational expertise to meet the growing demand for international travel. We are focused on enhancing our network, deepening our local partnerships, and continuously innovating to overcome challenges while capitalizing on the immense opportunities the Turkish market offers.

Şebnem Akalın:
Emirates is preparing



to open a private lounge at Istanbul Airport. Can you give us details about this new lounge? What can you tell us about the innovative services it will offer passengers and its future role?

Mehmet Gürkaynak:
We are delighted to launch this important

collaboration with IGA Istanbul Airport, one of the world's leading global transfer hubs. At Emirates, we are committed to providing our passengers with the highest standards of comfort and service, both in the air and on the ground. Designed with convenience and premium

hospitality in mind, this new lounge will further elevate the travel experience for our passengers by offering them a seamless pre-flight retreat where they can unwind and refresh ahead of their flights.

Both the construction and interior design of the leased area will be carried out by IGA. The 995 m² lounge is expected to be used by 25 thousand Emirates passengers annually and will have a seating capacity of 180 people at a time.

Additionally, guests will be offered extensive world class and international menus in the lounge, ensuring they relax in a comfortable environment before traveling. The menus will be prepared in accordance with Emirates' global culinary standards and catering services will be provided by IGA. The lounge will also feature staff who will receive special training in line with Emirates' high service standards. Operation and management processes will be carried out by IGA.



Şebnem Akalın: Emirates is globally recognized as a leader, particularly with its Business and First-Class services. Recently, we've seen some efforts aimed at improving the experience for economy-class passengers in Turkey, such as your agreement with Havaist. Can we expect further innovations or improvements for economy-class passengers in the future?

Mehmet Gürkaynak: We began offering a complimentary transportation service between Istanbul Airport (IGA) and the city centre for our economy class passengers. Passengers who purchase an economy class ticket originating in Istanbul via emirates.com until September 2, 2025, will be able to travel for free on Havaist buses until December 31, 2025.

Our collaboration with Havaist is just one example of how we're enhancing the customer experience by offering



Mehmet Gürkaynak

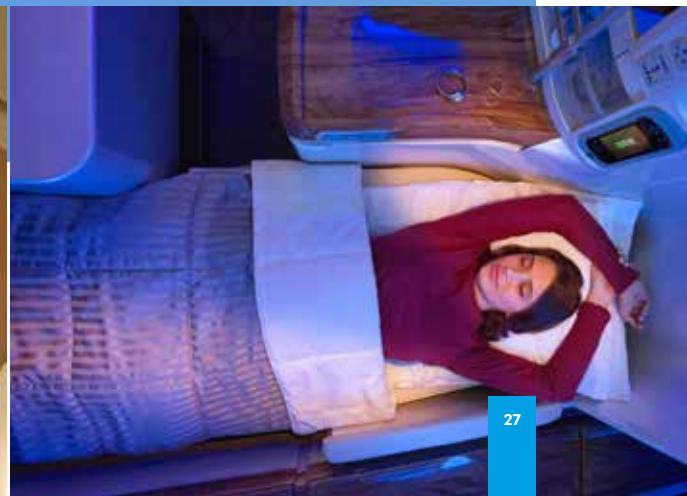
convenience and comfort for our Turkish travellers.

Şebnem Akalın: As someone who has travelled with Emirates in both Business and Economy classes, I can confidently say that Emirates is among the top airlines providing the best travel experience for its passengers. Emirates offers a comfortable and safe environment during flights. Can you tell us how you deliver this

exceptional experience and consistently maintain such high quality?

Mehmet Gürkaynak: Our strategy revolves around innovation and excellence. By continually investing in our fleet, expanding our network, and enhancing the customer journey, we ensure that Emirates remains the airline of choice for millions of travellers worldwide.

Innovation plays a vital role in enhancing the customer journey. We are advancing our digital capabilities and expanding the use of biometric technology for seamless boarding and check-in processes. Additionally, our inflight entertainment system, offers more than 6,500 channels of content, faster connectivity, and a highly personalized experience.



INTERVIEW



At Emirates, exceptional customer service is not just a goal; it's part of our identity. This year, we are expanding our Premium Economy Class to more routes, following its resounding success. This class has redefined comfort, combining spacious seats with premium dining and exclusive cabin service. In Business Class, our refurbished Boeing 777s will provide an even more luxurious experience, with aisle access on every seat, enhanced privacy, and personal minibars. Our Boeing 777 Gamechanger aircraft are also equipped with unique and industry-leading inflight technology including virtual windows that offer passengers a real-time view of the skies, as well as temperature and lighting control in First Class suits.

Emirates will continue to invest to enhance the travel experience for our customers. This could include advancements in

in-flight entertainment, improvements in seating and cabin design, and new technologies that improve the efficiency and safety

of the airline's aircraft.

Şebnem Akalın: Thank you for sharing such valuable insights. Lastly, do you have a message you'd like to share with our readers?

Mehmet Gürkaynak: Emirates is committed to supporting Turkey's aviation sector and its local community through partnerships with local entities. The aviation industry plays a critical role in the economic development of countries, and partnerships between the various aviation players can lead to increased stability, innovation, and growth for communities. We look forward to continuing working closely with our partners to further support the local aviation sector and contribute to the development of the local community 🇹🇷



Şebnem Akalın is in the front of Emirates A380 Onboard Bar

Honeywell's business is aligned with three powerful megatrends – automation, the future of aviation and energy transition – underpinned by our Honeywell Accelerator operating system and Honeywell Connected Enterprise integrated software platform.



Products and services from Honeywell Aerospace Technologies are found on virtually every commercial aircraft. We build aircraft engines, cockpit and cabin electronics, wireless connectivity systems, mechanical components. Our hardware and software solutions help create more fuel-efficient aircraft, more direct and on-time flights and safer skies.

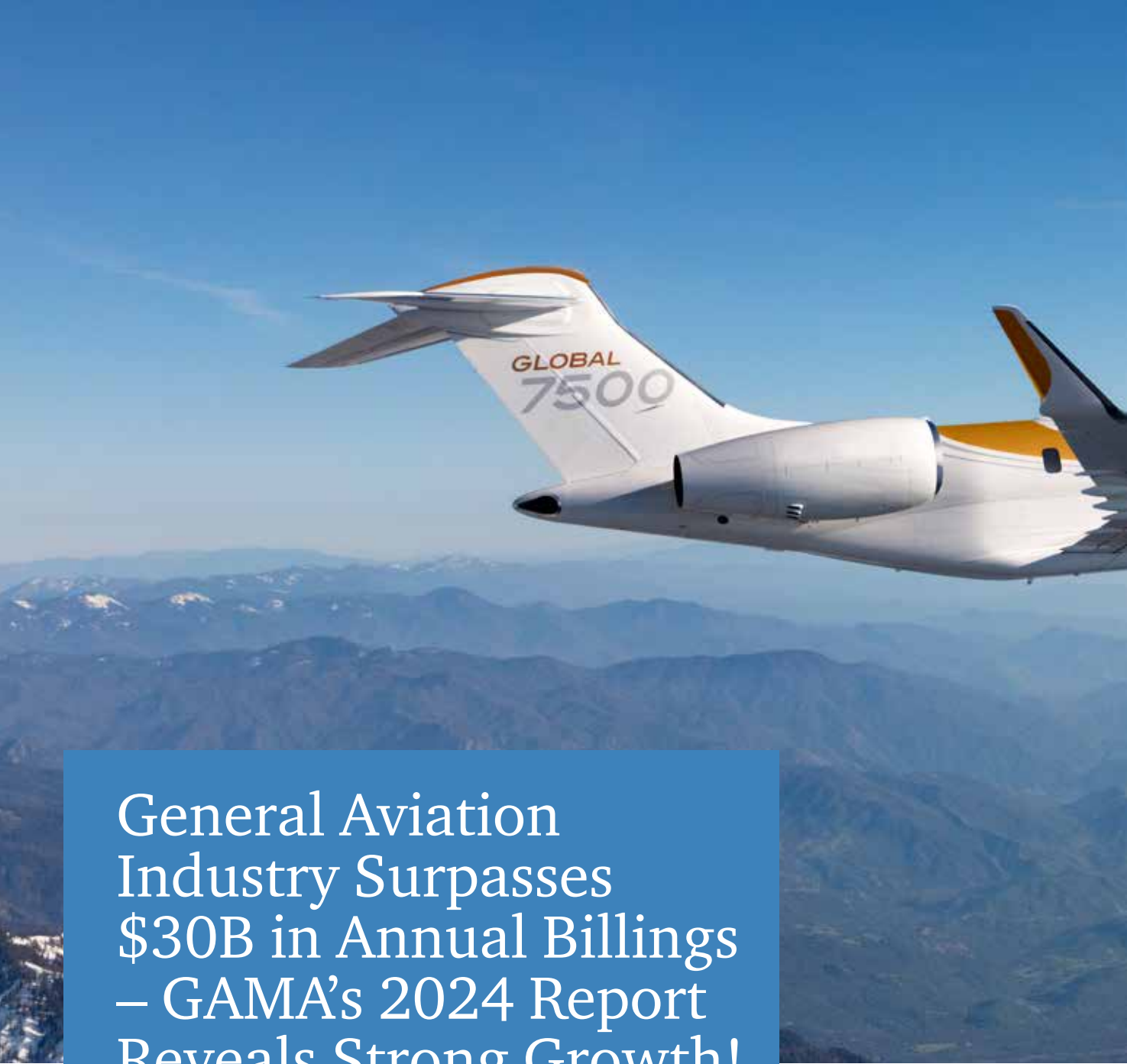
SAFER, MORE FUEL-EFFICIENT FLYING AND INNOVATIONS FOR THE FUTURE OF AVIATION

BUSINESS PORTFOLIO

- Electronic Solutions
- Engines and Power Systems
- Advanced Electromechanical Solutions
- Services and Connectivity
- Unmanned Aerial Systems / Urban Air Mobility

TECHNOLOGIES

- Air and Thermal Management
- Aircraft Connectivity Systems and Integrated Services
- Autonomous Flight, Detect-and-Avoid Systems
- Federal Solutions Management and Operation
- Hybrid-Electric Systems
- Integrated Avionics and Flight Management Systems
- Life Support Systems and Air Travel Hygiene
- Flight Efficiency and Maintenance Optimization
- Manned/Unmanned and Satellite Applications/Space
- Electromechanical Solutions
- Navigation, Safety, and Surveillance Solutions
- Propulsion and Power Systems
- Runway and Flight Safety Technology
- Wheels and Braking Systems
- Aerospace Sustainability Solutions



General Aviation Industry Surpasses \$30B in Annual Billings – GAMA’s 2024 Report Reveals Strong Growth!

The 2024 General Aviation Manufacturers Association (GAMA) report has revealed a year of strong growth in the general aviation sector. With a total of 3,162 airplane shipments and 1,035 helicopter shipments, the industry has demonstrated resilience and expansion despite global economic

challenges. The total aircraft billings surpassed \$31.89 billion, reflecting sustained demand across multiple aviation segments.

The report highlights robust demand across all categories, including piston aircraft, turboprops, and business jets. The total value of airplane shipments reached an

impressive \$26.7 billion, with business jets accounting for the largest share of revenue. Despite global supply chain disruptions, production levels increased across major manufacturers, signaling strong market confidence.

Business Jets: Growth Driven by Long-Range and Super-Midsize Models

The business jet sector continued its strong upward trajectory, with 764 aircraft delivered in 2024. This growth was fueled by increasing corporate and private ownership, alongside fleet expansions by charter and fractional ownership operators.

• *Textron Aviation Cessna contributed with 151 deliveries across its Citation series, including the M2 Gen2, CJ3+,*



CJ4 Gen2, XLS+ Gen2, Latitude and Longitude models.

- Bombardier shipped 146 aircraft, with its Challenger 3500 and Global 7500 standing out as top performers in the super-midsize and ultra-long-range categories.

- Gulfstream Aerospace led the market with 136 deliveries, with the G500, G600, and ultra-long-range G700 models seeing



Gulfstream G700

strong demand from global corporate buyers.

- Dassault Aviation recorded 31 deliveries, largely driven by the success of its Falcon 6X and Falcon 8X models.

- Embraer continued to strengthen its position in the light and midsize jet markets, delivering 130 aircraft from its Phenom 100/300 and Praetor 500/600 lines.

- Airbus Corporate Jets reported the delivery of two ACJ319neo, one ACJ320neo, and one ACJ330-200, whereas Boeing Business Jets delivered two BBJ 737-8 aircraft.



Cessna Grand Caravan EX

Turboprop Market: Pilatus and Textron Aviation Dominate

Turboprop shipments reached 626 units, with increasing demand for these fuel-efficient aircraft in regional travel, special missions, and private operations.

- *Pilatus continued to dominate the high-performance single-engine turboprop segment, delivering total 147 aircrafts covering 96*

PC-12 NGX units and 51 PC-24 light jets.

- *Textron Aviation delivered over 127 turboprops, including the King Air 260, King Air 360, and Grand Caravan EX models.*
- *Daher reported a strong year with 82 aircraft deliveries, mainly from its Kodiak 100 and TBM 960 models.*

Piston Aircraft: Flight Training and Private Aviation Driving Growth

The piston aircraft segment led in terms

of volume, with 1,772 deliveries, reinforcing the demand for pilot training and personal aviation.

- *Cirrus Aircraft remained the market leader, shipping 731 aircraft, including its best-selling SR22 and Vision Jet SF50 models.*
- *Textron Aviation Cessna delivered 281 piston aircraft, with the Skyhawk and Skylane being the top choices for flight schools worldwide.*
- *Diamond Aircraft followed with 252 deliveries, covering its*

DA20, DA40, DA42, and DA62 models.

- *Pipistrel with 91 Aircraft delivered and Tecnam with 283 aircraft delivered contributed to the training market with electric and low-emission piston aircraft, aligning with the industry's sustainability goals.*

H125 and H145 foto- foto altı Airbus Helicopters H125 and H145 Ecocopter

Helicopter Segment Performance

The helicopter market saw continued expansion, with 1,035 deliveries in 2024. Turbine helicopters dominated with 825 shipments, while piston helicopters accounted for 210 units. Total helicopter billings amounted to \$5.17 billion.

Turbine Helicopters: Expanding Utility and Corporate Use

- *Airbus Helicopters led the sector with 349 deliveries, driven by the popularity of its H125, H130, and H145 models in corporate, medical, and law enforcement roles.*
- *Leonardo Helicopters followed with 183 deliveries, largely from its AW139, AW169, and AW189 series.*



Cirrus :SR22T G710000 12

- Bell Helicopter delivered 172 aircraft, with the Bell 505 and Bell 407GX models seeing strong market adoption.

- Sikorsky (Lockheed Martin) recorded deliveries of S-92 and military-grade Black Hawk helicopters, which were not fully accounted for in civil shipment figures.

Piston Helicopters: Robinson Leads the Market

- Robinson Helicopter Company retained its dominance, delivering 295 helicopters, including the R22, R44, and R66 models.

- Guimbal and Schweizer contributed with shipments of their Cabri G2 and S300 series helicopters, respectively.

Regional Breakdown: North America Leads, Followed by Europe and Asia-Pacific

North America remained the dominant market, receiving 70.4% of total aircraft shipments, followed by:

- Europe (12.9%)
- Asia-Pacific (5.4%)
- Latin America (7.7%)
- Middle East & Africa (3.6%)

The demand in North America was largely driven by business jet operators, private owners, and flight training institutions, while Europe and Asia-Pacific



Airbus H125 & H145 Ecocopter

saw steady growth in both business aviation and flight training sectors. Latin America and Africa demonstrated growing interest in utility and special mission aircraft, particularly in the turboprop and helicopter segments.

Outlook for 2025: Sustainability and Technological Advancements

The aviation industry is actively shifting towards sustainable and next-generation aircraft to meet global environmental targets. Several key trends are expected to shape the sector:

Electric and Hybrid Aircraft Development

- Pipistrel and Tecnam are leading the charge with electric aircraft designed for training and short-haul operations.

- Major OEMs, including Airbus and Boeing, are investing in hybrid-electric propulsion for future commercial applications.

Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) Adoption

- Gulfstream, Bombardier, and Dassault are incorporating SAF capabilities into their long-range jets to reduce emissions.

- Textron Aviation and Embraer are testing SAF on their latest aircraft models to meet regulatory standards.

Advanced Avionics and Automation

- Increasing integration of autonomous flight systems, AI-driven avionics, and digital cockpit interfaces.

- Embraer and Airbus are investing in urban air mobility (UAM) solutions, with eVTOL aircraft expected to enter

commercial service within the next decade.

Fleet Expansion in Emerging Markets

- Growing demand for air travel in Asia, the Middle East, and Africa is expected to drive increased orders for both business jets and regional aircraft.

- OEMs are focusing on cost-effective and fuel-efficient aircraft solutions for operators in these regions.

With strong market fundamentals and increasing global demand, the general aviation industry is poised for further expansion in 2025, reinforcing its role in business, emergency response, and commercial aviation. The shift toward sustainability, coupled with technological advancements, will define the next era of aviation innovation ➡

What is a Green Airport?

by Lale Selamoğlu Kaplan, Founder of Selamoğlu Law Firm

Initiated by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in Turkey, the Green Airport Project aims to minimize the negative impact of airport operations on the environment and human health. As part of this initiative, organizations operating within airports are expected to establish and implement an Environmental Management System in accordance with the TS EN ISO 14001 standard. Companies that meet the required criteria are awarded the “Green Organization Certificate.” If all companies within an airport obtain this certificate, the airport itself is granted a “Green Airport Certificate.”

The Green Airport concept represents a sustainability-oriented approach focused on reducing the environmental impact of the aviation sector. This approach includes elements such as energy efficiency, the use of renewable energy, water conservation, waste management, and environmentally friendly building materials. Many airports in Turkey and around the world have adopted these principles in an effort to enhance environmental sustainability.

A Green Airport is designed, operated, and managed in line with sustainability principles to cause minimal harm to the environment. This concept is developed based on both national and international environmental standards.

Key Objectives of a Green Airport:

a. Environmental Sustainability

- *Efficient use of natural resources*
- *Waste management and recycling: reducing waste generation and increasing recycling rates*
- *Reducing air, water, and soil pollution*

b. Energy and Emissions Management

- *Use of renewable energy sources (e.g., solar panels, wind turbines)*
- *Energy-efficient building design*
- *Minimizing the carbon footprint by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from aircraft movements, ground support vehicles, and terminal operations*

c. Social and Corporate Responsibility



- *Raising awareness among passengers and airport staff*

- *Promoting environmental consciousness among all stakeholders*

- *Supporting social responsibility projects*

- *Enhancing corporate reputation and international competitiveness*

d. Energy Efficiency

- *More efficient use of electricity, water, and fuel*

- *Integration of renewable energy systems such as solar*

- and wind
- e. Compliance with International Standards

- *Alignment with environmental management systems like ISO 14001*

- *Attainment of international green building certifications (e.g., LEED, BREEAM)*

f. Corporate Image and Competitive Advantage

- *Positioning the airport as an environmentally friendly brand*

- *Increasing global competitiveness and customer preference*

Green Airport Applications and Examples

1. Cochin International Airport (India)

Located in Kerala, India, Cochin International became the world's first fully solar-powered airport in 2015. Spanning 45 acres, its more than 46,000 solar panels generate 48,000 units of electricity per day—meeting the airport's entire energy needs. The system is expected to prevent 300,000 tons of carbon emissions over 25 years.

2. George Airport (South Africa)

Situated in the Western Cape region, George Airport is the first solar-powered airport on the African continent. With 2,000 solar panels generating 750 kilowatts daily, it produces twice its own energy requirements, reducing carbon emissions by 1,323 tons annually.

3. Oslo Gardermoen Airport (Norway)

Oslo's Gardermoen Airport stands out with its sustainable design. It holds a BREEAM rating of "Excellent" and has halved its energy consumption. Features include local timber, eco-friendly concrete, and the innovative use of snowmelt for summer cooling.

4. Galapagos Seymour Ecological Airport (Ecuador)

Implementation Criteria

Criteria	Description
Environmental Management System	Compliance with ISO 14001
Green Certifications	LEED, BREEAM, DGCA "Green Organization" Certificate
Innovative Technologies	Automated energy monitoring systems, smart lighting
Transport & Logistics	Electric ground vehicles, integration with public transportation

Located on Baltra Island, this is the world's first ecological airport powered entirely by solar and wind energy. Holding a LEED Gold certificate, it was built using recycled materials and includes eco-technologies like a seawater desalination plant.

5. Kempegowda International Airport (India)

In Bengaluru, Kempegowda International Airport achieved a 95.6% reduction in Scope 1 and 2 emissions in 2023 by using 100% renewable electricity, promoting electric vehicles, and undertaking afforestation initiatives. It aims for net-zero Scope 3 emissions by 2050.

Examples from Turkey

1. Istanbul Airport

With a terminal spanning 1,294,082 square meters, Istanbul Airport has received the LEED Gold certification—becoming

the world's second-largest building to achieve this status. Environmental sustainability is supported through low-flow fixtures, greywater use, and energy efficiency practices.

2. Sabiha Gökçen International Airport

ISG Investment Construction and Operation Inc. created a modern and eco-friendly terminal management model by investing in advanced technology, physical infrastructure, and trained personnel with minimal environmental impact. It was awarded the "Green Organization" title on May 17, 2012.

3. Malatya, Samsun-Çarşamba, and Konya Airports

Operated by the State Airports Authority (DHMI), these airports have also received the "Green Organization" certificate under the Green Airport Project. Over the last six months, 16 DHMI-operated

airports have earned this certification.

Sabiha Gökçen Airport was the first in Turkey to receive the Green Airport Certificate. It also earned a LEED Gold certificate from the U.S. Green Building Council, thanks to its focus on public transport accessibility, energy efficiency, and natural daylight usage.

Conclusion

Green airport practices play a vital role in reducing the environmental impact of the aviation sector. As demonstrated by examples in both Turkey and around the world, these practices represent meaningful steps toward a sustainable future. Energy efficiency, the use of renewable energy, and eco-friendly design are among the most effective strategies for minimizing the environmental footprint of airports.



Skyward Luxury: Exploring the Newest Business Jet Models of 2025

The business jet industry is at the forefront of aviation innovation, blending luxury, performance, and cutting-edge technology to cater to the needs of high-net-worth individuals, corporate executives, and global travelers. Leading manufacturers—Gulfstream, Bombardier, Dassault, Textron, and Cessna—continue to redefine private aviation with their latest models, unveiled at prestigious global aviation fairs like the European Business Aviation Convention & Exhibition (EBACE) and

the National Business Aviation Association (NBAA) Business Aviation Convention. These aircraft showcase advancements in range, cabin comfort, sustainability, and avionics, setting new standards for the industry. This article explores the newest business jet offerings from these manufacturers, their standout features, and their significance in a dynamic market, with additional insights from recent aviation fairs and expanded model coverage.

Gulfstream: Leading the Ultra-Long- Range Segment

Gulfstream G800 – The Pinnacle of Range and Luxury

Gulfstream Aerospace, a subsidiary of General Dynamics, unveiled the G800 at NBAA 2021, and the aircraft received FAA and EASA certification in April 2025, marking a milestone in ultra-long-range travel. With an unmatched range of 8,000 nautical miles, the G800 can connect distant city pairs like Dubai to Houston or Singapore to San Francisco nonstop. Powered by two Rolls-Royce Pearl 700 engines, each delivering 18,250 pounds of thrust, the G800 achieves a top speed of Mach 0.925

while maintaining fuel efficiency, with a maximum takeoff weight (MTOW) of 105,600 pounds.

The G800's cabin, measuring 46 feet 10 inches in length, mirrors the G650's dimensions but introduces enhanced customization. It supports up to four living zones, accommodating configurations such as a private stateroom with a fixed double bed, an ensuite bathroom with a shower, and a dedicated dining area. The cabin's 16 panoramic windows, the largest in business aviation, flood the interior with natural light. Gulfstream's advanced air filtration system circulates 100% fresh air every 90 seconds, and the cabin altitude



by Saffet UYANIK



Gulfstream G400 – Redefining Large-Cabin Accessibility

Introduced alongside the G800, the Gulfstream G400 targets the large-cabin market with a more accessible price point of \$34.5 million. Unveiled at NBAA 2021, the G400 offers a range of 4,200 nautical miles and a top speed of Mach 0.88, powered by Pratt & Whitney PW812GA engines. Its cabin, measuring 42 feet 7 inches, accommodates up to 12 passengers and features three living zones, including a flexible galley and optional crew rest area.

The G400 inherits Gulfstream's signature low cabin altitude (4,850 feet at 45,000 feet) and fresh air system. Its Symmetry Flight Deck mirrors the G800's, ensuring

remains below 4,060 feet at 51,000 feet, reducing passenger fatigue. The Symmetry Flight Deck, equipped with active control sidesticks and 10 touch-screen displays, enhances pilot situational awareness with predictive landing performance and enhanced vision systems.

Priced at approximately \$72.5 million, the G800 targets ultra-wealthy clients and corporate fleets. At EBACE 2024, Gulfstream showcased a G800 mock-up, emphasizing its bespoke interiors and sustainability features, such as compatibility with sustainable aviation fuel (SAF). The aircraft's order book has grown steadily, with deliveries expected to ramp up in 2026.

operational consistency across Gulfstream's portfolio. At NBAA 2024, the G400 drew significant interest from charter operators and mid-tier corporations, with Gulfstream highlighting its 30% lower operating costs compared to ultra-long-range models. The G400's versatility and affordability, position it as a strong contender in the large-cabin segment, with first deliveries slated for 2026.

Bombardier: Innovating for Speed and Space

Bombardier Global 8000 – Redefining Ultra-Long-Range Travel

Bombardier's Global 8000, announced as the successor to the Global 7500, is set to enter service in late 2025. Matching the G800's 8,000-nautical-mile range, the Global

8000 surpasses it with a top speed of Mach 0.94, making it the fastest purpose-built business jet. Powered by Rolls-Royce Pearl 15 engines, each producing 15,125 pounds of thrust, the aircraft achieves a maximum cruising altitude of 51,000 feet and an MTOW of 114,850 pounds.

The Global 8000's cabin, the largest in its class at 2,693 cubic feet, spans 54 feet 5 inches and features four distinct zones. The principal suite includes a full-size bed, a stand-up shower, and a wardrobe, while the entertainment zone offers a 4K ultra-HD monitor and surround sound. Bombardier's Pür Air system eliminates 99.99% of pathogens, and the cabin altitude remains at 2,900 feet at 41,000 feet, the lowest in the industry. The Bombardier Vision flight deck integrates infrared and synthetic vision systems, enabling landings in low-visibility conditions.



ARTICLE

Priced at \$81 million, the Global 8000 was a centerpiece at EBACE 2024, where Bombardier showcased its Nuage seating system, which converts into a flat sleeping surface. The aircraft's compatibility with up to 50% SAF blends aligns with industry sustainability goals. Bombardier reported over 50 firm orders for the Global 8000 by Q1 2025, reflecting strong demand from high-net-worth individuals and multinational corporations.

Bombardier Challenger 3500 – Super-Midsize Sophistication

Bombardier's Challenger 3500, introduced in 2021 as an evolution of the Challenger 350, continues to dominate the super-midsize segment. With a range of 3,400 nautical miles and a top speed of Mach 0.83, it is powered by Honeywell HTF7350 turbofans. The Challenger 3500's cabin, measuring 25 feet 2 inches, accommodates up to 10 passengers and features Nuage seats, a redesigned galley, and voice-activated controls for lighting and entertainment.

At NBAA 2024, Bombardier highlighted the Challenger 3500's upgraded avionics, including an autothrottle system and head-up display (HUD), enhancing pilot efficiency. Priced at \$27 million, the aircraft appeals to regional operators and



private owners. Its 2024 delivery numbers grew by 25% year-over-year, driven by demand in North America and the Middle East.

Dassault Aviation: Blending Elegance and Efficiency

Dassault Falcon 10X – A New Era of Wide-Cabin Luxury

Dassault Aviation's Falcon 10X, unveiled at a virtual event in May 2021, is set to enter service in 2027, competing directly with the G800 and Global 8000. With a 7,500-nautical-mile range and a top speed of Mach 0.925, it is powered by Rolls-Royce Pearl 10X turbofans, each delivering over 18,000 pounds of thrust. The Falcon 10X emphasizes sustainability, with a 20% reduction in fuel burn compared to previous Falcon models and full SAF compatibility.

The Falcon 10X boasts the largest cabin cross-

section in its class, with a width of 9 feet 1 inch and a height of 6 feet 8 inches. Its 2,780-cubic-foot interior supports four zones, including a private dining area, a media room with 4K displays, or a wellness area with a massage table. The cabin's 30 large windows and optional skylight create an airy ambiance. Dassault's FalconScan diagnostic system monitors 100,000 maintenance parameters in real time, minimizing downtime. Priced at \$75 million, the Falcon 10X was showcased at EBACE 2024, where its full-scale cabin mock-up drew praise for its spaciousness and natural lighting.

Dassault Falcon 6X – Midsize Mastery

Introduced in 2021 and certified in 2023, the Falcon 6X strengthens Dassault's midsize portfolio. With a range of 5,500 nautical miles and a top speed of Mach 0.90, it is powered by Pratt & Whitney PW812D engines. The Falcon 6X's cabin, measuring 40 feet

8 inches, accommodates up to 16 passengers and features a 6-foot-8-inch height, the tallest in the midsize category. Its 29 windows and optional skylight enhance the sense of space.

At NBAA 2024, Dassault emphasized the Falcon 6X's operational flexibility, with the ability to access short runways and steep-approach airports like London City. Priced at \$47 million, the Falcon 6X has seen a strong uptake in Europe and Asia, with over 30 deliveries by Q1 2025.

Textron Aviation (Cessna): Versatility and Value

Cessna Citation Longitude – Leading the Super-Midsize Segment

Textron Aviation's Cessna Citation Longitude, launched in 2019, continues to excel in the super-midsize market. With a 3,500-nautical-mile range and a top

speed of Mach 0.86, it is powered by Honeywell HTF7700L turbofans, offering a fuel burn 15% lower than competitors. The Longitude's 22-meter cabin accommodates 12 passengers, with a flat-floor design, customizable seating, and a walk-in baggage compartment accessible in flight.

The Garmin G5000 avionics suite includes touch-screen controls, synthetic vision, and autothrottle, enhancing safety and efficiency. Priced at \$28 million, the Longitude saw a 40% delivery increase in 2024, driven by demand from fractional ownership programs like NetJets. At EBACE 2024, Textron showcased the Longitude's optional crew rest area, appealing to transatlantic operators.

Cessna Citation CJ4 Gen2 – Light Jet Excellence

The Citation CJ4 Gen2, updated in 2021, leads the light jet category with a 2,165-nautical-mile range and a top speed of 451 knots. Powered by Williams FJ44-4A engines, it offers a 10% improvement in fuel efficiency over its predecessor. The 17-foot cabin accommodates up to 10 passengers, with refreshed interiors, wireless charging, and high-speed Wi-Fi.

The Collins Aerospace Pro Line 21 avionics suite includes advanced weather



Cessna Citation CJ4 Gen2

radar and predictive windshear alerts. Priced at \$10.5 million, the CJ4 Gen2 has delivered over 400 units by April 2025, with strong demand from owner-operators. At NBAA 2024, Textron highlighted the CJ4 Gen2's short-field performance, capable of operating from runways as short as 3,410 feet.

Cessna Citation M2 Gen2 – Entry-Level Efficiency

Introduced in 2021, the Citation M2 Gen2 targets the light jet entry-level market with a 1,550-nautical-mile range and a top speed of 404 knots. Powered by Williams FJ44-1AP-21 engines, it seats up to seven passengers in a 14-foot-9-inch cabin. The Garmin G3000 avionics suite offers intuitive touch-screen controls and wireless connectivity.

Priced at \$5.5 million, the M2 Gen2 is popular among small businesses and flight schools. At EBACE 2024, Textron showcased its

upgraded interiors, including premium leather seating and LED lighting, reinforcing its value proposition.

Market Context and Future Outlook

The business jet market remains robust, with 712 jets delivered globally in 2022, led by Textron Aviation (178), Bombardier (123), and Gulfstream (120). In 2024, deliveries grew by 8%, driven by demand in North America, Europe, and Asia-Pacific. EBACE and NBAA 2024 highlighted key trends: sustainability, with manufacturers showcasing SAF compatibility and hybrid-electric propulsion research; digitalization, with AI-driven maintenance and predictive analytics; and cabin wellness, with advanced air filtration and circadian lighting.

Gulfstream and Bombardier dominate the ultra-long-range segment, with the G800 and Global 8000 setting benchmarks for range and speed. Dassault's Falcon 10X and

6X strengthen its position in large-cabin and midsize categories, while Textron's Citation lineup excels in super-midsize and light jet segments, offering cost-effective solutions. The rise of fractional ownership and jet card programs has further fueled demand, particularly for midsize and light jets.

Looking ahead, manufacturers are investing in next-generation technologies. Gulfstream is exploring hybrid propulsion for future models, while Bombardier aims to achieve carbon-neutral manufacturing by 2030. Dassault's focus on low-emission engines and Textron's advancements in autonomous flight systems signal a transformative decade for business aviation. As global wealth grows and travel preferences shift toward private aviation, these manufacturers are poised to deliver unparalleled luxury, efficiency, and connectivity.



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BookingAgora: Reshaping the Travel Industry with Technology and Trust

We had the pleasure of speaking with Murat Kahraman, In this interview, Murat Kahraman, Co-Founder of BookingAgora, shares valuable insights about the company and the evolving travel industry

Aviation Turkey: First of all, thank you for taking the time to speak with us. How did the idea to establish BookingAgora come about? What gaps do you think you are filling in the travel industry, and what are the key features that set

you apart from your competitors?

Murat Kahraman:First of all, we'd like to thank you for valuing us and giving us this opportunity. BookingAgora was founded in 2016. The founding partners, who have been active in the industry for many

years, came together to combine their experience and decided to establish a company that would serve the travel sector solely with a wholesaler mission. We always emphasize that there is no real rivalry in our sector. Considering today's technology and product



highlights us are above all our reliability and our commitment to standing behind our work. Using our own technology gives us a clear advantage over simple, off-the-shelf software bought from abroad. In addition to our advantageous pricing policy, our consistent, accessible communication and service to our partners through all channels are major strengths.

✈️ Aviation Turkey: BookingAgora places great importance on digital transformation. Can you tell us about the technologies you use and the innovative solutions you develop? How do you integrate modern technologies such as artificial intelligence and data analytics into your business processes?

Murat Kahraman:Our technology is provided by our sister company, Kplus

Information Technologies. There is significant R&D work being conducted there. We follow all current technological developments and prepare our infrastructure accordingly with a future-oriented vision. As part of this, artificial intelligence will gradually be integrated into certain areas of our systems and workflows in the future.

✈️ Aviation Turkey: Signing an NDC partnership agreement with Lufthansa was a major milestone. What are the advantages of such collaborations for both BookingAgora and travel agencies? Do you have plans for new agreements following this success?

Murat Kahraman:Yes, we signed an NDC agreement with Lufthansa. This allows the travel agencies we work with to access

competitive fares, flexible rules, and benefits not available through GDSs. Our NDC integrations help distinguish BookingAgora from other systems. We're proud to hear from airline representatives during our evaluations that our sales through NDC channels truly make a difference. It's worth mentioning the other airlines we have NDC partnerships with: Turkish Airlines, Emirates, Singapore Airlines, Aegean Airlines, Ethiopian Airlines, SunExpress, British Airways, American Airlines, FlyDubai, Pegasus Airlines, Qatar Airways, and more.

✈️ Aviation Turkey: With K Plus, you provide services to over 200 professionals not just in Turkey but globally. You also recently established a partnership with Emirates Airlines. Could you tell us more about K Plus?

variety, everyone can be a partner. If partnerships are possible, then we believe the concept of competition is not entirely accurate. What distinguishes us from others doing similar work is our level of service and our approach to our partners. Thanks to this approach and the sector's trust in us, BookingAgora has reached a strong position in the industry. What differentiates and



Murat Kahraman: Kplus not only provides infrastructure support to BookingAgora but also delivers similar solutions to over 200 companies in more than 10 countries, primarily travel agencies in Turkey. Through a global agreement with

Emirates Airlines, Kplus enables travel agencies to easily access NDC integration with Emirates. Thanks to this partnership, Emirates is able to offer its sales agents fast and easy access to NDC services via Kplus technology. In turn,

travel agencies benefit from privileged fares and services, giving them a competitive edge.

✈️ Aviation Turkey: What are BookingAgora's goals for the next 5 years? What kind of roadmap are you

planning for the future, and where do you aim to position yourselves in the industry? Are there any plans to expand into new markets?

Murat Kahraman: We are always focused on development and renewal. Within the next five years, we are prioritizing the education and development of our team members to become the most experienced, well-trained professionals in the field. This investment requires both time and resources, but finding qualified, dedicated, and expert personnel is becoming increasingly difficult. While we equip our lives with technology, we cannot overlook the human element and the importance of support. That's why one of our two main priorities is human resources. On the technology side, starting in 2026, we will clearly demonstrate our difference in the industry through new features and products.

✈️ Aviation Turkey: Thank you once again. Finally, is there a message you'd like to share with our readers?

Murat Kahraman: We thank you! You've given us a wonderful opportunity to express ourselves clearly. We always strive to be a reliable, competent, and supportive brand in our industry. We know that our stakeholders consistently choose us because they feel confident and at ease working with us 🙌



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ACI World Forecasts 9.9 Billion Passengers in 2025 Amid Shifting Market Dynamics

The global aviation industry continues to recover from the shocks of the COVID-19 pandemic. While the past few years have been marked by sharp rebounds in passenger demand, the Montreal-based Airports Council International (ACI) World has projected a new phase for global air travel: one characterized by long-term structural growth rather than recovery-driven surges.

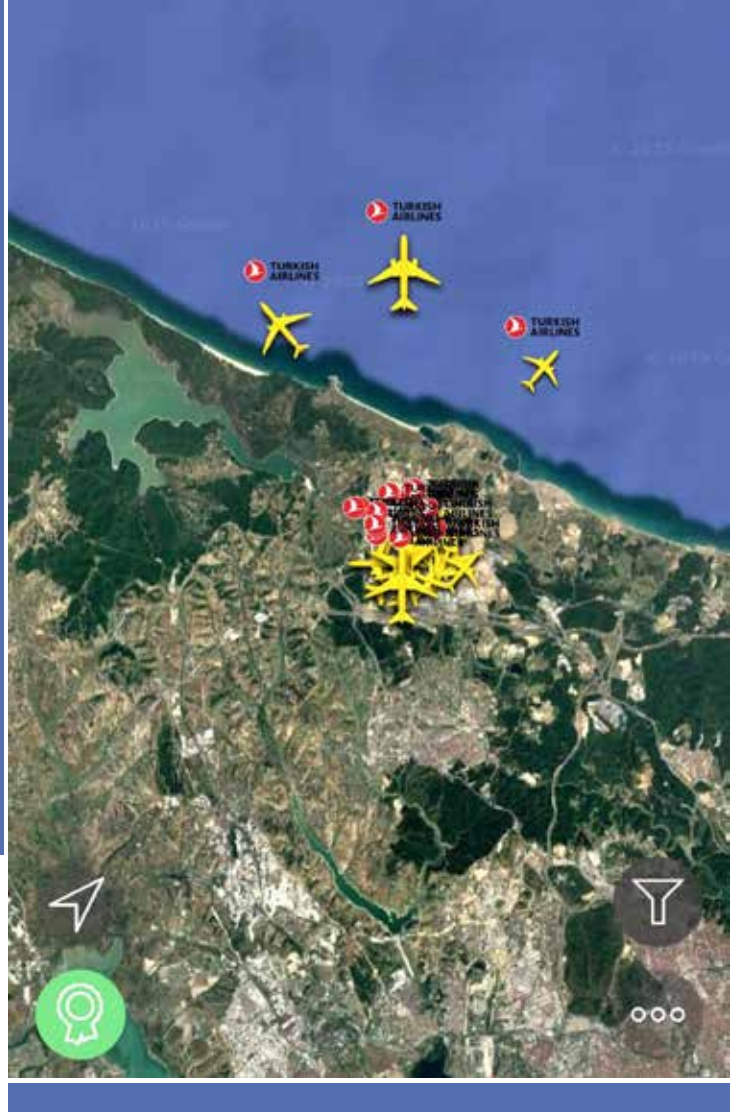
According to the Airport Traffic Forecasts 2024-2053 released by ACI World on February 26, 2025, global passenger traffic is expected to reach 9.9 Billion in 2025, which represents a 4.8% increase over 2024, when global airports handled 9.5 Billion passengers—a full 9% rise from 2023 and a 104% recovery compared to pre-pandemic 2019 levels. However, ACI cautioned

that global aviation faces a more complex growth environment in the years ahead, shaped by economic uncertainty, geopolitical uncertainty, and infrastructure (airline capacity) limitations. These factors, it said, will “increasingly shape the industry’s trajectory.”

The Airport Traffic Forecasts 2024-2053, which encompass 99.8% of global markets across 161 countries, project a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 3.4% from 2024 to 2043, followed by a slightly slower CAGR of 3% from 2024 to 2053 for total global passenger traffic, with international segments leading the charge.

From Recovery to Structural Growth

ACI World pointed out that although passenger volumes remain robust,



the pace of growth is beginning to stabilize. This marks a shift from the rapid recovery seen in the immediate post-pandemic period to more measured, sustainable development across the global aviation sector.

“While passenger demand remains strong, the pace of expansion is expected to slow as markets shift from recovery-driven surges to structural, long-term growth patterns,” ACI World noted in the the Airport Traffic Forecasts 2024-2053.

In advanced markets, this transition may be hindered by several key challenges:

- *Stabilization of post-*

pandemic demand

- *Supply chain constraints in aircraft manufacturing*
- *Airport capacity limitations*

In contrast, the Airport Traffic Forecasts 2024-2053 underscores continued robust growth in emerging markets, fueled by a rising middle-class traveler base and an increasing demand for air travel. Investments in airport infrastructure in these regions will be essential to accommodate this growth. These markets, especially in Asia-Pacific and Latin America, are anticipated to experience continued expansion in both domestic and international traffic.

International Travel to Lead Global Growth

Looking further ahead, ACI projects that global airport passenger traffic will nearly double over the next two decades, reaching:

- 17.7 Billion by 2043
- 18.7 Billion by 2045
- 22.3 Billion by 2053

International passenger traffic is projected to grow at a faster rate than domestic traffic over the next three decades. According to ACI World, during next 30 years (2024-2053), international traffic will grow at a CAGR of 3.3%, compared to domestic traffic, which will expand at 2.8% annually over the same period. International passenger traffic is set to grow by 7% in 2025, reaching approximately 4 Billion passengers. By 2043, international volumes are forecast to climb to 7.5 Billion, and by 2053, total global passenger traffic is set to nearly double, reaching 22.3 Billion annually. For the 20-year stretch from 2024 to 2043, passenger traffic is projected to rise to 17.7 Billion, representing a CAGR of 3.4%. This sustained growth in cross-border travel reflects increased globalization, greater air connectivity, and rising disposable incomes, especially in emerging markets.

Air Cargo Growth Amid Global Logistics Shifts

Global air cargo is expected to grow steadily, with a CAGR of 2.7% from 2024 to 2043 and 2.4% from 2024 to 2053. However, ACI World cautions that evolving trade policies and supply chain disruptions could introduce volatility in this sector. According to the Airport Traffic Forecasts 2024-2053, Air Cargo traffic showed significant growth in 2024:

- *Global air cargo volumes reached over 124 Million metric tonnes, up 8.4% year-over-year.*
- *This also marks a 3.9% increase compared to 2019 levels.*
- *The Top 10 cargo airports handled 32.3 Million metric tonnes, nearly 26% of the global total.*

The long-term forecast indicates that the growth was fueled by surging e-commerce demand, disruptions in maritime shipping, and declining jet fuel prices. In 2024, Hong Kong International Airport maintained its position as the busiest cargo hub, followed by Shanghai Pudong and Memphis International.

Meanwhile, according to European airport trade body, ACI EUROPE's traffic report for January 2025, which was released

on March 13, 2025, freight volumes fell -9.1% year-on-year in January 2025. Only four of Europe's top 10 cargo hubs reported gains:

- *Madrid (+6.9%)*
- *Cologne (+4.2%)*
- *Liège (+2.8%)*
- *London Heathrow (+0.5%)*

Frankfurt, Istanbul, and Heathrow handled the highest absolute cargo volumes. The report also underscores that even though aircraft movements rose +4.6% over January 2024 but it remained -7.9% below 2019 levels.

Increased Aircraft Movements and Operational Efficiency

The Airport Traffic Forecasts 2024-2053 indicates that aircraft movements worldwide are set to increase significantly. By 2043, 149 Million aircraft movements are expected, growing to 176 Million by 2053. ACI World advises airports to invest now in modernization and expansion efforts to accommodate growing demand and ensure sustainable operations.

Aircraft movements in 2024 were estimated at 100 Million, a 4.3% increase over 2023, recovering to 97.4% of 2019 levels. The Top 10 airports recorded 6.4 Million movements, a 6.5% increase from 2023

and a slight gain over 2019.

The ACI World's long-term forecast highlights rising middle-class travel demand in emerging markets and continued investment in airport infrastructure as vital factors for meeting the demands of a rapidly growing global passenger base. It also urges industry stakeholders to prepare by enhancing operational efficiency, embracing digital transformation, and scaling infrastructure in line with expected volumes.

Shifting Market Leadership: China to Overtake U.S. by 2042

The ACI World's Airport Traffic Forecasts 2024-2053 also projects significant shifts in global market leadership. By 2042, ACI World projects:

- *China will overtake the United States as the world's largest aviation market by passenger volume*
- *India will retain its third-place ranking, solidifying its role as a global air travel powerhouse*
- *Indonesia, currently 13th, will climb to fourth, underscoring rapid demand growth in Southeast Asia*
- *Spain will remain in the top five, rounding out the global leaders*



Looking Ahead: Challenges and Strategic Priorities

Despite the positive outlook, ACI World acknowledges several near-term risks that could temper growth in some regions. Geopolitical tensions, economic instability, and rising trade tariffs—such as those imposed by U.S. President Donald J. TRUMP on Canada and Mexico—could dampen air travel demand. Additionally, supply chain bottlenecks in the aviation sector may also constrain performance in certain territories.

At the Airport Traffic Forecasts 2024-2053, ACI World underscores the need for focused investment in key areas:

- *Financial sustainability for airport operators*
- *Modernization of infrastructure to meet rising demand*
- *Operational efficiency in light of staffing and supply constraints*
- *Environmental sustainability as a long-term priority*

These efforts will be crucial as airports and governments alike work to accommodate the projected near-10 billion passengers in 2025 and beyond.

The Need for Bold Action

ACI World Director General Justin ERBACCI emphasized the need for proactive measures to meet the demands of a growing aviation market.

“Despite the challenges in the near term, global air travel is poised for steady, sustained growth,” said Erbacci. “It is crucial for airports, airlines, and policymakers to take bold, forward-thinking action to anticipate and meet the demands of the future. ACI World remains unwavering in its commitment to support its airport members, helping them navigate evolving dynamics and seize opportunities ahead.”

ACI World Unveiled 2024 Rankings of the World’s Busiest Airports

On April 15, 2025 Airports Council International (ACI) World released its preliminary global airport traffic data for 2024, which supports the trend toward

renewed global air travel activity and revealing a strong rebound in global air travel as passenger numbers surpassed pre-pandemic levels for the first time since 2019. The latest data also includes the highly anticipated ranking of the world’s busiest airports.

According to ACI World, global passenger traffic approached 9.5 Billion in 2024, up 9% from 2023. This figure also represents a 3.8% increase compared to pre-pandemic levels in 2019. This continued recovery follows years of disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and underscores the resilience and adaptability of the aviation sector. ACI World’s preliminary global airport traffic data for 2024 projects that the Top 10 busiest airports

accounted for 9% of global traffic, handling 855 million passengers, an 8.8% increase year-on-year.

Leading the list once again is Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, followed by Dubai International Airport and Dallas Fort Worth International Airport. Notably, Shanghai Pudong International Airport climbed from 21st in 2023 to 10th in 2024—a reflection of China’s reopening, liberalized visa policies, and strategic international route development.

Emerging hubs like Istanbul Airport and New Delhi International Airport continue to perform strongly, leveraging expanded airline networks and improved infrastructure to maintain their rankings.

As it is underscored at the Airport Traffic Forecasts 2024-2053, which was released by ACI World on February 26, 2025, global passenger traffic is forecast to reach 9.9 Billion in 2025, reflecting a 4.8% year-on-year growth.

“We are seeing a full-circle comeback in global air travel, with many major hubs not only recovering but exceeding pre-pandemic levels,” said Justin ERBACCI, Director General of ACI World. “The continued growth of global passenger traffic signals a robust trajectory, despite macroeconomic and geopolitical headwinds.”

2024 Top 10 Busiest Airports (Passenger Traffic)

Rank	Airport	2024 Passengers	% Change vs 2023
1	Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta (ATL)	108.1M	+3.3%
2	Dubai (DXB)	92.3M	+6.1%
3	Dallas Fort Worth (DFW)	87.8M	+7.4%
4	Tokyo Haneda (HND)	85.9M	+9.1%
5	London Heathrow (LHR)	83.9M	+5.9%
6	Denver (DEN)	82.4M	+5.8%
7	Istanbul (IST)	80.1M	+5.3%
8	Chicago O'Hare (ORD)	80.0M	+8.3%
9	New Delhi (DEL)	77.8M	+7.8%
10	Shanghai Pudong (PVG)	76.8M	+41.0%

World’s Busiest Airports in 2024

Topping the list once again is Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL), which has held the No. 1 position for 26 of the past 27 years. Atlanta served 108.1 Million passengers in 2024, marking a 3.3% increase from 2023.

Dubai International Airport (DXB) retained its No. 2 position, handling 92.3 Million passengers, up 6.1% year-on-year. Dallas Fort Worth International Airport (DFW) ranked third, with 87.8 Million passengers, reflecting 7.4% growth over 2023 and a remarkable 17% increase over 2019.

Rounding out the top five were Tokyo Haneda (HND) and London Heathrow (LHR), with 85.9 Million and 83.9 Million passengers respectively.

The most significant leap in the rankings came

from Shanghai Pudong International Airport (PVG), which surged from 21st place in 2023 to 10th in 2024, with a staggering 41% increase in passenger traffic. This growth was driven by expanded visa policies, the resumption of international flights, operational enhancements, and the broader recovery of the Asia-Pacific region, particularly China.

According to ACI World, airports in Istanbul (IST) and New Delhi (DEL) continued to climb the ranks due to airline expansion, infrastructure upgrades, and enhanced international connectivity.

Meanwhile, according to European airport trade body, ACI EUROPE’s traffic report for January 2025, which was released on March 13, 2025, among Europe’s major hubs (40+ Million passengers annually), Istanbul Airport

(IST) ranked first with 6.4 Million passengers (+7.1%) in January 2025. Handling 6.3 Million (+5.3%) passengers London Heathrow ranked the second. Rounding out the top five were Paris Charles de Gaulle (CDG), Madrid-Barajas and Amsterdam Schiphol, with 5.3 Million (+10.5%), 5.2 Million (+8.3%) and 4.8 Million (+5.7%) passengers respectively. According to ACI EUROPE’s report the fastest-growing among the major hubs were Istanbul Sabiha Gökçen (+16.2%) and Rome Fiumicino (+11.3%).

Sabiha Gökçen Airport Ranks 2nd in Europe for Passenger Growth

Istanbul Sabiha Gökçen International Airport has achieved a remarkable milestone, ranking second in Europe for the highest

increase in passenger volume in the first two months of 2025, compared to the same period in 2024. According to the ACI EUROPE, the Istanbul Sabiha Gökçen airport recorded an 8.7% growth in passenger traffic from January to February 2025, solidifying its position as a key player among Europe's major hubs.

The Sabiha Gökçen International Airport, located on the Anatolian side of Istanbul, ranked 8th among European airports by total passenger volume for both February 2025 and the January-February 2025 period. It also placed second in Europe among major airports – those with a capacity of over 40 million passengers – for passenger volume increase in early 2025, a significant achievement for the airport.

According to ACI EUROPE's February 2025 Air Traffic Report, the airport's performance highlights the continued growth of Sabiha Gökçen, reinforcing its status as the second-busiest airport in Türkiye, behind only Istanbul Airport. This impressive growth can be attributed to the recent expansion efforts at the airport, particularly the opening of Sabiha Gökçen's second runway last year. These improvements have enhanced the airport's operational capacity and allowed for more efficient handling of increasing passenger volumes.

Additionally, plans for a new terminal are underway, aiming to further boost the airport's infrastructure and service offerings.

In the ACI EUROPE's February 2025 Air Traffic Report, Istanbul Airport (IST) also ranked highly, retained its No.2 position on the list of Europe's top 10 busiest airports by passenger volume in February 2025, behind London Heathrow and ahead of Paris Charles de Gaulle (CDG).

Istanbul Airport Launches Simultaneous Triple Runway Operations

Istanbul Airport, Europe's second busiest airport during first two months of 2025, officially launched simultaneous triple independent runway operations on April 17, 2025. This historic achievement makes Istanbul Airport the first in Europe to implement such a system, and the second worldwide, following the United States, to implement such an advanced operational capacity.

During the official ceremony held at the airport on April 17, Turkish Minister of Transport, Abdulkadir URALOĞLU, highlighted the significance of this development, noting that the airport's new system enables three aircraft to land or take off simultaneously on fully

independent runways.

"This is not only a first for Türkiye, but also for European aviation, and a watershed moment for global aviation," Minister URALOĞLU said. "After the United States, Türkiye is the only country that has implemented this practice."

At his address Minister URALOĞLU also emphasized that Istanbul Airport has been a visionary project for Türkiye, serving as a global showcase since its opening on October 29, 2018. With a 90 Million annual passenger capacity, the airport has significantly bolstered Türkiye's status as a key player in the global aviation industry.

"In 2019, its first year of operation, the airport welcomed more than 52 Million passengers, and by 2023, this number rose to over 76 Million. Last year, Istanbul Airport served 80.1 Million passengers. Istanbul Airport now ranks second in Europe in the Major Airports category, which includes airports handling over 40 Million passengers annually, and seventh globally," Minister URALOĞLU added.

Between April 7 and April 13, 2025, Istanbul Airport averaged 1464 flights per day, based on data from Eurocontrol, making it the busiest airport in Europe during that period. This achievement reflects the airport's continuous growth and expanding significance as a major aviation hub.

"Now, with simultaneous triple runway operations, we are strengthening our global position even further. This milestone adds power to Istanbul Airport, establishing it as a center that keeps the pulse of global aviation and propels Türkiye's vision forward," Minister URALOĞLU said.

With the introduction of the Triple Runway Operations system, Istanbul Airport can now handle simultaneous takeoff and landing operations on three independent runways, increasing the airport's hourly air traffic capacity from 120 to 148 aircraft movements. This operational advancement significantly improves traffic management at Istanbul Airport, while also positively impacting European airspace, making air travel faster, safer, and more efficient. Approximately 500 air traffic controllers underwent 4,500 hours of specialized training to ensure the smooth implementation of this advanced system. The rigorous training ensures that Istanbul Airport can handle the increased traffic flow with optimal safety and efficiency.

The increase of 28 aircraft movements per hour leads to shorter waiting times for airlines, fewer delays for passengers, and a reduction in carbon emissions – enhancing the sustainability of the airport's operations 🌍



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Columbia Helicopters Secures Fifth Consecutive Year in Türkiye's Wildfire Response: Partnership with CMC Extended for 2025 Firefighting Season



© Nazmi Özdemir

Columbia Helicopters has announced the renewal of its aerial firefighting contract with CMC Savunma Sanayi A.Ş. (CMC) for the 2025 wildfire season in Turkey. This marks the fifth consecutive year of collaboration, reinforcing Columbia's commitment to supporting the Turkish General Directorate of Forestry in combating wildfires.

Under the renewed contract, Columbia will deploy four Columbia 234 Multi-Mission Chinook helicopters, each equipped with a 2,600-gallon Bambi Bucket for precise water and retardant delivery. The aircraft will be supported by experienced flight crews and dedicated maintenance personnel to ensure operational efficiency throughout the fire season.

The Columbia 234 Multi-Mission Chinook is certified

to civilian transport category standards and supports internal cargo and passenger transport. Columbia acquired the Type Certificate for the Model 234 from Boeing in 2005, and as the OEM, provides full lifecycle support sustainment, training, maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) to operators worldwide.

David Balevic, President and CEO of Columbia Helicopters, stated: "We are honored to continue our partnership with CMC. The trust we have built over the years and the reliability of our operations enable us to contribute effectively to Türkiye's wildfire response efforts. As we enter another fire season, our teams remain committed to safeguarding lives, forests, and critical infrastructure."

The frequency and intensity of wildfires

in Turkey have risen significantly in recent years. According to the Turkish General Directorate of Forestry, annual wildfire incidents increased from approximately 2,950 in 2020 to an estimated 3,800 in 2024.

Scott Rumsby, Crew Chief for Aircraft 37 and Türkiye Operations Lead, commented: "The 2024 season was particularly challenging, with record-breaking temperatures creating extreme fire conditions that demanded rapid and sustained response. We take great pride in working alongside Turkish crews again this year to help suppress these devastating fires."

CMC President and CEO Cem Çolak added: "We are pleased to continue our collaboration with Columbia Helicopters. After four years of successful operations, their 234 Multi-Mission

Chinook helicopters have become an invaluable asset in our firefighting strategy."

Columbia Helicopters is the global leader in heavy-lift helicopter operations and a trusted expert in maintenance, repair, and overhaul services. Backed by over 65 years of experience, Columbia operates internationally, often conducting operations in remote, austere conditions, providing safe and reliable aircraft and qualified personnel that meet demanding global transport requirements. Columbia leverages its position as the OEM and FAA Type Certificate holder for both the Model 234 Chinook and 107-II helicopters to provide responsive modifications, lifecycle support, and MRO services trusted worldwide by a diverse customer base.

SKY express Strengthens its Presence in Türkiye and Beyond with AVIAREPS Group

In a move that underscores its growing presence in the region, SKY express—the fastest-growing airline in Greece—hosted a high-profile networking event in Istanbul, bringing together leading travel agencies, aviation professionals, tour operators, and members of the media. Represented in Türkiye by AVIAREPS, the airline used the occasion to spotlight its expanding network, modern fleet, and customer-centric strategy.

Held at the Marriott Hotel Şişli, the event served as a vibrant platform for fostering dialogue around the future of air travel in the region while emphasizing SKY express's commitment to seamless connectivity between Türkiye and Greece. Guests had the opportunity to learn more about the airline's competitive offerings, including its direct daily flights between Istanbul and Athens and its extensive domestic network within Greece.

"Türkiye represents a key market for SKY express as we continue to expand our international footprint," said Georgios Balioukas, Director of B2B Sales and Distribution at SKY express. "Hosting this event in Istanbul allowed us to connect directly with our valued partners, share our strategic vision, and highlight the advantages



AVIAREPS Turkey General Manager Asli Erkan, SKY express Marketing Executive Julia Frenkoglou, Aviation Turkey Editor-in-Chief Ayşe Akalin, SKY Express Director of B2B Sales & Distribution George Balioukas

of flying with us. With our modern fleet, growing network, and commitment to delivering a refined and reliable travel experience, we are positioning SKY express as a preferred carrier for Turkish travelers."

A Glimpse into the SKY express Advantage

Founded in 2012 and now a proud member of the IOGR Group, SKY express has quickly become a prominent player in European aviation. In 2024 alone, the airline flew 4.7 million passengers and introduced seven new international destinations—Amsterdam, Prague, Vienna, Tbilisi, Tirana, Yerevan, and Istanbul—bringing its total international routes to 22. Domestically, SKY express operates the largest network in Greece, connecting 33 cities across the country.

The airline's fleet includes 27 aircraft, featuring some of the youngest jets in Europe:

- 2 Airbus A321neo
- 10 Airbus A320neo
- 1 Airbus A320ceo
- 10 ATR 72-600
- 4 ATR 42-500

With an average fleet age of just 3.3 years for its Airbus neos and 2.2 years for ATR 72-600s, SKY express combines modern efficiency with environmental consciousness. ATRs are primarily deployed across the airline's domestic network, enabling optimal service on shorter routes.

Additionally, SKY express offers a compelling fare structure with one-way pricing and over 10% discounts on round-trip bookings. The airline also boasts four passenger lounges across Greece, enhancing comfort and convenience for travelers.

Celebrating Partnerships and Growth

To mark the occasion, the event also featured a special raffle, with one lucky guest winning a round-trip ticket for two with SKY express. The evening reflected the airline's focus on building strong, mutually beneficial relationships across its markets.

As SKY express continues to expand in Europe, its strategic collaborations—such as its partnership with AVIAREPS in Türkiye—will play a pivotal role in deepening market presence and enhancing traveler experience. With direct daily flights from Istanbul to Athens and seamless onward connections across Greece, Turkish passengers are now better connected than ever to one of Europe's most captivating destinations.

Plaza Premium Group and daa Partner to Deliver a Luxurious Final Touchpoint at Red Sea Airport



Edinburgh Airport (EDI) has been crowned the Overall Winner at the Routes Europe 2025 Awards, as well as triumphing in the 5-20 Million Passengers category.

The Scottish airport was one of five winners recognized at the event, which celebrates excellence in airport and destination marketing. Other winners at the ceremony—held during Routes Europe 2025 in Seville, Spain—included London Southend Airport (SEN), Madrid-Barajas Airport (MAD), Turismo de Portugal and Jet2.com.

“We are absolutely thrilled to receive this award and for it to come from the airline community makes it extra special,” Edinburgh

Airport Head of Aviation, Jonny Macneal said. “For us it recognises the hard work and dedication of the team at EDI, but also the airline partners who we have worked so closely with across the past year.

“This work has strengthened connections between Scotland and the world, ensuring even more choice for our passengers, and we look forward to continuing this collaboration and building on this work in the future.”

Edinburgh Airport achieved a record-breaking year in 2024, welcoming 15.8 million passengers. Seventeen new routes were launched across nine airlines, including new entrants

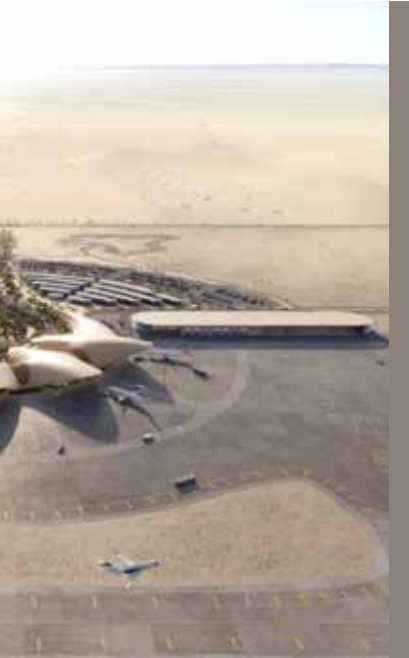
JetBlue Airways, Emirates, Pegasus Airlines, and Aurigny. Long-haul traffic surged 50% versus 2019, with EDI now offering the largest number of U.S. destinations outside London in the UK. For 2025, the airport will see 15 additional new routes.

In the Under 5 Million Passengers category, London Southend Airport took home the top honor. The airport has experienced a remarkable resurgence, recording 250% year-on-year passenger growth between 2023 and 2024. This growth has been fueled by the return of a three-aircraft easyJet base. In 2024, Southend secured 10 new easyJet routes, added charter services to Lapland and

Bulgaria, and secured its first domestic route to Newquay.

Madrid-Barajas Airport claimed the award in the Over 20 Million Passengers category after a record-breaking year in 2024, handling 66 million passengers. The airport added 35 new routes, including services to Tokyo, Shenzhen, Izmir, and Verona. Tailored incentive programs have supported hub development, network expansion, and a strategic push into Asia. As a result, China-related traffic grew by 20% compared to 2019, with a 50% increase in scheduled seats and two additional Chinese destinations set to launch in summer 2025.

Turismo de Portugal



Plaza Premium Group Senior Vice President EMEA Okan Kufeci and Red Sea International Airport Chief Executive Officer Andrew Tyler-Smith. Back row from left are Plaza Premium Group Vice President – EMEA Growth & EU/UK Operations Lorenzo Valori; Plaza Premium Group Director of Business Development EMEA Deniz Pieterszoon Pot; Red Sea Global Senior Director – Projects and Operations Legal Kristian Perussich; Red Sea International Airport Chief Commercial Officer Michael White; and Red Sea International Airport Contracts & Procurement Manager Rory Waterman

claimed the Destination award for the second consecutive year, following another record-breaking performance in 2024. The country welcomed 31.6 million visitors and generated €27.7 billion in tourism revenue. With over 90% of international arrivals coming by air, Turismo de Portugal has prioritized strategic airline partnerships and route development across its airport network. In summer 2024 alone, it secured 54 new routes and welcomed 12 new airlines.

Jet2.com was named Airline of the Year—also for the second year running—recognizing its continued growth and network expansion. The

UK-based leisure carrier operated more than 575 routes to 75 destinations from 13 UK bases in the past year, including new operations from Liverpool, Bournemouth, and London Luton. Since

2023, Jet2.com has launched over 160 new routes and added 10 new destinations, including Bergen, Marrakesh, Palermo, and Tallinn.

Finalists in the Airport

and Destination categories were reviewed and scored by a panel of airline judges, while the Airline category was judged by a panel of editorial judges.



Plaza Premium Group Senior Vice President EMEA Okan Kufeci and Red Sea International Airport Chief Executive Officer Andrew Tyler-Smith



Air Astana Receives a String of International Awards for In-flight Excellence

Air Astana received a string of international awards for In-flight Excellence during Aircraft Interiors Expo 2025 held in Hamburg 8th-10th April 2025. This included the prestigious Travel Plus, Onboard Hospitality, and PAX International Readership Awards, with multiple accolades across several categories.

The airline received the Travel Plus Gold Award for its Economy Class amenity kit, bedding collection, and infant kit. The Onboard Hospitality Awards jury gave top marks to Air Astana's baby kits for children under two, Economy Class amenity kits, and its digital menu.

Air Astana was also named a winner at the PAX Readership Awards in the following categories: Best Inflight Entertainment, Best Onboard Catering, Best Economy and Premium Economy Amenity Kits, and Best Kids' Kit.

"These prestigious awards reflect the strong international recognition of our onboard product," said Yelena Obukhova, Vice President of Inflight Services at Air Astana. "We take pride in consistently meeting global standards while shaping a uniquely Kazakh approach to hospitality."

International awards in onboard services are considered an independent benchmark of quality in the air travel industry. Airline products undergo rigorous evaluation by focus groups comprising experienced travelers with a deep understanding of passenger needs who evaluate functionality, design, comfort, and sustainability. These awards highlight Air Astana's commitment to excellence and customer-centric service.



Luis Monreal is Appointed as the New Middle East Sales Director of Lufthansa Group Airlines



Luis Monreal will lead Lufthansa Group Airlines' commercial and sales activities in 16 countries in the Middle East. Based in Dubai, Mr. Monreal will lead the brand's sales and commercial activities, as well as coordinate and manage the Lufthansa, Austrian Airlines, SWISS, Brussels Airlines, Edelweiss and Eurowings representative offices in the Middle East sales region.

Luis Monreal has been appointed Lufthansa Group Airlines Sales Director for the Middle East. Monreal will be responsible for Turkey, the Levant, Iraq, Iran and Pakistan. In his new role, Luis Monreal will report to Julia Hillenbrand, Vice President Sales Europe Middle East and Africa (EMEA) at Lufthansa Group Airlines. With this appointment, Monreal replaces Serkan Guerguen, who has assumed a new position at Lufthansa Group's headquarters in Frankfurt.

Luis Monreal will carry out operations that will further advance the brand's presence in the region, including future collaborations with ITA Airways, the brand's sales network in the region. Monreal's objectives also include further developing distribution channels and increasing the relevance of sustainability solutions.

Mr. Monreal joined Lufthansa as a trainee in 1997 while studying economics at the University of Barcelona and started working as a business developer at Lufthansa Cargo in 1999, before becoming global account manager in 2001. In 2007, Luis Monreal moved to the passenger department of Lufthansa Group Airlines and became Head of Business Development for Spain and Portugal. Since 2012, Mr. Monreal has been responsible for sales in several different markets, including the Netherlands, Spanish-speaking South American markets and, most recently, some markets in the Gulf region.



Riga Airport to Offer the Widest Network of Destinations in the Baltics this Summer

During the summer flight season, which will begin this weekend with the transition to summertime, Riga Airport will offer the widest range of destinations in the Baltics – almost a hundred direct destinations from Riga. On several important routes, airlines will significantly increase the number of flights this summer, ensuring extensive connection options from Riga for further trips.

This summer season, LOT Polish Airlines will offer significantly more flights and 50 % more seats on the Riga-Warsaw route, while British Airways will offer flights between Riga and Heathrow.

National carrier airBaltic will increase the frequency of flights to Amsterdam to three times a day, thus providing passengers from Riga with even wider connectivity to further

destinations elsewhere in the world. The frequency of flights between Riga and Tampere will increase from the current seven flights per week to 13 flights per week. airBaltic will also increase the frequency of flights to Tallinn, Porto, Alicante, Stockholm, Istanbul, and other destinations, as well as launch charter flights to a new destination – Lamezia Terme in Italy.

Finnair will significantly increase flight frequency

and seat availability on its Helsinki route compared to last summer. Weekly flights will rise by a fifth, while available seats will grow by nearly two-fifths.

Norwegian will expand its range of destinations from Riga in the summer season, offering flights to Burgas, Split, and London, as well as continue flights to Alicante launched in the winter season.

Turkish Airlines plans to increase flights on its

regular route to Istanbul, while Lufthansa is adding more flights to Frankfurt. Irish low-cost carrier Ryanair will also increase the frequency of flights to Prague, Cologne, Dublin, Leeds, London, and Manchester.

A total of 11 airlines will provide regular passenger flights at Riga Airport this summer season, while charter flights will be provided by six carriers. Although charter flights to Antalya from Riga Airport operate regularly, it is noteworthy that the Turkish tour operator Mavi Gok plans to use a higher-capacity Boeing 777 on the Riga–Antalya–Riga route this summer.

In the 2024 summer season, the top destinations from Riga Airport by passenger numbers were Helsinki, London, Stockholm, Oslo, and Tallinn.



All Nippon Airways And Singapore Airlines Deepen Commercial Cooperation With Launch Of Joint Fare Products And Revenue Sharing Flights

All Nippon Airways (ANA) and Singapore Airlines (SIA) will begin operating revenue-sharing flights between Singapore and Japan from September 2025, with the joint fare products for these services going on sale in May 2025, further deepening their commercial partnership.

This will enable ANA and SIA to offer customers additional value beyond the existing codeshare partnerships with a greater variety of fare options, enhanced coordination of flight schedules between Singapore and Japan, and seamless connectivity between the Star Alliance carriers.

Both airlines are also working to offer enhanced reciprocal benefits for ANA Mileage Club and KrisFlyer frequent flyer members, including the ability to earn miles on an expanded number of booking classes on ANA and SIA flights. Both airlines will also work to align corporate programmes to bolster the offering to business travellers.

Subject to regulatory approvals, ANA and SIA also intend to expand the scope of the joint venture to include other key markets beyond Japan and Singapore such as Australia, India, Indonesia, and Malaysia.



Since signing their commercial joint venture agreement in January 2020, ANA and SIA have significantly expanded their codeshare arrangement, offering customers more travel options between Japan and Singapore, and beyond.

ANA customers have access to 25 destinations across SIA's network, up from 12 previously^[1]. SIA customers can seamlessly connect to 34 destinations across ANA's network, up from nine previously, including ANA's domestic flights to 30 destinations in Japan^[2].

Mr Shinichi Inoue, Chief Executive Officer, All Nippon Airways, said: "This joint venture with Singapore Airlines is more than a strategic alliance, it embodies ANA's vision to usher in a new era of customer experience that redefines expectations.

Just as ANA is dedicated to consistently exceeding expectations and upholding the highest standards, so too is Singapore Airlines, and this joint venture will be a testament to that commitment. Through this powerful synergy of two leading Asian airline brands, we are confident that we will set a new benchmark for service and customer experience that will change the way passengers view air travel."

Mr Goh Choon Phong, Chief Executive Officer, Singapore Airlines, said: "This strategic partnership between Singapore Airlines and All Nippon Airways brings together two of Asia's pre-eminent carriers. With our extensive network coverage and industry leading products and service, we can leverage our combined strengths to significantly enhance our offerings to customers.

"The joint fare products, revenue sharing flights, and expanded codeshare arrangements are just the start. As we align our frequent flyer and corporate travel programmes and add more markets to our commercial joint venture agreement, we can offer even greater value, better connectivity, and an exceptional experience for customers travelling between Singapore and Japan, and beyond."

[1] Australia (Adelaide, Brisbane, Cairns, Darwin, Melbourne, Perth, and Sydney), Cambodia (Phnom Penh), India (Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kochi, Kolkata, and Mumbai), Indonesia (Jakarta), Japan (Fukuoka, Nagoya, Osaka, Tokyo Haneda, and Tokyo Narita), the Maldives (Male), Myanmar (Yangon), and South Africa (Johannesburg).

[2] Akita, Fukuoka, Hagi-Iwami, Hakodate, Hiroshima, Ishigaki, Iwakuni, Kagoshima, Kochi, Komatsu, Kumamoto, Matsuyama, Miyazaki, Nagoya, Odate, Noshiro, Oita, Okayama, Okinawa, Osaka, Saga, Sapporo, Shonai, Takamatsu, Tokushima, Tokyo Haneda, Tokyo Narita, Tottori, Toyama, Ube, and Yonago.



Helvetic Airways Operates Largest Ever Jet into London City Airport

Helvetic Airways is making history at London City Airport for the second time in three and a half years: After the Swiss regional airline became the world's first commercial airline to land an Embraer E190-E2 at London City Airport in autumn 2021. 26 March 2025, Helvetic Airways' Embraer E195-E2 was the first aircraft of this type to touch down on the runway of London City Airport as part of a regular scheduled flight. With a length of 41.5 metres and a total of 134 seats, the E195-E2 is now the largest aircraft flying from London City Airport. The E195-E2 also has the lowest fuel consumption per seat of all aircraft operating at London City. "Due to its steep approach, London City Airport places high demands on both the aircraft and the specially

trained cockpit crews. Helvetic Airways has both, and we are proud to be the first airline to bring the larger E195-E2 to London City Airport following its premiere with the Embraer E190-E2 in 2021. This makes us the only airline in the world to land at London City with three different Embraer aircraft, allowing us to offer our wet-lease customers the greatest possible flexibility", said Tobias Pogorevc, CEO of Helvetic Airways, in London during the celebrations for the maiden flight. The flight, which was operated by Helvetic Airways on behalf of Swiss International Air Lines on a wet-lease basis, took off from Zurich at 11.30 a.m. and landed at London City Airport shortly after midday.

Alison FitzGerald, CEO of London City

Airport, said: "We're delighted to welcome the first commercial flight of the E195-E2 aircraft to London City, which demonstrates our commitment to working with our airlines and manufacturers to introduce cleaner, quieter, new generation aircraft to the airport.

"The E195-E2 opens up a range of new and exciting destinations for our passengers, and by using quieter and cleaner aircraft this enables us to grow and meet our passenger cap without increasing the number of flight movements."

"London City, where 75% of flights are on Embraer aircraft, is a special place for us. It's great to celebrate another milestone in the E2 story with our partners from Helvetic Airways and London City", said Marie-Louise Philippe, Senior

Vice President Sales & Marketing, Head of Region Europe and Central Asia, Embraer Commercial Aviation. "Offering 30% lower CO2 emissions per seat and a 63% smaller noise footprint compared to the previous generation aircraft, the E195-E2 is the largest, most efficient, and most sustainable aircraft certified for LCY."

Philippe added, "Embraer has developed the world's first automatic takeoff system for aircraft called E2TS – Embraer Enhanced Takeoff System. When certified, E2TS will increase the range of the E195-E2, specifically from LCY, from 3200 km to 4000 km. Bringing new destinations such as Istanbul, Gran Canaria, Casablanca, Athens, and Cairo and within range of London City for the first time.*

Turkish Airlines Expands Network with Ohrid Flights in North Macedonia

Turkish Airlines has further strengthened its presence in Southern Europe by launching flights to Ohrid, a key tourism destination in North Macedonia. With this addition, Ohrid becomes Turkish Airlines' second destination in North Macedonia after Skopje, the 123rd in Europe, and the 353rd globally.

Recognized as one of Europe's most ecologically diverse areas, Ohrid Lake was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1979. The entire city of Ohrid followed in 1980, gaining UNESCO protection for its historical, cultural, and natural significance.

Turkish Airlines now operates four weekly flights between Istanbul Airport and Ohrid St. Paul the Apostle Airport, enhancing regional



connectivity and offering travelers more options.

During the winter season, flights will operate on Thursdays and Fridays. In the summer season, flights will be available on Mondays, Sundays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

A special inaugural ceremony marked the

launch of Turkish Airlines' first flight from Istanbul to Ohrid. Among the distinguished attendees were Turkish Airlines CEO Bilal Ekşi, TAV Airports CEO Serkan Kaptan, TAV Macedonia General Manager Nejat Kurt, TAV Macedonia Deputy General Manager Pero Lupevski, Prime Minister

Hristijan Mickoski, and Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandar Nikoloski.

Passengers on the first flight were welcomed with a taste of local culture, enjoying traditional ajvar and Ohrid makalo, as well as receiving unique postcards showcasing the city's landmarks.



Edinburgh Airport Named Overall Winner at Routes Europe 2025

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Finalists in the Airport and Destination categories were reviewed and scored by a panel of airline judges, while the Airline category was judged by a panel of editorial judges.

Unifi expands UK Operations with Ground Handling and Security Contracts at London Oxford

Unifi has secured its first business aviation ground handling contract and its third Fixed Base Operation/FBO security contract in the United Kingdom, marking a major expansion of its services and a new milestone in its global growth. Effective April 15, Unifi takes over ramp handling operations and fuelling services at London Oxford Airport, which is ranked fifth in the UK for business aviation movements.

In addition, effective May 1, Unifi will become the first-ever external company to manage ramp operations at the airport alongside whole airport security, providing 24/7/365 support, including ID center management, access control, visitor and delivery coordination and NASP passenger screening

through the airport's FBO. The airport, owned by the Reuben Brothers, is experiencing strong growth on its on-demand flight operations as it invests in the future, including a £48 million newly commenced construction of its AerOx Science and R&D Park and another 70,000 sq.ft. hangar, No.16.

Unifi UK's strong local presence and established, trusted relationship with the airport, were key factors in winning the contracts. Up & Away, the aircraft services and executive jet detailing company Unifi purchased in summer 2023, has been providing detailing services at the airport since 2008.

"We are excited to expand our partnership with London Oxford Airport through ground handling

and security operations," said Stefan Murphy, Managing Director Unifi UK and Ireland. "Our team is proud to support the airport's growth with industry-leading services, in what is a significant step for Unifi as we continue expanding our footprint in the UK."

To support the ramp and security contract, Unifi will onboard 35 staff for ramp handling and security operations, ensuring seamless service and continuity. Ramp operations will duly be branded 'London Oxford Airport powered by Unifi.' The company will also continue providing aircraft detailing services through Up & Away.

"We are pleased to welcome Unifi as our first ever outsourced ground

handling partner since launching executive aviation activity (under new ownership) with NASP security compliance (passenger and baggage security screening) in 2008. The move builds on the close working relationship we have enjoyed with Up & Away for 17 years," said Kris Black, Airport Operations Director at London Oxford Airport. "Their expertise, professionalism and deep understanding of aviation operations is renowned, and we look forward to working together to enhance the overall experience for our customers."

This expansion underscores Unifi's continued global growth and its ability to deliver high-quality aviation services across both commercial and private sectors.





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