

# INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTREPORT

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## U.K. To Allow Manchester Airport To Set Own Charges

The U.K. Transport Dept. announced it will de-designate Manchester Airport because it “does not have, and is not likely to acquire, substantial market power,” a ruling that will allow the airport to set its own charges. However, London Stansted will continue to be regulated.

Transport Secretary Ruth Kelly explained that Stansted will continue to have the maximum level of its charges set by the U.K. Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). “The government believes that this remains the best way of protecting passengers who use the airport,” she said.

“In making my decision on Stansted, I have taken into consideration the fact that the airports in the Southeast are now operating at almost full capacity,” Kelly said. “This is bad for passengers in terms of delays,

congestion and lack of choice and it is also bad for the U.K.’s productivity and growth. This is why the government supports a second runway at Stansted and is currently consulting on adding capacity at Heathrow, while satisfying strict local environmental conditions on noise and air quality.” The CAA will continue to set price caps at Stansted until new capacity is delivered, she explained.

Regarding Manchester, Kelly noted that, “Other local airports, such as Liverpool airport, offer real choice for passengers. Furthermore, there is spare capacity at Manchester and competing airports now and for the foreseeable future, even allowing for expected growth in demand. The decision to de-designate Manchester will enable the airport to grow and develop without the costs of excessive regulation falling to passengers in the future.”

## CAAS Awards Contract for NextGen ATC System

The Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) has awarded a contract for a new air traffic control system to Thales. The new system, known as LORADS III (Long-Range Radar and Display System III) will replace the current system, LORADS II.

LORADS III will feature state-of-the-art designs and leverage on cutting-edge technologies that will enable air traffic controllers to handle safely increasing air traffic beyond the next decade, the authority said. Designed for increased reliability, LORADS III also will employ advanced surveillance and communications technologies to build in tighter safety nets and streamline air traffic

## New IAAE Board Members Approved

The AAAE Board of Directors has approved several additions to the International Association of Airport Executives (IAAE) board of directors.

The new members are Bill Fullerton, Lima, Peru; Theresia Schatz, A.A.E., Port Authority of New York and New Jersey; Woodie Woodward, Woodward & Associates; and German consultant Werner Toepel.

management processes.

The contract is valued at more than \$300 million. LORADS III will be implemented in two phases — with the first phase to be completed in 2010 and the second phase in 2012.

## Singapore Changi Airport Opens New Terminal 3

Singapore Changi Airport’s new Terminal 3 commenced scheduled flight operations Jan. 9, following months of intensive preparatory tests and trials of various airport systems.

Singapore Airlines’ long-haul flights will operate out of Terminal 3, and its regional flights will operate out of Terminal 2. Four other airlines, China Eastern, Jet Airways, Qatar and United, will commence operations at Terminal 3 in March 2008.

The Terminal 3 project cost \$1.75 billion. It adds a capacity of 22 million passengers annually to Changi Airport, bringing the airport’s total annual capacity to about 70 million passengers. Terminal 3 also adds another 28 aerobridge gates to the airport. Among the 28 aerobridge gates

## Upcoming Events

**AAAE Arts in the Airport Workshop...**Toronto, Canada, April 30-May 2, 2008

**AAAE/IAAE Canada North American Senior Airport Management Conference...**Toronto, Canada, May 11-13, 2008

**U.S./Europe ATC/Airport Capacity Summit...**Brussels, Belgium, June 30-July 2, 2008

**2008 Airports Conference of the Americas...**St. Maarten, July 20-22, 2008

are eight gates that are designed to handle the A380 aircraft, bringing the total of A380 gates at Changi Airport to 19 across all three main terminals.

## U.S. DOT Unveils Plans To Reduce New York Congestion

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) on Dec. 19 unveiled its plan to reduce congestion in the New York area starting next summer.

An agreement among the major airlines serving Kennedy International caps the number of flights at either 82 or 83 per hour, depending on the time of day, DOT said. The hourly caps will take effect March 15, 2008, and will be in place for 2008 and 2009. Airlines will be able to shift their flights to times of the day when the airport has unused capacity, allowing 50 more flights per day than were offered last summer.

DOT also directed FAA to enter into negotiations to set hourly caps at Newark Liberty, so that flights aren't simply shifted there, erasing gains made at Kennedy International.

The department will appoint an aviation "czar" to serve as director of the newly created New York Integration Office. The czar will coordinate regional airspace issues and all projects and initiatives addressing problems of congestion and delays in New York. As operational improvements increase capacity at New York-area airports, new slots will be leased to airlines with the revenue being used for airspace and airport improvements in the region, DOT said.

## British Airways To Launch 'Open Skies' Carrier

British Airways announced it will launch its new U.S.-European Union subsidiary airline "OpenSkies" in June with daily flights from New York to Brussels and Paris.

The airline will begin service with one 757 aircraft that will operate from New York to either Brussels or Paris

Charles de Gaulle airports. A second aircraft will be added to the fleet later this year to fly to the other EU destination. The plan is to operate six 757s by the end of 2009, all of which will be drawn from the current British Airways fleet.

## Atlanta Ranks As Busiest U.S. Airport

For the third consecutive year, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International in 2007 ranked as the busiest U.S. airport in terms of the number of operations, according to FAA data.

The airport totaled 994,466 flights last year, almost 2 percent more than 2006.

Chicago O'Hare International was the nation's second busiest airport, with 935,000 flights, down 2.4 percent from its 2006 total.

Dallas Fort Worth International was the third busiest airport last year, with 686,711 flights, down 2.3 percent from 2006, FAA said.

## Frankfurt Airport Exceeds Traffic Record

Frankfurt Airport reported that in 2007 it exceeded its record of 54 million passengers for the first time. Annual air freight throughput at the airport also reached a new peak figure of 2.1 million metric tons.

Fraport's executive board chairman Dr. Wilhelm Bender said these extremely positive traffic results exceeded the company's expectations. "At the beginning of 2007, we anticipated noticeably slower passenger growth at our Frankfurt home base due to capacity constraints," he said. "But better aircraft utilization and the structural improvement in flight offers at Frankfurt have provided fresh impetus to traffic development."

Bender explained that the absence of extremely adverse weather conditions also had a positive effect.

Air mail was the only traffic segment to decline at the airport over the past 12

months, slipping by 1.8 percent to 95,168 metric tons. The number of aircraft movements rose by 0.6 percent to 492,569 takeoffs and landings.

Total passenger volume for the Fraport Group reached 75 million 2007 — an increase of 5.5 percent. Frankfurt-Hahn, the group's second airport in Germany, recorded 4 million passengers and growth of 8.4 percent. At Peru's Lima Airport, traffic surged by 24.3 percent to 7.5 million passengers. Fraport's terminals at the Antalya vacation airport in Turkey welcomed 6.4 million passengers, resulting in growth of 12.7 percent. Fraport's Burgas Airport in Bulgaria reported traffic growth of 7.3 percent. In contrast, Varna, Fraport's second airport on Bulgarian Black Sea coast, experienced a traffic dip of 2.6 percent.

## Mexican Airport Group Posts Gain In Total Traffic

Mexican airport operator Grupo Aeroportuario del Centro Norte, S.A.B. de C.V., (OMA) reported that total passenger traffic at its 13 airports was 1.3 million in December 2007, an increase of 12.9 percent compared

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with December 2006.

Domestic traffic in December 2007 totaled just over 1 million passengers, an increase of 16.2 percent compared with the prior year. Eleven OMA airports reported growth in domestic passenger traffic as a result of new routes opened by the new airlines

International traffic totaled 232,126 passengers in December 2007, a 0.6 percent increase compared with December 2006.

### **Eurocontrol Reports Record Number Of Flights In 2007**

Flights in Europe surged to all-time high in 2007 and are forecast to grow steadily in 2008, according to a new report from Eurocontrol.

Highlights of the report are:

- In 2007, the number of flights in Europe reached 10 million, an all-time high and an increase of 5.3 percent over 2006.

- Average daily traffic in Europe in 2007 was 27,676 flights a day compared with 26,286 in 2006.

- Traffic growth was strongest in Eastern Europe, with several states experiencing growth near 20 percent.

- Growth was driven mainly by low-cost carriers, which experienced an increase of 25 percent.

- In 2007, 11 percent of flights were delayed, a slight increase from 2006.

- Air traffic flow management delays increased from an average of 1.9 minutes per flight in 2006 to 2.1 minutes per flight in 2007.

- The number of flights in 2008 is predicted to grow by 4.2 percent.

- Air traffic flow management delays for summer 2008 will exceed 3 minutes per flight, up from 2.6 minutes in summer 2007.

- Traffic growth is expected to be strongest in countries along the Adriatic Coast and in Poland and the three Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania).

### **AAAE, GIAA Set Training Partnership**

AAAE/IAAE and A.B. Won Pat (Guam) International Airport (GIAA) have signed an agreement that will have the organizations working together to create the operating parameters for the establishment of the International Association of Airport Executives (IAAE) –Pacific and to promote training to aviation personnel in the Pacific region.

In addition to creating the new IAAE-Pacific affiliation, AAAE/IAAE and GIAA are working to establish and develop an IAAE-Pacific membership base, provide a regional training academy and help AAAE/IAAE and GIAA to become leaders in airport training in the Pacific region. GIAA will provide an administrative staff to oversee the implementation and growth of these programs, and AAAE/IAAE will provide support including marketing for the IAAE-Pacific membership program and the course materials for all regional training that will be offered.

Will James, AAAE's senior vice president of training and business development, commented, "This is a very exciting time for AAAE and GIAA. This agreement between our organizations will allow us to promote safety-related airport training in this region of the world, and we are enthusiastic that Guam International Airport has invited us and agreed to be our partner in this initiative. With the continued support from GIAA and our expanding relationship, we are sure that these projects will be successful."

The first round of training for 2008 will take place March 10-14 2008, with the Airport Certified Employee (ACE) – Operations Review Course, followed by the ACE – Security Review Course June 16-20, the ACE – Airfield Lighting Maintenance Review Course on Sept. 15-19, and the Second Annual Asia/ Pacific Aviation Issues Conference in October.

For more information about the IAAE-Pacific membership or the ACE training programs, contact Will James via e-mail at will.james@aaae.org, or phone (703) 824-0500, Ext 149, or Dorn Sanders via e-mail at dorn.sanders@aaae.org, or phone (703) 824-0500, Ext. 151.

### **US Airways Selected For China Route**

The U.S. Transportation Dept. has made a final decision to select US Airways to inaugurate its first U.S.-China service in 2009, as well as to award additional U.S.-China passenger flights to American, Continental and Northwest, also for 2009.

The department's decision confirms its tentative decision issued in a Sept. 25 show cause order. The awards are the result of an agreement signed in July 2007 by the U.S. and China to open up new opportunities between the two countries that will double the number of daily flights allowed over the next five years.

### **Virgin Atlantic To Test Biofuel Flight**

Virgin Atlantic said it will fly one of its 747s on biofuel during a demonstration flight in February. It will be the first time that a commercial aircraft has run on biofuel in-flight and is part of a major initiative among some airlines and Boeing to discover sources of sustainable aircraft fuel for the future, company officials said.

The aircraft will fly from London Heathrow to Amsterdam with no passengers on board, using a sustainable type of biofuel that doesn't compete with food and fresh water resources, the carrier said.

# News From Around The World

**Sydney Airport** announced that Singapore Airlines will increase its services to Sydney. The carrier will add a fourth daily service between Sydney and Singapore using new Boeing 777-300ER aircraft that will provide more than 200,000 additional seats to and from Sydney Airport each year.

**Grupo Aeroportuario del Sureste, S.A.B. de C.V. (ASUR)** announced that total passenger traffic for December 2007 increased by 14.3 percent when compared with December 2006.

American Airlines announced it will begin new service between **Dallas Fort Worth International** and **San Salvador, El Salvador**, effective April 7.

The **Australian** low-fare airline Jetstar recently received approval to conduct Required Navigation Performance (RNP) operations. RNP operations will be conducted initially at the Gold Coast and Brisbane airports. RNP represents the most modern aircraft navigation technique. It utilizes GPS and sophisticated avionics to ensure that aircraft stay on precise, pre-programmed paths. In addition to providing navigation solutions for terrain challenged airports, RNP can be used to increase safety and operational efficiency while minimizing aircraft emissions and noise at any airport.

ICTS International N.V., a provider of security services, said that its wholly owned subsidiary I-SEC International Security B.V will launch operations in March 2008 at **London Heathrow** airport Terminal 4. The company said it has a three-year contract with three major U.S. carriers.

Atlas Air Worldwide Holdings, Inc.

announced that Polar Air Cargo Worldwide, Inc. will begin service into **Osaka's Kansai International Airport** from **Chicago O'Hare International Airport**, effective Feb. 21, 2008. Polar will operate five times weekly between Chicago and Osaka, using 747-400 freighter equipment.

British Airways customers flying through and out of **London Heathrow**, effective Jan. 7, were permitted to take two pieces of hand baggage on board, following the U.K. government's decision to lift carry-on restrictions. However, the one bag limit is still in place at Gatwick and other airports.

Arpin International Group, the worldwide household goods forwarder, has opened a new office in the Toronto area, expanding the company's presence into **Canada**.

Hill International, a worldwide construction consulting firm, announced that its contract with the **Government of Dubai's Department of Civil Aviation (DCA)** has been extended to provide claims and contract advisory services in connection with all DCA projects at Dubai International Airport and the new Dubai World Central International Airport located in the Jebel Ali region of Dubai. The extended contract has an estimated value to Hill of approximately \$10.9 million over the next three years.

TAM and LAN Peru have begun their codeshare agreement. The partnership allows TAM to sell flights operated by LAN Peru between **Sao Paulo** and **Lima**, with the possibility of connections to the cities of Arequipa and Cuzco. In return, LAN Peru will offer multiple flight options to various Brazilian state capitals and cities served by TAM.

Kuwait's parliament has approved a government plan to sell 40 percent of **Kuwait Airways** to the public and 35

percent to an investor within two years. The government would retain a 20 percent stake in the carrier and the carrier's workers would own 5 percent.

**Sydney Airport** has added Transaero as its newest international airline. The Russian-based carrier has launched a regular charter service between Moscow and Sydney, flying a 767.

**Aeroports de Paris** in December accommodated 6.7 million passengers, an increase of 3.7 percent over the same month in 2006. Paris Charles de Gaulle airport recorded a gain of 5.4 percent to reach 4.6 million passengers, and Paris-Orly airport traffic rose 0.2 percent to 2.1 million passengers. For the full year 2007, Aeroports de Paris accommodated a record number of 86.4 million passengers.

JetBlue Airways will launch daily nonstop service from Orlando International Airport to **Cancun, Mexico**, on March 13, 2008.

**Japan Air Lines** may seek compensation from Boeing for a delay in the delivery of the 787 Dreamliner, according to published reports. Boeing said this month that initial deliveries of its Dreamliner will be delayed to early 2009 from the original scheduled date of late 2008, due to assembly problems.

Very Light Jet (VLJ) manufacturer Eclipse Aviation said it will expand its partnership with **European Technology and Investment Research Center (ETIRC) Aviation**. The agreement between the two companies includes an equity investment by ETIRC in Eclipse that is substantially in excess of \$100 million.