

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTREPORT

Volume 16 Number 5

May 2008

Africa

U.S. Firm To Renovate Airport In Mozambique

U.S.-based Ayr Logistics, which is building a \$5.5 billion oil refinery in northern Mozambique, said it would spend \$80 million to turn a nearby airbase into a commercial airport.

"We are going to rehabilitate the

Nacala airport so that we can start commercial aviation, as well as private cargo handling," Ayr Logistics General Director Philip Harris told Reuters.

"Estimates indicate an investment of \$80 million, which will wholly come from Ayr Logistics Ltd," he said, adding his company already had reached an agreement with the government. He did not specify when the project would be completed.

Banjul Int'l Renovation To Cost \$38 Million

The second phase of the Banjul International Airport renovation project has been estimated to cost \$38 million, according to the *Gambia Daily Observer*.

The project is expected to kick-off in June and is backed by the Kuwaiti Fund, the government of the Islamic Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the OPEC Fund for International Development.

Nfansu Bojang, director general of the Gambia Civil Aviation Authority, said the second phase is intended to expand the fire and rescue service station and double the current capacity of the ramps to 90,000 square meters.

Bojang added that the renovation will cover the parking lot expansion, improve accessibility to the runway, and rehabilitate the passenger terminal and the control tower.

Abuja Airport Tackles Power Supply Problem

Nigeria's Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport will be upgrading its power supply with the addition of a second source of public power, on recommendation from the International

Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

The Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) has begun to tackle the erratic power supply at Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport by commissioning a 33 kilovolt dedicated dual-line power supply to the airport.

FAAN Managing Director Richard Aisuebeogun said that the new dedicated line "is part of efforts being made by the management in the nation's airports towards creating an enabling environment to attract investors and improving on the revenue generation capacity of the airports."

He said that the Abuja airport power supply project, which was executed in conjunction with the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA), "is in line with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) requirement that stipulates that every airport, especially the international ones, should have two sources of public power supply."

Asia

Chengdu Shuangliu Int'l Airport Reopens

Chengdu Shuangliu International in southwest China, which closed due to the magnitude 7.8 earthquake, has resumed operations, according to officials in the Sichuan Provincial Government.

The closure had stopped 169 inbound flights and 108 outbound flights.

Airport facilities were damaged when the earthquake hit Wenchuan,

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Upcoming Events

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

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

AAAE ACE-Operations Review Course...Tamuning, Guam, Sept. 30-Oct. 4, 2008

U.S./Pacific Airport Issues Conference...Tamuning, Guam, Oct. 5-7, 2008

Airport Tourism and Impact of Low-Fare Airlines Conference...Antalia, Turkey, Oct. 6-8, 2008

14th Annual Central Europe/U.S./Canada Airport Issues Conference...Athens, Greece, Oct. 20-22, 2008

Third Annual AAAE/IAAE International Airport Geographic Information Systems Conference...Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Nov. 11-13, 2008

90 kilometers from Chengdu.

The airport was closed after the earthquake so rescuers could check on the runways.

Bangkok Int'l Sees Construction Delays

The contractor for Bangkok's Airport Link is seeking a one-year extension to complete the \$814.5 million project, blaming slow land transfers from the State Railway of Thailand (SRT).

The delay is subject to approval by the SRT board, according to Sino-Thai Engineering & Construction Plc (Stecon), which leads the consortium building the rail line to Suvarnabhumi Airport.

Tawatjai Sintoplertchaiyakul, Stecon's project manager for the Airport Link, said the company would need an additional 370 days to complete civil works, followed by 90 days to integrate all systems.

The previous government earlier had approved a 180-day extension for the contractor to complete the project by Feb. 4, 2008.

So far, construction of the rail link is about 84 percent complete Sintoplertchaiyakul said. "We need more time to get the civil works done because of the delayed land transfers," he explained.

Construction is advancing steadily, but problems with land transfers have delayed the \$814.5 million project.

Parcels of land along a 1.2 kilometer stretch between the route's Phaya Thai and Ratchaprarop stations were transferred to the contractor 22 months behind the original schedule, Sintoplertchaiyakul added.

Stecon and development company B. Grimm were awarded the civil works contract worth \$385 million for the 28-kilometer route from Phaya Thai to the airport. Another consortium partner, Siemens AG, has a \$426 million contract to develop tracking and signalling systems and supply train carriages.

Prior to the extension, the rail link was scheduled to be transferred to SRT in November of this year, Sintoplertchaiyakul said.

China To Open 97 Airports In 12 Years

A second international airport in Beijing is just one of 97 to be built in China before 2020, the General Administration of Civil Aviation of China (CAAC) said in its latest airport development plan.

According to the plan, which covers the years up to 2020, the number of airports nationwide will increase to 192 by 2010 and to 244 by 2020.

At the end of 2006, China had 147 airports, including 45 used for both civilian and military purposes.

This increase means 82 people out of every 100 will live within 100 kilometers, or a 90 minute drive, from an airport by 2020. Currently only 61 percent of people live within this range, according to the plan.

The Chinese government has said the new airports will cost an estimated \$64 billion.

The civil airport development plan was drafted to meet increasing demand, as CAAC predicted passenger traffic will grow by 11.4 percent annually from now until 2020 and freight traffic will increase by 14 percent a year.

North and Northeast China will have 54 airports total, with 24 yet to be built. Beijing Capital International will become an international air hub.

In East China, CAAC will build 12 new airports, with Shanghai Pudong airport developed into an international hub.

These airports will make the three direct flights across the Taiwan Straits more convenient.

South and Central China will have 14 new airports built and Southwest China will build 21. Under the plan, the number of airports serving more than 30 million passengers a year will increase from three to 13 by 2020.

Four Airports To Handle Taiwan-China Flights

Four airports were selected to accommodate the planned weekend chartered flights between the two sides of the Taiwan Strait, according to the

minister-designate of transportation and communications of Taiwan.

"The four are Taipei Songshan Airport and Taoyuan Taiwan International Airport in Northern Taiwan, Taichung Airport in Central Taiwan and Kaohsiung International Airport in the South," said Mao Chi-kuo in an interview with a local television network.

Mao said the introduction of regular cross-strait charter flights and the wider opening of Taiwan to Chinese tourists on sightseeing visits were two of President-elect Ma Ying-jeou's campaign promises in the run-up to the March 22 presidential election.

The policies meant a lot to the development of Taiwan in many ways, and were expected to revive the country's economy and tourism, Mao said.

Asked what airports in China are likely to be designated to accommodate the weekend cross-strait charter flights, Mao said that decision will be up to China.

Taiwan and China, long-term political rivals, have not allowed direct transportation links with each other for over half a century, despite the geographic proximity of the two

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INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT REPORT

Editor Kevin Eaton
kevin.eaton@aaae.org

Spencer Dickerson, C.M.
Executive Director

Will James, C.M.
Senior VP, International Programs

INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT REPORT is published monthly by the International Association of Airport Executives, an affiliated company of the American Association of Airport Executives, the largest professional organization for airport executives in the world.

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Europe

Balfour Beatty Buys 95 Percent Of Blackpool Int'l

Construction group Balfour Beatty has agreed to buy a 95 percent stake in Blackpool International Airport, which is expected to handle around 500,000 passengers this year.

The \$27 million deal comes after the construction giant's regional airports division bought Exeter International Airport for \$115.7 million. Blackpool council, which will retain a 5 percent stake in the airport, has said Balfour's majority buyout should result in economic growth and new jobs.

Councillor Peter Callow said, "The airport has developed rapidly in recent years and I am confident that Balfour Beatty will be able to take it to an even higher level. I know that they have very exciting plans for the future, which will see expansion of both flights and facilities."

Airlines like Ryanair and Jet2.com fly from the airport, which recently underwent a \$3.8 million refurbishment.

Norwegian Airports Close After Ground Crew Strike

A strike by key ground personnel was stepped up recently in Norway, stranding more than 30,000 people at 12 airports, including the one serving Stavanger, a city in Western Norway that is considered the capital of the Nordic nation's oil industry.

The Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions' LO Stat chapter said the labor conflict that began May 16 over wages and working hours was expanded to include six more airports.

Norway's largest union said 408 members are now on strike at 13 airports. One of them, the national airport Oslo Airport-Gardermoen, was operating normally despite the labor conflict.

Airlines and airports were laying off some personnel.

The national airport agency Avinor said the airports closed by the strike serve the cities of Stavanger, Alta, Leknes, Sandnessjoen, Sogndal and Svolvaer. The conflict earlier shut airports at Bergen, Harstad, Molde, Mo i Rana, Mosjoen and Kristiansund.

It was not clear when contract negotiations might resume, and the government has said it is not ready to end the conflict by ordering binding arbitration.

"Any future dialogue will be between Avinor's employer organization Spekter and LO Stat, but for now, we cannot say anything about when such contact will be re-established," said Avinor spokesman Ove Narvesen.

U.K. To Review How Airports Are Run

The British government will review the economic regulation of the U.K.'s airport system after a report said that operator BAA may be failing airlines and consumers.

Transport Secretary Ruth Kelly said the review would look at how to improve customer service, boost investment and deal with environmental concerns.

Earlier, the U.K. Competition Commission said BAA dominated airports in Southeast England and parts of Scotland.

BAA's seven airports include Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted and Edinburgh. The company, which is owned by Spain's Ferrovial, also controls airports at Glasgow, Southampton and Aberdeen.

"It has been over 20 years since the Airports Act 1986 put in place the current regime of economic regulation and as such it is one of the oldest economic regulatory systems in the country," said Kelly. "Much has changed since then, and there is an urgent need to consider how the framework needs to be updated to reflect today's realities."

The Competition Commission added that it would set out its remedies to any competition problems in August, "whether requiring the sale of one or more of BAA's airports or otherwise. We are particularly concerned by its (BAA's) apparent lack of responsiveness to the differing needs of its airline customers, and hence passengers to reflect today's realities."

The transport secretary said that the government's review would recognize the points made by the competition commission, the aviation industry and key stakeholders about the potential shortcomings of the current regulatory system.

The regulator said that the regulatory system may adversely affect competition between airports.

Edinburgh Airport To Get Airport Motorway Link

Plans for a new direct motorway link from the M8 motorway to Edinburgh Airport in Scotland are being revived.

Last August officials from the Scottish Government argued the new road would have almost no impact on traffic levels, and would only reduce congestion by 1 percent.

However, it emerged that they did not take into account existing company buildings, including the 90-acre Royal Bank of Scotland headquarters site, or plans for other major developments nearby, according to a new revised master plan for the city.

Revised projections show the link is likely to cut traffic levels by 14 percent.

"Good road access will continue to be vital and I am delighted the framework has supported the need for new and improved roads to the airport," said David Johnston, managing director of the airport. "The Scottish Government's way forward keeps open the option of a new road connecting the airport with the M8, which we believe could bring massive benefits in terms of reduced conges-

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tion.”

North America

Edmonton Airport Set For \$1.1 Billion Expansion

Canada's Edmonton Airport is spending \$1.1 billion on a five-year expansion plan that includes a new passenger concourse, 13 additional gates and a new unified baggage system.

The new baggage system directs baggage to the correct airplane no matter where in the terminal a passenger puts a bag on the belt.

Farther down the road is the construction of a new remote long-term parking for 4,000 vehicles with baggage and check-in facilities on site.

Unifying the two current baggage systems will be made possible by demolishing the current north terminal office building and NavCanada control tower, and building new facilities on the west side of the terminal adjacent to the current Gate 49.

It would have cost more than \$25 million to renovate the 50-year-old office-tower complex and it still wouldn't accommodate NavCanada's new technology, said Reg Milley, Edmonton Airports CEO. Moving the complex also will make more room for food and beverage outlets, he added.

With the renovations, Edmonton Airport promises to move passengers from the parking lot through the terminal and to the plane as quickly as possible.

Reflecting this promise, the airport has also created a new brand, "We'll Move You," that was recently launched with a video, acrobats, new blue T-shirts for staff and Milley promising a fresh commitment to customer service.

"We want people to get through the airport as seamlessly as possible. Edmonton's changed a lot in the last five years. It's vibrant, bold, risk-taking and really confident, and our

focus groups have told us we needed to get with it."

Milley said much already is being done to streamline the operation, with self check-in kiosks, park-and-go pay stations, flow-through counters, and the Nexus technology that allows members to move more quickly through U.S. border clearance.

Oceania

Auckland Int'l Names Telecom Exec CEO

Auckland International, New Zealand's main international gateway has appointed Telecom Corp executive Simon Moutter to be its next chief executive.

Auckland International, the subject of a failed stake bid by a Canadian pension fund, said Moutter would assume the position within the next three months.

Airport Chairman Tony Frankham said Moutter's experience in infrastructure businesses and familiarity with negotiating government regulation would be an asset to the airport.

"His achievements make him the ideal person to lead the next stage in Auckland Airport's master plan as we progressively expand our facilities to handle up to 25 million passengers a year by 2025," Frankham said in a statement.

The Canadian Pension Plan Investment Board had shareholder backing for a \$1.4 billion bid for 40 percent of the company, but the government declined regulatory clearance because the airport is seen as a strategic asset.

Frankham said that as a result of the government's stance, the airport is unlikely to attract overseas bidders.

Brisbane Airport Link To Be Built Underground

The biggest public transport project in Australia will go underground to fast-track traffic to Brisbane Airport and avoid congestion in the city's northern suburbs.

Two new underground bus stations will be built on Lutwyche Road, while the \$3.4 billion Airport Link road — with a toll of about \$4.80 when it opens in 2012, but cutting travel time from Bowen Hills to the airport to just six minutes — will also tunnel underground.

The largest road and tunnel project in Australia, it includes a 6.7-kilometer tunnel running 40 to 50 meters underground from Bowen Hills to the airport roundabout.

The tunnel will link from Bowen Hills to Brisbane Airport roundabout and avoid 16 sets of traffic lights, slashing travel times.

South America

Chile Air Facilities Rated 'Mediocre'

Bad flight connections, long waiting lines and restricted flight options are some of the reasons a recent World Economic Forum study placed Chile seventh among Latin American nations in airline services. Worldwide, Chile ranked 50th, with a 3.4 mark on a scale of one to seven.

Only four airlines are operating domestically in Chile: LanChile, Sky Airline, Aerolíneas del Sur and Air Comet, and only seven airports receive international flights. Lack of airline options means that for a traveler to fly from Santiago to Arica, Chile, the traveler must arrive at the airport before 6 a.m.

According to the director of Chile's National Tourism Service, Óscar Santelices, the bad flight connectivity has nothing to do with Chile's airport infrastructure. Chilean airports, said Santelices, are modern and internationally well ranked.

He explained that Chile is a small country and not well situated to offer many more international flights. Expanding flight supply in general is a risk that few airlines want to take, he said.

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Africa

NeuroPie Solutions, a Swiss operations management software supplier, will be installing an airport monitoring system in three airports in South Africa.

The software, called Zeus, is intended to improve performance measurement and operation punctuality. NeuroPie will install Zeus at Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban International airports for the 2010 Football World Cup in South Africa.

Asia

The Vietnamese prime minister approved an expansion plan for the central **Da Nang** and **Chu Lai** international airports. Under the plan, \$281.1 million will be invested to enlarge Da Nang airport in Da Nang City and nearly \$716.8 million to upgrade Chu Lai airport in Quang Nam province. The investment capital will be sourced from the state budget, businesses and individual contributions.

Soekarno-Hatta Airport in Jakarta, Indonesia, will be ready to receive the world's largest passenger plane, the A380, in December when it opens a third terminal. The terminal is designed in part to accommodate fully double-decker aircraft, which can carry 550 passengers. The extension project is estimated to cost \$54 million, local news media recently reported.

Bahrain International Airport is expecting to receive 8.5 million passengers by year-end, making it a record year. Passenger numbers in 2007 reached 6.8 million.

The latest master plan for the **Ajman International Airport, UAE**, recently was unveiled. When completed, the airport will be able to handle 1 million passengers a year and 400,000 tons of cargo. The airport will be built in the

Al-Manama area of Ajman on a 60-million-square-foot tract adjacent to the airport facilities.

Dubai's newest airport, **Al Maktoum International**, will launch its operations next year with a passenger terminal open to low-cost and standard service airlines. When the airport opens, all of the traffic from Dubai International's Terminal 2 will be moved to the new facility.

Oman Air plans to invest \$4.2 million over the next four years in major IT improvements at **Muscat International Airport**, which recorded a 22 percent growth in passenger traffic last year. The project with airport IT company SITA includes check-in, boarding and baggage management, said Habib Bhacker Habib, the airline's head of information computing.

TajikAir is accusing Moscow's **Domodedovo Airport** of stealing luggage from passengers flying from Moscow to Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The airline reported items being taken from luggage and claims that an increasing number of passengers are complaining about the theft of valuable items from their luggage at Domodedovo. The airline has said that Russian police and law enforcement agencies have not responded to official requests to discuss the situation.

Europe

Passenger numbers at **Norwich International Airport** in Eastern England fell by almost 100,000 in its last financial year. A total of 690,000 travelers used the airport last year compared with 777,000 in the 12 months before.

Czech Republic-based Penta Investments, which owns a 73.5-hectare plot

of land earmarked for **Prague Airport's** second runway, has agreed to sell the property to the government for \$254 million. The land will double the capacity of the airport, which is due for privatization.

Passenger traffic at Prague Airport rose by 7.2 percent in the first quarter to a record high of 2.51 million people.

Meinl Airports International Limited (MAI) said it will hold a 67 percent interest in Parma's **Giuseppe Verdi** airport after So.Ge.A.P., the Italian airport's management company, selected MAI as its private partner. MAI said it would invest 20.5 million euros as part of So.Ge.A.P.'s planned capital increase.

Gemina SpA unit **Aeroporti di Roma** SpA said its first-quarter net result swung into a loss of 5.9 million euros, from break-even a year earlier. The company's results increasingly are conditioned by the "totally inadequate" level of tariffs to support its growing volumes of activity and costs, the Rome airport operator said.

George Best Belfast City Airport has been put up for sale by its Spanish owners. Grupo Ferrovial which bought the airport in 2003 said it was "considering strategic alternatives" to its shareholding. A price tag of more than \$198 million has been put on the airport. Grupo Ferrovial paid \$69 million for the property.

North America

Citi Infrastructure Investors (CII) will acquire a 50 percent stake in **Vancouver Airport Authority's** (VAA) subsidiary, YVR Airport Services, to explore ways to help VAA's airports expand. YVR operates 18 airports in seven countries, including the Bahamas, Cyprus and Chile.