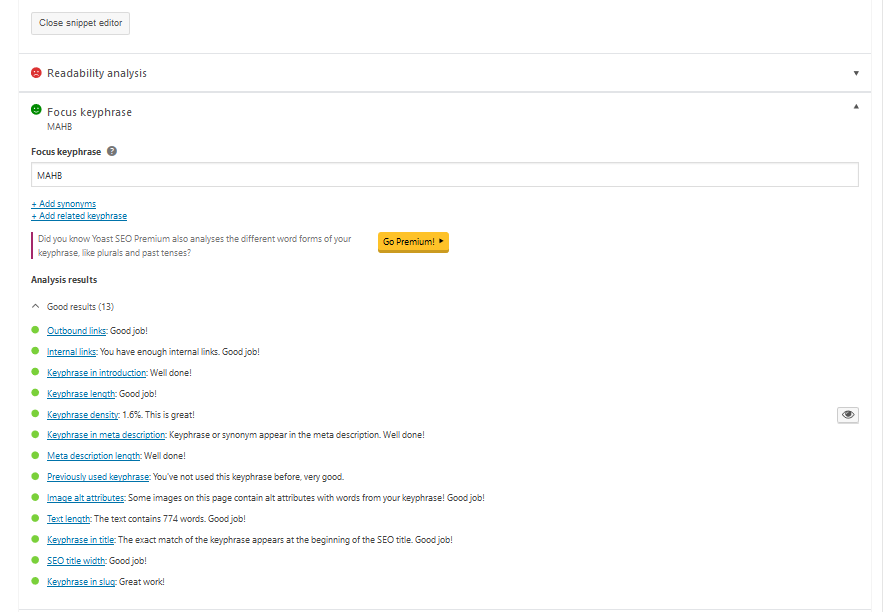
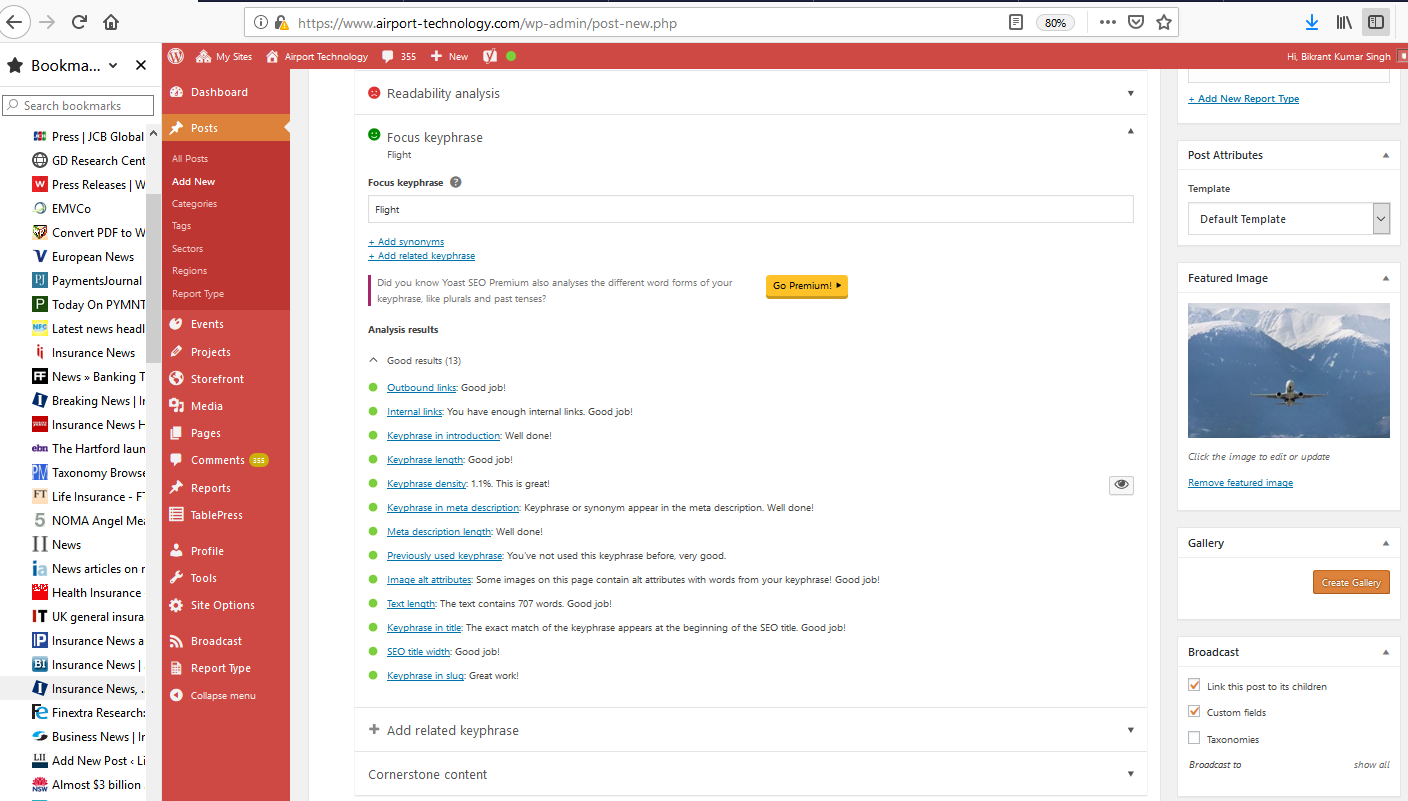


<https://www.airport-technology.com/wp-admin/post.php?post=42069&action=edit>



<https://www.airport-technology.com/wp-admin/post.php?post=42077&action=edit>



SWISSPORT TO ACQUIRE HEATHROW CARGO HANDLING LTD. FROM AIR FRANCE (11th Feb)

<http://www.swissport.com/nc/news-media-center/news-detail/article/swissport-to-acquire-heathrow-cargo-handling-ltd-from-air-france/>

Ireland West Airport announces delivery team for rehabilitation of airport runway (10th Feb)

<https://irelandwestairport.com/news/ireland-west-airport-announces-delivery-team-for-rehabilitat>

Governor Hutchinson and Legislative Leadership Announce $300 Million Highway Plan, Largest in State’s History

<https://governor.arkansas.gov/news-media/press-releases/governor-hutchinson-and-legislative-leadership-announce-300-million-highway-plan>

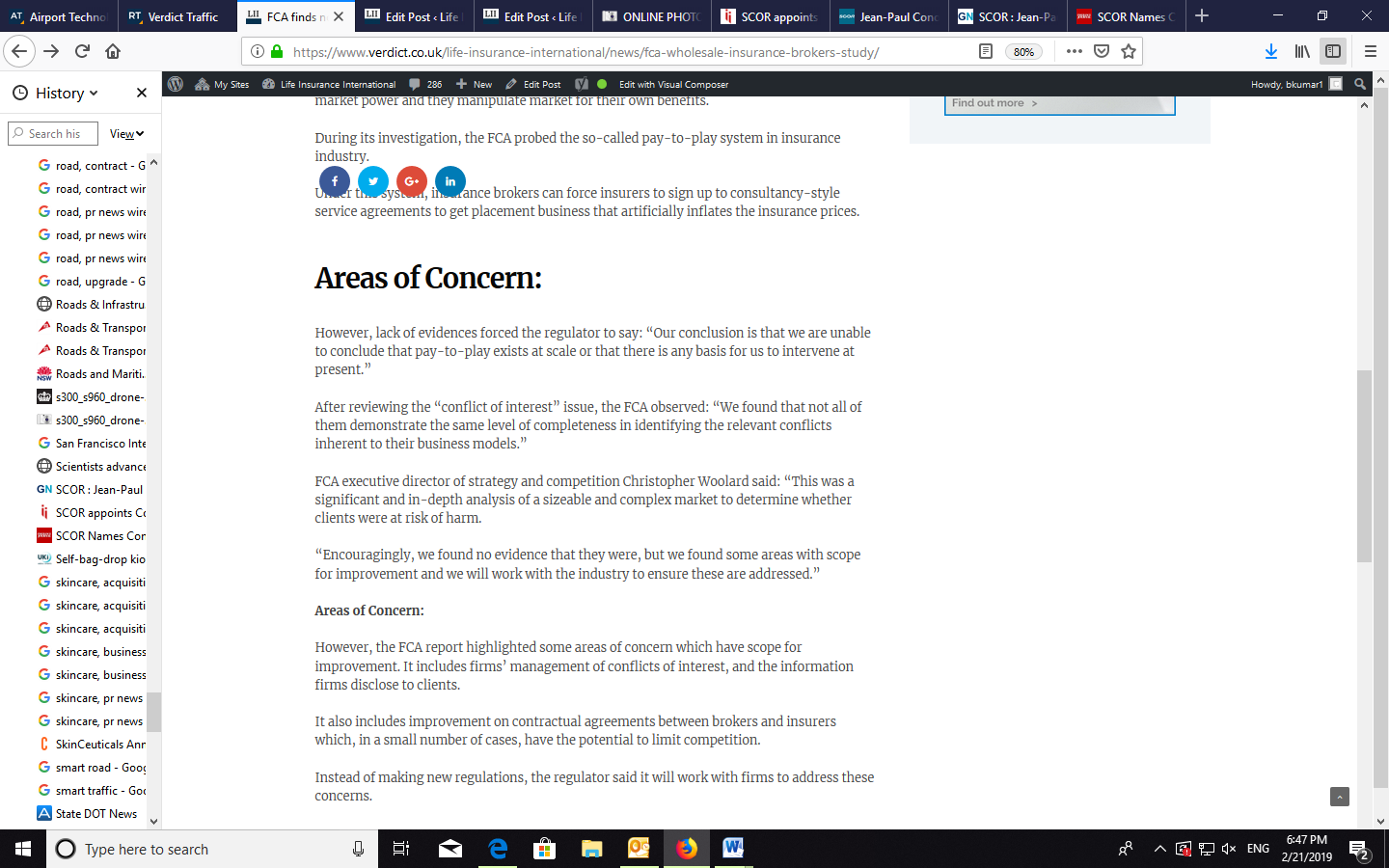
PM to inaugurate Karnaphuli tunnel construction work Feb 24

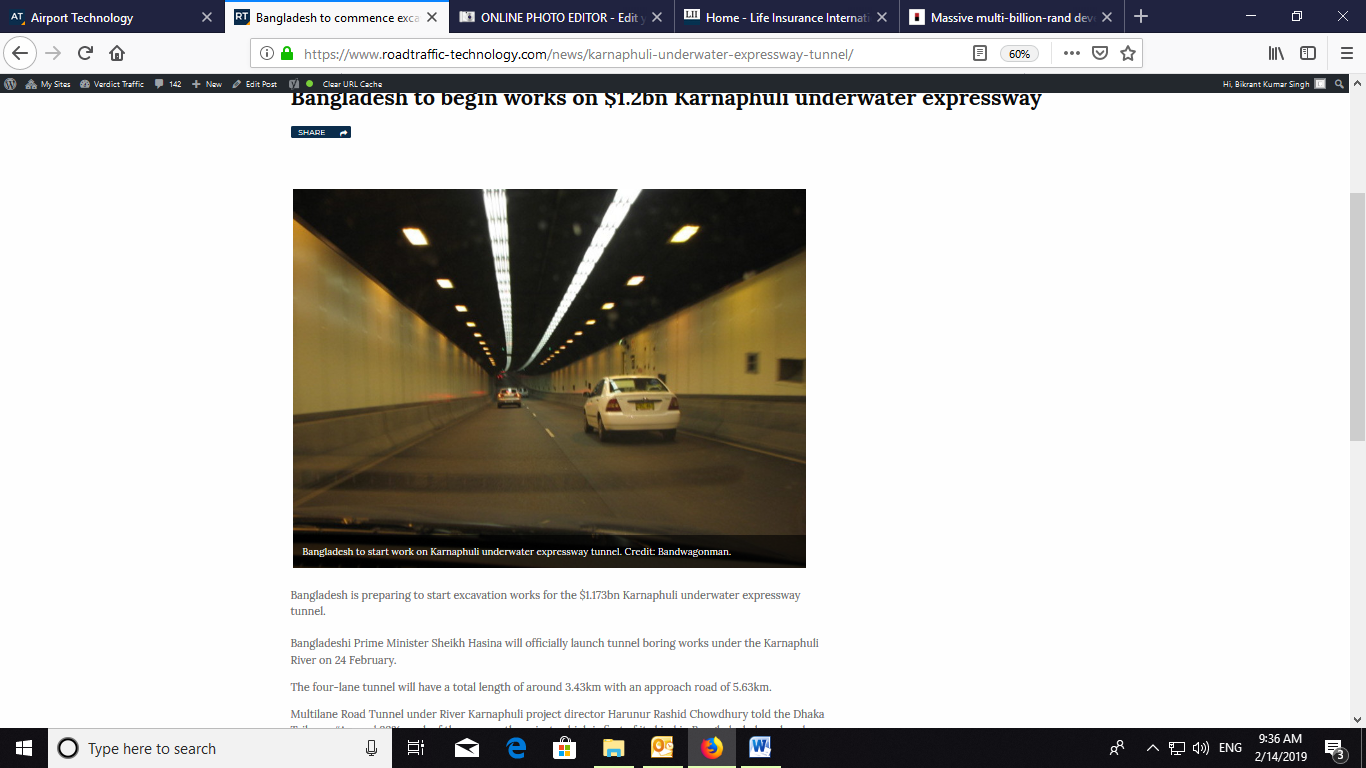
<https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/government-affairs/2019/02/11/pm-to-inaugurate-karnaphuli-tunnel-construction-work-feb-24>

<https://unb.com.bd/category/Bangladesh/pm-to-open-karnaphuli-tunnel-boring-work-feb-24/12460>

<https://www.miamiherald.com/news/business/article226093185.html>

<http://www.wmcactionnews5.com/2019/02/11/ar-governor-unveils-m-highway-funding-plan/>



Solera buys Nordic insurtech in4mo Oy

<https://www.bankingtech.com/2019/02/solera-buys-nordic-insurtech-in4mo-oy/>

Berkshire Hathaway to launch three-page insurance product for small businesses

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/berkshire-hathaway-to-launch-three-page-insurance-product-for-small-businesses/>

Howden acquires strategic stake in Malaysian broker Malene targeting Asia

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/howden-acquires-strategic-stake-in-malaysian-broker-malene-targeting-asia-17644>

Ryan Specialty snaps up Oklahoma P&C broker Westphalen

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/ryan-specialty-snaps-up-oklahoma-p-c-broker-westphalen-17651>

Aon appoints veteran Lambrou as CEO commercial risk solutions

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/aon-appoints-veteran-lambrou-as-ceo-for-commercial-risk-17653>

Liberty launches Casualty in Italy with new hire

<https://www.libertyspecialtymarkets.com/press-releases/liberty-launches-casualty-in-italy-with-new-hire/>

Reliance Insurance Files Fresh IPO Papers, Removes Edelweiss As Merchant Banker

<https://www.bloombergquint.com/business/reliance-insurance-files-fresh-ipo-papers-removes-edelweiss-as-merchant-banker#gs.IxRqcJyQ>

Brokers nervous on Brexit: Aviva research

<https://broker.aviva.co.uk/news/article/800/broker-barometer-brexit-looms/>

<https://www.postonline.co.uk/broker/4020311/brokers-nervous-on-brexit-aviva-research>

Swissport to buy remaining 50% stakes in Heathrow Cargo Handling JV from Air France

Airport ground service provider Swissport International has signed an agreement to acquire remaining 50% stake in Heathrow Cargo Handling (HCH) from its joint venture (JV) partner Air France.

After completion of the proposed acquisition, the Swiss aviation services company will own 100 % of the ground handling JV at Heathrow Airport in the UK.

The HCH JV, which has a workforce of nearly 120 employees, has been offering cargo handling services at Heathrow Airport since 1995.

In 2018, the HCH JV handled more than 150,000 tonnes of air cargo, an increase of 7% compared to save period in 2017.

Commenting on the deal, Swissport Europe, Middle East & Africa executive vice president Luzius Wirth said: “We are very satisfied that we can strategically round off our global cargo business with this selective acquisition.

“On the basis of over 20 years of successful business, jointly with Air France, Swissport now has the right setup to further develop and enhance its service offering at London‘s Heathrow airport.“

Swissport noted that the acquisition of HCH JV will allow the company to further strengthen its air cargo operation and service capabilities at Heathrow airport, where it operates two warehouses with a total area of about 165,000ft².

Subject to Competition and Markets Authority approval, the completion of the HCH stake acquisition by Swissport is scheduled to be completed in the first half of 2019.

On behalf of more than 850 client-companies, Swissport offers airport ground services for about 282 million passengers per year and handles nearly 4.8 million tonnes of air cargo at 122 warehouses across the globe.

*Swissport to acquire remaining 50% stake in Heathrow Cargo Handling JV from Air France to boost its presence in the UK. Credit: Swissport International AG.*

Press release / Image source:

<http://www.swissport.com/nc/news-media-center/news-detail/article/swissport-to-acquire-heathrow-cargo-handling-ltd-from-air-france/>

Swissport to acquire Heathrow Cargo Handling from Air France

Swissport recently agreed to increase its shareholding in Heathrow Cargo Handling Ltd. (HCH) to 100 percent from 50 percent, which it held in a joint venture.

With the recent agreement to acquire the remaining 50 percent stake in Heathrow Cargo Handling Ltd. (HCH), Swissport will then fully own this cargo handling company at one of Europe’s busiest air cargo hubs. The HCH joint venture has been providing first class cargo handling services to the world’s leading airlines at Heathrow,one of Europe’s busiest air cargo hubs,since 1995.

„We are very satisfied that we can strategically round off our global cargo business with this selective acquisition,“ said Luzius Wirth, Swissport Executive Vice President Europe, Middle East & Africa. „On the basis of over 20 years of successful business, jointly with Air France, Swissport now has the right setup to further develop and enhance its service offering at London‘s Heathrow airport.“

The HCH acquisition enables Swissport to invest further in its air cargo operation and service capabilities at Heathrow airport, where it operates two warehouses with a total surface of some 165,000 sq. ft. (approx. 15,300 sq. meters). Last year, the HCH joint venture, with a workforce of some 120 employees, handled over 150,000 tons of air cargo, seven percent more than in 2017.

The completion of the HCH share acquisition by Swissport is subject to Competition and Markets Authority approval and is expected in the first half of 2019.

Swissport International AG,on behalf of over 850 client-companies, provides best-in-class airport ground services for some 282 million passengers annually and handles approximately 4.8 million tons of air cargo at 122 warehouses world-wide. With a workforce of some 66,000 the world’s leading provider of airport ground services and air cargo handling is active at more than 300 airports in 50 countries on six continents. In 2017 the Group generated a consolidated operating revenue of EUR 2.8 billion.

Bangladeshi PM set to inaugurate work for Karnaphuli tunnel

Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is set to inaugurate the excavation work for the proposed Karnaphuli underwater expressway tunnel on 24 February.

The total length of the four-lane tunnel will be around 3.43km with an approach road of 5.63km on both sides of the river. The project is estimated to cost around BDT98.8bn ($1.173bn).

Multilane Road Tunnel under River Karnaphuli project director Harunur Rashid Chowdhury told the Dhaka Tribune: “Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to inaugurate the tunnel boring work under the Karnaphuli River on February 24.

“Around 32% work of the mammoth project, which is first of its kind in Bangladesh, has already been completed.”

A tunnel boring machine (TBM) acquired from China has already been deployed at the construction site. The TBM is capable of digging through soil, sand and even rock layers.

Upon becoming operational, the Karnaphuli tunnel will link Chittagong city to the other side of Karnaphuli River and improve the Dhaka-Chattogram-Cox's Bazar national highway network.

Additionally, the tunnel will boost economic activities, trade and commerce and support garments manufacturers and exporters in the region.

Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) president Mahbubul Alam told the news paper that the terminal is landmark project that will definitely improve the capacity of the Chittagong Port Authority.

"A new city is expected to be developed in the southern part of Chittagong. More and more industrial units will be set up in the KEPZ and at the exclusive Chinese economic zone in Anwara upazila, and huge employment opportunities will be created,” Alam added.

The China Communication Construction Company has been awarded contract for the construction of the tunnel. Work on the project started in December 2017 and is scheduled to be concluded by 2022.

Third party source:

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/government-affairs/2019/02/11/pm-to-inaugurate-karnaphuli-tunnel-construction-work-feb-24>

Other sources:

<https://unb.com.bd/category/Bangladesh/pm-to-open-karnaphuli-tunnel-boring-work-feb-24/12460>

<https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/karnaphuli-tunnel-excavation-begins-feb-24-1700449>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karnaphuli_Tunnel>

PM to inaugurate Karnaphuli tunnel construction work Feb 24

East-bank-UDW-reinforcement-cage-fabrication

File photo of ongoing Karnaphuli tunnel construction work Courtesy

Communication network will expand, economic activities will boost

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is going to inaugurate the much-awaited tunnel boring work under the Karnaphuli River on February 24.

“Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to inaugurate the tunnel boring work under the Karnaphuli River on February 24,” Harunur Rashid Chowdhury, project director of Multilane Road Tunnel under River Karnaphuli, told the Dhaka Tribune.

“Around 32% work of the mammoth project, which is first of its kind in Bangladesh, has already been completed,” he added.

TBM machine

A tunnel boring machine (TBM) has already been procured from China for this purpose.

The machine can excavate tunnels in a circular cross section through a variety of soil and rock layers. It can bore through hard rock, sand, and almost anything in between.

Project to open a new horizon

The mammoth project will open a new horizon in terms of trade and commerce in Chittagong.

The multi-lane road tunnel would take the communication system of the premier port city to a new height and overall economic activities in the region will get a boost, said business community leaders and entrepreneurs.

Terming the tunnel project a landmark phenomenon, Mahbubul Alam, president of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI), said that the tunnel will surely enhance the capacity of the Chittagong Port Authority.

"A new city is expected to be developed in the southern part of Chittagong. More and more industrial units will be set up in the KEPZ and at the exclusive Chinese economic zone in Anwara upazila, and huge employment opportunities will be created,” said Alam, who is also chairman of Port Users’ Forum, a platform of Chittagong port stakeholders.

A blessing to BGMEA

Md Ferdous, vice president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), said the tunnel project would open a new window of opportunity for the people.

“Once completed, the tunnel will provide an impetus to the overall business activities in the region; it will appear as a blessing to garments manufacturers and exporters as it will connect the country to the Asian highway under ‘One City Two Town’ model,” added the BGMEA leader.

File photo of ongoing Karnaphuli tunnel construction work | Courtesy

The four-lane tunnel will be 3.5km in length, with around 6 kilometres of approach roads on both sides of the river. The multi-lane tunnel will connect Chittagong city to the other side of Karnaphuli River, and indirectly with other parts of the country through the Dhaka-Chittagong-Cox’s Bazar highways, reducing road distance and easing the heavy port-city-bound traffic from the capital.

Siltation a major threat

Due to the river morphology, siltation on the bed of the Karnaphuli is a big problem and a major threat to proper operational activities at Chittagong port.

To tackle the problem of siltation, the government planned to construct a tunnel crossing the Karnaphuli, instead of building another bridge over the river, says the feasibility study of the tunnel project.

The tunnel project is set up in the right direction to get rid of the siltation problem on the bed of the Karnaphuli.

Cost of the project

On November 24, 2015, the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) approved the multi-lane road tunnel project under the Karnaphuli River at an estimated cost of Tk 8,446 crore. However, the project cost rose to Tk 9,880 crore due to the increase in compensation cost for land acquisition.

The China Communication Construction Company will carry out the construction work of the tunnel.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Chinese President Xi Jinping laid the foundation stone of the colossal project on October 14, 2016. The construction work of the project commenced on December 5, 2017, and is likely to be completed by 2022.

VIASPACE Plans to Complete Acquisition of Elite Therapeutics

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/viaspace-plans-to-complete-acquisition-of-elite-therapeutics-300792809.html>

Green Growth Brands Partners with Simon Property Group to Launch America's First Chain of CBD Shops

<https://www.indystar.com/story/money/2019/02/11/cbd-oil-indiana-ohio-cannabis-firm-launch-personal-care-shops-castleton-square-mall/2836692002/>

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/green-growth-brands-partners-with-simon-property-group-to-launch-americas-first-chain-of-cbd-shops-300793022.html>

Health & Glow launches its 150th store in India

<https://www.indianretailer.com/news/Health-Glow-launches-its-150th-store-in-India.n9243/>

Solera acquires Finnish insurtech company in4mo Oy

US-based technology company Solera has purchased in4mo Oy, a provider of property structure software and services for the insurance, repair, and homeowner marketplaces.

Established in 2007 and headquartered in Helsinki, in4mo Oy offers Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) based software and services in the Nordic region.

Solera believes that the deal will speed up the delivery of next-generation digital home applications for its customers and property owners.

Commenting on the acquisition, Solera founder, chairman and CEO Tony Aquila said: “Solera’s mission is to create the smartest digital solutions that advance the ways we manage and protect life’s most important assets.

“With more than 180,000 building repair claims processed per year, in4mo’s solutions are trusted by many of the finest and most reputable insurers in Europe.

“We look forward to working with in4mo’s leadership team to expand our global property claims platform for insurers, extend our reach into the household and deliver even more innovative solutions to all participants in the asset ownership marketplace at a pace faster than ever before.”

in4mo’s scalable mobile-first technology platform is used by insurance carriers in Norway, Denmark, Finland and Sweden, and has gained early traction in Germany, too.

Founded in 2005, Solera offers solutions for property claims such as repair invoice validation, structural and contents loss estimating, predictive analytics and pre-emptive fraud detection, as well as personal identity verification and security.

<https://www.bankingtech.com/2019/02/solera-buys-nordic-insurtech-in4mo-oy/>

<https://www.solera.com/solera-acquires-in4mo-oy-a-market-leader-in-property-structure-software-and-services-for-the-insurance-repair-professional-and-homeowner-marketplaces/>

Howden agrees to buy strategic stakes in Malaysian specialist insurer Malene

Howden, part of the Hyperion Insurance Group, has reached an agreement to purchase a strategic stake in Malene Insurance Brokers in Malaysia.

Malene operates as an independent niche broker in the energy and power sector in Malaysia. The company also offers takaful insurance products.

The move is part of Howden’s strategy to strengthen its footprint in the Southeast Asian market and follows the recent merger of Howden and Maxi in Thailand to form Howden Maxi.

Additionally, Howden is also acquiring the remaining 51% stakes in CIMB Howden Insurance Brokers from CIG Bhd, a subsidiary of Malaysian financial services company CIMB Group.

Both CIMB Howden and Malene will rebrand as “Howden”. CIMB Howden will be renamed as Howden Insurance Brokers while Malene Insurance as Howden Takaful Brokers.

Upon completion of the transactions, Malene will become part of CIMB Howden and operate under one locally incorporated holding company HBG Malaysia.

Collectively, they will be the second largest insurance broker in Malaysia.

Jose Manuel Gonzalez, chief executive officer of Howden Broking Group said: “Investing in the right partners in Asia is a key priority for Howden as we continue to broaden our distribution of specialist solutions for clients.

“By partnering with Malene, we build on Howden’s existing Islamic finance expertise in the Middle East and move closer towards building a leading global takaful capability.”

Howden Asia regional CEO Goh Chye Huat said since CIMB Howden joined the group in 2015, the business had gone from strength to strength.

“Our latest investments in Malaysia are an important step in achieving our vision of being a leader in each of the markets that we operate in across Asia. I look forward to watching our operations in Malaysia continue to thrive,” Huat added.

Financial terms of the transaction have not been revealed.

<https://www.nst.com.my/business/2019/02/459264/howden-acquires-strategic-stake-malene-insurance>

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/howden-acquires-strategic-stake-in-malaysian-broker-malene-targeting-asia-17644>  
<https://www.insurancebusinessmag.com/asia/news/breaking-news/howden-invests-in-malaysian-specialist-brokerage-158272.aspx>

Viaspace prepares to wrap up takeover of cosmetics firm Elite

Viaspace has announced that the company is preparing to conclude its planned acquisition of cosmetics company Elite Therapeutics.

Earlier, Viaspace had signed a nonbinding letter of intent (LOI) to purchase Elite Therapeutics. The planned deal was presented in May of 2015 to enable both firms to concentrate on their respective core businesses.

Commenting on the deal, Viaspace board chairman and acting CEO Dr. Kevin Schewe said: “In December 2018, the US farm bill took Hemp from a Schedule 1 controlled substance to an agricultural commodity.

“We are working to position Viaspace to generate revenues from three lines of business including: top-line cosmetics and luxury CBD-containing cosmetics; hemp-related revenue including CBD oil and the sale of hemp seeds along with continued commercialization of Giant King Grass (GKG) for animal feed and renewable biomass/bioenergy.

“We are projecting that the acquisition of Elite Therapeutics will add more than $300,000 of revenue to VIASPACE in 2019 with plans to grow the luxury CBD cosmetic product line moving forward and create economies of scale through our partnership with Viaspace California, Inc.”

The acquirer said that the all-stock acquisition of Elite Therapeutics will be finalised within the next one month.

Elite Therapeutics was established in 2007 as Bad Love Cosmetics Company. In late 2010, the company started doing business as Elite Therapeutics. The company launched its latest hemp-derived product known as "CBD Recovery Crème" in last year.

In May 2018, Viaspace formed a special purpose company “Viaspace California” that will produce hemp in Southern California. Elite Therapeutics will be a primary consumer of the Viaspace California, hemp-derived CBD.

*Viaspace plans to conclude acquisition of cosmetics firm Elite. Credit: rawpixel on Unsplash*

Image source:

<https://unsplash.com/photos/xDE_p0EXpc8>

Press release:

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/viaspace-plans-to-complete-acquisition-of-elite-therapeutics-300792809.html>

VIASPACE Plans to Complete Acquisition of Elite Therapeutics

SANTA CRUZ, Calif., Feb. 11, 2019 /PRNewswire/ -- VIASPACE, Inc. (OTC: VSPC) today announced that it now plans to complete the acquisition of luxury cosmetics company Elite Therapeutics (www.elitetherapeutics.com). VIASPACE had previously signed a nonbinding Letter of Intent (LOI) to acquire Elite Therapeutics. In May of 2015, the proposed acquisition was tabled to allow each company to focus on their respective core businesses. There are recent developments that now make this acquisition more compelling.

Elite Therapeutics was founded in 2007 as Bad Love Cosmetics Company, LLC and began doing business as Elite Therapeutics with high quality, results-driven, medical grade cosmetics in late 2010. Elite Therapeutics has a full line of luxury products for personal use and high-end hotel amenities. This past year, the company has developed a new, ultralux, hemp-derived "CBD Recovery Crème". This product was launched on February 04, 2019 and can now be found on the Elite Therapeutics website. It uses a highly purified, hemp-derived, CBD isolate which is THC-free and is of the same high quality as the entire, physician-designed Elite Therapeutics product line.

On May 24, 2018, VIASPACE announced that VIASPACE and VIASPACE executives had established a special purpose company named "Viaspace California, Inc." which is now proceeding with its plans to grow hemp in Southern California this year with business objectives to process the hemp for Cannabidiol (CBD) and other commercial uses, and selling or licensing name-brand hemp seeds. Elite Therapeutics would be a primary consumer of the Viaspace California, Inc., hemp-derived CBD.

VIASPACE Board Chairman and Acting CEO, Dr. Kevin Schewe, commented: "In December 2018, the U.S. farm bill took Hemp from a Schedule 1 controlled substance to an agricultural commodity. We are working to position VIASPACE to generate revenues from three lines of business including: top-line cosmetics and luxury CBD-containing cosmetics; hemp-related revenue including CBD oil and the sale of hemp seeds along with continued commercialization of Giant King Grass (GKG) for animal feed and renewable biomass/bioenergy. We are projecting that the acquisition of Elite Therapeutics will add more than $300,000 of revenue to VIASPACE in 2019 with plans to grow the luxury CBD cosmetic product line moving forward and create economies of scale through our partnership with Viaspace California, Inc. We remain committed to position VIASPACE to generate revenues and build shareholder value overall. We expect to finalize a VIASPACE all-stock acquisition of Elite Therapeutics within the next 30 days."

About VIASPACE Inc.

VIASPACE grows renewable Giant King® Grass as a low-carbon fuel for clean electricity generation; for environmentally friendly energy pellets; and as a feedstock for bio-methane production and for green cellulosic biofuels, biochemicals and biomaterials. Giant King® Grass is a proprietary, high yield, dedicated biomass energy crop. Giant King® Grass when it is cut frequently at 4 to 5 feet tall is also excellent animal feed. The USDA granted approval for planting Giant King® Grass throughout the US and cooperates in exporting by performing the required inspections and issuing the phytosanitary certificate needed for import into foreign countries. Giant King® Grass is being grown in the US including Hawaii, and many foreign countries. For more information, please go to www.VIASPACE.com or contact Dr. Jan Vandersande, Director of Communications, at 800-517-8050 or [IR@VIASPACE.com](mailto:IR@VIASPACE.com).

Dubai to launch smart traffic control system by mid-2020

Dubai will launch an integrated traffic system by the middle of the next year to help predict and manage the traffic flow, prepare fast response plans and make quick decisions during accidents.

Powered by artificial intelligence (AI), the new traffic control system will also improve road safety and support mobility around the city.

The announcement was made by Dubai Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) director-general Mattar Al Tayer during the plenary session on 'The Future of Mobility in the Age of 4IR (4th Industrial Revolution) at the World Government Summit (WGS).

Al Tayer said that the UAE has committed all its resources to cope with the technological and industrial breakthrough.

“Our leaders have made an early start in anticipating and shaping the future. It is no wonder that UAE has been the home of the world's longest driverless metro line since 2009 - with ridership clocking one billion by the end of 2017,” Al Tayer added.

He further said: “The country had launched the UAE’s Fourth Industrial Revolution Strategy; which is based on benefiting from nanotechnology, artificial intelligence (AI), smart devices and digital transactions in all fields.

“In the mobility field, it seeks to provide autonomous air, land, and marine transit modes fully managed by AI systems.”

In 2016, Dubai introduced autonomous mobility strategy as part of its plan to transform 25% of the total transportation to autonomous modes by 2030. The existing share of autonomous modes stood at 9%.

However, Al Tayer stressed that the government systems should be modernised so that it could cope with the future developments.

*Dubai to introduced AI-powered smart traffic control system by the middle of next year. Credit: Kenan Süleymanoğlu on Unsplash*

Image source:

<https://unsplash.com/photos/CGq0hXrJGdY>

Third party source:

<https://www.khaleejtimes.com/nation/dubai/dubai-to-implement-ai-powered-traffic-system-next-year>

Other source:

<https://www.rta.ae/wps/portal/rta/ae/home/news-and-media/all-news/NewsDetails/our-leaders-made-an-early-start-to-shape-the-future>

<https://menafn.com/1098102216/Dubai-to-introduce-smart-traffic-system-mid2020>

Dubai to implement AI-powered traffic system next year

The smart traffic control system, which will be operational ahead of the Expo 2020 Dubai.

Dubai will implement an integrated traffic system powered by AI (artificial intelligence) by middle of next year, Mattar Al Tayer, director-general and chairman of the board of executive directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), said at the World Government Summit (WGS) on Monday.

The smart traffic control system, which will be operational ahead of the Expo 2020, will forecast and manage the traffic movement; prepare quick response plans and take real-time decisions during accidents - as well as reduce the time of handling them; improve road safety and facilitate mobility around the city.

Speaking at the WGS during the plenary session on 'The Future of Mobility in the Age of 4IR (4th Industrial Revolution)', Al Tayer said that the UAE has committed all its resources to cope with the technological and industrial breakthrough.

"Our leaders have made an early start in anticipating and shaping the future. It is no wonder that UAE has been the home of the world's longest driverless metro line since 2009 - with ridership clocking one billion by the end of 2017," Al Tayer noted.

He said that the UAE has its Fourth Industrial Revolution Strategy anchored on nanotechnology, AI, smart devices and digital transactions in all fields.

"In the mobility field, Dubai seeks to provide autonomous air, land, and marine transit modes fully managed by AI systems," he noted.

Al Tayer added: "In 2016, Dubai has launched a fully-fledged autonomous mobility strategy in the field of autonomous mobility aimed at transforming 25 per cent of the total transportation in Dubai to autonomous modes by 2030. The current share of autonomous modes is 9 per cent.

Al Tayer also brought to attention the roles of governments in keeping pace with the accelerating technology, including enacting pertinent legislation that will promote safety, security and privacy;

"There is a need to upgrade the government systems to align them with future developments, such as the revision of the principles of town planning and the transport infrastructure to make them responsive to future needs," he underlined.

"There is also a need to improve the techniques of identifying customer needs and expectations and measuring their satisfaction level," Al Tayer added.

Concluding his speech, Al Tayer was optimistic about the future of the transport sector across the world, and in Dubai in particular: He said: "We are under no illusion that the future developments and challenges of transport will be immense. Yet, we are getting prepared to cope with them."

Dubai Metro's disruptive technology

Did you know that Dubai residents were initially afraid to take the Metro when it first began its operation back in September 2009? The reason: It has no driver.

Mattar Al Tayer, director-general and chairman of the board of executive directors of the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA), said that the initial daily riders of Dubai Metro were just between 30,000 - 40,000, a far cry from its current daily ridership of around 600,000.

Al Tayer shared at the World Government Summit that the disrupted technology of introducing a driverless Metro was met with apprehension at that time.

So, he ordered to place someone in front of the Metro train to pretend as the driver. His trick worked and ridership picked up to around 120,000 daily.

Now, the Dubai Metro is the most popular mode of transport in the city, accounting around 36 per cent of all public transport means, including public buses, tram, marine transport and taxis.

In 2017, more than 200m rides were registered at the Metro (both Red and Green lines) and it has clocked in one billion rides by end of 2017.

Ryan Specialty to acquire Westphalen Insurance and Boston Insurance in US

Ryan Specialty Group (RSG) has agreed to acquire Westphalen Insurance Services, an independent wholesale insurance brokerage based in Oklahoma, US.

Westphalen, founded in 1987, offers property and casualty, personal lines and transportation insurance products.

As per terms of the deal, the Westphalen team will become part of R-T Specialty, the wholesale brokerage unit of Ryan Specialty Group. The acquired entity will establish the RSG’s presence in Oklahoma.

RT Specialty chairman and CEO Tim Turner said: “We are very excited to have Jeff and his team at Westphalen join RT Specialty. The Oklahoma City market is one that we’ve been targeting and have been looking for the right broker; Westphalen is that broker. We couldn’t be happier to establish our presence with this team.”

Separately, RSG has completed the previously acquisition of wholesale insurance brokerage Boston Insurance Specialists (BIS). BIS’ team will now operate as a part of R-T Specialty.

Established in 2001, Boston Insurance offers property, casualty, professional liability, as well as personal lines of insurance products.

Financial terms of both the transactions were not disclosed.

<https://ryansg.com/news/rsg-announces-agreement-acquire-westphalen-insurance-services-inc/>

<https://ryansg.com/news/rsg-completes-acquisition-boston-insurance-specialists/>

Liberty Specialty forays into Italian casualty market

Liberty Specialty Markets (LSM), part of Liberty Mutual Insurance Group, has forayed into the casualty market in Italy.

The company has hired Paolo Pitton to manage the casualty business in the country. He will be based in Milan.

Prior to accepting the new role, Pitton was working as deputy casualty manager for Chubb Europe.

He has nearly 18 years of experience in the insurance sector. He started his career with Lloyd’s broker WBA in 2000. Later, he worked in management roles with RSA, AIG Europe, Chartis and QBE.

Liberty Specialty Market Italy general manager Antonio Sacchi said: “Since we launched in Italy in 2012, we’ve been steadily growing our presence, now reaching 35 people in our Milan office.

“We’re now adding a local underwriting capability in casualty, which is of real strategic importance to our clients, allowing us to offer a broader range of solutions in the Italian market.

“Paolo has a tremendous track record. He’s highly experienced with a strong knowledge of the market. He’s also very well-known in our market.”

Liberty Specialty Markets provides specialty and commercial insurance and reinsurance products in the UK, Europe, Middle East, US as well as other global markets.

<https://www.libertyspecialtymarkets.com/press-releases/liberty-launches-casualty-in-italy-with-new-hire/>

<https://www.libertyspecialtymarkets.com/>

Denmark’s Billund Airport taps Amadeus' technology to accelerate automation

Billund Airport in Denmark has selected Amadeus’ cloud-based technology to improve the travellers’ experience and accelerate the automation process.

As part of the collaboration, the Danish airport has deployed Amadeus’ Altéa Departure Control System that will provide self-service bag drop and online check-in services to the passengers of both charter and scheduled flights.

Billund Airport COO René Høgh Jensen said: “We design our airport with our passengers in mind. This modernisation of technology allows us to improve the experience for our passengers today, and ensure we are able to meet capacity demands in the future.

“We found in Amadeus the right IT partner to upgrade the quality of our processes and reach a new stage on the journey towards complete digitalisation.”

The airport has also adopted the Amadeus Baggage Reconciliation System that has been completely integrated with airline and ground handler systems.

In order to improve traceability and reduce any possibility of bags mishandling, the cloud-based system tracks passengers’ luggage in real-time.

Additionally, the new solution allows Billund’s airline customers to abide with IATA’s Resolution 753 that mandates airlines to maintain an accurate inventory of baggage data at key stages of the journey.

Amadeus EMEA airport head Yannick Beunardeau said: “Amadeus always aims to support its customers with the right technology to meet their business needs.

“We are pleased to help Billund deliver a modern self-service capability that’s on par with Europe’s largest airports. That’s the power of a cloud-based infrastructure that can be easily deployed in a short period.”

*Denmark’s Billund Airport deploys Amadeus' self-service bag drop and online check-in solution. Credit: Amadeus IT Group SA.*

Press release / Image source:

<https://amadeus.com/en/insights/press-release/billund-airport-embraces-amadeus-forward-thinking-technology-to-underpin-its-digitalization-journey>

From: Daniel Garrun [mailto:DanielGarrun@nridigital.com]   
Sent: Tuesday, February 12, 2019 4:08 PM  
To: newsleads\_asia@progressivemediagroup.in  
Subject: [Verdictnews\_Asia] FW: Billund Airport embraces Amadeus' forward thinking technology to underpin its digitalization journey

Billund Airport embraces Amadeus' forward thinking technology to underpin its digitalization journey

Denmark’s second largest airport chooses Amadeus’ modern, cloud-based technology to enhance the passenger experience and process automation

Saving travelers time and delivering a great experience are key priorities for airports. Thanks to latest digital technology, it has never been easier for passengers to check in and drop their baggage at a self-service kiosk or even at their hotel. It is not only more convenient for passengers, it also brings more agility to airports and improves their efficiency significantly.

This is why Billund, Denmark’s second largest airport, has deployed Amadeus’ innovative solutions to support its digitalization journey and improve the passenger experience through process automation and self-service capabilities.

Billund Airport was originally opened to serve the Lego factory in the town and still operates many charter airlines transporting leisure passengers to nearby Legoland. These charter flights will now be handled through Amadeus’ Altéa Departure Control System. With this rollout, self-service bag drop and online check-in are offered to passengers of both charter and scheduled flights.

As part of its strategic move to cloud technology, the airport has also adopted the Amadeus Baggage Reconciliation System which is fully integrated with airline and ground handler systems. This innovative solution uses real-time data to track passengers’ luggage, thus increasing traceability and reducing instances of mishandled bags. It also enables Billund’s airline customers to comply with IATA’s Resolution 753, which requires airlines to maintain an accurate inventory of baggage data at key stages of the journey.

René Høgh Jensen, COO, Billund Airport, remarked: “We design our airport with our passengers in mind. This modernization of technology allows us to improve the experience for our passengers today, and ensure we are able to meet capacity demands in the future. We found in Amadeus the right IT partner to upgrade the quality of our processes and reach a new stage on the journey towards complete digitalization.”

“Amadeus always aims to support its customers with the right technology to meet their business needs,” said Yannick Beunardeau, Head of Airport IT, EMEA, Amadeus. “We are pleased to help Billund deliver a modern self-service capability that’s on par with Europe’s largest airports. That’s the power of a cloud-based infrastructure that can be easily deployed in a short period.”

Haneda Airport to reserve half of new slots for Japanese and US airlines

Haneda Airport will allocate approximately half of the nearly 50 slots to be developed at the airport when the country hosts the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics Games in 2020.

At present, the arrival and departure slots at the airport totals 60,000 per annum which will be increased to 99,000 by next year.

Addressing a press conference, Japanese transport minister Keiichi Ishii said that out of 50 slots, Japanese as well as US airlines will be allocated 12 daily slots each.

The remaining slots will be given to other passenger carriers considering the government target of attracting 40 million foreign tourists to Japan in 2020.

Ishii was quoted by The Japan Times as saying: “We will use (the new slots) to expand the number of visitors to Japan and enhance Japan’s international competitiveness.”

Japan is working to add new flight paths over central Tokyo in the spring of 2020 to set up the new arrival and departure slots at the airport.

However, local people have expressed their concerns about increased and objects falling from aircraft. To alleviate the fear, the transport ministry through briefing sessions is trying to apprise the residents about the expected impact of the planned increase in flights at the airport.

“We will make use of formal procedures and decide (on the plan) after gaining local consent,” Ishii told the publication.

In January, Japan reached an agreement with the US to manage new routes for commercial flights in the airspace controlled by the US military which has imposed flight restrictions that create air traffic congestion in Tokyo and surrounding areas.

As per the terms of the agreement, Japan will control the new routes that will go through part of the airspace.

Third party source:

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/02/12/national/half-new-slots-haneda-airport-given-japanese-u-s-airlines/#.XGLEA7jwB8M>

Other sources:

<http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/AJ201902120047.html>

Half of new slots at Haneda airport to be given to Japanese and U.S. airlines

Japanese and U.S. airlines will be allocated about half of the roughly 50 slots to be created at Tokyo’s Haneda airport in the run-up to the Olympic and Paralympic Games next year, transport minister Keiichi Ishii said Tuesday.

Japanese airlines will be given 12 daily slots and U.S. airlines will be given another 12, Ishii said, while indicating that the remainder will be allocated in accordance with the government target of attracting 40 million foreign travelers to Japan in 2020.

“We will use (the new slots) to expand the number of visitors to Japan and enhance Japan’s international competitiveness,” he said at a news conference.

Japan plans to introduce new flight paths over central Tokyo in the spring of 2020 to create the new arrival and departure slots at Haneda, which was already the world’s fourth busiest airport in terms of total passenger traffic in 2017, according to Airports Council International.

As many local residents are concerned about noise and objects falling from aircraft, the transport ministry has been holding a series of briefing sessions on the expected impact of the planned increase in flights at Haneda.

“We will make use of formal procedures and decide (on the plan) after gaining local consent,” said Ishii.

Last month, Japan reached a basic agreement with the United States to manage new routes for commercial flights in U.S. military-controlled airspace over part of Tokyo and surrounding areas.

The agreement enables Japan to expand annual arrival and departure slots for international flights at Haneda from the current 60,000 to 99,000 before the 2020 games. The airspace, just west of the airport, has been controlled by U.S. forces since the postwar period.

The flight restrictions have forced numerous commercial flights in and out of the airport to detour or fly at certain altitudes to avoid it, causing air traffic congestion.

The tiered airspace, currently controlled by the U.S. military headquartered at Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo, has different levels at altitudes between about 2,400 and 7,000 meters and stretches over Tokyo and eight other prefectures.

Under the deal, Japan will control the new routes that will go through part of the airspace.

Located about 15 kilometers from central Tokyo, Haneda airport resumed hosting international flights in 2010 and has rapidly expanded services in recent years under the government policy of promoting tourism.

Traffic report January: Travel to Asia drives growth at CPH

<https://www.cph.dk/en/about-cph/press/news/2019/2/traffic-report-january-travel-to-asia-drives-growth-at-cph>

Bristol Airport to increase funding for noise insulation to local residents

<https://www.internationalairportreview.com/news/81170/bristol-airport-noise-insulation/>

Massive multi-billion-rand development plan for OR Tambo Airport

<https://www.iol.co.za/business-report/companies/massive-multi-billion-rand-development-plan-for-or-tambo-airport-19271578>

Chalai & Manaveeyam chosen for smart road project in pilot phase

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/thiruvananthapuram/chalai-manaveeyam-chosen-for-smart-road-project-in-pilot-phase/articleshow/67966801.cms>

High-Tech Tool To Target Dangerous Drivers

<https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/high-tech-tool-to-target-dangerous-drivers/>

New intersection for Oxley Highway at Rawdon Island

<http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/about/news-events/news/members-of-parliament/2019/190212-new-intersection-oxley-highway-at-rawdon-island.html>

Big investors approached for SBI General Insurance deal

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/big-investors-approached-for-sbi-general-insurance-deal/articleshow/67969150.cms>

European insurer ERGO to sell non-life business in Russia

<https://in.reuters.com/article/munich-re-group-divestiture-russia/european-insurer-ergo-to-sell-non-life-business-in-russia-idINL5N2071CR>

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/munich-res-ergo-to-sell-russian-non-life-arm-to-reso-garantia/>

Brown & Brown, Inc. Announces the Asset Acquisition of Smith Insurance Associates, Inc.

<https://globenewswire.com/news-release/2019/02/12/1720632/0/en/Brown-Brown-Inc-Announces-the-Asset-Acquisition-of-Smith-Insurance-Associates-Inc.html>

J&K Bank adds IFFCO-Tokio as another insurance partner

<https://kashmirreader.com/2019/02/13/jk-bank-adds-iffco-tokio-as-another-insurance-partner/>

Beazley to offer environmental liability policy for banks & lenders

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/beazley-to-offer-environmental-liability-policy-for-banks-lenders/>

Reinsurance support part of Mitsui Sumitomo’s strategic alliance with Russian insurer

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/reinsurance-support-part-of-mitsui-sumitomos-strategic-alliance-with-russian-insurer/>

AXA XL to cut 711 jobs in Europe as it begins major restructuring

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/axa-xl-to-cut-711-jobs-in-europe-as-it-begins-major-restructuring-17659>

InsurTech Socotra Closes $5.2 Million Led by Venture Firm 8VC with Insurers Nationwide and Mitsui Sumitomo

<https://globenewswire.com/news-release/2019/02/12/1721034/0/en/InsurTech-Socotra-Closes-5-2-Million-Led-by-Venture-Firm-8VC-with-Insurers-Nationwide-and-Mitsui-Sumitomo.html>  
Beazley-Ascot launch $50m insurtech linked Lloyd's cargo consortium

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/beazley-ascot-launch-50m-insurtech-linked-lloyd-s-cargo-consortium-17656>

RFIB expands African operations with new headquarters

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/rfib-expands-african-operations-with-new-headquarters-17663>

European insurer ERGO to sell non-life business in Russia

<https://in.reuters.com/article/munich-re-group-divestiture-russia/european-insurer-ergo-to-sell-non-life-business-in-russia-idINL5N2071CR>

Beazley to offer environmental liability policy for banks & lenders

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/beazley-to-offer-environmental-liability-policy-for-banks-lenders/>

Reinsurance support part of Mitsui Sumitomo's strategic alliance with Russian insurer

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/reinsurance-support-part-of-mitsui-sumitomos-strategic-alliance-with-russian-insurer/>

AXA XL to cut 711 jobs in Europe as it begins major restructuring OK

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/axa-xl-to-cut-711-jobs-in-europe-as->

it-begins-major-restructuring-17659

InsurTech Socotra Closes $5.2 Million Led by Venture Firm 8VC with Insurers Nationwide and Mitsui Sumitomo

<https://globenewswire.com/news-release/2019/02/12/1721034/0/en/InsurTech-Socotra-Closes-5-2-Million-Led-by-Venture-Firm-8VC-with-Insurers-Nationwide-and-Mitsui-Sumitomo.html>

Beazley-Ascot launch $50m insurtech linked Lloyd's cargo consortium

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/beazley-ascot-launch-50m-insurtech-linked-lloyd-s-cargo-consortium-17656>

RFIB expands African operations with new headquarters

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/rfib-expands-african-operations-with-new-headquarters-17663>

Strike in Belgium forces Dublin Airport to cancels several Irish flights to and from Brussels

A national strike called by the air traffic controllers in Belgium has forced a number of airports including Dublin Airport and Brussels Airport to cancel several flights to and from Brussels.

Travellers scheduled to take their flights from both the airports have been advised to contact their airlines for the most up to date flight information before leaving for the airport.

Dublin Airport said that a general 24 hour strike will start in Belgium at 21.00 GMT on 12 February.

Charleroi airport, the local hub for Ryanair, had already closed its operations and cancelled around 600 outbound flights and all flights coming due to strike.

Brussels Airlines has cancelled all of its 222 flights, reported RTÉ.ie.

Aer Lingus has also cancelled flights between Dublin and Brussels.

In a statement, Aer Lingus said: "Regrettably we have been forced to cancel four services operating the Dublin-Brussels route tomorrow, Wednesday 13 February, as a result of a national strike in Belgium.

"Guests whose travel plans are affected have been notified via SMS/email and can rebook free of charge on the next available flight or opt for a refund.

"To minimise disruption we are operating additional capacity on Thursday 14 February."

Aer Lingus say affected passengers have been contacted and can rebook on the next available flight at no extra charge or choose to get a refund.

Belgian air navigation service provider Skeyes said that it would not permit any flights to take off or land as a safety precaution.

Air traffic controllers have called the strike in protest of stalled negotiations between national trade unions and the government pertaining to a two-year pay increase for all workers in the country.

*Strike called by air traffic controllers’ forces airports to cancel several flights to and from Brussels. Credit: Alexander Jonsson.*

Image source:

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ryanair_737-200_EI-CKS.jpg>

Third party source:

<https://www.thesun.ie/travel/3748158/dublin-airport-flights-brussels-cancelled-strike/>

Other sources:

<https://www.politico.eu/article/all-flights-to-or-from-belgium-canceled-during-wednesday-strike/>

<https://www.rte.ie/news/world/2019/0212/1029165-belgium/>

Dublin Airport say several Irish flights to and from Brussels cancelled tomorrow due to 24-hour strike in Belgium

Passengers due to fly to and from Brussels Airport tomorrow are told to contact their airlines as several flights have been cancelled

DUBLIN Airport say some Irish flights have been affected by strikes in Belgium overnight and tomorrow.

Passengers due to fly to and from Brussels Airport tomorrow are told to contact their airlines as several flights have been cancelled.

Dublin Airport chiefs say some flights to and from Brussels have been cancelled tomorrow due to strikes

Crispin Rodwell - The Sun Dublin

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Dublin Airport chiefs say some flights to and from Brussels have been cancelled tomorrow due to strikes

A general strike will kick off at 9pm Irish time this evening.

Dublin Airport tweeted: "A general 24 hour strike will commence in Belgium at 21.00 GMT this evening.

"A number of flights to/from @DublinAirport / @BrusselsAirport have been cancelled.

"Passengers are advised to check with their airline for the most up to date flight info."

A general 24 hour strike will commence in Belgium at 21.00 GMT this evening.

A number of flights to/from @DublinAirport / @BrusselsAirport have been cancelled.

Passengers are advised to check with their airline for the most up to date flight info.

— Dublin Airport (@DublinAirport) February 12, 2019

Several Aer Lingus and Ryanair flights scheduled to depart tomorrow have been cancelled, according to the Dublin Airport website.

Ryanair flight FR1452 scheduled to depart at 6.30am tomorrow has been cancelled, as well as Aer Lingus flight E1630, which had been due to leave Dublin at 6.50am.

Ryanair's FR046 flight to Brussels South scheduled for 1.20pm, as has Aer Lingus flight EI636 to Brussels which was due to jet off at 3.30pm.

And Ryanair's afternoon flight FR1456 at 4.30pm is also cancelled.

Dublin Airport have flights listed as cancelled on their website

dublinairport.com

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Dublin Airport have flights listed as cancelled on their website

Flights from Brussels to Dublin on Wednesday are also impacted

dublinairport.com

Due to fly into Dublin tomorrow, the Dublin Airport website currently lists three flights from Belgium as cancelled.

Ryanair flight FR1453 from Brussels to Dublin, scheduled for 10.35am, has been cancelled as well as Aer Lingus' E1361, due to depart for Dublin at 11.05am.

And Ryanair flight FR047 from Brussels South to Dublin which had been scheduled for 5.05pm on February 13 is also listed as cancelled.

Aer Lingus say affected passengers have been contacted and can rebook on the next available flight at no extra charge or choose to get a refund.

Bristol Airport to invest in noise insulation scheme for local residents

Bristol Airport has set aside approximately £2m to be invested in noise insulation scheme for local residents that will also facilitate uninterrupted airport development.

The airport is offering £1.8m to fund for noise insulation for homes in the surrounding area currently being considered by North Somerset Council.

As part of proposals to increase capacity from 10 million to 12 million travellers per annum by the middle of the next year, the airport will increase the amount available to households by 50% up to a maximum of £7,500 per property.

The scope of the scheme will also include upgraded mechanical ventilation for the first time, which will allow local people to keep windows closed to experience the full benefit of the high-performance acoustic double-glazing.

The existing scheme grants more than £200,000 to 70 local properties on the condition that they will require paying for 50% of the costs of installation.

As per the new proposals, grants will cover 100% of costs up to £7,500 (in the 63dB LAeq 16hr contour) and £3,750 (in the 60dB and 57db contours).

Through the new measures, the airport aims to encourage many eligible properties to get the possible benefit from noise insulation scheme.

Bristol Airport sustainability head James Shearman said: “These proposals represent Bristol Airport’s most comprehensive noise insulation grant scheme to date and will see us supporting local residents with increased funding for a wider range of noise insulation improvements.

“This scheme goes beyond Government policy recommendations and will be amongst the most comprehensive and wide-ranging offered by a UK airport, demonstrating our commitment to reducing and mitigating the impacts of development on our neighbours.”

Local resident Jackie Abbott said: “Having our windows replaced has made a real difference, making it much quieter – particularly at night.”

Currently, Bristol Airport’s application to boost capacity to 12 million passengers per annum is being considered by North Somerset Council.

In order to secure the permission, the airport has submitted a number of other proposals relating to noise, retaining many of the current limits on night flying as well as limit of 4,000 flight movements per annum.

*Bristol Airport allocates £2m to be invested in noise insulation scheme for local residents. Credit: Bristol Airport.*

Image source:

<https://www.bristolairport.co.uk/about-us/news-and-media/image-gallery>

Press release:

<https://www.bristolairport.co.uk/about-us/news-and-media/news-and-media-centre/2019/2/noise-insulation-scheme>

£1.8 million fund for noise insulation to accompany airport development

Created: 12th Feb 2019

Nearly £2 million will be available to local residents living near Bristol Airport as part of an enhanced noise insulation scheme accompanying development plans currently being considered by North Somerset Council.

As part of proposals to increase capacity from 10 million to 12 million passengers a year by the mid-2020s, the amount available to households will increase by 50 per cent up to a maximum of £7,500 per property.

In addition, upgraded mechanical ventilation will be included in the scope of the scheme for the first time, enabling residents to keep windows closed in order to experience the full benefit of the high-performance acoustic double-glazing.

The current scheme, which remains open, has granted in excess of £200,000 to 70 local properties, but requires residents in the ‘outer’ qualifying noise contour to contribute 50 per cent of the costs of installation. Under the new proposals, grants will cover 100 per cent of costs up to £7,500 (in the 63dB LAeq 16hr contour) and £3,750 (in the 60dB and 57db contours). This is intended to encourage take up to ensure as many eligible properties as possible benefit from noise insulation.

James Shearman, Head of Sustainability at Bristol Airport, said:

“These proposals represent Bristol Airport’s most comprehensive noise insulation grant scheme to date and will see us supporting local residents with increased funding for a wider range of noise insulation improvements.

“This scheme goes beyond Government policy recommendations and will be amongst the most comprehensive and wide-ranging offered by a UK airport, demonstrating our commitment to reducing and mitigating the impacts of development on our neighbours.”

Local resident, Jackie Abbott, said:

“Having our windows replaced has made a real difference, making it much quieter – particularly at night.”

North Somerset Council is currently consulting on Bristol Airport’s planning application to increase capacity to 12 million passengers a year. This includes several other proposals relating to noise, retaining many of the current limits on night flying, for which the annual limit of 4,000 movements would be retained – although flexibility on the way this is allocated between summer and winter seasons is being sought. The overall Quota Count system, based on noise ratings for different aircraft types, will remain in place in order to incentivise the use of quieter, modern aircraft.

Bristol Airport is the ninth busiest airport in the UK and the fifth busiest outside London. More than £160m has been invested in facilities and infrastructure since 2010, contributing to Bristol being named ‘Best Airport’ in the 5-10 million passengers category at the ACI Europe Awards in June (ACI Europe represents over 500 airports in 45 countries across the continent).

Victoria deploys new technology to catch dangerous drivers

The Government of Victoria in Australia has equipped its law enforcing agency including Victoria Police with new road safety technology to target dangerous drivers.

As part of the initiative, Minister for Police and Emergency Services Lisa Neville introduced the first highway patrol vehicle fitted with Automatic Number Plate Recognition and in-car video technology.

As part of the Victoria Police’s highway patrol fleet, the new Automatic Number Plate Recognition and in-car video recording system will enable Victoria Police’s to get dangerous drivers and vehicles off the roads.

The Automatic Number Plate Recognition can scan up to 2500 number plates an hour. It will enable Victoria Police to identify criminals using stolen cars while also helping to solve fuel theft.

Additionally, the cameras will monitor for unlicensed drivers, drivers with interlock conditions, unregistered or stolen vehicles, and motorists with pending warrants.

Using the in-car video technology, the highway patrol can record audio and video footage of road policing activities, such as roadside intercepts which can be submitted in court as evidence.

The government said that the new technology will be deployed across 38 highway patrol vehicles by the mid-2019, while the full launch is scheduled for completion by 2021.

The first vehicle will be based in Bendigo.

Neville said: “We’re making sure Victoria Police has all the resources they need to nab dangerous drivers and get them off our roads.

“We’ve had a shocking start to the road toll this year – Automatic Number Plate Recognition will help target motorists who shouldn’t be on the road.

“These upgrades are part of our biggest ever investment in Victoria Police which is delivering 3,135 extra police and the latest equipment to keep the community safe.

The roll out is backed by the Victoria government’s A$2bn Community Safety Statement commitment to install Automatic Number Plate Recognition technology across 221 highway patrol vehicles.

*Victoria government introduces new road safety technology to target dangerous drivers. Credit: toine Garnier on Unsplash.*

Image source:

<https://unsplash.com/photos/iRnUeA04kUY>

Press release :

<https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/high-tech-tool-to-target-dangerous-drivers/>

High-Tech Tool To Target Dangerous Drivers

Victoria Police will be able to keep a closer watch on dangerous drivers with new road safety technology rolling out across Victoria Police’s highway patrol fleet.

Minister for Police and Emergency Services Lisa Neville today joined the road policing command to unveil the first highway patrol vehicle fitted with Automatic Number Plate Recognition and in-car video technology.

Automatic Number Plate Recognition and in-car video recording technology will significantly boost Victoria Police’s ability to get dangerous drivers and vehicles off the roads, scanning up to 2500 number plates an hour.

The cameras will check for unlicensed drivers, unregistered or stolen vehicles, drivers with interlock conditions, and motorists with outstanding warrants.

The Automatic Number Plate Recognition will also play an important role in helping Victoria Police identify offenders using stolen cars and assist in solving fuel theft.

The in-car video technology will allow the highway patrol to record audio and video footage of road policing activities, including roadside intercepts.

The high-quality recording can be used as evidence in court hearings and will help protect police members through the public’s awareness that they are being filmed.

The technology will be installed across 38 highway patrol vehicles by the middle of the year, with the full rollout to be completed in 2021. The first vehicle will be based in Bendigo.

The roll out is backed by the Andrews Labor Government’s $2 billion Community Safety Statement commitment to install Automatic Number Plate Recognition technology across 221 highway patrol vehicles.

The Labor Government continues to deliver new technology for Victoria Police, with smart devices and body-worn cameras being deployed to our frontline police and Protective Services Officers, and a state-of-the art intelligence system that is helping police catch serious and recidivist criminals.

Ten new state-of-the-art alcohol and drug testing buses are also being delivered as part of a $15 million boost from the Government to replace Victoria Police’s ageing fleet.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Police and Emergency Services Lisa Neville

“We’re making sure Victoria Police has all the resources they need to nab dangerous drivers and get them off our roads.”

“We’ve had a shocking start to the road toll this year – Automatic Number Plate Recognition will help target motorists who shouldn’t be on the road.”

“These upgrades are part of our biggest ever investment in Victoria Police which is delivering 3,135 extra police and the latest equipment to keep the community safe.”

Ergo to divest non-life operation in Russia to RESO-Garantia

Ergo Group, part of German reinsurer Munich Re, has agreed to divest its non-life insurance business to RESO-Garantia in Russia, as part of its strategy to reduce its Russian footprint.

Ergo Non-Life Russia offers insurance products and services including motor, voluntary health coverage, accident, life and liability insurance, property, mortgage, travel, as well as reinsurance products.

In 2017, the non-life business generated a total premium income of €103.4m.

As per terms of the deal, RESO-Garantia will take over the whole company, including employees, the client portfolio and IT systems. The ownership change in Ergo Non-Life Russia will not affect obligations towards ERGO’s current clients.

RESO-Garantia CEO Dmitry Rakovshchik said: “Ergo Non-life is a high quality business with strong consumer loyalty. This acquisition advances the non-organic part of RESO’s growth strategy aimed at expanding its highly profitable motor insurance portfolio and maximizing cost synergies.”

ERGO International COO Alexander Ankel said: “With RESO-Garantia, we have found an investor that has an impressive and proven track record in the Russian insurance market.

“Utilising one of the most comprehensive branch networks in Russia with more than 900 branches and sales offices, RESO-Garantia is perfectly positioned to service millions of customers with tailor-made insurance products.

“This agreement also sees us consistently pursuing our international business strategy of focusing on the markets in which we already have a strong footprint.”

Ergo sold its [Russian life insurance subsidiary to Rosgosstrakh in October](https://www.verdict.co.uk/life-insurance-international/news/russian-insurer-rosgosstrakh-acquire-ergo-life-munich-re/) last year.

<https://www.ergo.com/en/Media-Relations/Pressemeldungen/PM-2019/20190211-ERGO-Russia-Non-Life>

<https://in.reuters.com/article/munich-re-group-divestiture-russia/european-insurer-ergo-to-sell-non-life-business-in-russia-idINL5N2071CR>

AXA XL to abolish 711 jobs due to business restructuring in Europe

AXA XL, a division of French insurance giant AXA, will cut nearly 711 jobs from its European businesses as part of plans to integrate businesses in Italy, Germany France, and the UK into a single structure.

Under the plans, AXA XL will combine AXA Corporate Solutions, AXA Matrix, AXA Art and XL Catlin, to become a united AXA XL division.

The planned cuts are expected to affect about 7.5% of AXA XL’s workforce of 9500 employees across the globe. However, the company will provide support to affected staff including internal redeployments or voluntary departures.

AXA Group chief integration officer Doina Palici-Chehab said: “Consistent with AXA’s long-term responsible employer strategy, AXA XL is committed to supporting its employees through the change period, and every effort will be made to assist them.”

The latest job cut follows [AXA acquisition of Bermuda-based property and casualty commercial lines re/insurer XL Group](https://www.verdict.co.uk/life-insurance-international/news/axa-secures-regulatory-nod-15-3bn-xl-group-acquisition/) in September last year. AXA [paid around $15.3bn for XL](https://www.verdict.co.uk/life-insurance-international/news/french-insurer-axa-acquire-xl-group-15-3bn/) Group.

AXA XL said that after completion of the acquisition, several teams have already started working together, and the company has tangible business wins as a result of going to market with a stronger proposition.

In Europe, AXA XL started transferring staff into a single company in February and also commenced plans for merging certain legal entities.

AXA XL CEO Greg Hendrick said: “This is a very important next step for AXA XL in its journey to become a united division. This proposed target operating model and organisational structure will help us to deliver the best services to our customers and provide them with the innovative solutions they need to succeed.”

Now, AXA XL is moving to complete the next phase of integration, which will include a new target operating model and organisational structure. Additionally, it will cover proposes activities and synergies to support the division’s combined operations.

The plan, which will be presented further on a country-by-country basis, will be implemented following discussions with social partners.

<https://axaxl.com/insurance/news/axa-xl-presents-its-operating-model-and-organisational-structure-target-plan>

<https://www.businessinsurance.com/article/20190212/NEWS06/912326656/Axa-XL-trims-European-staff-in-wake-of-merger>

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/axa-xl-to-cut-711-jobs-in-europe-as-%20it-begins-major-restructuring-17659>

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Ascot and Beazley roll out insurtech linked cargo consortium for SMEs

Ascot, a Bermuda-based re/insurance firm, specialty insurer Beazley have introduced a cargo consortium that uses insurtech solutions to help manage risk and claims performance.

Based on Lloyd’s platform, the A2B consortium brings together various cargo carriers that will offer a maximum of $50m capacity to SME cargo business that has faced high expenses due to the nature of the subscription market.

Led by Ascot and Beazley, the new consortium will enable brokers to provide their clients with underwriting and claims management in a cost efficient way.

The consortium will allow insureds to use electronic cargo monitoring devices for cargo accumulation and data collection that will be helpful in risk management and claims. The device has been developed by Denver-based insurtech firm Parsyl.

Ascot group CEO Ascot Andrew Brooks said: “This consortium shows how Syndicates can come together in a subscription market to provide coverage in a cost efficient way for smaller premium business.

“Recent years have been difficult overall for the Cargo market but this initiative will be transformative for insureds, their brokers and Lloyd’s carriers.”

Beazley group head of marine Tim Turner said: “The London insurance market’s origins are in marine and over the years it has adapted to the changing needs of the sector. This new consortium shows how the London market can come together to combine underwriting expertise and cutting-edge technology for the benefit of our customers.”

Lloyd’s head of innovation Trevor Maynard said: “This is precisely what the Lloyd’s Lab has been set up to do. I’m thrilled to see our Syndicates utilising the Lab to generate new ideas and deliver the next generation of insurance products and services for the benefit of our customers.

“The fact that the Lab can attract such high calibre tech talent and ideas from around the world just goes to show that Lloyd’s continues to lead the way on insurance innovation.”

<https://ascotgroup.com/ascot-and-beazley-launch-50m-insurtech-linked-cargo-consortium>

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/beazley-ascot-launch-50m-insurtech-linked-lloyd-s-cargo-consortium-17656>

WellSpan Partners with Citrix to Transform Healthcare

<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20190212005008/en/WellSpan-Partners-Citrix-Transform-Healthcare>

VitalConnect Unveils Vista Solution 2.0 to Improve Real-time Patient Monitoring for Earlier Intervention

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/vitalconnect-unveils-vista-solution-2-0-to-improve-real-time-patient-monitoring-for-earlier-intervention-300794132.html>

Veritas Capital Completes Acquisition of athenahealth

<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20190211005504/en/Veritas-Capital-Completes-Acquisition-athenahealth>

VCU to break ground on $350M children’s hospital expansion this spring

<https://richmondbizsense.com/2019/02/12/vcu-break-ground-350m-childrens-hospital-expansion-spring/>

Insurtech Socotra raises $5.2m in new funding round

Insurtech firm Socotra has raked up an additional $5.2m in funding round led by Venture Firm 8VC as well as venture arm of insurers Nationwide and Mitsui Sumitomo.

The latest capital raise follows successful completion of $5.5m Series A funding round that brings total funding to $18m.

Socotra has developed cloud-native platform with open configuration and APIs that allows insurers to implement backend technology with their own engineering resources or their favourite systems integrator.

Socotra’s flexible and modern design platform allows insurance carriers to cut costs, to launch products quickly and easily integer with future technologies.

Socotra CEO Dan Woods said: “With this new capital, we will accelerate product enhancements and reach even more insurers trapped by artifact IT systems.”

MS&AD Ventures managing partner Jon Soberg said: “The insurance industry is experiencing a technology revolution, and the winners will not be powered by today's legacy technologies.

“Socotra has built the most complete productized SaaS platform in the market, and they have a world class engineering team. We’re excited to contribute to Socotra’s continued success.”

Nationwide vice president and leader of venture capital team Erik Ross said: “We have been closely following Socotra’s progress for 18 months, and have been continually impressed by the company’s clarity of vision and speed of execution.

“We’re excited to be investors and even more excited about how our relationship could evolve to the benefit of our members.”

<https://globenewswire.com/news-release/2019/02/12/1721034/0/en/InsurTech-Socotra-Closes-5-2-Million-Led-by-Venture-Firm-8VC-with-Insurers-Nationwide-and-Mitsui-Sumitomo.html>

Contract awarded to construct longest motorway tunnel in Bulgaria

Bulgaria's Road Infrastructure Agency (RIA) has awarded BGN185.4m ($106.9m) contract to build the 2km Zheleznitsa tunnel on Struma motorway in the country.

A local consortium comprising construction companies GP Group, Global Construction and Via Plan was awarded the contract to build the tunnel, which is said to be the longest in the country.

RIA signed the deal after the Commission for Protection of Competition and the Supreme Administrative Court overruled several complaints against the method the RIA had categorised the bids for the contract.

Under Operational Programme Transport and Transport Infrastructure 2014-2020, the project will be co-financed by the EU Cohesion Fund as well as Bulgaria's national budget.

Construction of the tunnel is required to conclude by December 2023 to comply with the programme's requirements otherwise Bulgaria will on risk of losing the EU financing.

Cancellation of the previous two tenders has delayed the implementation of the project. In April 2017, the original tender was cancelled due to misinformation that the potential bidders can place offers higher than the indicative value of the project.

Again tendering was cancelled in October 2017 due to changes in the technical criteria for the selection of offers.

Once completed, the Struma motorway will link Bulgaria's capital Sofia to Kulata checkpoint on the border with Greece. The road will be constructed into four sections, of which three have already been built.

*Bulgaria awards contract for the construction of Zheleznitsa tunnel on Struma motorway. Credit: KS KYUNG on Unsplash.*

Image source:

<https://unsplash.com/photos/7pqS06wgvEw>

Third party source:

<https://seenews.com/news/bulgaria-awards-95-mln-euro-deal-for-building-its-longest-motorway-tunnel-642669>

Other source:

<https://www.novinite.com/articles/195154/Bulgaria's+Road+Agency+Signed+a+185+million+BGN+Contract+For+the+Construction+of+the+Longest+Motorway+in+the+Country>

Bulgaria awards 95 mln euro deal for building its longest motorway tunnel

Bulgaria awards 95 mln euro deal for building its longest motorway tunnel Author: Bulgaria's road infrastructure agency. Licence: All rights reserved.

SOFIA (Bulgaria), February 12 (SeeNews) - Bulgaria's road agency said on Tuesday it has signed a 185.4 million levs ($106.9 million/94.8 million euro) contract with a local consortium for the construction of the 2 km Zheleznitsa tunnel on Struma motorway, which will be the country's longest.

The winning tie-up consists of constructon companies GP Group, Global Construction and Via Plan, the Road Infrastructure Agency (RIA) said in a statement.

RIA signed the deal after the Commission for Protection of Competition and the Supreme Administrative Court rejected several complaints against the way the government agency had ranked the bids for the contract.

The project will be co-financed by the EU Cohesion Fund and Bulgaria's national budget under Operational Programme Transport and Transport Infrastructure 2014-2020. Works must be completed by December 2023 in order to comply with the programme's requirements or Bulgaria might lose the EU financing.

The implementation of the project has been delayed by the cancellation of the previous two tenders for the construction of the tunnel.

The original tender procedure was cancelled in April 2017 because tRIA had misinformed the candidates that they could place offers higher than the indicative value of the project, the head of RIA said at the time. Tendering was relaunched in September 2017 but was cancelled for a second time a month later due to changes in the technical criteria for the selection of offers.

The Struma motorway will link Bulgaria's capital Sofia to Kulata checkpoint on the border with Greece. Its construction has been divided into four sections, of which three have already been built.

Veritas and Evergreen wrap up $5.7bn takeover of athenahealth

Veritas Capital and Evergreen Coast Capital have concluded their previously announced acquisition of athenahealth in a cash deal valued at around $5.7bn.

The acquisition of athenahealth, which offers network-enabled services for hospital and ambulatory customers across the US, was first announced in November last year.

Virence Health, the former GE Healthcare Value-based Care assets that Veritas purchased in 2018, will merge with athenahealth and the surviving entity will operate under the athenahealth brand- name.

The united company will be headquartered in Watertown, Massachusetts and led by Virence chairman and CEO Bob Segert and an executive leadership team comprised of executives from both firms.

Under the term of the agreement, Virence's Workforce Management business will operate as a standalone company of Veritas portfolio under the API Healthcare brand.

Veritas Capital CEO and managing partner Ramzi Musallam said: “The combination of athenahealth and Virence brings together two innovative companies with complementary expertise and a shared focus and passion for improving healthcare outcomes.

“With a network of over 160,000 providers, the combined company is positioned for future growth and new market opportunities and has the necessary scale to make a transformational impact in the healthcare industry.”

Evergreen managing director Isaac Kim said: “We are pleased to have completed this transaction along with our partners at Veritas. The combination of athenahealth and Virence creates an industry leader poised to drive the future of healthcare IT.”

athenahealth provides medical record, care coordination, revenue cycle, patient engagement, and population health services to hospital and ambulatory customers.

*Veritas and Evergreen completes the acquisition of athenahealth. Credit: Adhy Savala on Unsplash.*

Image source:

<https://unsplash.com/photos/zbpgmGe27p8>

Press release:

<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20190211005504/en/Veritas-Capital-Completes-Acquisition-athenahealth>

Other source:

<http://newsroom.athenahealth.com/phoenix.zhtml?c=253091&p=irol-newsArticle&ID=2376709>

Veritas Capital Completes Acquisition of athenahealth

Evergreen Coast Capital to be Minority Investor in Combination of athenahealth and Veritas-Backed Virence

WATERTOWN, Mass. & NEW YORK--(BUSINESS WIRE)--athenahealth, Inc., a leading provider of network-enabled services for hospital and ambulatory customers nationwide, announced today that it has completed its previously announced sale to an affiliate of Veritas Capital (“Veritas”) and Evergreen Coast Capital (“Evergreen”) for approximately $5.7 billion in cash.

Virence Health (“Virence”), the former GE Healthcare Value-based Care assets that Veritas acquired in 2018, will combine with athenahealth under the athenahealth name and brand. The combined company will be led by Virence Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Bob Segert and an executive leadership team comprised of executives from both companies, and will be headquartered on the athenahealth campus in Watertown, Massachusetts. As part of the transaction, Virence's Workforce Management business becomes a separate Veritas portfolio company under the API Healthcare brand.

“The combination of athenahealth and Virence brings together two innovative companies with complementary expertise and a shared focus and passion for improving healthcare outcomes. With a network of over 160,000 providers, the combined company is positioned for future growth and new market opportunities and has the necessary scale to make a transformational impact in the healthcare industry,” said Ramzi Musallam, CEO and Managing Partner of Veritas Capital. “We look forward to leveraging our experience in healthcare IT to support Bob Segert and the leadership team in their mission to help clients succeed.”

Bob Segert, Chairman and CEO of the combined company, said: “athenahealth is one of the most unique and valuable assets in healthcare – with industry-leading solutions and a vision and model for delivering financial and clinical results for providers. By combining our companies’ cultures, solutions and teams, we have an opportunity to accelerate that vision, achieving a scale that will allow us to unlock new value for all of our customers. Today marks the first step in our new journey as a united team, and we are more committed than ever to investing in innovation, delivering a superior customer experience, and continuing our collective mission to transform healthcare.”

Evergreen Managing Director Isaac Kim said, “We are pleased to have completed this transaction along with our partners at Veritas. The combination of athenahealth and Virence creates an industry leader poised to drive the future of healthcare IT.”

The transaction was announced on November 12, 2018 and received approval from athenahealth shareholders on February 7, 2019. As a result of the completion of the transaction, shares of athenahealth common stock will be removed from listing on Nasdaq, with trading in athenahealth shares to be suspended following the closing of business today.

About athenahealth, Inc.

athenahealth partners with hospital and ambulatory customers to drive clinical and financial results. We offer medical record, revenue cycle, patient engagement, care coordination, and population health services. We combine insights from our network of more than 120,000 providers and approximately 117 million patients with deep industry knowledge and perform administrative work at scale. For more information, please visit www.athenahealth.com.

About Virence Health

Virence Health Technologies is a leading software provider that leverages technology and analytics to help healthcare providers across the continuum of care effectively manage their financial, clinical, and human capital workflows. Offering a comprehensive suite of innovative technology-enabled solutions, Virence aims to improve quality, increase efficiency, and reduce waste in the healthcare industry. Learn more at www.virencehealth.com.

About Veritas Capital

Veritas Capital is a leading private equity firm that invests in companies that provide critical products and services, primarily technology and technology-enabled solutions, to government and commercial customers worldwide, including those operating in the aerospace & defense, healthcare, software, national security, communications, energy, government services and education industries. Veritas seeks to create value by strategically transforming the companies in which it invests through organic and inorganic means. For more information on Veritas Capital and its current and past investments, visit www.veritascapital.com.

About Elliott and Evergreen Coast Capital

Elliott Management Corporation manages two multi-strategy investment funds which combined have approximately $34 billion of assets under management. Its flagship fund, Elliott Associates, L.P., was founded in 1977, making it one of the oldest funds of its kind under continuous management. The Elliott funds' investors include pension plans, sovereign wealth funds, endowments, foundations, funds-of-funds, high net worth individuals and families, and employees of the firm. This investment is being led by Evergreen Coast Capital, Elliott's Menlo Park affiliate, which focuses on technology investing.

O R Tambo Airport launches $324m Western Precinct development project

O R Tambo International Airport in South Africa has launched the first phase of the ZAR4.5bn ($324m) mixed-use development project that includes construction of new cargo facilities, offices and upgrade to the airport’s façade.

Known as the Western Precinct development, the first phase of project will form part of a seven-phase plan to modernise the airport, aimed at transforming the airport hub into an aero-city.

Covering an area of 180,000m², the project will include construction of three six-storey buildings that will house head offices of the South African Civil Aviation Authority (SACAA), Airports Company South Africa (ACSA), retail space, a hotel, and conference and logistics facilities along with five levels of parking.

O R Tambo International Airport general manager Bongiwe Pityi-Vokwana said: “O R Tambo International Airport remains an international landmark with world-class infrastructure and a large variety of services for all users and markets.

“The Western Precinct development forms part of a strategy to expand our offering and to drive new sources of growth for the entire region.

“The Western Precinct development will act as a catalyst to create a new multi-functional node where big businesses will ultimately migrate in terms of office and hotel accommodation.”

Construction work on the first phase is expected to commence this month with the anticipated completion by the end of 2020.

In addition to Western Precinct development, O R Tambo International's Airports Company long-term infrastructure master plan features midfield cargo and midfield passenger terminals.

The airport believes that these developments will cater to the growing passenger demand and expand the midfield cargo facilities to handle up to two million tonnes of air cargo per year.

"At the same time, airport users will start to see upgrades to the existing terminal buildings. So, we are entering a very exciting period in the life of our airport which supports about 38,000 jobs in and around the precinct," Pityi-Vokwana added.

*South Africa’s O R Tambo International Airport launches $324m Western Precinct development project. Credit: PretoriaTravel.*

Image source:

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ekurhuleni_Aerotropolis.jpg>

Third party source:

<https://constructionreviewonline.com/2019/02/o-r-tambo-international-airport-unveils-phase1-of-mixed-use-development/>

Other sources:

<https://www.businessinsider.co.za/or-tambo-international-airport-r45-billion-western-precinct-development-2019-2>

<https://www.logupdateafrica.com/or-tambo-airport-unveils-phase-1-of-western-precinct-development-aviation>

<https://businesstech.co.za/news/business/299090/a-look-at-o-r-tambos-new-r4-5-billion-upgrade/>

O.R Tambo International Airport unveils phase1 of mixed-use development

South Africa’s biggest airport, the O.R. Tambo International Airport has unveiled the first phase of the US $324m mixed-use development that will form part of a massive seven-phase plan to revamp the airport.

Speaking during the sod turning ceremony, Mrs Pityi-Vokwana, the OR Tambo General Manager said the development dubbed ‘The Western Precinct development’, forms part of a strategy to expand their offering and to drive new sources of development for the entire region.

Phase 1 of the development project will include construction of three six-storey buildings, comprising the head offices of the South African Civil Aviation Authority, (ACSA) retail space, a hotel, conference facilities, logistics services as well as five levels of parking.

The developments are expected to accommodate growing passenger demands at the same time expand the midfield cargo facilities at the airport to accommodate up to two-million tonnes of air cargo annually. It is also expected to improve the connectivity from the Gautrain station to existing hotels and facilities through a pedestrian bridge to the international terminals building.

“In addition to the Western Precinct development, OR Tambo’s long-term Infrastructure Master Plan will cater for midfield cargo and also midfield passenger terminals, each requiring several million dollars in further investment.” added Mrs Vokwana.

Western Precinct construction, and other developments such as terminal building upgrades and expansion of midfield cargo facilities at the airport will see about 38 000 jobs supported over the next few years.

Construction works is set to begin this month and be complete by the end of 2020. Atleast 1,100 people will be employed on site and at project peak during phase one of the project.

GVK, Adani, Reliance keen on Ahmedabad airport upgradation plan

<https://www.dnaindia.com/mumbai/report-gvk-adani-reliance-keen-on-ahmedabad-airport-upgradation-plan-2719852>

Procurement board cancels multibillion-shilling JKIA parking tender

<https://www.businessdailyafrica.com/corporate/companies/Board-cancels-multibillion-shilling-JKIA-parking-tender/4003102-4979902-vk9tp2z/index.html>

<https://kenyan-digest.com/board-cancels-multibillion-shilling-jkia-parking-tender/>

OSI Systems Receives $7 Million Order for CT Checked Baggage Screening Systems

<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20190213005252/en/OSI-Systems-Receives-7-Million-Order-CT>

VINCI presents Belgrade Airport plans

<https://www.exyuaviation.com/2019/02/vinci-to-present-belgrade-expansion.html>

<http://rs.n1info.com/English/NEWS/a460163/Belgrade-airport-strategic-concession-Serbian-PM-Vinci-CEO-say.html>

<https://www.ekapija.com/en/news/2403413/nikola-tesla-airport-concessionaire-aims-at-15-million-passengers-a-year>

Extra $75 million safety investment in Warrego Highway

<http://statements.qld.gov.au/Statement/2019/2/13/extra-75-million-safety-investment-in-warrego-highway>

<http://www.roadsonline.com.au/construction-tenders-won-on-75m-warrego-hwy-works/>

Winning design chosen for Hamburg bridge

<https://www.theconstructionindex.co.uk/news/view/winning-design-chosen-for-hamburg-bridge>

<https://www.lap-consult.com/en/news/browse/3.html>

China plans first 5G-based smart highway project

<http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201902/13/WS5c6390fba3106c65c34e91a8.html>

<http://cmhglobaltimes.cmhglobal.in/Asia-Continent/China%E2%80%99s-first-5G-smart-highway-project-to-launch-in-Hubei/TC96307413599>

PennDOT to fund $670 million project to build four-lane highway from Seven Mountains to State College

<https://www.collegian.psu.edu/news/borough/article_3096db00-2fe8-11e9-8887-c790b7a9cb98.html>

<https://www.centredaily.com/news/local/article226148420.html>

Munich Re's Partner Said to Mull Selling India Insurance Stake

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-02-13/munich-re-s-partner-said-to-mull-selling-india-insurance-stake>

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/munich-re-partner-looking-to-drop-stake-in-indian-health-venture-report-sources/>

USI to make major acquisition of US Risk Insurance Group

<https://www.insurancebusinessmag.com/us/news/breaking-news/usi-to-make-major-acquisition-of-us-risk-insurance-group-158734.aspx>

Ironshore Environmental offers storage tank policy through online portal

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/ironshore-environmental-offers-storage-tank-policy-through-online-portal/>

Commercial auto insurtech INSHUR gets $7m Series A led by Munich Re

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/commercial-auto-insurtech-inshur-gets-7m-series-a-led-by-munich-re/>

Defaqto launches critical illness comparison tool

<https://www.defaqto.com/media-centre/press-releases/defaqto-launches-critical-illness-cover-comparison-tool/>

<https://www.ftadviser.com/protection/2019/02/12/defaqto-launches-critical-illness-comparison-tool/>

<https://www.financialplanningtoday.co.uk/news/item/9838-defaqto-unveils-new-critical-illness-cover-comparison-tool>

UK's Pool Re approved to cover non-damage terror losses

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/uk-s-pool-re-approved-to-cover-non-damage-terror-losses-17674>

InsurTech TrackActive collaborates with Gen Re to ‘reinvent’ healthcare insurance

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/insurtech-trackactive-collaborates-with-gen-re-to-reinvent-healthcare-insurance-17669>

Kenya’s PPARB scraps parking contract at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport

Kenya’s Public Procurement Administrative Review Board (PPARB) has cancelled a parking contract for the installation, operation and maintenance of an automated car park system at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport.

Announcing its order, the public procurement watchdog said that the Kenya Airports Authority (KAA) did not abide by the procurement rules when it awarded the contract to Kenya Airports Parking Services (KAPS) in September last year.

Besides scrapping the contract of KAPS, the PPARB disqualified the company from participating in the tender process.

KAPS had competed with six other bidders to clinch the contract.

The other bidders included Mason Services and joint venture partner Qntra Technology, Automatic Park Services, Atlancis Technologies, Paytech.

The other parties include Com Twenty One joint venture with Servest Facilities Services, and Endeavour Africa Kenya Ltd joint venture with East African Parking.

“The letter of award dated 3 January 2019 awarding (the tender) to Kenya Airports Parking Services be and is hereby cancelled and set aside,” reported Business Daily citing a document obtained from the lawyer Faith Waigwa.

“The procuring entity is hereby directed to conduct due diligence process on the bidder with the next best concession rate…within 14 days from the date of this decision.”

The PPARB has asked KAA to re-evaluate the bidders afresh.

Mason and partner Qntra Technology had urged the PPARB to review and nullify the contract claiming that the award of contract was fraudulent on grounds that KAPS is a foreign company.

However, KAPS termed the action of the review board as illegal and outside the jurisdiction of PPARB and filed a case in a local court.

In September 2018, the KAA renewed KAPS contract following disqualification of Endeavour Africa (K) for submitting bogus papers.

JKIA manages approximately 12,000 vehicles per day. However, the authority says just under 3,000 parking spaces are available that creates congestion.

*Kenya’s PPARB cancels parking contract awarded to Kenya Airports Parking Services at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport. Credit: Photo11480599.*

Image source:

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:JomoKenyattaAirportNairobi.jpg>

Third party source:

<https://www.businessdailyafrica.com/corporate/companies/Board-cancels-multibillion-shilling-JKIA-parking-tender/4003102-4979902-vk9tp2z/index.html>

Other source:

<https://www.businessdailyafrica.com/corporate/companies/Firm-in-court-to-save-lucrative-JKIA-parking-deal/4003102-4980666-a63mjv/index.html>

<https://kenyan-digest.com/board-cancels-multibillion-shilling-jkia-parking-tender/>

Procurement board cancels multibillion-shilling JKIA parking tender

The public procurement watchdog has nullified a multibillion-shilling contract by the Kenya Airports Authority (KAA) for the installation, operation and maintenance of an automated car park system at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport.

The Public Procurement Administrative Review Board (PPARB) ruled that KAA failed to comply with procurement laws in awarding the tender to Kenya Airports Parking Services (KAPS) last September.

KAPS had beaten six other bidders for the contract.

The procurement review board has now ordered KAA to re-evaluate the bidders afresh.

“The letter of award dated 3 January 2019 awarding (the tender) to Kenya Airports Parking Services be and is hereby cancelled and set aside,” ruled the lawyer Faith Waigwa-led agency, according to documents obtained by the Business Daily dated January 31, 2019.

“The procuring entity is hereby directed to conduct due diligence process on the bidder with the next best concession rate…within 14 days from the date of this decision.”

The other bidders included Mason Services Limited and joint venture partner Qntra Technology, Automatic Park Services Ltd, Atlancis Technologies, Paytech Ltd, Com Twenty One joint venture with Servest Facilities Services Ltd, and Endeavour Africa Kenya Ltd joint venture with East African Parking Ltd.

Mason and partner Qntra Technology had wanted the PPARB to review and nullify the contract.

Mason had claimed the award was fraudulent “since KAPS" shareholding is controlled by a foreign company known as KAPS Holdings Mauritius.”

Through Oyugi and Co Advocates, Mason had said KAA acted contrary to the principles of fairness and transparency in awarding a tender “to a foreign company at the expense of local contractors.”

But KAA, through lawyer Margaret Munene, had argued that ownership of a company and not place of registration determines whether it is local or foreign.

JKIA handles about 12,000 vehicle movements daily, but the authority says just under 3,000 parking spaces are available, leading to congestion.

DEGES chooses winning design for Hamburg bridge in Germany

The Deutsche Einheit Fernstraßenplanungs- und -bau (DEGES) has selected the final design for of a new road bridge in Hamburg, Germany.

DEGES – a state-owned project management institution – launched a design competition considering the design, the technical features and the special environmental aspects for the bridge.

Initially six national and global engineering and architectural firms were shortlisted for the design competition.

A design by German firms including Leonhardt, Andrä und Partner and Gerkan, Marg and Partner was awarded the first prize. Other members of the team include Kocks Ingenieure and Mix landschaft & freiraum.

The new structure will replace the Norderelbe Bridge as part of the widening of the A1 highway from six to eight lanes.

Norderelbe Bridge was constructed in 1963 and shows significant damages. Norderelbe Bridge is a cable-stayed, motorway bridge / freeway bridge and made of steel.

The design of the proposed new double cable-stayed bridge includes different spans and pylon heights to deal with the site constraints.

Selecting the winning design team, the grudges said in a statement: “The winning design convinces with is filigree aesthetic requirements, in which static and design merge.

“It has been worked out thoroughly down to the last detail. The extensive technical frame conditions are well fulfilled.

“The bridge responds to the slightly asymmetrical situation of the span widths with a discreet accentuation of the construction through different pylon heights and number of cables.”

Press release / Image source:

<https://www.lap-consult.com/en/news/browse/3.html>

Other source:

<https://www.theconstructionindex.co.uk/news/view/winning-design-chosen-for-hamburg-bridge>

<https://structurae.net/structures/norderelbe-bridge>

1st prize for New Norderelbe Bridge in Hamburg

The existing Norderelbe Bridge built in 1963 shows significant damages and needs to be replaced for the extension of the Highway A1 from six to eight lanes. Due to the significance of the design, the technical features and the special environmental aspects to be taken into account, a design competition was launched for which six national and international engineering and architectural companies had qualified. The design of Leonhardt, Andrä und Partner (Hamburg) and Gerkan, Marg and Partner (Berlin) was awarded with the first prize.

“The winning Design convinces with is filigree aesthetic requirements, in which static and design merge. It has been worked out thoroughly down to the last detail. The extensive technical frame conditions are well fulfilled. The bridge responds to the slightly asymmetrical situation of the span widths with a discreet accentuation of the construction through different pylon heights and number of cables“ (Opens external link in new windowwww.hamburg.de).

Extract from the Design Concept:

The design of the new and twice as wide Norderelbe Bridge for the new Highway is based on the pure engineering aesthetic that characterizes the harbor and thus takes up the message of the bridge to be replaced as a reference. And at the same time increases its targeted effect as a landmark for the Elbe crossing. […]

The entire composition as a double cable-stayed bridge with different spans and pylon heights is the logical constructive answer to the special features of the site to be crossed.

The unique feature of the pylons of different heights results from the frame conditions with differently wide side fields, so that the asymmetrical terrain situation of the two bank sides is reflected in the design of the bridge.

The new bridge thus creates a plausible as well as self-evident autonomy in the family of Hamburg bridges - as an important contribution to the structural engineering culture.

The structural design allows for generous uniformity when crossing the river, road and land areas. It combines optimized design and construction with the metaphorical interpretation of the "Genius Loci", which already today and in the future characterizes the logo of the Landesbetrieb LSBG (Agency of Roads, Bridges and Water).

China to launch 5G smart highway to manage self-driving cars and road traffic

China Mobile, a Chinese state-owned telecommunication company, has unveiled plans to launch 5G smart highway project in Wuhan in Hubei province.

The project, which is said to be the first of its kind in China, is currently under-progress. It aims to help manage autonomous cars and road traffic in the country.

5G smart highway is being designed as a city-scale system of roads which will facilitate cellular network-coordinated transportation services.

The 5G smart highway project will be integrated with cloud computing, internet of things (IoT), big data, artificial intelligence (AI) as well as other internet technologies.

Along with providing highways predicting traffic condition of highways in real time, the new technology will enable the operators to monitor each road and vehicle and make AI-assisted predictions using the data.

China Mobile Group Hubei Company general manager Fan Bingheng told China Daily.com that the use of 5G in smart transportation will bring great changes to the revolution of the transportation industry.

The company is planning to select the location of the 5G base station and synchronously conduct smart charging tests.

Xinhua reported that China Mobile will initially launch ‘smart toll stations’ that could eliminate current human toll operators.

In order to support its initiative, China Mobile has already installed 31 5G base stations in Wuhan, and plans to build another 2,000 stations in the province throughout 2019.

Apart from China, South Korean mobile companies such as KT, SK Telecom, and LG U+ are currently carrying out limited 5G tests of autonomous cars.

China to launch 5G smart highway for self-driving cars and traffic

Image source:

<https://unsplash.com/photos/MoAEnt9fMbg>

Third party source:

<https://venturebeat.com/2019/02/13/china-is-building-a-5g-smart-highway-for-autonomous-cars-and-ai-traffic-monitoring/>

Other sources:

<http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201902/13/WS5c6390fba3106c65c34e91a8.html>

<http://cmhglobaltimes.cmhglobal.in/Asia-Continent/China%E2%80%99s-first-5G-smart-highway-project-to-launch-in-Hubei/TC96307413599>

China is building a 5G smart highway for autonomous cars and AI traffic monitoring

China Mobile. China Mobile is a Chinese state-owned telecommunication company providing mobile voice and multimedia services.

Above: China Mobile is a Chinese state-owned telecommunication company providing mobile voice and multimedia services.

China is moving forward in the global “race to 5G,” as state-owned carrier China Mobile has announced (via Xinhua) that it’s already building the first 5G smart highway — a city-scale system of roads capable of supporting cellular network-coordinated transportation services. The infrastructure is currently under construction in Wuhan, the capital of China’s centrally located Hubei Province.

As the country’s largest telecommunications company, China Mobile plans to roll out a collection of 5G services on the highway, beginning with “smart toll stations” that could do away with current toll transponders and human operators. The carrier also plans to gather real-time traffic information and make AI-assisted predictions using the data, as well as supporting autonomous cars.

While China Mobile isn’t the world’s first carrier to either announce 5G highway plans or begin limited deployments, it may wind up being the first to offer actual commercial and coordinated transportation services on live highways — depending on progress made by rivals in other countries. South Korean carriers SK Telecom, KT, and LG U+ have all run limited 5G tests of self-driving vehicles, while Samsung has even set up a “fake city” to test cars away from people.

China Mobile has already installed 31 5G base stations in Wuhan to support the initiative, and the company expects to add an additional 2,000 stations throughout 2019. Specific highway section location planning is currently underway for toll station testing. The carrier has also applied for autonomous driving test permits, which will presumably enable self-driving cars to share the highway with human-operated vehicles.

France’s Vinci assumes operations of Belgrade Nikola Tesla Airport

Vinci Airports, the airport division of French construction and concession company Vinci, has finally assumed the management of Belgrade Nikola Tesla Airport.

In January last, [Vinci Airports was selected as the preferred bidder for the Belgrade Nikola Tesla Airport](https://www.airport-technology.com/news/vinci-airports-selects-belgrade-airport-concession/) concession by Serbia and Airport Nikola Tesla (ANT).

The company was awarded a 25-year concession to run Belgrade airport in lieu of a one-time concession fee of €501m.

Apart from the concession payment, the French airport operator agreed to invest another €730m in new infrastructure that includes financing, operation, maintenance, extension and upgrade of the existing airport terminal and runways.

Vinci Concessions CEO Nicolas Notebaert said that the company plans to make the airport a regional hub so that it could increase its capacity to manage more than 15 million passengers.

Vinci Concessions CEO and VINCI Airports chairman Nicolas Notebaert had said: “This success marks a new stage in Vinci Airports’ expansion outside France. Belgrade Nikola Tesla Airport will serve as the company’s ‘hub’ in South East Europe, a geographical area in which VINCI Airports has not operated until now.”

Additionally, the French company will work to improve airport operating conditions to enable Air Serbia to provide new long-haul routes.

Leveraging its partnership with over 200 airlines, Vinci will work to boost the airport’s traffic and connectivity.

In January this year, Vinci Airports awarded a €262m contract to Greek construction company GEK Terna for the construction and refurbishment of Belgrade's Nikola Tesla airport.

The scope of the contract includes construction of a new passenger terminal with a total surface area of 42,000m2, and modernisation of existing terminal facilities with a total area of 15,000m2.

Additionally, GEK Terna will also be responsible of constructing a new 3500m runway and upgrading the existing 3400m runway.

Other works include the construction of new car parking facility with 2,400 lots, the construction of curbside/sidewalk infrastructure and facilities for handling of departures/arrivals, among others.

*France’s Vinci takes over operations of Belgrade Nikola Tesla Airport. Credit: Vesailok.*

Image source:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Nikola_Tesla_Airport.jpg>

Third part source:

<https://www.miamiherald.com/news/business/article226210675.html>

Other sources:

<https://www.exyuaviation.com/2019/02/vinci-to-present-belgrade-expansion.html>

<https://industryeurope.com/greek-company-gek-terna-wins/>

<https://www.serbianmonitor.com/en/vinci-to-build-new-passenger-terminal-runway-taxiway-and-2400-parking-spaces-at-belgrade-airport/>

France’s Vinci formally takes over Belgrade airport

The Associated Press

Feb. 13, 2019. France's Vinci Airports has formally started a 25-year concession to run Belgrade airport, with massive investment giving the group a foothold in southeastern Europe for its ambitious airport division. Darko Vojinovic AP Photo

BELGRADE, Serbia

The airport division of French construction and concession company Vinci has started running the airport in Serbia's capital after it was picked for the 25-year job.

Officials said Wednesday at a ceremony at Belgrade Nikola Tesla Airport that Vinci Airports provided an upfront payment of 501 million euros ($564 million) and promised to invest another 730 million euros ($823 million) in new infrastructure.

CEO Nicolas Notebaert says Vinci plans to make the airport a regional hub and triple the number of passengers from 5 million to 15 million a year.

Serbian Prime Minister Ana Brnabic says the concession is of "strategic importance" to Serbia.

Insurtech INSHUR secures $7m in Series A funding round led by Munich Re

Commercial auto insurtech INSHUR has secured $7m investment in Series A funding round led by Germany-based reinsurance giant Munich Re.

Apart from the $7m in equity funding, the insurtech also secured $2m credit facility in the same funding round which was also joined by MTech Capital.

INSHUR said that the proceeds will be invested to expand business in new regions and speed up reach into new insurance verticals including rideshare vertical.

INSHUR, a digital commercial auto insurance provider, allows drivers buy insurance coverage quickly at competitive prices through its mobile technology platform, proprietary data, and analytics.

Using its mobile-first platform, the company enables drivers to manage their entire insurance lifecycle from their mobile phone.

CEO Dan Bratshpis said: “We are excited to be working with strategic investment partners who understand the complexity of the Insurtech landscape and the opportunity that lays before us.

“I am proud of the bootstrapped growth we have achieved in our two territories to date, it’s a testament to our amazing team. Our first institutional round of funding will allow us to expand further into new territories and insurance verticals within the US and EU.”

MTech Capital co-founder and partner of Brian McLoughlin said: “Dan and David have executed brilliantly. Rideshare drivers love the INSHUR mobile experience. INSHUR is the first investment in our new fund, giving it special significance for us. We look forward to working with the INSHUR team as they execute their growth strategy.”

McLoughlin will also join INSHUR’s board of directors.

Established in October 2016, INSHUR has been providing its commercial auto insurance in New York for almost one year. It recently forayed into the UK.

<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20190214005051/en/INSHUR-closes-7M-Series-funding-2M-credit>

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/commercial-auto-insurtech-inshur-gets-7m-series-a-led-by-munich-re/>

<http://www.finsmes.com/2019/02/inshur-raises-9m-in-funding.html>

USI Insurance Services to purchase U.S. Risk Insurance Group

American insurance brokerage and consulting firm USI Insurance Services has agreed to acquire U.S. Risk Insurance Group for an undisclosed sum.

Dallas-based U.S. Risk operates as a property/casualty program and specialty brokerage firm.

As per terms of the transaction, U.S. Risk will maintain its Dallas headquarters and continue to operate independently under the company’s various existing brands, U.S. Risk, Oxford, MGB, James Hampden International, Antarah and UNIS.

U.S. Risk CEO Randall Goss and his current team will continue to manage these businesses.

Goss said: “With the support of USI, U.S. Risk will continue to accelerate the path we have set for ourselves as a leading program manager and specialty brokerage firm both domestically and internationally.

“USI maintains an established track record of operating independent successful program and specialty brokerage businesses. We remain committed to the same quality of service and the growth and profitability of our carrier partners and retail agents.”

USI chairman and CEO Michael Sicard said: “We look forward to welcoming Randall and the talented professionals from U.S. Risk.

“We are passionate about growing, investing, and building upon the tremendous program and specialty insurance platform U.S. Risk has established, and expanding together our firm’s existing capabilities both nationally and internationally.”

Subject to customary conditions and regulatory approvals, the transaction is scheduled to be completed in the second quarter of 2019.

Recently, USI Insurance acquired New York-based GFI Insurance Brokerage that offers commercial property and casualty, employee benefit and personal risk solutions to clients.

Set up in 1994, USI offers insurance brokerage and consulting in property-casualty, employee benefits with the help of over 6,000 professionals in over 150 offices across the US.

<http://www.usrisk.com/2019/02/u-s-risk-enters-into-agreement-to-be-acquired/>

<https://www.insurancejournal.com/news/southcentral/2019/02/12/517519.htm>

<https://www.usi.com/about-usi/usi-in-the-news/>

<https://www.usi.com/investor-relations/>

Pool Re secures UK government’s approval to cover non-damage terror losses

UK’s government-backed terrorism reinsurer Pool Re has secured Parliamentary approval to offer coverage for losses sustained by businesses after a terrorist attack.

The Counter-Terrorism and Border Security Bill 2018, which was recently granted Royal Assent, will allow Pool Re, for the first time, to offer coverage to non-damage business interruption losses whether their own premises have not been damaged.

Prior to the new regulation, Pool Re was able to reinsure only losses that were sustained in case a company’s premises had been physically damaged by terrorist attack.

In the 2017 attacks on Manchester and London Bridge, the gap in insurance coverage was highlighted when they suffered significant business interruption losses for which they could not be compensated.

This is due to either they had not purchased terrorism insurance or the cover excluded business interruption if their premises had not been damaged.

Pool Re CEO Julian Enoizi said: “Today’s amendment changes that. We have worked very closely with the government, and with the industry since it opted to mutualise the non-damage risk in 2017.

“Perhaps more importantly, we are already collaborating with business federations, local authorities, brokers and our member insurers, all of whom need to have open conversations with their customers about just how much may depend on having this cover if the worst should happen.”

The British Insurance Brokers Association (BIBA) has also welcomed the move. It said that the changes contained in the regulation will help businesses and increase resilience.

Economic secretary to the Treasury John Glen MP said: “We will not allow terrorists to change our way of life. So when businesses raised their concerns about a gap in insurance cover following a terror attack, we worked with Pool Re to come up with a solution.

“Today, we’ve changed the law to give businesses peace of mind, helping them to insure themselves against financial loss as a result of a terrorist attack, even if there is no physical damage to their property. This means businesses will be able take out new and comprehensive policies to protect them in the future.”

<https://www.poolre.co.uk/firms-better-protected-terrorism-royal-assent-bill-allowing-pool-re-cover-non-damage-business-interruption/>

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/uk-s-pool-re-approved-to-cover-non-damage-terror-losses-17674>

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/pool-re-approved-to-offer-non-damage-business-interruption-cover/>

<https://www.poolre.co.uk/firms-better-protected-terrorism-royal-assent-bill-allowing-pool-re-cover-non-damage-business-interruption/>

Insurtech TrackActive seeks new funding to develop AI-enabled product

UK-based insurtech startup TrackActive is on track to raise £300,000 in seed funding to further develop its artificial intelligence (AI) -enabled TrackActive Me product.

To secure the funding, the insurtech firm has teamed up with Gen Re, lead investor HR Tech Partnership, and other angel investors through Seedrs.

Using AI-enabled chat-bot, connected devices, web apps, online portals, sensors, and video-based exercise interventions, TrackActive Me helps healthcare insurance firms to better engage and support their customers.

The collaboration will allow healthcare insurers to help people with musculoskeletal conditions to self-manage and thus slash productivity costs.

TrackActive co-founder Michael Levens said: “There is a massive opportunity for insurers to embrace our AI tech and significantly reduce their claims costs, as back pain and other musculoskeletal conditions are a huge problem for them, as well as for economies and healthcare systems.

“This seed funding, with backing from specialist VC the HR Tech Partnership and others, will enable us to bring TrackActive Me to market.

“The opportunity to invest is still open, but we will be closing soon, so anyone interested should go to crowdfunding website Seedrs to take part.”

With $14bn in capital and $6bn in premiums, Gen Re offers reinsurance solutions to the life/health and property/casualty insurance industries.

<https://www.insurancebusinessmag.com/uk/news/technology/trackactive-on-track-to-raise-300000-in-seed-round-158811.aspx>

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/insurtech-trackactive-collaborates-with-gen-re-to-reinvent-healthcare-insurance-17669>

<http://www.genre.com/aboutus/meet-genre/>

Liht Cannabis rolls out hemp seed oil based skincare product range in US

Canada-based Liht Cannabis has introduced an assortment of six organic hemp seed oil based skincare products under PureCloud 9 brand name.

Blended using a proprietary mixture of organic, unrefined, cold-pressed hemp seed oil with high potency essential oils, PureCloud 9 is said to be safe and proven to be tender on the skin.

The range includes product Illuminating Body Oil, Restorative Rescue Oil, Glow-Boosting Day Serum, Rejuvenating Night Serum, Radiance-Enhancing Facial Exfoliator and Illuminating Body Exfoliator.

The company said that its product range has received positive results during the last four years of development and test marketing.

Available online and in-store, these products will be sold for $25-$32 ach.

Liht Cannabis said that the company will be expanded a full line of CBD health and wellness products after it is legally permitted in Canada.

We have built a Brand Ambassador Program, identifying and engaging social influencers who will amplify our story and promote these exceptional, effective and affordable (legal) hemp seed oil based skincare products.

Purchases may also be made from our Liht Corporate Head Office at 102 – 1561 Sutherland Avenue, Kelowna, BC.

Liht Cannabis president and COO Linda Sampson said: “Liht is uniquely positioned, once licensed, to provide the synergy of medical cannabis along with hemp seed oil derived health and wellness products, to meet the steadily increasing demand for safe consumption and application.

“I am very proud that after years of hard work and dedication, our team has developed effective proprietary formulas, ensuring their affordability for everyday use. It is very exciting to see the vision of PureCloud 9 come to fruition!”

Press Release / Image source:

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/liht-cannabis-corp-launches-hemp-seed-oil-based-skincare--purecloud-9--available-now-online-and-in-store-300794710.html>

Liht Cannabis Corp. Launches Hemp Seed Oil Based Skincare - PureCloud 9 - Available Now Online and In-store

KELOWNA, BC, Feb. 13, 2019 /PRNewswire/ - Liht Cannabis Corp. ((CSE: LIHT) (OTCQX: LIHTF) or the "Company") announces today that it has officially launched PureCloud 9, a Liht Cannabis Corp. brand. Introducing a collection of 6 organic hemp seed oil based skincare products to the health and wellness market.

PureCloud 9 is formulated with a proprietary blend of organic, unrefined, cold-pressed hemp seed oil infused with high potency essential oils. Crafted in Kelowna, British Columbia our formulas are safe and proven to be gentle on the skin, unlike conventional products which contain chemical ingredients. During the last four years of development and test marketing our products have received positive results which has confirmed our commitment to make them available online and in-store.

PureCloud 9 will offer its first six products for online and in-store purchase: Illuminating Body Oil, Restorative Rescue Oil, Glow-Boosting Day Serum, Rejuvenating Night Serum, Radiance-Enhancing Facial Exfoliator and Illuminating Body Exfoliator. These products will affordably retail from $25-$32.

PureCloud 9 will be expanded to include a full line of CBD health and wellness products as soon as legally possible in Canada.

We have built a Brand Ambassador Program, identifying and engaging social influencers who will amplify our story and promote these exceptional, effective and affordable (legal) hemp seed oil based skincare products. For more information on becoming an Ambassador, please visit our website or connect with the brand on Instagram @purecloud9.

Our products will be sold directly to consumers online at, www.purecloud9.com which currently offers delivery options within Canada and will open globally in the near future.

Purchases may also be made from our Liht Corporate Head Office at 102 – 1561 Sutherland Avenue, Kelowna, BC.

"Liht is uniquely positioned, once licensed, to provide the synergy of medical cannabis along with hemp seed oil derived health and wellness products, to meet the steadily increasing demand for safe consumption and application.

I am very proud that after years of hard work and dedication, our team has developed effective proprietary formulas, ensuring their affordability for everyday use. It is very exciting to see the vision of PureCloud 9 come to fruition!" Linda Sampson, President and COO

ABOUT LIHT CANNABIS CORP.

www.lihtcannabis.com

Liht Cannabis Corp. is a publicly traded company investing in the medical and recreational cannabis space, since 2014. Liht has rapidly expanded to include cultivation, production and dispensary locations in the key North American states of Washington, Nevada, and California, and are seeking expansion opportunities worldwide.

Taoiseach And Minister Ross Turn Sod On Dublin Airport’s $320m New Runway

<https://www.daa.ie/taoiseach-and-minister-ross-turn-sod-on-dublin-airports-new-runway/>

IDeaS Enables Raleigh-Durham International Airport to Transform Its Parking Business

<http://www.parking-net.com/parking-news/ideas-revenue-solutions/raleigh-durham-international-airport>

<https://www.moodiedavittreport.com/raleigh-durham-international-to-implement-demand-based-car-parking-technology/>

CEMEX Rebuilds Jamaica Airport

<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20190214005963/en/CEMEX-Rebuilds-Jamaica-Airport>

CAAi-led consortium to support aviation oversight development in Ukraine

<https://caainternational.com/news-aviation-oversight-development-in-ukraine/>

Qantas' new Singapore first class lounge to open November 2019

<https://www.ausbt.com.au/qantas-new-singapore-first-class-lounge-to-open-november-2019>

<http://www.traveller.com.au/photos-new-qantas-first-class-lounge-at-changi-airport-singapore-previewed-in-virtual-reality-h1baxt>

<https://www.dmarge.com/2019/02/qantas-singapore-first-lounge.html>

Dubai Ride-Hailing Firm, Careem, Provides Accident Insurance for Drivers, Passengers

<https://www.insurancejournal.com/news/international/2019/02/14/517760.htm>

UK Insurer Aviva Prepares for ‘Hard Brexit’ by Transferring Assets from UK <https://www.insurancejournal.com/news/international/2019/02/14/517610.htm>

MS Amlin Launches Comprehensive All-Risks Policy for UK Tech Sector

<https://www.insurancejournal.com/news/international/2019/02/14/517758.htm>

Malaysia gives insurers until April to comply with foreign ownership rules

<https://www.reuters.com/article/malaysia-insurance-cenbank/malaysia-gives-insurers-until-april-to-comply-with-foreign-ownership-rules-idUSL3N20931X>

Brazil could double budget to subsidize farm insurance next year

<https://in.reuters.com/article/brazil-agriculture/brazil-could-double-budget-to-subsidize-farm-insurance-next-year-idINL3N2095BU>

RGA reinsures Manulife longevity risk

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/rga-reinsures-manulife-longevity-risk-17679>

Gen Re develops facial analytics app for insurance buyers

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/gen-re-develops-facial-analytics-app-for-insurance-buyers/>

Generali completed acquisition of Adriatic Slovenica and KD Funds in Slovenia

<https://www.generali.com/media/press-releases/all/2019/Generali-completed-acquisition-of-Adriatic-Slovenica-and-KD-Funds-in-Slovenia>

Big changes to motorway upgrades set to improve drivers’ journeys

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/big-changes-to-motorway-upgrades-set-to-improve-drivers-journeys>

Northwest Territories Government Signs Contract to Construct Tlicho Road

<https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/northwest-territories-government-signs-contract-to-construct-tlicho-road-803388921.html>

Canada is handing BlackBerry $40 million to help it develop self-driving car technology

<https://globalnews.ca/news/4964075/blackberry-self-driving-car-technology/>

<https://obj.ca/article/feds-putting-40m-blackberrys-autonomous-vehicle-development-kanata>

Giving keener “electric eyesight” to autonomous vehicles

<http://news.mit.edu/2019/giving-keener-electric-eyesight-autonomous-vehicles-0214>]

Indonesia plans to construct $7bn greenfield airport in Jakarta

Indonesia is planning to construct a greenfield airport in capital Jakarta with an investment of IDR100 trillion ($7bn) to support the growing demand of air travel in the country.

State-owned operator Angkasa Pura II that manages 16 airports across Indonesia will carry out a feasibility study for the airport.

Once the study is complete, the airport operator will consider whether to construct the greenfield airport in Jakarta on its own or in collaboration with other firm; however, a final decision will be taken by the State-Owned Enterprises Ministry.

PT Angkasa Pura II president director Muhammad Awaluddin was quoted by Bloomberg as saying the site for the greenfield airport could be near to the Soekarno-Hatta airport or could be built on land reclaimed from the sea.

The proposed airport, if constructed close to the existing airport, will require clearing of approximately 600 hectares of land. In case, if it is built on a new location then reclamation of 2,000 hectares will be required.

Awaluddin told the news agency: “Jakarta and the surrounding areas with a population of about 50 million will need a multi-airport system that’s connected to meet the demand. The new airport will be a masterpiece of the country.”

Jakarta and its suburbs, which are currently served by Soekarno-Hatta and Halim airports, will not able to manage the growing number of passengers in the future. Both the airports together managed around 73 million passengers in 2018.

Angkasa Pura II is already investing hundreds of million dollars to construct a new terminal and a runway at Soekarno-Hatta International Airport in Jakarta. Passenger traffic at the airport is expected to increase 46% to hit 100 million within a decade.

The new terminal will be capable of managing around 45 million passengers. Its construction is scheduled to commence in 2021. Additionally, existing terminals will be modernized to accommodate to 25 million each from almost 9 million per year.

PT Angkasa Pura II is also working to choose a strategic investor for Kualanamu International Airport in Medan, in Sumatra island. The airport operator will solicit proposals from 16 preferred bidders, mostly from Asia and Europe, to become an equity partner.

The selected partner may own a maximum of 49% in the joint venture (JV) operating Kualanamu airport.

Third party source:

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-02-12/travel-boom-drives-multi-billion-indonesian-airports-expansion>

<https://www.scmp.com/news/asia/southeast-asia/article/2185971/indonesia-pump-billions-airports-expansion-amid-travel-boom>

Jakarta to get new airport as Indonesia pumps billions into expansion amid travel boom

State-owned airport operator will conclude a feasibility study for a greenfield facility in the archipelago’s capital this year

Indonesia’s domestic airline market has boomed in recent years to become the fifth largest in the world

Indonesia’s largest airport operator is looking to spend billions of dollars to build a new facility in Jakarta and upgrade the existing one to cater to an unprecedented travel boom and compete with neighbouring countries for tourism revenue.

Angkasa Pura II, the state-owned operator of 16 airports across Indonesia, will conclude a feasibility study for a greenfield airport in the archipelago’s capital this year that may require an investment of about 100 trillion rupiah (US$7 billion), according to president director Muhammad Awaluddin. The company is already spending hundreds of million dollars in adding a new terminal and a runway in Jakarta’s Soekarno-Hatta International Airport, he said.

Jakarta is the latest to join cities in Southeast Asia, including Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur, to expand capacity as travel demand in the Asia-Pacific region is set to double in the next two decades on rising wealth. Passenger traffic in Soekarno-Hatta may surge 46 per cent to top 100 million within a decade, Angkasa Pura estimates.

With President Joko Widodo identifying tourism as a key foreign-exchange earner in the face of declining exports of oil and gas, better airport connectivity will be important in luring travellers, Awaluddin said.

“Jakarta and the surrounding areas with a population of about 50 million will need a multi-airport system that’s connected to meet the demand,” Awaluddin said, pointing out that the London metropolitan area with less population is served by at least five facilities. “The new airport will be a masterpiece of the country.”

Indonesia’s domestic airline market has boomed in recent years to become the fifth largest in the world. Local air traffic more than tripled between 2005 and 2017 to 97 million people, according to the CAPA Centre for Aviation, and is dominated by flag carrier PT Garuda Indonesia and Lion Air Group.

The nation’s capital city and its suburbs are currently serviced by Soekarno-Hatta and Halim airports, which together handled 73 million passengers last year, much more than their designed capacity, Awaluddin said. Angkasa Pura may build the greenfield airport in Jakarta on its own or in partnership with other companies, a decision the State-Owned Enterprises Ministry needs to make, he said.

The site for the greenfield airport could be close to the Soekarno-Hatta airport or could be built on land reclaimed from the sea, Awaluddin said. The facility, if built adjacent to the existing airport, will need clearing of about 600 hectares (1,483 acres) of land, and reclamation of 2,000 hectares if in a new location, according to Awaluddin.

A new terminal, whose construction will begin in 2021, will be able to handle about 45 million passengers. Angkasa Pura is also “revitalising” the existing terminals one and two to boost capacity to 25 million each from about 9 million, Awaluddin said.

Airport investment plans are afoot in other Asian cities as well. South Korea’s Incheon International Airport is spending about 4.2 trillion won (US$3.7 billion) to expand, while China is set to open its second airport in Beijing later this year at a cost of about 80 billion yuan (US$12 billion).

Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd. said last year that it plans to double Kuala Lumpur International Airport’s capacity to 150 million in the next two decades or so.

The operator is in the process of selecting a strategic investor for Kualanamu International Airport in Medan, in Sumatra island.

Asia’s aviation industry is booming, so why isn’t it making money?

It sees the airport as a hub for airlines from Southeast Asia, East Asia, China and the Middle East with passenger volume surging to 17 million in three years from 11 million in 2018.

Angkasa Pura will call for proposals this month from 16 preferred bidders, mostly from Asia and Europe, which have expressed interest in becoming an equity partner, Awaluddin said. The selected partner may own a maximum of 49 per cent in the venture operating Kualanamu airport, he said.

“Kualanamu is a sexy airport. In terms of productivity of the airport, it’s a profitable airport,” Awaluddin said.

UK Insurer Aviva Prepares for ‘Hard Brexit’ by Transferring Assets from UK <https://www.insurancejournal.com/news/international/2019/02/14/517610.htm>

MS Amlin Launches Comprehensive All-Risks Policy for UK Tech Sector

<https://www.insurancejournal.com/news/international/2019/02/14/517758.htm>

Gen Re develops facial analytics app for insurance buyers

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/gen-re-develops-facial-analytics-app-for-insurance-buyers/>

Generali completed acquisition of Adriatic Slovenica and KD Funds in Slovenia

<https://www.generali.com/media/press-releases/all/2019/Generali-completed-acquisition-of-Adriatic-Slovenica-and-KD-Funds-in-Slovenia>

MIT scientists develop new object detection system for autonomous vehicles

Scientists at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) have developed a new sub-terahertz-radiation receiving system that could enable driverless cars to steer safely in foggy and dusty weather conditions.

Contrary to the light-based image sensors, the on-chip system detects signals at sub-terahertz wavelengths and can be prove boon for self-driving cars.

In order to perceive objects, initial signals a through a transmitter is sent by a sub-terahertz imaging system.

Subsequently, a receiver measures the absorption and reflection of the rebounding sub-terahertz wavelengths. It sends a signal to a processor that recreates an image of the object.

Traditional systems are large and expensive which makes implementation of sub-terahertz sensors into driverless cars a challenging task.

To overcome this challenge, the researchers implemented a scheme of independent signal-mixing pixels, known as “heterodyne detectors”, which are generally difficult to densely integrate into chips.

The researchers reduced the size of the heterodyne detectors and made them small enough to fit into a chip.

The researchers built a prototype, which has a 32-pixel array integrated on a 1.2-square-millimeter device. The pixels are almost 4,300 times more sensitive compared to the existing best on-chip sub-terahertz array sensors.

The output signal produced by “heterodyne detectors” can be used to calculate the distance of objects, similar to how LiDAR calculates the time it takes a laser to hit an object and rebound.

Furthermore, combining the output signals of an array of pixels, and moving the pixels in a certain direction, can provide high-resolution images of a scene, which allows the detection and recognition of objects, critical for self-driving cars and robots.

MIT Microsystems Technology Laboratories (MTL) Terahertz Integrated Electronics Group director Ruonan Han said: “A big motivation for this work is having better ‘electric eyes’ for autonomous vehicles and drones.

“Our low-cost, on-chip sub-terahertz sensors will play a complementary role to LiDAR for when the environment is rough.”

The chip that requires a little more development could be used in driverless cars and autonomous robots in future.

*MIT researchers have developed a new detection system that can detect objects in foggy weather and is suitable for autonomous vehicles. Credit: Massachusetts Institute of Technology.*

Press release / Image source:

<http://news.mit.edu/2019/giving-keener-electric-eyesight-autonomous-vehicles-0214>

Giving keener “electric eyesight” to autonomous vehicles

On-chip system that detects signals at sub-terahertz wavelengths could help steer driverless cars through fog and dust.

Rob Matheson | MIT News Office

February 14, 2019

Press Inquiries

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Autonomous vehicles relying on light-based image sensors often struggle to see through blinding conditions, such as fog. But MIT researchers have developed a sub-terahertz-radiation receiving system that could help steer driverless cars when traditional methods fail.

Sub-terahertz wavelengths, which are between microwave and infrared radiation on the electromagnetic spectrum, can be detected through fog and dust clouds with ease, whereas the infrared-based LiDAR imaging systems used in autonomous vehicles struggle. To detect objects, a sub-terahertz imaging system sends an initial signal through a transmitter; a receiver then measures the absorption and reflection of the rebounding sub-terahertz wavelengths. That sends a signal to a processor that recreates an image of the object.

But implementing sub-terahertz sensors into driverless cars is challenging. Sensitive, accurate object-recognition requires a strong output baseband signal from receiver to processor. Traditional systems, made of discrete components that produce such signals, are large and expensive. Smaller, on-chip sensor arrays exist, but they produce weak signals.

In a paper published online on Feb. 8 by the IEEE Journal of Solid-State Circuits, the researchers describe a two-dimensional, sub-terahertz receiving array on a chip that’s orders of magnitude more sensitive, meaning it can better capture and interpret sub-terahertz wavelengths in the presence of a lot of signal noise.

To achieve this, they implemented a scheme of independent signal-mixing pixels — called “heterodyne detectors” — that are usually very difficult to densely integrate into chips. The researchers drastically shrank the size of the heterodyne detectors so that many of them can fit into a chip. The trick was to create a compact, multipurpose component that can simultaneously down-mix input signals, synchronize the pixel array, and produce strong output baseband signals.

The researchers built a prototype, which has a 32-pixel array integrated on a 1.2-square-millimeter device. The pixels are approximately 4,300 times more sensitive than the pixels in today’s best on-chip sub-terahertz array sensors. With a little more development, the chip could potentially be used in driverless cars and autonomous robots.

“A big motivation for this work is having better ‘electric eyes’ for autonomous vehicles and drones,” says co-author Ruonan Han, an associate professor of electrical engineering and computer science, and director of the Terahertz Integrated Electronics Group in the MIT Microsystems Technology Laboratories (MTL). “Our low-cost, on-chip sub-terahertz sensors will play a complementary role to LiDAR for when the environment is rough.”

Joining Han on the paper are first author Zhi Hu and co-author Cheng Wang, both PhD students in in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science working in Han’s research group.

Decentralized design

The key to the design is what the researchers call “decentralization.” In this design, a single pixel — called a “heterodyne” pixel — generates the frequency beat (the frequency difference between two incoming sub-terahertz signals) and the “local oscillation,” an electrical signal that changes the frequency of an input frequency. This “down-mixing” process produces a signal in the megahertz range that can be easily interpreted by a baseband processor.

The output signal can be used to calculate the distance of objects, similar to how LiDAR calculates the time it takes a laser to hit an object and rebound. In addition, combining the output signals of an array of pixels, and steering the pixels in a certain direction, can enable high-resolution images of a scene. This allows for not only the detection but also the recognition of objects, which is critical in autonomous vehicles and robots.

Heterodyne pixel arrays work only when the local oscillation signals from all pixels are synchronized, meaning that a signal-synchronizing technique is needed. Centralized designs include a single hub that shares local oscillation signals to all pixels.

These designs are usually used by receivers of lower frequencies, and can cause issues at sub-terahertz frequency bands, where generating a high-power signal from a single hub is notoriously difficult. As the array scales up, the power shared by each pixel decreases, reducing the output baseband signal strength, which is highly dependent on the power of local oscillation signal. As a result, a signal generated by each pixel can be very weak, leading to low sensitivity. Some on-chip sensors have started using this design, but are limited to eight pixels.

The researchers’ decentralized design tackles this scale-sensitivity trade-off. Each pixel generates its own local oscillation signal, used for receiving and down-mixing the incoming signal. In addition, an integrated coupler synchronizes its local oscillation signal with that of its neighbor. This gives each pixel more output power, since the local oscillation signal does not flow from a global hub.

A good analogy for the new decentralized design is an irrigation system, Han says. A traditional irrigation system has one pump that directs a powerful stream of water through a pipeline network that distributes water to many sprinkler sites. Each sprinkler spits out water that has a much weaker flow than the initial flow from the pump. If you want the sprinklers to pulse at the exact same rate, that would require another control system.

The researchers’ design, on the other hand, gives each site its own water pump, eliminating the need for connecting pipelines, and gives each sprinkler its own powerful water output. Each sprinkler also communicates with its neighbor to synchronize their pulse rates. “With our design, there’s essentially no boundary for scalability,” Han says. “You can have as many sites as you want, and each site still pumps out the same amount of water … and all pumps pulse together.”

The new architecture, however, potentially makes the footprint of each pixel much larger, which poses a great challenge to the large-scale, high-density integration in an array fashion. In their design, the researchers combined various functions of four traditionally separate components — antenna, downmixer, oscillator, and coupler — into a single “multitasking” component given to each pixel. This allows for a decentralized design of 32 pixels.

“We designed a multifunctional component for a [decentralized] design on a chip and combine a few discrete structures to shrink the size of each pixel,” Hu says. “Even though each pixel performs complicated operations, it keeps its compactness, so we can still have a large-scale dense array.”

Guided by frequencies

In order for the system to gauge an object’s distance, the frequency of the local oscillation signal must be stable.

To that end, the researchers incorporated into their chip a component called a phase-locked loop, that locks the sub-terahertz frequency of all 32 local oscillation signals to a stable, low-frequency reference. Because the pixels are coupled, their local oscillation signals all share identical, high-stability phase and frequency. This ensures that meaningful information can be extracted from the output baseband signals. This entire architecture minimizes signal loss and maximizes control.

“In summary, we achieve a coherent array, at the same time with very high local oscillation power for each pixel, so each pixel achieves high sensitivity,” Hu says.

Cemex helps reconstruct taxiways at Jamaica’s Sangster Airport

Building materials firm Cemex has headed an international team of specialists to rebuild 35,000m2 of taxiways at the International Sangster Airport in Montego Bay, Jamaica.

MBJ Airports, the operator of the Sangster International Airport, awarded resurfacing works for taxiways, shoulders, and ramps to Mandeville-based S&G Roads in the middle of 2017.

S&G then subcontracted the concrete works to Cemex.

In a bid to ensure durability and quality of the new airport’s roads, Cemex mobilised a concrete plant, a paver, and other supplies including a next-generation paver to place 22,500m3 of concrete from Mexico.

INECO project manager Rubén Hernando Ceña said: “The aircrafts stop and make strong turns from standing still; this produces rubbish that might cause accidents and increases the frequency of maintenance.

"Concrete is a solution for safety improvement, reduces the risk of aircraft damage due to the irregularities of old pavement.”

INECO is responsible for the supervision of the project.

Cemex Mexico said that its 30 specialists in pavement, maintenance, topography, quality, management, and control worked to conclude the project without disturbing the airport’s operations.

Cemex Mexico infrastructure and government vice president Alejandro Vares said: “The CEMEX team collaborated with the airport’s authorities to produce high resistance concrete and execute the project without affecting air traffic.”

As a result of the renovation, the lifespan of the new taxiway will extend up to 20 years and help to cut maintenance cost and benefit the airport’s 4.5 million passengers per annum.

Other partners of the project include Cemex Jamaica and Caribbean Cement, Cemex’s local subsidiaries, and local builder S&G Road Surfacing Materials.

Cemex offers quality products and reliable service to customers and communities in more than 50 countries.

*Cemex completes the reconstruction of taxiways at Jamaica’s Sangster Airport. Credit: Uncle Leo.*

Image source:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Sangster_Airport.jpg>

Press release :

<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20190214005963/en/CEMEX-Rebuilds-Jamaica-Airport>

Other source:

<http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/news/20180814/ramp-taxiway-resurfacing-sangster-airport-80-complete>

CEMEX Rebuilds Jamaica Airport

CEMEX mobilized a concrete plant, a paver, and other supplies from Mexico to guarantee the durability and quality of the new airport’s roads.

The team, comprised of Mexican and Jamaican professionals, coordinated the efforts with the control tower to complete the project without affecting the airport’s operations.

February 14, 2019 06:14 PM Eastern Standard Time

MONTERREY, Mexico--(BUSINESS WIRE)--CEMEX, S.A.B. de C.V. ("CEMEX") (NYSE: CX), announced today that it led an international team of specialists in charge of renovating 35,000m2 of taxiways for the International Sangster Airport in Montego Bay, Jamaica, the main point of entry to this country.

To ensure the quality and durability of the new roads, CEMEX mobilized from Mexico a specialized team, a concrete plant, supplies that weren’t available in the area, and a next-generation paver to place 22,500m3 of concrete. These actions guaranteed not only the timely completion of the project, but also the highest quality of the final product.

"The aircrafts stop and make strong turns from standing still; this produces rubbish that might cause accidents and increases the frequency of maintenance,” said Rubén Hernando Ceña, Project Manager of INECO, the company in charge of project supervision. "Concrete is a solution for safety improvement, reduces the risk of aircraft damage due to the irregularities of old pavement,” he added.

With the equipment on site, CEMEX Mexico’s 30 specialists in pavement, maintenance, topography, quality, management, and control worked to complete the project without interrupting the airport’s operations. "The CEMEX team collaborated with the airport’s authorities to produce high resistance concrete and execute the project without affecting air traffic," explained Alejandro Vares, Infrastructure and Government Vice President of CEMEX Mexico.

With the project completed in less than six months, the new taxiway’s lifespan will extend up to 20 years; a change that will reduce maintenance frequency and benefit the airport’s 4.5 million annual users. "CEMEX added the value-added quality that is expected of a great global company," said Rubén Hernando Ceña.

This is an international project led by a Mexican team from CEMEX in collaboration with CEMEX Jamaica and Caribbean Cement, CEMEX’s local subsidiaries, and local builder S&G Road Surfacing Materials LTD. Through its participation in the renovation of international communication routes from different countries, CEMEX enables easier, safer, ontime arrivals and departures for Jamaicans and their visitors. CEMEX further demonstrates its leadership capacity for project solutions across any geography.

CEMEX’s cement and concrete technology centers are part of the collaborative research and development network led by CEMEX Research Group AG, headquartered in Switzerland.

CEMEX is a global building materials company that provides high quality products and reliable service to customers and communities in more than 50 countries. CEMEX has a rich history of improving the well-being of those it serves through innovative building solutions, efficiency advancements, and efforts to promote a sustainable future. For more information, please visit: www.cemex.com

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Work starts on €320m runway project at Dublin Airport

Dublin Airport has commenced the construction work on its new North Runway project that will entail an investment of €320m.

The official sod-turning ceremony for runway was carried out by Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar and Minister for Transport Shane Ross.

The new 3.1km runway, which will be located almost 1.7km north of Dublin Airport’s current main runway, is expected to boost connectivity at Dublin Airport. It will also allow the airport to continue to grow as a gateway between Europe and North America.

The new runway, which is part of Government’s National Aviation Policy, will help create around 31,200 new jobs in Ireland and provide around €2.2bn in additional activity for Irish economic by 2043.

Construction of the North Runway project is likely to be completed in about two years upon which nine more months will be given to commission the runway.

Leo Varadkarsaid: “This new runway is part of the Government’s €116bn Project Ireland 2040 plan to modernise our infrastructure, remove bottlenecks and enable future growth. Connectivity is one of the principles behind Project Ireland, linking Ireland to the world and all parts of Ireland to each other.

“More than 31 million passengers passed through Dublin Airport last year, with new routes opening in 2019 to Shenzhen in China, four locations in North america, and Ukraine.

“The North Runway will allow further expansion, with connections from Dublin expected to rise by a third within ten years of opening. It’s been promised for decades. Under this Government, it’s being delivered.”

The North Runway project will be funded through a combination of airport operator daa’s own revenues and borrowings, with no cost to the state.

A joint venture comprising Irish construction company Roadbridge and the Spanish infrastructure group FCC Construcción (FCC) is building the North Runway.

The contract includes construction of 306,000m2 of new runway and taxiways, 6km of new internal airport roads, and two new electricity substations.

The scope of the contract also includes installation of new drainage and pollution controls, as well as about 8km of electrical cable, 11km of CCTV cable and over 2,100 new runway and taxiway lights.

Additionally, daa is also planning a new five-year investment programme for Dublin Airport. Under the programme, the company will invest €900m in new boarding gate areas, aircraft parking stands and other improvements alongside about €200m airfield works and a €120m annual spend on repair and maintenance and revenue generating projects.

*Dublin Airport to construct €320m runway project to boost capacity. Credit: daa.*

Press release / Image source:

<https://www.daa.ie/taoiseach-and-minister-ross-turn-sod-on-dublin-airports-new-runway/>

Taoiseach And Minister Ross Turn Sod On Dublin Airport’s New Runway

An Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar TD and the Minister for Transport Tourism and Sport, Shane Ross TD today performed the official sod-turning for Dublin Airport’s new North Runway project.

The new runway is urgently needed to allow for expansion to underpin Ireland’s long-term economic growth. Dublin Airport’s existing main runway is effectively full at peak times every day following a 45% increase in passenger numbers since 2014.

The delivery of North Runway is a key recommendation of the Government’s National Aviation Policy, as it will significantly expand connectivity at Dublin Airport and also enable it to continue to grow as a gateway between Europe and North America.

The new 3.1km runway will be located almost 1.7km north of Dublin Airport’s current main runway. Construction will take about two years and a nine-month period of commissioning will then take place. North Runway will support the creation of 31,200 new Irish jobs and €2.2 billion in additional economic activity by 2043.

“Dublin Airport is our main gateway to the world and is crucial for Irish tourism, business and trade,” the Taoiseach said. “This new runway is part of the Government’s €116 billion Project Ireland 2040 plan to modernise our infrastructure, remove bottlenecks and enable future growth. Connectivity is one of the principles behind Project Ireland, linking Ireland to the world and all parts of Ireland to each other.

“More than 31 million passengers passed through Dublin Airport last year, with new routes opening in 2019 to Shenzhen in China, four locations in North america, and Ukraine. The North Runway will allow further expansion, with connections from Dublin expected to rise by a third within ten years of opening. It’s been promised for decades. Under this Government, it’s being delivered. So, I’m honoured to be here, along with my colleague Minister Ross, to turn the sod and formally start work on it.”

The Minister for Transport Tourism and Sport, Shane Ross TD said the new runway would have a significant impact for tourism by making it easier to visit Ireland from overseas.

“The extra capacity that will be delivered by North Runway is excellent news for Irish tourism,” Minister Ross said. “North Runway, which is a key investment within Project Ireland 2040, is strategically important for the entire country and we need to deliver it as quickly as possible,” he added.

“North Runway will bring new airlines to Ireland and allow airlines that operate here already to expand their networks. This will open up new long-haul and short-haul markets and provide a greater choice of routes and airlines.”

daa Chief Executive Dalton Philips said it was a historic day for Ireland and for Dublin Airport. “Our main runway opened 30 years ago this year and it has been a linchpin of the Irish economy during the past three decades. Annual traffic has grown from 5 million passengers in 1989, when Runway 10/28 opened, to a record 31.5m passengers last year and North Runway will enable continued expansion and connectivity growth at Dublin Airport in the decades ahead.”

The €320 million North Runway project will be funded through a combination of daa’s own revenues and borrowings, at no cost to the State. In fact, daa is a significant contributor to the Irish Exchequer, having paid €85 million in dividends and €347 million in taxes since 2014.

Separately, daa is also planning a new five-year investment programme for Dublin Airport. It includes a €900 million investment in new boarding gate areas, aircraft parking stands and other improvements alongside about €200 million worth of airfield works and a €120 million annual spend on repair and maintenance and revenue generating projects.

North Runway is being built by a joint venture comprising Irish construction company Roadbridge and the Spanish infrastructure group FCC Construcción (FCC). Roadbridge FCC won the main construction contract last October, following an international tender process.

More than 300 construction workers will be employed onsite and hundreds of jobs will also be created by related activities offsite. Roadbridge FCC will be working closely with daa and Fingal-based development company Empower to fill as many positions as possible from within the local community.

The contract includes building 306,000sq m of new runway and taxiways, 6km of new internal airport roads, and two new electricity substations. New drainage and pollution controls will be installed, as well as about 8km of electrical cable, 11km of CCTV cable and more than 2,100 new runway and taxiway lights.

While construction of North Runway progresses, daa will continue to seek the amendment of two planning conditions relating to flights between 11pm and 7am that will apply once the new runway is built.

“It has never been Dublin Airport’s intention to have lots more flights in the middle of the night, but the new conditions would have a very significant impact on the business, as 6am-7am is the airport’s busiest time of the day,” Mr Philips said.

“We are acutely aware of the concerns of local residents in relation to this development and there is a balance to be struck between those concerns and Ireland’s national economic needs,” he added.

Legislation to establish a new independent aircraft noise regulator at Dublin Airport is currently going through the Oireachtas. The views of daa, local communities and other stakeholders will be taken into consideration, and the regulator will make its decision based on an EU framework for assessing noise at airports.

daa works closely with airlines, the Irish Aviation Authority and ground handling firms to minimise aircraft noise at Dublin Airport and is also introducing a series of mitigation measures in relation to noise. daa is insulating about 200 homes near the airport to the highest standards and has also set up a voluntary scheme to buy up to 38 properties that are most affected by the North Runway development.

Further information:

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North Runway Facts

3.1km long; located almost 1.7km north of the main existing 10/28 runway at Dublin Airport

Planned since late 1960s; required land in daa ownership for decades

Will support 31,200 new jobs and €2.2bn in economic activity by 2043 (InterVISTAS, April 2017)

Can handle all aircraft types up to Code F (i.e. including an Airbus A380)

306,000 m2 of runway and taxiway pavement = surface area of 25 Croke Parks

1.3m cubic metres of material will be excavated and reused = contents of 520 Olympic-size swimming pools

1.3m square metres of topsoil will be reused = surface area of 185 Aviva Stadiums

1.3m square metres of topsoil will be reused = surface area of 185 Aviva Stadiums

Contract for main works awarded to Roadbridge FCC in Oct 2018.

About Dublin Airport

Dublin Airport is Ireland’s main gateway, handling 85% of all air traffic into and out of the State. Last year, it welcomed a record 31.5 million passengers, which was a 6% increase compared to 2017.

Dublin Airport is one of the most important economic assets in the country – generating or facilitating 117,300 jobs and €8.3 billion worth of economic activity.

This summer it will have flights to almost 200 destinations in 43 countries, operated by 56 airlines. It will see 20 new routes launched this year, including services to Calgary, Dallas-Fort Worth, Minneapolis-St Paul, Hamilton (Ontario), Shenzhen, Gothenburg and Kyiv.

About Roadbridge FCC

Limerick-based Roadbridge is a major Irish civil engineering firm that operates in Ireland, the UK, the South Pacific and the Middle East. It has extensive experience in delivering major infrastructural projects. Its other large projects include Centre Parcs Longford, the N17/N18 Gort to Tuam Motorway, and the Limerick Tunnel and Southern Ring Road.FCC Construcción has worked on airport projects such as the T-1 Passenger Terminal at El Prat Airport in Barcelona, the third runway and the new T4 terminal at the Madrid Barajas International Airport, and the upgrade of the runways at Riga Airport in Latvia. In Ireland, it has worked on projects such as the M50 upgrade, and the Grangegorman campus in Dublin.

Aviva seeks court approval to transfer $10.2bn from UK amid Brexit uncertainty

British life insurer Aviva has requested the High Court of England and Wales to grant permission for relocating its assets worth €9bn ($10.2bn) amid uncertainty over Brexit.

Requesting Judge Richard Snowden, the insurer said that the company should be allowed to transfer the life-insurance policies held by non-UK policyholders to its subsidiary in Ireland, reported Bloomberg.

With the latest move, Aviva has joined the growing number of companies including [AXA XL](https://www.verdict.co.uk/life-insurance-international/news/axa-xl-ireland-insurance/), [Travelers Europe](https://www.verdict.co.uk/life-insurance-international/news/travelers-europe-ireland-subsidiary/), [Royal London](https://www.verdict.co.uk/life-insurance-international/news/royal-london-opens-irish-subsidiary-in-brexit-contingency-planning/), [Chubb](https://www.verdict.co.uk/life-insurance-international/news/chubb-france-move-eu-hq/), [Liberty Specialty Markets](https://www.verdict.co.uk/life-insurance-international/news/liberty-receives-regulatory-nod-for-new-luxembourg-insurance-business/), to transfer their business in other coutnries to insulate them from the effect of Brexit

The insurer has expressed its concerns that it could lose the so-called “passporting rights” if the UK will face a hard Brexit. The “passporting rights” enable them to make payments to insurers outside the UK.

In case of hard- Brexit, insurers and pension firms will be prohibited from making payments which will make insurance policies dormant on their accounts.

Aviva lawyer Martin Moore told the publication: “The reason for proposing it, your lordship will not be surprised to know, is Brexit. The current and intensifying uncertainty render the need for certainty all the more pressing.”

“It obviously will take some time for clarity to emerge,” Moore added.

Aviva was granted permission to transfer $1.29bn in general policies earlier this month.

Brokers’ concerns grow around Brexit

A survey conducted by Aviva shows that the UK broker businesses are growing increasingly concerned about Brexit uncertainty and the economic climate. However, the brokers won’t let this affect their plans for growth, according to Aviva’s latest Broker Barometer survey.

Nearly half (48%) of broker owners said they were planning to expand their business in 2019, despite only 7% thinking the economic climate is having a positive effect (down 13% since May 2018).

Due to the current political and economic uncertainty, more brokers are taking steps to secure the future of their business. The number of broker owners who have some kind of succession plan in place has more than doubled (from 25% to 56%).

Aviva intermediaries managing director Phil Bayles said the findings were encouraging for the future of independent brokerages - and showed that most were feeling positive despite the challenging business environment.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-02-13/aviva-seeks-to-move-life-policies-as-brexit-planning-accelerates>

<https://www.aviva.com/newsroom/news-releases/2019/02/brokers-concerns-grow-around-brexit-and-economic-climate/>

MS Amlin introduces new risks policy for technology companies

Specialist insurance and reinsurance group MS Amlin has introduced an all risks insurance policy that has been especially designed for the technology sector.

The insurance product, known as Technology Combined, offers coverage to a range of risks including cyber and technology e&o, material damage, business interruption, terrorism, and computer breakdown.

It also offers coverage against equipment inspection service, public and products liability, directors & officers liability, theft by employee, legal expenses, as well as personal accident.

MS Amlin said that the technology companies can now choose the coverages they want to include and bundle them all within a single insurance product underwritten by the company.

Due to its modular nature, the technology companies can pick and choose products, having as much or as little cover as they require.

Commenting on the launch of the new product, MS Amlin head of UK Underwriting Richard Coxon said: “At MS Amlin we understand the importance of specialism and producing tailored products to meet our clients individual business needs.

“The Technology Combined product is designed to reduce any gaps in cover our clients may have, and gives them the ability to flex their insurance solution depending on their most prevalent risks.

“In a world where the nature of risk continues to evolve, we remain focussed on the client and providing flexible options that work for them.”

<https://www.msamlin.com/en/media/press-releases/2019/ms-amlin-announces-the-launch-of-a-new-technology-combined-produ.html>

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/ms-amlin-launches-all-risks-policy-for-the-tech-sector/>

<https://www.insurancejournal.com/news/international/2019/02/14/517758.htm>

3

Gen Re develops facial analytics app to allow customers quickly buy insurance

American property/casualty and life/health reinsurance firm Gen Re has started testing the prototype of its new facial analytics app that allows customers to buy life, hospital cash and accidental death insurance products quickly.

Known as NOW, the new app is powered by Lapetus Solutions’ JANUS facial analytics technology, which enables users to quickly snap a selfie from their smartphone.

After that, the app provides estimated information such as a user’s age, gender and BMI instantly. The new solution streamlines the onboarding process and allows policies to be issued in minutes.

Using the new app, the policyholders will also manage some aspects of their insurance, such as ‘booking’ specific days they want to be covered in the case of Accidental Death insurance.

Gen Re chairman of the executive board Winfried Heinen said: “Gen Re understands the power of innovation and the launch of our NOW app is testament to our commitment to bringing the best ideas in the Insurtech space to our clients in order to develop insurance solutions that meet the expectations of today’s tech-savvy and time-pressed consumers.

“A key privilege of being a direct reinsurer is that we get to know our clients and their goals in great detail. Supporting the development of new products and services remains core to the Gen Re promise.”

At present, a prototype of Gen Re’s NOW app is being tested in English, Japanese, (Traditional) Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Portuguese and Russian languages.

<https://businesswireindia.com/news/fulldetails/gen-re-now-app-uses-facial-analytics-let-consumers-buy-insurance-minutes/61919>

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/gen-re-develops-facial-analytics-app-for-insurance-buyers/>

Pentair wraps up takeover of Pelican Water Systems

Pentair has wrapped up the previously announced takeover of water treatment equipment and solutions provider Pelican Water Systems for $120m.

Based in Florida, Pelican Water Systems has a workforce of 79 staff. The company offers residential whole home water treatment systems.

Pentair noted that acquisition of Pelican will help further expand its residential water treatment business by offering new growth opportunities through both its modern product range and its multi-channel approach.

Pentair president and CEO John Stauch said: “We are excited about the addition of Pelican Water Systems for the new growth opportunities it brings to Pentair and for the innovative products and services we can bring to consumers, enhancing where, how and when they can buy their water treatment solutions.”

The agreement to acquire Pelican Water Systems was first signed in the second week of January this year.

Stauch had said: “This planned acquisition is one of the key elements of our strategy to expand our core water treatment products in the residential home water business.

“Consumers today are increasingly concerned about water quality and want to be empowered to improve the health of their water. Pelican Water Systems adds new and complementary products and services to the Pentair portfolio to better meet our consumers’ residential water needs.”

In January, [Pentair signed an agreement to buy water treatment equipment and solutions provider Aquion](https://www.water-technology.net/news/pentair-to-acquire-water-treatment-solutions-provider-aquion/) for $160m.

Pentair said its portfolio of solutions enables customers to access clean, safe water, reduce water consumption, and recover and reuse it.

Press release:

<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20190212005927/en/Pentair-Completes-Acquisition-Pelican-Water-Systems>

Other source:

<https://www.worldpumps.com/waste-wastewater/news/pentair-to-acquire-aquion-and-pelican-water/>

<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20190107005510/en/Pentair-Announces-Definitive-Agreement-Acquire-Pelican-Water>

Pentair Completes Acquisition of Pelican Water Systems

Acquisition Expands Pentair’s Residential Water Treatment Business

LONDON--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Pentair plc (NYSE:PNR), a leading water treatment company, today announced that it completed the acquisition of Pelican Water Systems for $120 million in cash, subject to customary adjustments. Headquartered in DeLand, Fla., Pelican Water Systems has 79 employees and provides residential whole home water treatment systems.

“We are excited about the addition of Pelican Water Systems for the new growth opportunities it brings to Pentair and for the innovative products and services we can bring to consumers, enhancing where, how and when they can buy their water treatment solutions,” said Pentair President and CEO John L. Stauch.

ABOUT PENTAIR PLC

At Pentair, we believe the health of our world depends on reliable access to clean water. We deliver a comprehensive range of smart, sustainable water solutions to homes, business and industry around the world. Our industry leading and proven portfolio of solutions enables our customers to access clean, safe water. Whether it’s improving, moving or enjoying water, we help manage the world’s most precious resource. Smart, Sustainable Water Solutions. For Life.

Pentair had revenue in 2018 of $3 billion, and trades under the ticker symbol PNR. With approximately 130 locations in 34 countries and 10,000 employees, we believe that the future of water depends on us. To learn more, visit Pentair.com.

Generali concludes acquisition of Slovenian insurer Adriatic Slovenica

Italian insurance major Generali has wrapped up its previously announced acquisition of Slovenian insurance company Adriatic Slovenica from KD Group.

Adriatic Slovenica provides property and casualty, life, health, and pension insurance plans. It maintains over 1.7 million insurance contracts serves nearly 500,000 customers.

The deal was first announced in May last year.

The transaction concluded after Generali obtained all the required approvals from regulatory agencies and competition authorities including the European Commission, Slovenian regulatory bodies and the Italian insurance supervision agency IVASS.

Generali CEE Holding CEO and regional officer of Austria, CEE & Russia Luciano Cirinà said: “This is an important step for Generali in the Austria, CEE & Russia Region.

“This strategic acquisition moves the Generali Group into 2nd place in the Slovenian market and will enable us to strengthen our regional presence, not only in the field of insurance, in particular in P&C and health, but also in fund management. These achievements further prove the strength and ambition of the region.”

Generali CEE Holding CFO Gregor Pilgram said: “We are sure that combining the insurance and investment expertise of Generali zavarovalnica and Adriatic Slovenica will further enhance the quality and range of solutions provided to customers of both companies.

“The next activities will focus on securing the strong and profitable position of the Generali Group in the Slovenian market with underlined commitment to fulfil our customers´ satisfaction.”

As part of the transaction, Generali also purchased mutual fund manager KD Funds that has over €750m of assets under management.

Upon completion of the transaction, the acquired business and its subsidiaries will be combined into the Generali structure in CEE.

Earlier this month, [Generali Global Assistance (GGA) purchased US-based travel insurance company Trip Mate](https://www.verdict.co.uk/life-insurance-international/news/generali-trip-mate-purchase/) from Arthur J. Gallagher.

<https://www.generalicee.com/article/press-releases/generali-completed-acquisition-of-adriatic-slovenica-and-kd-funds-in-slovenia>

<https://www.generali.com/media/press-releases/all/2019/Generali-completed-acquisition-of-Adriatic-Slovenica-and-KD-Funds-in-Slovenia>

<https://seenews.com/news/generali-completes-acquisition-of-slovenias-adriatic-slovenica-kd-funds-642833>

Raleigh-Durham Airport partners with IDeaS to deploy demand-based car parking system

The Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority has teamed up IDeaS Revenue Solutions, to implement a demand-based car parking system aimed at improving experience and optimizing space use.

As par terms of the contract, the technology vendor will deploy Car Park Revenue Management System (RMS) at the Raleigh-Durham International Airport.

The cloud-based forecasting and pricing solution will enable the airport to optimise capacity for 18,830 parking spaces which is said to be the largest source of revenue for the airport.

IDeaS Car Park RMS uses Statistical Analysis System (SAS) analytics, artificial intelligence (AI) and deep machine-learning to deliver optimal demand-based, dynamic pricing decisions supported by a 365-day future view of parking demand.

The new system will supplement the ParkRDU parking reservation system which was launched at the airport in the middle of the last year. It will enable the airport to sell the right product, to the right customer, at the right price, at the right time.

Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority president and CEO Michael Landguth said: “IDeaS has the technology and expertise necessary to help us make informed decisions, shaping more effective marketing strategies, sales programs and overall airport parking revenue management. We are fortunate to have a renowned data-analytics partner right here in the Research Triangle.”

IDeaS parking global sales head Guy Barnes said: “While the concept of demand-based dynamic pricing in the wider travel industry is not new, RDU is one of the first airports in the U.S. to further invest in its future by transforming its commercial strategy for parking.

“IDeaS is extremely excited to be a partner in its journey to drive new levels of revenue performance while continuing to improve customer experience.”

About IDeaS

Raleigh-Durham International Airport welcomed approximately 12.8 million passengers in 2018. The airport connects 66 nonstop destinations and 11 airlines.

*IDeaS to deploy demand-based car parking system at Raleigh-Durham Airport. Credit: RDUAA.*

Image source:

<https://www.rdu.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/rdu-1.jpg>

Third party source:

<http://www.parking-net.com/parking-news/ideas-revenue-solutions/raleigh-durham-international-airport>

Other source:

<https://www.moodiedavittreport.com/raleigh-durham-international-to-implement-demand-based-car-parking-technology/>

IDeaS Enables Raleigh-Durham International Airport to Transform Its Parking Business

RDU to implement demand-based, dynamic pricing technology to optimize capacity for 18,830 parking spaces

IDeaS Enables Raleigh-Durham International Airport to Transform Its Parking Business

With passenger numbers exceeding 12.8 million in 2018, Raleigh-Durham International Airport (RDU) is the primary anchor for the popular Research Triangle destination of North Carolina. As the next step in its Parking Transformation Program, the Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority has partnered with IDeaS Revenue Solutions, the global leader in revenue management, to create a better parking experience and optimize space utilization.

The partnership aims to enhance RDU guests’ parking experience and returns from the airport’s 18,830 parking spaces—the largest source of revenue for the airport. IDeaS Car Park Revenue Management System (RMS) is a cloud-based forecasting and pricing solution that uses advanced SAS® analytics, artificial intelligence and deep machine-learning to deliver optimal demand-based, dynamic pricing decisions fueled by a 365-day future view of parking demand.

Focus on passenger experience – RDU aims to further transform its customers’ parking experience by changing the dialogue around parking to one of added value, ease and economy. IDeaS Car Park RMS is a complement to the ParkRDU parking reservation system it soft-launched in mid-2018 and will enable RDU to sell the right product, to the right customer, at the right price, at the right time.

Airport parking in a sharing economy – It’s no secret one of the biggest challenges facing airport parking—including at RDU—is competition. To effectively compete, RDU aims to address the experience, convenience and value of parking over other modes of transportation. It is seeking to be competitively affordable for ParkRDU consumers.

A partner they can trust – Mindful of potential pitfalls when implementing new technology, RDU identified IDeaS Revenue Solutions as the right business partner because of its 30 years of revenue management experience—including an extensive list of airport parking clients—its industry-leading analytics and robust dynamic pricing tools, and its integrations with RDU’s other parking suppliers.

Michael Landguth, president and CEO of Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority, said: “IDeaS has the technology and expertise necessary to help us make informed decisions, shaping more effective marketing strategies, sales programs and overall airport parking revenue management. We are fortunate to have a renowned data-analytics partner right here in the Research Triangle.”

Guy Barnes, head of global sales, parking, IDeaS, said: “While the concept of demand-based dynamic pricing in the wider travel industry is not new, RDU is one of the first airports in the U.S. to further invest in its future by transforming its commercial strategy for parking. IDeaS is extremely excited to be a partner in its journey to drive new levels of revenue performance while continuing to improve customer experience.”

About IDeaS

IDeaS, a SAS company, is the world’s leading provider of revenue management software and services. With 30 years of expertise, IDeaS drives better revenue for more than 10,000 clients in 124 countries. Combining industry knowledge with innovative, data-analytics technology, IDeaS creates sophisticated yet simple ways to empower revenue leaders with precise, automated pricing decisions they can trust. Results delivered. Revenue transformed. Discover greater profitability at ideas.com.

About the Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority

The Raleigh-Durham Airport Authority operates Raleigh-Durham International Airport. In 2018, 12.8 million passengers, about 35,000 people per day, flew through RDU. With 66 nonstop destinations and 11 airlines, RDU connects central North Carolina to the people and places that matter most. RDU powers the region’s economy with an $12.6 billion annual economic impact supporting 5,000 on-campus and 86,000 regional jobs. RDU was named the best connected medium hub airport by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s International Center for Aviation in 2016 and 2017. Learn about the Airport Authority board, including its monthly meetings.

IndianMoney.com unit secures permission to operate as insurance broker

IndianMoneyInsurance.com, a subsidiary of the India-based IndianMoney.com Group, has obtained the insurance broking licence form the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) to foray into insurance broking business.

Now, the company is planning to start its online insurance brokerage business. To support the business, the company will recruit around 2,000 staff by the end of this year, reported The Hindu Business Line.

Additionally, the company has set aside approximately INR400m ($5.06m) to be invested on establishing insurance purchase centres across 500 taluk across India.

IndianMoney.com Group founder CS Sudheer told the publication: “People often believe that insurance is an investment product; however, insurance is all about sharing risk – the risk of death, disability due to accidents, illness, and loss of assets, among others.

“While insurance cannot make up for the emotional loss of these risks, it can certainly mitigate financial losses.”

IndianMoneyInsurance.com CEO Narasimha B told the news agency: “The insurance sector in India is poised for double-digit CAGR, owing to factors such as low penetration, the growing need for accessible healthcare, state-sponsored schemes such as Ayushman Bharat, and a proactive regulator in the form of IRDAI.”

GMR, Adani bid for all 6 AAI airports

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/68026906.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst>

Drone activity halts departures briefly from Dubai International Airport

<https://futurism.com/california-governor-tech-companies-pay-people-data>

<https://gulfnews.com/uae/transport/fresh-drone-warning-after-latest-closure-of-dubai-airport-1.62096090>

GMR looks to demerge airport biz, sets up panel

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/68018022.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst>

Consortium may offer new bid for NAIA rehab

<https://www.manilatimes.net/consortium-may-offer-new-bid-for-naia-rehab/513282/>

<http://manilastandard.net/business/biz-plus/288029/naia-consortium-asked-to-clarify-bid.html>

L&T Construction bags mega contract for design & construction of major airport

<https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-cm/l-t-construction-bags-mega-contract-for-design-construction-of-major-airport-119021800102_1.html>

<http://www.larsentoubro.com/media/39284/2019-02-18-lt-construction-awarded-a-mega-contract-for-design-and-construction-of-a-major-airport.pdf>

Country's third-longest road tunnel may come up along Thamarassery pass

<https://english.manoramaonline.com/news/kerala/2019/02/16/third-longest-road-tunnel-thamarassery-pass.html>

Virginia Selects Contractor for VDOT’s Largest Construction Project in History

<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/all-releases/2019/february/headline-838681-en.html>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/trafficandcommuting/northam-announces-selection-of-firms-to-build-33-billion-tunnel-project/2019/02/16/041a3622-3159-11e9-813a-0ab2f17e305b_story.html?utm_term=.f0bc34ae0428>

Hanover Partners with RSA Group to Expand International Specialty Offerings

<https://www.rsagroup.com/news/press-releases/2019/rsa-global-network-gains-new-strategic-partner-in-the-us-the-hanover/>

UK government backs AI projects for insurance industry

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/uk-government-backs-ai-projects-for-insurance-industry/>

Lancashire to write post-Brexit business through Lloyd’s Brussels

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/lancashire-to-write-post-brexit-business-through-lloyds-brussels/>

Apollo completes Aspen $26bn acquisition

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/apollo-completes-aspen-acquisition/>

DollarsAndSense Acquires fundMyLife To Provide Better Personal Finance Advice To S'poreans

<https://vulcanpost.com/656871/dollarsandsense-acquires-fundmylife-singapore/>

Highways England adopts new ways for road upgrades to improve drivers’ journeys

Highways England has announced major changes to the ways to manage the motorway upgrade projects to improve journeys and reduce the impact of roadworks on drivers.

The new initiative, which was announced after receiving the feedback from road users, will enable the agency to change the timing of some of its road modernisation work.

Now, the agency has decided that work on projects to construct additional lanes and deploy better technology to the M56 near Manchester Airport and the M6 between Warrington and Wigan, will commence after completion of the ongoing major motorway upgrades. These projects were earlier scheduled to commence this spring.

Additionally, it has decided to adopt new plans for the implementation of the smart motorway projects on the North West’s motorways in the future.

As part of its new strategy, Highways England will amend the layout of roadworks which will decrease the need for overnight diversions and help in early completion of the project.

The change to the road layout will support creation of the larger construction areas at the side of motorways so that more work can be carried out in one shift.

The company will also introduce contraflow roadworks layouts to cut the duration of schemes.

Furthermore, speed limits will also be increased to 60mph temporarily during times when it is safe for drivers and road workers. Throughout road upgrade work, three lanes will be maintained in each direction during the day.

Highways England North West smart motorways programme manager Mike Bull said: “We’ve listened to what people have been telling us about roadworks and have decided to reschedule two major schemes, benefitting drivers who use our roads to get to work and businesses who deliver goods across the region. We’re committed to the upgrades; we are simply changing the timetable for projects on the M56 and M6.

“We’re also reviewing how we carry out major upgrades so that we can minimise disruption as much as possible and maintain connections for drivers using the road network.”

Highways England, which has already completed major schemes on the M62 and M60, is committed to complete the biggest upgrade of the North West’s motorways in a generation. Since 2015, the agency has also opened a new link road between the M56 and M6.

Once the M62 scheme has been completed, a project to upgrade a four-mile-stretch of the M56 near Manchester Airport will start by spring 2020 while work will start this autumn to upgrade another stretch of the M62 between Rochdale and Brighouse in West Yorkshire.

Other major motorway projects, including a scheme on the M6 between Warrington and Wigan, are scheduled to commence between 2020 and 2025.

Press release:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/big-changes-to-motorway-upgrades-set-to-improve-drivers-journeys>

Other sources:

<https://www.heart.co.uk/northwest/news/local/speed-limit-rise-through-motorway-works/>

<https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/smart-motorways-m60-m56-delays-15831515>

Big changes to motorway upgrades set to improve drivers’ journeys

Highways England is changing the way it manages major motorway upgrades in the North West to help reduce the impact of roadworks on drivers.

Published 14 February 2019

Following feedback from road users, the government company is changing the timing of some of its roadworks. It means that work on projects to add extra lanes and better technology to the M56 near Manchester Airport and the M6 between Warrington and Wigan, which had been due to start this spring, will now start after current major motorway upgrades have been completed.

Highways England has also set out plans to improve how smart motorway projects are carried out on the North West’s motorways in the future.

They include changes to the layout of roadworks to reduce the need for overnight diversions and finish schemes sooner. Temporary speed limits will also be increased to 60mph when it is safe for drivers and road workers, and three lanes will be maintained in each direction during the day throughout upgrades.

Mike Bull, Highways England’s smart motorways programme manager for the North West, said:

Hundreds of thousands of people across the North West will benefit from a huge investment on the road network over the next few years and we’re keen to help keep drivers moving while the upgrades take place.

We’ve listened to what people have been telling us about roadworks and have decided to reschedule two major schemes, benefitting drivers who use our roads to get to work and businesses who deliver goods across the region. We’re committed to the upgrades; we are simply changing the timetable for projects on the M56 and M6.

We’re also reviewing how we carry out major upgrades so that we can minimise disruption as much as possible and maintain connections for drivers using the road network.

Highways England is committed to carrying out the biggest upgrade of the North West’s motorways in a generation and has already completed major schemes on the M62 and M60, as well as opening a new link road between the M56 and M6, since 2015.

The company has also completed almost half of a smart motorway upgrade on the M6 in Cheshire, opening a fourth lane on both carriageways between Holmes Chapel and Knutsford last month.

The temporary speed limit was increased to 60mph before Christmas while testing took place on new technology, and variable speed limits have now been introduced up to 70mph to improve the flow of traffic. The entire 19-mile upgrade between Crewe and Knutsford is on schedule to be finished by the end of March.

Work on a major upgrade of the M62 near Warrington is also due to be completed by spring 2020, increasing capacity by a third. The scheme will benefit commuters who had previously faced average speeds as low as 36mph on their way home from work.

A project to upgrade a four-mile-stretch of the M56 near Manchester Airport will now start by spring 2020 after the M62 scheme has been completed, and work will begin as planned this autumn to upgrade another stretch of the M62 between Rochdale and Brighouse in West Yorkshire.

Other major motorway projects, including a scheme on the M6 between Warrington and Wigan, will be staggered to start between 2020 and 2025.

Contraflow roadworks layouts, where one lane is moved onto the opposite carriageway with a temporary barrier between traffic, will also be introduced where possible to cut the duration of schemes.

The change to the road layout will allow bigger construction areas to be created at the side of motorways so that more work can be carried out in one shift. Traffic will also be able to continue to travel in both directions on the motorway when one carriageway is closed for major construction work overnight, reducing the need for diversions.

Get more details on the North West smart motorway upgrades.

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Drone sightings force Dubai Airport to suspend operations briefly

Dubai International Airport in the UAE was forced to halt operations in the morning of the 15 February after illegal drone activity was suspected near the airport airspace zone.

In a statement, the airport said that that flight take off were halted between 10:13am and 10:45am as a precautionary measures to safeguard travelers; however, it delayed journey to thousands of passengers and cost airlines millions of dollars.

A Dubai Airports spokesperson said: “Dubai Airports has worked closely with the appropriate authorities to ensure that the safety of airport operations is maintained at all times and to minimise any inconvenience to our customers.”

This is not the first time the Dubai airport, which made a record by handling serves more than 89 million passengers annually, was forced to suspend operations due to drone sightings.

In 2015, the airport halted operations for round 55 minutes due to illegal drone flight. In 2016, the airport encountered three more incidents of drone flights.

During the last few months, drone sightings in the UK and the US have disrupted operations at large airports.

In the fourth week of December 2018, [London’s Gatwick Airport closed for approximately 36 hours](https://www.airport-technology.com/news/operation-resumes-gatwick-airport/) due to the threats posed by illegal drones flying near its runway. It [caused widespread disruption and led to the cancellation of approximately 1,000 flights](https://www.airport-technology.com/news/gatwick-airport-closed-drone/).

During the second week of January this year, [Heathrow Airport temporarily halted all departing flights as](https://www.airport-technology.com/news/heathrow-drone-spotted-airfield/) a safety measure after a drone was spotted flying near the airfield.

Both Heathrow and Gatwick airports have subsequently announced that they will acquire [military-grade anti-drone equipment](https://www.airport-technology.com/news/heathrow-gatwick-anti-drone/) to deal with illegal drone flights near airfields.

Operations were temporarily halted due to illegal drone flight near the Dubai Airport. Credit: Jonathan Lampel on Unsplash.

Image source:

<https://unsplash.com/photos/L9wrEGJjRdo>

Third party source:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/02/15/world/middleeast/dubai-airport-drone.html>

Other sources:

<https://www.theverge.com/2019/2/15/18226077/dubai-airport-drone-closure-ground-flights>

<https://www.livemint.com/>

<https://gulfnews.com/uae/transport/fresh-drone-warning-after-latest-closure-of-dubai-airport-1.62096090>

Flights at Dubai Airport Halted Over ‘Drone Activity’

Departing flights were suspended for about half an hour on Friday morning at Dubai International Airport.CreditKamran Jebreili/Associated Press

Image

Departing flights were suspended for about half an hour on Friday morning at Dubai International Airport.CreditCreditKamran Jebreili/Associated Press

Dubai International Airport, one of the busiest in the world, was forced to briefly shut down departing flights on Friday because of what it said was “suspected drone activity,” the latest instance in which a major airport had to restrict air traffic over concerns about the remotely controlled devices.

The airport said in a statement that flight departures were suspended between 10:13 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. because of concerns about drone activity. Incoming flights were allowed to land, and the airport said on Twitter that operations were back to normal.

“Dubai Airports has worked closely with the appropriate authorities to ensure that the safety of airport operations is maintained at all times and to minimize any inconvenience to our customers,” the airport said.

The Dubai airport has grown rapidly in recent years, a reflection of changes in the region, and it has emerged as a busy hub for travelers heading all over the world.

Advertisement

The airport, which is the base of operations for the Emirates airline, says it serves more than 89 million people annually, with flights to 240 destinations on six continents operated by more than 100 airlines.

Government regulations in Dubai are fairly unambiguous about flying drones in areas where there might be significant air traffic: It is forbidden “near, around and over airports,” and users must obtain a certificate from the General Civil Aviation Authority in the United Arab Emirates.

In the last few months, reports of drone sightings have led several large airports to shut down or restrict air traffic.

In the most serious case, Gatwick Airport, one of the two main airports that serve London and the surrounding area, was shut down for the better part of 36 hours, as perplexed investigators struggled to confirm reports that at least one drone had entered its airspace.

In early January, flight departures were interrupted at London’s other main airport, Heathrow, after reports of drone sightings, although normal service resumed after about an hour.

1

Hampton Roads Connector selected for $3.3bn HRBT project in Virginia, US

Hampton Roads Connector Partners has been selected by Virginia state government in the US to complete the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel (HRBT) expansion project.

The fixed price contract worth $3.3bn will be formally awarded in April 2019, according to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). The project is expected to be completed by November 2025.

Hampton Roads Connector was chosen through a competitive procurement which started in December 2017 and lasted nearly one year.

During the process, three qualified design-build teams were shortlisted. Of three, two teams presented comprehensive technical proposals and price bids. After detailed evaluation, Hampton Roads Connector Partners emerged as the winning contractor based on bid price and technical score

Virginia Governor Ralph Northam said: “This project supports and expands critical transportation infrastructure, creating opportunity for families, military personnel, and businesses in the Hampton Roads region.

“I am proud of the hard work and negotiations that have taken place over this past year to deliver significant improvements that will relieve daily congestion, increase safety, and drive economic growth throughout this important corridor.”

As per terms of the contract, the contractor will be responsible for designing and constructing the HRBT project, which includes construction of two new two-lane tunnels.

Four-lane sections of Interstate 64 in Hampton between Settlers Landing Road and the Phoebus shoreline will be widened under the project. It will also broaden the four-lane section of I-64 in Norfolk between the Willoughby shoreline and the I-564 interchange.

This section of road is used by more than 100,000 vehicles currently during peak travel times.

The Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission (HRTAC) will be main source of funding for the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel.

Additional financial support from the state and the federal governments has also been requested. The VDOT will fund replacement of the bridge trestles on the Norfolk side.

Hampton Roads Connector Partners operates as a joint venture (JV) of Dragados USA, HDR, Mott MacDonald, Flatiron Constructors, Vinci Construction, and Dodin Campenon Bernard.

*Hampton Roads Connector to construct $3.3bn HRBT project in Virginia. Credit: SchuminWeb.*

Image source:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Hampton_Roads_Bridge_Tunnel.jpg>

Press release:

<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/all-releases/2019/february/headline-838681-en.html>

Virginia Selects Contractor for VDOT’s Largest Construction Project in History

$3.3 billion contract for HRBT expansion expected to be awarded in April 2019

NORFOLK—Governor Ralph Northam today announced that the Commonwealth of Virginia has selected Hampton Roads Connector Partners, a design-build team, to deliver the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel (HRBT) Expansion Project. The fixed price ($3.3 billion) and fixed completion date (November 1, 2025) contract is expected to be executed in April 2019.

This announcement follows a yearlong competitive procurement that started in December 2017 with three qualified design-build teams. Two teams submitted comprehensive technical proposals and price bids. After detailed evaluation, the proposal submitted by Hampton Roads Connector Partners has been selected as the best value proposal based on bid price and technical score. The details of the best value evaluation will be presented to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) and the Hampton Roads Transportation Accountability Commission (HRTAC) at their respective meetings in March.

The primary source of funding for the project is HRTAC, with applications for state and federal financial support in the process of being finalized. In addition, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will fund replacement of the bridge trestles on the Norfolk side.

“This project supports and expands critical transportation infrastructure, creating opportunity for families, military personnel, and businesses in the Hampton Roads region,” said Governor Northam. “I am proud of the hard work and negotiations that have taken place over this past year to deliver significant improvements that will relieve daily congestion, increase safety, and drive economic growth throughout this important corridor.”

“VDOT’s largest transportation project is being constructed in the heart of a region vital to Virginia’s economy, military readiness, and regional connectivity,” said Secretary of Transportation Shannon Valentine. “This would not have happened without close coordination and strategic partnership between the Commonwealth of Virginia and HRTAC.”

“HRTAC’s regional tax and user-supported funding, with anticipated state and federal funds, for the HRBT Expansion Project will continue to ensure future congestion relief and connectivity through regional solutions and partnership with VDOT,” said HRTAC Chairman Michael Hipple. “HRTAC and the Commonwealth Transportation Board are already funding partners in the delivery of more than a billion dollars’ worth of transportation projects that will enhance the quality of life and economic vitality in the Hampton Roads region.”

“This is a landmark day for our region and the Commonwealth. The hard-working citizens of the Hampton Roads region have asked for and deserve common-sense solutions to the traffic congestion that chokes our region,” said Chairman Chris Jones. “This infrastructure investment in the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel is a win-win for our families, communities, and military personnel who rely on this vital structure every day.”

“This announcement is the culmination of five years of hard work among all the leaders in our region,” said Senator Frank Wagner. “From the creation of HRTAC to today’s announcement, we will ensure that our region’s economy will continue to grow and unite our region as never before. I want to personally thank Governor Northam and his team for making this day possible.”

This project will add two new two-lane tunnels. It will widen the four-lane sections of Interstate 64 in Hampton between Settlers Landing Road and the Phoebus shoreline, as well as the four-lane section of I-64 in Norfolk between the Willoughby shoreline and the I-564 interchange. More than 100,000 vehicles currently use this facility during peak travel periods.

“Today’s announcement signals a major milestone in this generational project that will improve accessibility throughout the region,” said VDOT Commissioner Stephen Brich. “VDOT is committed to collaborating with regional partners across the Commonwealth to deliver transportation solutions that work for the citizens in the communities we serve.”

Hampton Roads Connector Partners is a joint venture consisting of multiple partners, with Dragados USA serving as lead contractor and HDR and Mott MacDonald as lead designers. The team also includes Flatiron Constructors, Vinci Construction, and Dodin Campenon Bernard.

UK offers financial support to AI-based insurance technology to tackle fraud

The Government of UK has set aside around £13m to support 40 artificial intelligence (AI) and data analytics projects, aimed at strengthening productivity and enhancing customer service.

These projects include an online “bot” for speedy legal advice, voice recognition technology to detect fraudulent insurance claims, and AI to review business expenses.

One such technology for insurance industry will combine AI and voice recognition to detect and interpret emotion and linguistics to assess the credibility of insurance claims. It has been developed by Intelligent Voice, Strenuus and the University of East London,

It is estimated that insurance fraud cost the UK £3bn in 2017, which is equal to £10,400 per fraudulent claim, and costing consumers an additional £50 each insurance policy.

Another project is an analysis tool, which uses a 3D image recognition system to evaluate images captures by drone. The tool is helpful in deciding in flood extent and depth alongside impacts on buildings and infrastructure to help with insurance claim assessments.

Other projects include an online bot which uses AI to answer online legal questions and a software that analyses accounting data and give recommendations to slash expenditure.

All the 40 projects are part of the UK government’s Next Generation Services Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund. Administered by UK Research and Innovation, the £20m fund aims to support the development of AI and data technologies.

UK Business Secretary Greg Clark: “Artificial intelligence and data are transforming industries across the world. We are combining our unique heritage in AI with our world beating professional services to put the UK at the forefront of these cutting-edge technologies and their application.

“We want to ensure businesses and consumers benefit from the application of AI – from providing quicker access to legal advice for customers, to tackling fraudulent insurance claims, these projects illustrate our modern Industrial Strategy in action.”

UK Research and Innovation CEO Mark Walport said: “The service industry around the world is being transformed by information technology. The Next Generation Services Challenge offers important opportunities for transformation of the legal, insurance and accountancy sectors across the UK.”

These research and development projects are scheduled to start working this month while the launch of new initiatives is expected by 2020/21.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/artificial-intelligence-to-tackle-insurance-fraud-and-assess-flood-damage>

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/uk-government-backs-ai-projects-for-insurance-industry/>

JAB plans to acquire 20% additional Coty’s stake for $1.75bn

German investment group JAB has submitted an offer to acquire nearly 20% stake in American cosmetic firm Coty in a transaction valued at approximately $1.75bn.

The proposed acquisition of up to 150 million Coty shares for $11.65 per share in cash will enable JAB to increase its stake in Coty to 60% from 40%.

The offer represents a premium of 20.6%, based on the stock’s closing price on 11 February.

In order to evaluate the JAB’s offer, Coty has set up a special committee which includes three independent directors.

In a statement, Coty said: “The Special Committee will thoroughly review and evaluate the Tender Offer to determine a course of action it believes is in the best interest of the Company’s stockholders.

“The Board will not move forward with approving or recommending the Tender Offer or any other transaction with JAB Group unless it is approved by the Special Committee.”

The special committee will inform the board of whether it recommends stockholders accept or reject the tender offer, or whether it expresses no opinion and remains neutral.

The special committee is expected to give its recommendation within ten business days.

JAB, that also manages Krispy Kreme, Dr Pepper and Peet’s Coffee, has been holding stake in Coty since 1992 when it purchased the discarded perfume business from pharma giant Pfizer.

After acquiring 40 brands from Procter & Gamble (P&G) in 2016 for around $12bn, Coty’s started facing problems. Following the deal Coty’s sales have slumped and its share prices also came down around 60% last year.

It also faced a number of other issues such as supply chain issues ranging from hurricanes and trucker strikes.

However, JAB believes that it will be able to steer clear Coty under the leadership of newly appointed CEO Pierre Laubies.

Echoing JAB view, JAB chairman Peter Harf told the Financial Times that the tender offer was a sign of the faith he and his partner Olivier Goudet have in Coty.

“We decided to do it because we believe Coty is a good investment and a good company that will prosper long-term,” said Harf told the news agency.

Press release:

<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20190215005449/en/Coty-Forms-Special-Committee-Evaluate-JAB-Tender>

Third party source:

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/jab-looks-to-boost-stake-in-coty-after-management-turnover-11549976577>

<https://www.ft.com/content/d2520bde-2ec3-11e9-ba00-0251022932c8>

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-jab-holding-coty/coty-forms-special-panel-to-evaluate-jabs-offer-to-raise-stake-to-60-percent-idUSKCN1Q42DK>

Coty Forms Special Committee to Evaluate JAB Tender Offer

February 15, 2019 01:00 PM Eastern Standard Time

NEW YORK--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Coty Inc. (the “Company”) (NYSE:COTY) today confirmed that on February 13, 2019 (the “Commencement Date”), JAB Holding Company S.à r.l. (“JAB” and, together with the affiliates of JAB (other than the Company), the “JAB Group”) commenced its previously announced tender offer, pursuant to which an affiliate of JAB Group would acquire up to 150 million additional shares of the Company’s Class A common stock at a price of $11.65 per share in cash (the “Tender Offer”).

The Board of Directors (the “Board”) of the Company has formed a special committee of disinterested, independent directors (the “Special Committee”) to evaluate the Tender Offer. Members of the Special Committee are Sabine Chalmers, Erhard Schoewel and Robert Singer.

Consistent with its fiduciary duties and in consultation with its financial and legal advisors, the Special Committee will thoroughly review and evaluate the Tender Offer to determine a course of action it believes is in the best interest of the Company’s stockholders. The Board will not move forward with approving or recommending the Tender Offer or any other transaction with JAB Group unless it is approved by the Special Committee.

The Special Committee will inform the Board of whether it recommends stockholders accept or reject the Tender Offer, or whether it expresses no opinion and remains neutral toward the Tender Offer, at which point JAB Group will determine whether or not to proceed with the Tender Offer. The Company will notify stockholders of the Special Committee’s formal recommendation, within ten business days of the Commencement Date by filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission a solicitation/recommendation statement on Schedule 14D-9. The Company’s stockholders are advised to take no action at this time pending the review of the Tender Offer by the Special Committee.

Important Additional Information

This communication does not constitute an offer to buy or solicitation of an offer to sell any securities. The Company may file a solicitation/recommendation statement on Schedule 14D-9 with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”). Any solicitation/recommendation statement filed by the Company that is required to be mailed to stockholders will be mailed to stockholders of the Company. BEFORE MAKING ANY INVESTMENT DECISION, INVESTORS AND SECURITY HOLDERS ARE URGED TO READ THESE MATERIALS AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS FILED OR TO BE FILED WITH THE SEC CAREFULLY AND IN THEIR ENTIRETY WHEN THEY BECOME AVAILABLE BECAUSE THEY WILL CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION. These materials will be sent free of charge to Company stockholders when available, and may also be obtained by contacting the Company’s Investor Relations Department at 350 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10118 or calling 212-389-7300. In addition, all of these materials (and all other tender offer documents filed with the SEC) will be available at no charge from the SEC through its website at www.sec.gov.

About Coty Inc.

Coty is one of the world’s largest beauty companies with over $9 billion in revenue, an iconic portfolio of brands and a purpose to celebrate and liberate the diversity of consumers’ beauty. We believe the beauty of humanity lies in the individuality of its people; beauty is at its best when authentic; and beauty should make you feel happy, never sad. As the global leader in fragrance, a strong number two in professional salon hair color & styling, and number three in color cosmetics, Coty operates three divisions: Consumer Beauty, which is focused on mass color cosmetics, mass retail hair coloring and styling products, body care and mass fragrances with brands such as COVERGIRL, Max Factor, Sally Hansen and Rimmel; Luxury, which is focused on prestige fragrances and skincare with brands such as Calvin Klein, Burberry, Marc Jacobs, Hugo Boss, Gucci and philosophy; and Professional Beauty, which is focused on servicing salon owners and professionals in both hair and nail, with brands such as Wella Professionals, Sebastian Professional, OPI and ghd. Coty has approximately 20,000 colleagues globally and its products are sold in over 150 countries. Coty and its brands are committed to a range of social causes as well as seeking to minimize its impact on the environment.

Apollo completes acquisition of Bermudian insurer Aspen for $2.6bn

Certain investment funds (Apollo Funds) affiliated with private equity group Apollo Global Management has wrapped the previously announced acquisition of Bermudian insurer Aspen for $2.6bn.

[First announced in August last year](https://www.verdict.co.uk/life-insurance-international/news/apollo-aspen-insurance-bermuda/), the transaction concluded after securing the required regulatory approvals. The deal was earlier approved [Aspen’s shareholders in December](https://www.verdict.co.uk/life-insurance-international/news/aspen-shareholders-approve-2-6bn-takeover-apollo/) last year.

The acquirer entity provides reinsurance and insurance services through offices in Bermuda, Australia, Canada, Ireland, Singapore, Switzerland, the UAE, the UK and the US.

It managed $12.9bn in assets for the year ended December 2017.

Now, Aspen is wholly-owned by the Apollo Funds.

Effective immediately, Glyn Jones has stepped down from his role as Chairman of Aspen’s Board, while Chris O’Kane has stepped down as Group Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and as a Director of Aspen.

Mark Cloutier has been named as executive chairman of Aspen’s board and group CEO with immediate effect.

Along with Glyn Jones and Chris O’Kane, other executives including Albert Beer, Matthew Botein, Gary Gregg, Heidi Hutter, Karl Mayr, Bret Pearlman, and Ron Pressman have also ceased to be directors on the Aspen Board with immediate effect.

Both John Cavoores and Gordon Ireland will remain on the Aspen Board and as directors. They will be joined on the Board by Mark Cloutier, Josh Black, Alex Humphreys, Gernot Lohr, Gary Parr and Michael Saffer.

Apollo partner Alex Humphreys said: “We are excited for our funds to be acquiring Aspen as it embarks on the next chapter of its development. We are delighted to be working with Mark again following our successful investment together in Brit Insurance.

“Mark has a long and successful track-record in the insurance sector and we believe he is ideally placed to lead Aspen through a period of transition to substantially improved profitability. We look forward to working with him and Aspen’s talented management team to drive value creation over the coming years.”

<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20190215005253/en/Investment-Funds-Affiliated-Apollo-Global-Management-Complete>

Hanover partners with RSA to expand global specialty capabilities

The Hanover Insurance Group has teamed up with RSA Insurance Group to provide a range of insurance coverages to US businesses with overseas risks.

As a strategic partner of RSA’s Global Network, The Hanover will also be able to access RSA’s network of local insurers in more than 180 countries across the globe.

RSA global network director Barbara O’Reilly said: “RSA’s Global Network has been providing multinational clients of both RSA Group, and select Strategic Network Partners, with efficient and professional local service for more than 20 years.

“Our measured expansion of our strategic network partner relationships, with companies that share our focus on developing customer solutions, executed with transparency and a commitment to service, drives increased value within the global network, supporting our many customer, broker and partner relationships around the world, and reinforces our position of strength in the multinational market."

The Hanover core commercial president Michael Keane said: “This relationship helps simplify the process for our agents, enabling them to offer total account solutions for US businesses with international operations.

“By coordinating all elements of clients' US and foreign insurance programs, businesses can more efficiently and effectively manage possible exposures.”

The Hanover concluded a complete on-boarding programme before signing an agreement to join RSA’s Global Network.

The Hanover will start providing multinational programmes to US customers through RSA’s Global Network during the first quarter of 2019.

The Hanover offers insurance protection for small and mid-sized businesses, as well as for homes, automobiles through a select group of independent agents and brokers.

<https://www.rsagroup.com/news/press-releases/2019/rsa-global-network-gains-new-strategic-partner-in-the-us-the-hanover/>

P&C insurer Lancashire to write business using Lloyd's Brussels unit post-Brexit

Property and casualty insurer Lancashire is planning to wire insurance business using Lloyd’s of London’s European Union hub in Brussels post-Brexit.

Lancashire CEO Alex Maloney told Reuters: “We have negotiated with Lloyd’s and we will write businesses that are affected by Brexit through our Lloyd’s platform, through Lloyd’s Brussels ... That is a great solution for us.

“Clearly, we do not want to lose our European business but it is not a huge driver ... None of us really know what will happen with Brexit and if that changes and we need an office in Europe, we’ll open an office,” Maloney told the new agency.

In November last year, [Lloyd’s launched its new subsidiary in Brussels](https://www.verdict.co.uk/life-insurance-international/news/lloyds-brussels-subsidiary/) to gain uninterrupted access to European Union markets following Britain’s departure from the bloc next year.

[Lloyd’s secured the licence for its Brussels subsidiary](https://www.verdict.co.uk/life-insurance-international/news/lloyds-london-secures-licence-operate-belgium/) from the National Bank of Belgium earlier this year

By writing through the Lloyd's Brussels unit, Lancashire can offer continuous service to its customers in the European Economic Area.

Lancashire said that the company sees Dublin as an “obvious option” for a potential Brexit hub. It will join other companies including XL Insurance, Beazley, Hiscox, Bupa and Travelers who have either established units in Ireland or in the process of doing so.

Recently, UK’s ship insurer Standard Club said that nearly 40% of its business will be written through its new Dublin unit.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-britain-eu-lancashire/insurer-lancashire-to-use-lloyds-brussels-hub-after-brexit-idUKKCN1Q324M>

<https://www.irishtimes.com/business/financial-services/dublin-to-become-hub-for-40-of-ship-insurer-s-business-after-brexit-1.3797112>

<https://www.euronews.com/2019/02/14/insurer-lancashire-to-use-lloyds-brussels-hub-after-brexit>

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/lancashire-to-write-post-brexit-business-through-lloyds-brussels/>

Transport Scotland to fully open Aberdeen bypass

Transport Scotland has announced that the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route (AWPR), also known as the Aberdeen bypass, in Aberdeenshire, Scotland will be fully opened for traffic on 19 February.

The 58 km-long road was originally approved by Scottish ministers in 2009; however, the £745m project that is being delivered by consortium Aberdeen Roads, fell behind its scheduled completion of Spring 2018. It is now expected to cost more than £1bn.

The decision to open Aberdeen bypass was taken after Aberdeen Roads assured to offer the required technical assistance for the River Don Crossing, which were required before the new section of road could open.

The Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity, Michael Matheson also confirmed that the final section of the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route between Craibstone and Parkhill will open to traffic. As a result, travelers will be able to access the entire 58km route.

The new 7.5km section of road will connect the southern Craibstone to Stonehaven and Charleston section with the Parkhill to Blackdog section in the north.

Matheson said: “This new section of the AWPR between Parkhill and Craibstone now allows the full benefits of this transformational project to be fully realised.

“The bypass was first proposed over 65 years ago but it took this Government to take the project forward in a meaningful way back in 2007. Despite the many challenges since then, we have taken a responsible and steadfast approach to delivering for the long-term benefit of the people and businesses of the North East and Scotland as a whole.”

After uncovering of signs, completion of road marking works and removal of temporary traffic management measures, the Craibstone, Parkhill and Kingswells North (northbound) Junctions will be fully opened to traffic.

Additionally, the link road that links the C89C Chapel of Stoneywood to Craibstone Junction will also be opened to use.

Aberdeen City Council Co-Leader Jenny Laing added: “The AWPR is a vital component of Aberdeen City Council’s £1billion capital programme underpinned by the Regional Economic Strategy which is providing the bedrock for a bright, prosperous future for the city and wider region.”

The new section follows opening of roads between Craibstone to Charleston and Stonehaven in December, Balmedie and Tipperty in August, Parkhill and Blackdog in June last year. It also follows opening of the Craibstone Roundabout and Dyce Drive section in September 2016.

*Aberdeen bypass in Scotland will be fully opened for traffic on 19 February. Credit: Transport Scotland.*

Press release /Image source:

<https://www.transport.gov.scot/news/full-awpr-to-open-on-tuesday/>

Third party sources:

<http://www.constructionenquirer.com/2019/02/18/aberdeen-bypass-to-fully-open-on-tuesday/>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-47258237>

Full AWPR to open on Tuesday

The Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure and Connectivity, Michael Matheson has confirmed the final section of the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route between Craibstone and Parkhill will open to traffic on Tuesday (19 February 2019), ensuring road users across the North East will have access to the entire 36 mile (58km) route.

Confirmation of the opening date follows Aberdeen Roads Limited providing the necessary technical assurances for the River Don Crossing, which were required before the new section of road could open.

This new 4.5 mile (7.5km) section of road will link the southern Craibstone to Stonehaven and Charleston section with the Parkhill to Blackdog section in the north. The operation will begin on Monday night and the road will open before the morning peak on Tuesday.

Mr Matheson said: “This new section of the AWPR between Parkhill and Craibstone now allows the full benefits of this transformational project to be fully realised. Since the major part of the road opened in December 2018, the overwhelmingly positive feedback has demonstrated the positive impact that infrastructure can bring about in people’s lives, the quality of their environment and the economy as a whole.

“The bypass was first proposed over 65 years ago but it took this Government to take the project forward in a meaningful way back in 2007. Despite the many challenges since then, we have taken a responsible and steadfast approach to delivering for the long-term benefit of the people and businesses of the North East and Scotland as a whole.

“We will continue to work constructively with Aberdeen Roads Limited as it moves into the operational phase of the project and it builds stronger relationships with the community it now serves.

“We would like to thank local communities, road users and businesses from across the north east and beyond who have been extremely patient waiting for the final section of the road to be opened.”

The Craibstone, Parkhill and Kingswells North (northbound) Junctions will be fully opened to traffic once signs have been uncovered, road marking works completed and temporary traffic management measures removed. The link road connecting the C89C Chapel of Stoneywood to Craibstone Junction will also be opened to use, allowing work to begin on permanently closing its junction with the A96.

Aberdeen City Council Co-Leader Jenny Laing added: “The AWPR is a vital component of Aberdeen City Council’s £1billion capital programme underpinned by the Regional Economic Strategy which is providing the bedrock for a bright, prosperous future for the city and wider region.

“The opening of the AWPR, a much needed and long-awaited development, will have as significant an impact from an economic perspective as it will in terms of transport.

“The transformation of Aberdeen continues at great pace. It’s vital we keep building momentum and celebrate the change that we’re all part of, with many more important dates to look forward to in the months and years ahead.

“The AWPR, supported by the Council’s £75m investment, is vitally important in that wider transport strategy and will support not only our own capital programme but those of our partners in the city. “

Aberdeen City Council Co-Leader Douglas Lumsden said: “We have all seen at first-hand the incredible efforts of the workforce who have made the vision a reality and on behalf of Aberdeen City Council I must thank the thousands who have contributed to what is a landmark project.

“The improved connectivity will touch all of our communities and is something Aberdeen has craved for generations. It has been a long, hard process but now the opening is upon us it’s vital we look forward and take advantage of the opportunities it presents.

“The premise of the city centre as a destination rather than a thoroughfare will become far more appealing and the City Council is supporting that with developments that are bringing positive change to Aberdeen’s traditional heart.

“The opening of the AWPR marks the end of a construction programme but the beginning of an important new chapter for Aberdeen.”

Leader of Aberdeenshire Council Cllr Jim Gifford said: “This is the moment we’ve all been waiting for. Aberdeenshire Council’s £75million investment in this transformational project has gone a long way and the result is truly impressive.

“There have certainly been challenges along the way but we must now focus on the benefits we are already beginning to enjoy in terms of improved connectivity and reduced congestion, as well as the opportunities the route presents to existing and new businesses. I’d like to thank everybody involved for making this vision a reality.”

This new section follows road openings between Craibstone to Charleston and Stonehaven in December 2018, Balmedie and Tipperty in August 2018, Parkhill and Blackdog in June 2018, and the Craibstone Roundabout and Dyce Drive section in September 2016.

Manchester Airport partners with Vodafone to trail 5G-based services for passengers

British telecom major Vodafone has partnered with Manchester Airport to test 5G-based services to enable passengers to download their favourite content quickly.

Through this collaboration, Manchester has become the UK’s first 5G connected airport.

As part of the trial, holidaymakers and business travellers at Manchester’s Terminal One are being invited to participate part in a test and download content in super quick time.

Due to lack of 5G-enabled handsets, Vodafone carried out the trial using its ‘Gigacube’ device – a 5G enabled portable router.

Users connected to 5G through the Gigacube and used their Now TV Entertainment Pass to download and stream content.

Vodafone claims that the time taken to download an entire box set is four times faster over 5G compared to 4G.

5G will allow holiday makers and business travellers to load a web page or a video immediately and they can seamlessly stream a movie over 5G without buffering or lag.

Vodafone UK CEO Nick Jeffery said: “5G, with its fast speeds and quick response times, will make that quick and easy, even in busy locations. We are proud to be the first provider to bring 5G to an airport and will be adding more major travel hotspots to our 5G network throughout the year.”

Manchester Airport chief operating officer Brad Miller said: “As a business with a strong presence in our surrounding community, Vodafone was a natural partner for a trial project like this and we look forward to collaborating with them again in the future.”

Due to its faster speeds, low latency and increased capacity, 5G is able to support smart airports and roads, as well as better connected cars, businesses and homes.

The latest 5G trial comes after Vodafone’s successfully tested 5G spectrum across a live network in April and the UK’s first 5G holographic call in September last year.

*Manchester Airport to become first UK’s airport to offer 5G-enable services to passengers. Credit: The Manchester Airports Group plc.*

Image source:

<https://content.presspage.com/uploads/1947/500_mantpnewdepartures.jpg?10000>

Press release from the UK:

From: Paula Munteanu [<mailto:Paula.Munteanu@harvard.co.uk>]   
Sent: 18 February 2019 08:28  
To: Berenice Baker  
Subject: [NEWS] Vodafone connects UK's first 5G airport

Other source:

<http://www.mobilenewscwp.co.uk/2019/02/18/vodafone-brings-5g-to-manchester-airport/>

VODAFONE CONNECTS UK’S FIRST 5G AIRPORT

• Manchester to become UK’s first 5G connected airport

• Time taken to download an entire box set is four times quicker over 5G than 4G

• Vodafone will bring 5G to more major airports and railway stations within a year

• Holidaymakers and business travellers at Manchester’s Terminal One invited to take part in a trial and download content in super quick time

Vodafone has switched on 5G at Manchester Airport, with other travel locations set to follow suit within weeks. In a UK first, holidaymakers and travellers getting ready for the half-term getaway tested the new, super-fast network by downloading a film or TV box set using 5G. The testers downloaded content up to four times quicker than over 4G - providing them with more than enough entertainment for their flight.

Manchester Airport is the first of several travel hot spots where Vodafone is trialling 5G. Vodafone 5G masts are now in place at the airport, forming part of the 5G trials taking place across the city. Further trials over the coming weeks will include Snow Hill railway station in Birmingham.

Passengers at Manchester’s Terminal One visited Vodafone’s special 5G ‘blast pod’ and were given a free Entertainment Pass on streaming service NOW TV\*. Airport users could download an episode of the new series of Tin Star in 45 seconds and the whole series in six minutes and seven seconds - up to four times faster than over 4G, which took 26 minutes and eight seconds\*\*. At these speeds, Vodafone’s 5G network will allow a home Wi-Fi like experience, on the go.

5G will enable holiday makers and business travellers to load a web page or a video instantly and, thanks to super low latency, people will be able to seamlessly stream a movie over 5G without buffering or lag.

Nick Jeffery, CEO, Vodafone UK said: “We all love to catch up on our favourite TV shows, play games or finish off some work when travelling. 5G, with its fast speeds and quick response times, will make that quick and easy, even in busy locations. We are proud to be the first provider to bring 5G to an airport and will be adding more major travel hotspots to our 5G network throughout the year.”

Brad Miller, Chief Operating Officer, Manchester Airport said: “We are delighted to support Vodafone’s 5G trial at Manchester Airport. As we progress with the design and delivery of our £1bn transformation programme, we are constantly exploring how new innovations and technology can be applied to improve the airport experience.

“As a business with a strong presence in our surrounding community, Vodafone was a natural partner for a trial project like this and we look forward to collaborating with them again in the future.”

As 5G handsets are not yet available for consumers, Vodafone completed the trial using its ‘Gigacube’ device – a portable router that is 5G enabled. Consumers connected to 5G via the Gigacube and used their Now TV Entertainment Pass to download and stream content. (More technical detail available in the notes to editors).

With faster speeds, low latency and increased capacity, 5G has the potential to revolutionise our day-to-day lives by enabling smart airports and roads, as well as better connected cars, businesses and homes. It will act as a catalyst for emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, Internet of Things (IoT), robotics and connected cities.

This latest 5G trial follows Vodafone’s successful test of 5G spectrum across a live network in April 2018 and the UK’s first 5G holographic call in September 2018. You can watch the full video here: https://youtu.be/4Fqx\_ajP4Hw

-ends-

Note to Editors

\*Customers who sign up to Vodafone’s Red Entertainment plans can choose to receive a NOW TV Entertainment Pass for the duration of their contract.

\*\*An episode of Tin Star was downloaded in 45 seconds using 5G (file size for episode 1 is 656MB). Season 2 of Tin Star (9 episodes) was downloaded in 6 mins and 7 seconds on 5G and 26 mins and 8 seconds on 4G.

Technical detail: The trial used 5G with Active Antenna (or Massive MiMo) technology at Manchester Airport – a wireless network that allows the transmitting and receiving of more than one data signal. This creates multiple 5G ‘motorways’ from one antenna, which are then beamed to a 5G router to create a fixed wireless access connection for many users. This allows any device with Wi-Fi to connect to the router and benefit from a high-speed data connection.

London Stansted reveals newly-designed Departure Lounge seating with room for 550 additional passengers

<https://mediacentre.stanstedairport.com/london-stansted-reveals-newly-designed-departure-lounge-seating-with-room-for-550-additional-passengers/>

Schiphol Airport starts facial recognition boarding using Vision-Box platform

<https://www.vision-box.com/pressroom/press-releases/schiphol-airport-facial-recognition-boarding-vision-box-platform>

Route unveiled for major new road and junction at Black Cat

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/route-unveiled-for-major-new-road-and-junction-at-black-cat>

Funding approved for Balfour's £55m Plymouth link road

<https://www.theconstructionindex.co.uk/news/view/funding-approved-for-balfours-55m-plymouth-link-road>

<http://www.constructionenquirer.com/2019/02/18/april-start-for-balfour-55m-plymouth-link-road/>

Equipped 1300 public buses with Vehicle Identification Pass using RFID-based technology in coop with ENOC

<https://www.rta.ae/wps/portal/rta/ae/home/news-and-media/all-news/NewsDetails/equipped-1300-public-buses-with-vehicle-identification-pass-using-rfid-based-technology-in-coop-with-enoc>

RLI partners with insurtech DataCubes to optimise underwriting process

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/rli-partners-with-insurtech-datacubes-to-optimise-underwriting-process-17707>

Munich Re completes longevity swap with Lafarge UK Pension Plan

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/munich-re-completes-longevity-swap-with-lafarge-uk-pension-plan-17704>

SCOR partners with wearable tech provider to improve underwriting

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/scor-partners-with-wearable-tech-provider-to-improve-underwriting-17703>

POP strikes M&A deal with Japanese insurer Rakuten to target Asia Pacific

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/pop-strikes-m-a-deal-with-japanese-insurer-rakuten-to-target-asia-pacific-17701>

Charles Taylor opens Belgium office, targets growth in Europe

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/charles-taylor-opens-belgium-office-targets-growth-in-europe-17700>

GMR, Adani among 10 suitors to gain management control of six airports in India

GMR Airports and Adani Enterprise are among the 10 potential bidders who have submitted their bids to gain management control of six airports currently owned by the Airports Authority of India (AAI).

Others suitors include Italy’s Autostrade, AMP Group from Australia, I Investments in Mauritius, as well as Cochin International Airport (CIAL), Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC), National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), PNC Infrastructure and Sanna Enterprises.

As part of the Government of India airport privatisation drive, the AAI issued request for proposal (RFP) for the airports located in Jaipur, Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Mangalore, Guwahati and Trivandrum in the middle of the December last year.

Jaipur and Ahmedabad airports have received seven bids each while Lucknow and Guwahati have received six bids each. Mangalore and Thiruvananthapuram have attracted three bids each.

AAI chairman Guruprasad Mohapatra told livemint.com: “We’ve received 32 bids in all. The technical scrutiny is going on. There are thousands of documents that we have to go through that pertain to qualifying categories in terms of financial performance and past experience in infrastructure projects.”

GVK, the concessionaire for the Mumbai international airport and the developer of the new Navi Mumbai airport, did not participate in the latest airport privatisation drive.

“The number of bids for each airport in this case were much higher than what the AAI had received in 2016 for greenfield airports at Navi Mumbai and Mopa (Goa), where there had been only two bids each,” Mohapatra added.

The bidder offering the highest per-passenger fee for domestic travellers will be awarded the rights to operate, manage and develop the six airports.

The winning bids are expected to be announced on 28 February.

AAI receives 32 bids for the privatisation of six airports in India. Credit: Yeray Sánchez on Unsplash.

Image source:

<https://unsplash.com/photos/ZKEjw7oLmQQ>

Third party source:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/68026906.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst>

Other sources:

<https://www.financialexpress.com/infrastructure/airlines-aviation/privatisation-gmr-adani-among-10-bidders-for-six-non-metro-airports/1489945/>

<https://www.livemint.com/industry/infrastructure/adani-gmr-bid-for-6-non-metro-airports-listed-for-privatization-1550429366773.html>

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/gmr-adani-niif-fairfax-in-race-for-airports-deal/article26283946.ece>

NEW DELHI: India's biggest private sector airport operator, GMR Group, and infrastructure major Adani have bid for the six airports- Lucknow, Jaipur, Ahmedabad, Guwahati, Mangaluru and Thiruvananthapuram- that the government plans to run public-private way like the mega hubs at Delhi and Mumbai.

Jaipur and Ahmedabad airports have got seven bids each. Lucknow and Guwahati have got six bids each. Mangalore and Thiruvananthapuram have got three bids each.

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) had in mid-December issued request for proposal (RFP) for these airports. The technical bids were opened on Saturday that showed GMR - which runs Delhi and Hyderabad airports - and Adani Group have submitted bids for all the six airports. The Cochin International Airport Pvt Ltd (CIAL) has bid for one airport, Mangalore. In all, AAI has got 32 bids for the six airports from 10 bidders. Apart from GMR, Adani and CIAL, the other bidders are: AMP Capital Investors (UK) Ltd and PNC Infra (bid for four airports each); Autostrade, NIIF and I Investments Ltd (three airports each) and KSIDC and Sanna Enterprise (one airport each).

"The technical bids have been opened as of now. The financial bids will be opened on February 25," said a senior AAI official. Since every airport has elicited good response, AAI is hopeful that it may be able to hand over operations, management and development of these six growing airports to private players for 50 years as planned. According to the RFP, the letter of award has to be issued to the winning bidder on February 28 and the validity of the bids is till July 31, 2019.

This is the second big round of privatising airports after Delhi and Mumbai were handed out to private players, GMR and GVK, over a decade back. But the revenue share model is different this time.

AAI has had several disagreements with the private airport operators in Delhi and Mumbai over the amount of revenue to be shared. There have been allegations in the past that the private airport operators formed subsidiaries to hive off certain non-aero operations at these airports in a bid to avoid revenue share with AAI as per the privatisation pact.

To avoid such disputes, the authority has now opted for a new model of revenue generation from these six airports' prospective bidders. "The concessionaire shall pay to the Authority, on a monthly-basis, a fee (the 'per-passenger fee') in respect of each passenger (both domestic and international) handled at the airport in accordance with the concession agreement… the concessionaire shall be entitled to collect charges from users of the airport in accordance with the concession agreement," the RFP document says.

This is the first time this method is being tried. The aviation ministry feels that since there can be no disagreement on the number of people flying through these airports, a per-passenger fee revenue share model with AAI will be better. While these are brownfield projects, even Greenfield airport projects being bid out now like Greater Noida will be using this per-passenger revenue share model.

"The concessionaire shall broadly be responsible for operations and management of the existing airport assets as well as for designing, engineering, financing, construction and development of the further/ additional air-side, terminal, city-side and land-side infrastructure for the airport and the operation and management thereof in accordance with the concession agreement and applicable laws," the RFP for one of the six airports says.

London Stansted unveils new seating areas in departure lounge

London Stansted Airport has added 550 additional seats under three brand new seating areas in its busy Departure Lounge.

The addition of new seats will boost capacity of Departure Lounge by approximately 40%, according to the airport.

Part of the continuing £600m Stansted Transformation Project, the improvements have created a more attractive and comfortable seating area with room now for over 1000 passengers.

The area has been equipped with 436 new USB and USC charging points. The lounge has also been fitted with ‘Leaf lamps’ that offers ambient lighting while helping to absorb sound using felt ‘foliage’.

Additionally, the airport has set up a dedicated family seating area within the Departure Lounge. Featuring smaller and colourful children-friendly bench, it is suitable for groups travelling with younger children.

Moreover, a quiet seating area has been created downstairs from the Departure Lounge and away from retail units and passenger thoroughfares.

Equipped with 208 seats, this quiet seating area offers a more peaceful environment to travellers preferring to spend their pre-flight time away from the chaos of main departure lounge.

And a third new area with 160 additional seats has been set up on the way to Satellite 3 gates.

Stansted Airport terminal operations head Linsey Miller said: “We are delighted with the fresh look of the main Departures Lounge and, most importantly, I’m confident passengers will also be very pleased with the changes we have made.

“It has updated the area and offers much-needed additional seating and device charging points, while the curved design and layout of the furniture means passengers feel a sense of space while seated.

“The quiet seating area is something new we’re pleased to be able to offer. This is on a lower level floor with no shops or TVs and no one passing through, so it is a calmer environment for those who may find that more appealing than the busy central areas.

“We are in a really exciting time for London Stansted and this is just one example of the many planned developments in the terminal building which will transform the experience for millions of passengers travelling through the airport.”

London Stansted Airport, which is owned and managed by the Manchester Airport Group (MAG), currently serves approximately 18 million passengers per annum.

London Stansted Airport opens new seating areas in departure lounge. Credit: Manchester Airport plc.

Press release / Image source:

<https://mediacentre.stanstedairport.com/london-stansted-reveals-newly-designed-departure-lounge-seating-with-room-for-550-additional-passengers/>

Other sources:

<https://www.stanstedairport.com/about-us/>

<https://www.stanstedairport.com/about-us/london-stansted-airport-and-mag/>

London Stansted reveals newly-designed Departure Lounge seating with room for 550 additional passengers

London Stansted Airport has revealed stylish new passenger seating and created three brand new seating areas in its busy Departure Lounge, which has increased capacity by 40 per cent.

The improvements, part of the ongoing £600 million Stansted Transformation Project, have created a more attractive and comfortable seating area with room now for over 1000 passengers in the main Departure Lounge area and including 436 new USB and USC charging points. ‘Leaf lamps’ around the area provide ambient lighting while helping to absorb sound using felt ‘foliage’.

A dedicated family seating area has been created within the Departure Lounge, offering smaller and colourful children-friendly bench seating for groups travelling with younger children.

There is also a newly-created quiet seating area downstairs from the Departure Lounge and away from retail units and passenger thoroughfares. It has 208 seats and offers a more peaceful environment to passengers preferring to spend their pre-flight time away from the hustle and bustle of main departure lounge.

And on the way to Satellite 3 gates, a third new seating area offers 160 additional seats.

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“We are delighted with the fresh look of the main Departures Lounge and, most importantly, I’m confident passengers will also be very pleased with the changes we have made. It has updated the area and offers much-needed additional seating and device charging points, while the curved design and layout of the furniture means passengers feel a sense of space while seated.

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“We are in a really exciting time for London Stansted and this is just one example of the many planned developments in the terminal building which will transform the experience for millions of passengers travelling through the airport.”

Linsey Miller, Head of Terminal Operations

UK government sanctions £22.56m contribution for Plymouth link road

The UK Department for Transport (DfT) has announced that the government has approved a £22.56m contribution to Plymouth City Council’s Forder Valley Link Road.

The Forder Valley Link Road, also known as Plymouth link road, is a proposed 1km link between William Prance Road in Derriford and the Forder Valley Road/Novorossiysk Road junction.

The overall £55m project also includes a bridge over the Bircham Valley along with a signal junction at the Forder Valley Road and Novorossiysk Road junction.

The road will provide a second route between the A38 and Derriford and helped to bypass the congested Manadon roundabout and A386 Tavistock Road through Crownhill.

Additionally, the Forder Valley Link Road project will include new walking and cycling routes and help to improve bus connectivity from the east.

Besides reducing journey times from the east of the Plymouth to the north, the new road will usher new era for development in north of the city, where 4,300 homes will be constructed over the next 15-year.

Transport Secretary Chris Grayling said: “This exciting scheme will provide vital extra capacity on Plymouth’s road network and help cut journey times, while also promoting the use of public transport through better bus routes from the east.

“This investment is part of our cast-iron commitment to deliver resilient transport across the south-west, building on our ambitious plans to boost the region’s economy through stronger travel connections.”

Enabling works are scheduled to commence on 28 January 2019, which will be followed by the main construction of the project with expected completion by winter 2021.

*UK government approves £22.56m contribution for Plymouth link road. Credit: Crown copyright.*

Third party source:

<https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/parkingandtravel/transportplansandprojects/fordervalleytransportimprovements/fordervalleylinkroad>

<https://www.theconstructionindex.co.uk/news/view/funding-approved-for-balfours-55m-plymouth-link-road>

<http://www.constructionenquirer.com/2019/02/18/april-start-for-balfour-55m-plymouth-link-road/>

Transport Secretary announces £22 million investment in Plymouth link road

Scheme will provide vital extra capacity on Plymouth’s road network and help cut journey times.

Published 15 February 2019

From:

Department for Transport and The Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP

Plymouth road image

more than £22 million funding put towards the total cost of the Forder Valley Link Road

new road will cut journey times from the east of the Plymouth to the north

government publishes Investing in the South West detailing £2 billion of funding to support growth and prosperity

Drivers and cyclists will benefit from quicker journeys across Plymouth thanks to a multimillion pound investment announced by the Transport Secretary.

Chris Grayling has revealed today (15 February 2019) that more than £22 million will be put towards the Forder Valley Link Road, which will help support the city’s economic prosperity and lead to wider benefits.

The new road will also unlock land in the north of the city for development, where 4,300 homes are planned over the next 15 years, and it will include new walking and cycling routes while improving bus connectivity from the east.

Transport Secretary Chris Grayling said:

This exciting scheme will provide vital extra capacity on Plymouth’s road network and help cut journey times, while also promoting the use of public transport through better bus routes from the east.

This investment is part of our cast-iron commitment to deliver resilient transport across the south-west, building on our ambitious plans to boost the region’s economy through stronger travel connections.

The new 1 kilometre (0.6 mile) road will create an additional route from the east of Plymouth to the north, avoiding the often heavily congested Manadon Roundabout and A386 Tavistock Road. It will link Forder Valley Road and Novorossiysk Road to William Prance Road in Derriford.

Work will start in April (2019) and is expected to be complete within 3 years.

Today’s announcement was made as the Transport Secretary visited the south-west, meeting with local businesses, to discuss how government investment is focused on giving people across the region the modern, reliable services they deserve.

An extensive programme of investment in the south-west to transform connectivity throughout the region has been outlined in the ‘Investing in the South West’ report.

This includes schemes totalling more than £2 billion, improving the strategic road network, high-speed direct bus connectivity, safe and continuous cycle routes and easier transfer between transport modes.

Schiphol Airport and Vision-Box launch facial recognition technology trial

Technology company Vision-Box in partnership with Schiphol Airport in the Netherlands has launched a pilot of facial recognition self-boarding technology at the airport.

Part of the first phase of Seamless Flow programme, the trial will enable passengers traveling with Cathay Pacific to experience seamless journey by using facial recognition self-boarding at the airport.

Once passengers complete check-in process, participating passengers will be accompanied to one of the special registration kiosks.

At that time, the passport and the boarding pass of the passengers will be scanned, while an image of the face will be snapped to generate the traveller’s single token.

After that, the passengers will undergo security and passport control process as usual. Once they reach at the boarding gate, their face will be scanned and matched with the image clicked during registration process.

Once the face is recognised, the gate will open and the traveller will be able to board on the airline system.

Vision-Box CEO Miguel Leitmann said: “It’s all about the passenger. The whole idea of Seamless Flow is to modernize the airport landscape to improve the convenience, simplify the processes, propose modern interactions and deliver effective value to passengers.

“We’re very excited to continue working with our partners in this landmark program, offering Cathay Pacific customers with a pioneering seamless travel platform that will absolutely reshape how we travel.”

By making self-boarding available, Schiphol is closer to achieving a completely Seamless Flow, which aims at offering passengers more convenience and a frictionless flow across the airport.

Schiphol Airport safety and security director Wilma van Dijk said: “For passengers, the journey from arrival at the airport to boarding becomes easier and more efficient.

“Now you have to show your passport, your boarding card or both at various checkpoints at the airport, for example, when dropping your luggage, at the entrance to the security check, when passing the border and when you go boarding.

“In the future you can pass these control points more smoothly because you are recognized by your face. You can leave your passport and boarding pass in the bag. ”

Scanning of the face, passport and boarding pass will be done during registration and boarding in the future. Passport control will be added for the next phase to the trial.

To implement this programme, a partnership has been established by the Dutch Government, Amsterdam Airport Schiphol, Cathay Pacific, KLM and Vision-Box.

*Vision-Box pilots facial recognition boarding technology at Schiphol Airport in the Netherlands. Credit: Vision-Box.*

Press release / Image source:

<https://www.vision-box.com/pressroom/press-releases/schiphol-airport-facial-recognition-boarding-vision-box-platform>

Other source:

<https://news.schiphol.com/schiphol-launches-pilot-for-boarding-by-means-of-facial-recognition/>

Schiphol Airport starts facial recognition boarding using Vision-Box platform

February 18, 2019

Schiphol Airport starts facial recognition boarding using Vision-Box platform

Seamless Flow will be experienced with Cathay Pacific passengers

Passengers traveling with Cathay Pacific can now participate in a trial of facial recognition self-boarding at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol. This trial is part of the first phase of Seamless Flow, the program that intends to make paperless travel possible in the long term.

After checking in, passengers are invited to take part in the trial. Participants are escorted to one of the special registration kiosks. At this moment, the passport and the boarding pass are scanned, while a high-quality face image is captured, in order to generate the traveler’s single token.

This will allow passengers to self-process through a boarding gate without having to show any documents. At the departure gate, they use a dedicated biometric-enabled eGate, where they simply have to look at a camera that scans their face. The live photo is automatically compared with the scan that was made at the registration process. When the face is identified, the gate opens and the passenger is boarded on the airline system. This only takes a few seconds.

Schiphol Airport \_GoLive Seamless Flow\_Vision-Box\_2 Schiphol Airport \_GoLive Seamless Flow\_Vision-Box\_4

“It’s all about the passenger. The whole idea of Seamless Flow is to modernize the airport landscape to improve the convenience, simplify the processes, propose modern interactions and deliver effective value to passengers. We’re very excited to continue working with our partners in this landmark program, offering Cathay Pacific customers with a pioneering seamless travel platform that will absolutely reshape how we travel.”, says Miguel Leitmann, Vision-Box CEO

By making self-boarding available, Schiphol is closer to achieving a completely Seamless Flow, which aims at offering passengers more convenience and a frictionless flow across the airport.

“For passengers, the journey from arrival at the airport to boarding becomes easier and more efficient”, says Wilma van Dijk, Schiphol’s Safety and Security Director. “Now you have to show your passport, your boarding card or both at various checkpoints at the airport, for example, when dropping your luggage, at the entrance to the security check, when passing the border and when you go boarding. In the future you can pass these control points more smoothly because you are recognized by your face. You can leave your passport and boarding pass in the bag. ”

“Cathay Pacific is always looking for ways to improve the experience of our customers at every stage of their journey with us, and the experience at the airport is an important and integral part of that journey. We are therefore happy to be part of this innovative trial, in order to prepare ourselves and our passengers for the future way of traveling”, says Will Kerr-Muir, Cathay Pacific Country Manager Benelux & France.

In the coming months, scanning of the face, passport and boarding pass will be experienced during registration and boarding. The next phase will add passport control to the trial.

To bring this program to life, a partnership has been established by the Dutch Government, Amsterdam Airport Schiphol, Cathay Pacific, KLM and Vision-Box, who is responsible for the seamless flow technology platform.

EU’s Anti-Fraud Office confiscates 400 tonnes of counterfeit shampoo from China

The EU’s Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) has helped in confiscating 400 tonnes of counterfeit shampoo in Colombia and Mexico which were produced illegally in China.

The seized sham shampoo was valued at approximately €5m and was intended to be sold in the European market.

In order to stop the illicit shampoo trade from China, the OLAF took part in an international operation and monitored the movement of the ship that was carrying the counterfeit shampoo.

A specialised software, which was used by the OLAF to monitor the shipment, collected data from vessels and ports in real-time.

Once the ship docked in Colombia to divert the consignment to its end destination in Venezuela, the OLAF alerted national authorities in Colombia and Mexico, and requested the search and seizure of the vessel.

During the search, the OLAF and with support from Spanish customs, Colombian and Mexican authorities found a huge 400 tonnes of fake shampoo.

Colombian custom officers, who participated in the operations, said the shampoo included the Dove, Head & Shoulders and Pantene brands.

The seizure was carried out at the beginning of February after OLAF got information in January about the dismantling of an illegal factory in China. The Chinese factory was producing counterfeit shampoo.

In 2018, the EU’s Anti-Fraud Office seized 360 tonnes of illegal pesticides coming from China to the EU.

The OLAF has been empowered to conduct independent investigations into fraud and corruption involving EU funds. It is also developing a strong EU anti-fraud policy.

*EU’s Anti-Fraud Office helps to capture 400 tonnes of illegal shampoo shipment from China. Credit: European Commission.*

Press release / Image source:

<https://ec.europa.eu/anti-fraud/media-corner/news/18-02-2019/bursting-fraud-bubble-olaf-plays-central-role-400-tons-seizure-fake_en>

Other sources:

<https://www.politico.eu/article/eu-anti-fraud-office-seizes-400-tons-of-sham-shampoo-china-fraud-eu-olaf/>

<https://www.neweurope.eu/article/eu-anti-fraud-agency-seizes-400-tonnes-of-fake-shampoo-from-china/>

Bursting the fraud bubble: OLAF plays central role in 400 tons seizure of fake shampoo

18/02/2019

PRESS RELEASE No 01/2019

PDF icon PDF version (197.8 KB)

OLAF was at the centre of an international operation to stop illicit trade of counterfeit shampoo. The shampoo - produced illegally in China - was seized in Colombia and Mexico at the beginning of February 2019. OLAF closely monitored the shipment, from dispatch in China to Latin America, to prevent risks of it entering the EU market. Search and seize operations, on 31 January and 8 February, found more than 400 tons of the counterfeit haircare product - worth up to €5 million.

OLAF received information in January 2019 about the dismantling of an illegal factory in China producing counterfeit shampoo. A large cargo of shampoo had already left the factory by sea. OLAF feared it might be headed for Europe and monitored its journey out of the Chinese ports starting mid-January.

The shipment's route was complex, including passage and stops in different ports - in China, Korea, Mexico and Colombia - and loading and unloading on various vessels.

OLAF experts kept a close eye on the containers using specialised software which gathers real-time data from vessels and ports around the world. When they estimated the fake shampoo risked diversion before reaching its end destination in Venezuela, OLAF alerted national authorities in Colombia and Mexico, and recommended the search and seizure.

In close cooperation with OLAF and with notable support from Spanish customs, Colombian and Mexican authorities found a staggering 400 tons of fake shampoo. Enough to fill several swimming pools, the cargo has an estimated retail value of €5 million.

The seizure is an excellent example of OLAF's dedication to stemming the traffic in counterfeit and illegal products. OLAF has a unique ability to support international cooperation by connecting the dots across the globe, in complex, large-scale fraud cases.

Background:

The trade of counterfeit products results in vast illicit profits and significant losses of tax revenues for the EU and its Member States. The smuggling of counterfeit products harms the European economy, damages legitimate business and stifles innovation, putting many jobs at risk. Counterfeiting also poses serious risks to health and safety as well as the environment.

OLAF is competent to conduct investigations related to the smuggling of counterfeit goods, thereby protecting the EU and its Member States from customs and tax revenue losses. OLAF particularly focuses on the smuggling of potentially dangerous products.

OLAF mission, mandate and competences:

OLAF’s mission is to detect, investigate and stop fraud with EU funds.

OLAF fulfils its mission by:

• carrying out independent investigations into fraud and corruption involving EU funds, so as to ensure that all EU taxpayers’ money reaches projects that can create jobs and growth in Europe;

• contributing to strengthening citizens’ trust in the EU Institutions by investigating serious misconduct by EU staff and members of the EU Institutions;

• developing a sound EU anti-fraud policy.

In its independent investigative function, OLAF can investigate matters relating to fraud, corruption and other offences affecting the EU financial interests concerning:

• all EU expenditure: the main spending categories are Structural Funds, agricultural policy and rural development funds, direct expenditure and external aid;

• some areas of EU revenue, mainly customs duties;

• suspicions of serious misconduct by EU staff and members of the EU institutions.

RLI teams up with DataCubes to modernise underwriting process

RLI, an American specialty property and casualty insurer, has teamed up with insurtech start-up DataCubes to modernise its underwriting process.

DataCubes operates as a data science platform for commercial underwriting and offers its services to the property and casualty insurance firms.

Its machine learning platform automatically digitises insurance submission documents such as ACORD forms and loss runs that earlier took days or weeks to process.

As per terms of the agreement, RLI will leverage DataCubes’ AI-powered intake, risk analysis and scoring tools to automate intake forms and intelligence gathering.

These solutions will enable the insurer to replace certain manual processes and offer agents with faster, more efficient quotes.

RLI vice president of small commercial lines Carol Denzer said: “We aim to deliver the best products, service and experience possible to our customers.

“We’ve partnered with DataCubes to explore how we might better leverage technology to enhance our delivery of products and services to our small producers and policyholders.”

DataCubes co-founder and CEO Kuldeep Malik said: “Data science has great potential to improve commercial underwriting and it is our pleasure to provide the technology required to help RLI successfully explore new approaches.”

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/rli-partners-with-insurtech-datacubes-to-optimise-underwriting-process-17707>

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/rli-to-leverage-machine-learning-with-insurtech-partnership/>

<https://www.datacubes.com/press_releases/rli-datacubes-announcement>

SCOR taps Garmin Health’s wearable technology to improve underwriting process

SCOR Global Life, a subsidiary of France-based reinsurance firm SCOR, has teamed up with wearable technology company Garmin Health to improve its underwriting in Asia Pacific region.

Under the terms of the agreement, Garmin Health will support SCOR Global Life’s Biological Age Model (BAM) to integrate more biometric data into its algorithm and offer underwriting insights.

As a result of the collaboration, SCOR will empower insurers to get more accurate assessment of an individual’s biological age and reduce risk and purchase cycles and offer competitive pricing.

Additionally, it will strengthen BAM’s adaptability for various markets and help SCOR Global Life pave the way for the future of continuous underwriting.

Through BAM, policyholders whose biological age is lower than their chronological age, can receive incentives including premium discounts, health and wellness coaching, and rewards, among others

SCOR Global Life Asia-Pacific deputy CEO Vincent Lepez said: “We are excited about the Garmin collaboration as it underscores the real value of BAM by a leader in the wearables industry.

“We are starting the year strong with two project launches, one in China (JD China) and one in Malaysia (Hong Leong Assurance), and we will be continuing this momentum in the coming months by bringing more BAM and Garmin products into several markets across the region.

“Our unwavering commitment to enhancing BAM mirrors our passion to help people lead healthier lives.”

Garmin Health director of global business development Joern Watzke said: “Combining the health data from Garmin wearables with the analytical capabilities of BAM creates a powerful solution for both insurance companies and their customers.”

<https://www.scor.com/en/media/news-press-releases/scor-global-life-continues-promote-healthy-lifestyles-asia-pacific>

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/scor-partners-with-wearable-tech-provider-to-improve-underwriting-17703>

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/scor-global-life-partners-with-wearable-tech-firm-on-health-insights/>

POP partners with Japanese insurer Rakuten to expand in Asia Pacific region

POP Insurance (POP), a specialist insurance group in Australia, and its subsidiary Fusion Specialty M&A MGA, have collaborated with Japanese firm Rakuten General Insurance.

Aimed at focus on mergers and acquisitions (M&A) transactions in Japan, the partnership will also support Rakuten’s growth across Asia Pacific region.

Pursuant to the terms of the strategic partnership, Rakuten will offer distribution, direct insurance paper and insurance administration services locally for the Japanese M&A insurance market.

Similarly, Fusion Specialty M&A will provide capacity, along with distribution, underwriting and claims management services.

The partners will deliver a comprehensive assortment of transactional insurance solutions, such as warranty & indemnity, tax opinion, and contingent liability to private equity and corporate M&A marketplace in Japan.

POP and Fusion co-founder and executive partner Killian McDermott said: “There is a great opportunity for the Partnership to better serve and to lead the growth of the Japanese M&A insurance market.

“With our commitment to local expertise and solutions, and to enable a better insurance experience through design, data and technology, we align with Rakuten’s stated mission of 'empowering individuals and society through innovation'; and their commitment to “fulfill the diversifying insurance needs of their customers and to provide the most optimal insurance service.”

Rakuten senior executive officer, CEO office and chief underwriter, M&A insurance Kosuke Inada said: “We have entered into a partnership agreement with Fusion Specialty Insurance Pty Ltd, a highly reputable W&I insurance expert, delivering a wide range of their support in underwriting, claim handling and reinsurance capacity.

“Through our product, we will support M&A transactions by Japanese companies and contribute to the further development of the Japanese economy.”

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/pop-strikes-m-a-deal-with-japanese-insurer-rakuten-to-target-asia-pacific-17701>

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/pop-insurance-partners-with-rakuten-on-japan-ma-offering/>

<http://www.pressreleases.haggiepartners.com/pop-announces-strategic-partnership-with-rakuten/>

Charles Taylor Adjusting opens new office in Belgium to target European clients

Charles Taylor Adjusting (CTA), a US-based loss adjuster, has set up its new office in Belgium, as part of plans to expand its property and casualty offering in Europe.

The new office will operate under the supervision of the new directors including Ludwig Pauwels and Yves Thaens who joined the team.

Both the directors will report to Andy Rice, managing director of property, casualty, technical and special risks for the UK, Europe and Singapore.

The duo has more than 20 years of industry experience and regional knowledge in complex and commercial claims.

Andy Rice said: “Expansion into Belgium further enhances CTA’s presence in Europe, with existing offices in France, Greece and Italy.

“Local presence is very important to develop closer relationships with our existing and new clients, many of whom will be working closely with our colleagues around the world. We’re very pleased to welcome Ludwig and Yves to the team.”

CTA operates as a part of Charles Taylor’s Claims Services business which offers loss adjusting, end-to-end claims programme management and technical services.

The company employs approximately 2,000 claims specialists based in more than 100 locations in 30 countries.

<http://www.ctplc.com/news/news-search/2019/02/charles-taylor-adjusting-announces-opening-of-new-belgium-office-to-expand-pc-presence-in-europe/>

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/charles-taylor-opens-belgium-office-targets-growth-in-europe-17700>

Dubai Airports to divert most traffic to DWC during 45-days of runway upgrade

Dubai Airports has announced that most of the flights will be diverted to Dubai World Central (DWC) during the 45-day upgrade of southern runway at the Dubai International Airport (DXB).

As a result of diversion from 16 April to 30 May, flight traffic is expected to surge as much as 700% at the DWC, according to Dubai Airports that owns and manages the operation and development of DXB.

However, the closure of southern runway at DXB will just affect 32% of the flight movements as the DXB has optimised schedule and will use 96% capacity of the northern runway.

To minimise inconvenience to passengers, the airlines flying to DXB have decided to deploy bigger aircraft during the closure period. As a result, number of seats is expected to be reduced by just 26%.

Dubai Airports CEO Paul Griffiths said: “We’re pleased that we have managed to maintain as much choice as possible for customers.

“The most significant change for passengers during the period will be the need to confirm the airport that they travelling to or from. That said, we’re confident customers and airlines will be impressed by the speed, efficiency and convenience of Dubai’s second airport.

“It’s a great opportunity to showcase DWC’s newly expanded facilities that can now accommodate up to 26.5 million passengers annually and we’re confident that it will shine.”

It is estimated that an average of 158 passenger flights operated by two charter carriers and 16 scheduled airlines will land and take off per day at the DWC during the 45-day period.

The resurfacing of southern runway will lead to movement of over 90 construction vehicles per hour during peak times at the DBX.

Earlier, developer Dubai Aviation Engineering Projects (DAEP) selected UAE-based Al Naboodah Construction Group for the runway upgrade project.

The contractor will remove nearly 6,000 inset runway lights and will complete milling around 407,000m2 of runway and taxiway surfaces.

After that, it will lay 158,000 tonnes of wet-mix and 106,000 tonnes of asphalt while installing around 6,000 new LED lights, along with 245 guidance signs, and 12,000 new transformers.

Subsequently, Al Naboodah Construction will configure components and software so that these work seamlessly with the control tower.

Finally, the contractor will test, commission, and hand over the runway and precision landing systems back to Dubai Aviation Engineering Projects.

Image source:

<http://www.dubaiairports.ae/corporate/media-centre/photo-gallery#album/gardens>

Press release:

<http://www.dubaiairports.ae/corporate/media-centre/press-releases#detail/dwc-flights-to-climb-700-during-dxb-runway-refurb>

Other sources:

<https://www.constructionweekonline.com/projects-tenders/169453-dubai-international-airport-dxb-refurb-to-boost-dwc-airline-passenger-traffic-by-700>

<https://www.constructionweekonline.com/projects-tenders/169268-dubai-international-airport-runway-closure-renovation-contractor-al-naboodah-construction-group>

Participate in the Dubai Airports Media Survey 2018

DUBAI, UAE: February 18, 2019: Dubai World Central (DWC) will see the number of passenger flights skyrocket by 700% as it takes on additional traffic during the 45-day period when DXB’s southern runway is closed for a complete refurbishment from April 16 to May 30th, 2019. The closure will reduce the hub airport’s capacity making DWC an attractive alternate to absorb affected scheduled, charter, cargo and general aviation operations.

Optimised schedule

Although DXB will effectively be without 50% of its runways, the actual reduction in passenger flights will only be 32% thanks to an optimised schedule that will see the northern runway used to 96% of its capacity. Due to the deployment of larger aircraft by some airlines during the closure period, the number of seats will only decrease by 26%. Finally, thanks to the additional capacity provided by DWC, the number of flights across the Dubai Airport system will see a reduction of just 10% and a seat reduction of just 11%.

The schedule has been almost a year in the making as Dubai Airports engaged all airlines in April last year to adjust their schedules versus the six-month period typically required by IATA/ICAO. An independent slot coordinator was appointed to oversee this process and rules were applied equally to all passenger airlines. The timing of the closure further minimises impact as the holy month of Ramadan is typically the quietest period at DXB in terms of traffic.

“We’re pleased that we have managed to maintain as much choice as possible for customers,” said Paul Griffiths, CEO, Dubai Airports. “The most significant change for passengers during the period will be the need to confirm the airport that they travelling to or from. That said, we’re confident customers and airlines will be impressed by the speed, efficiency and convenience of Dubai’s second airport. It’s a great opportunity to showcase DWC’s newly expanded facilities that can now accommodate up to 26.5 million passengers annually and we’re confident that it will shine.”

During the 45-day period, DWC will see an average of 158 passenger flight movements per day operated by two charter carriers and 16 scheduled airlines including flydubai, Wizz Air, Aeroflot, Condor, Air India, Air India Express, Indigo, SpiceJet, Gulf Air, Royal Jordanian, Himalaya Airlines, Ukraine International Airlines, Nepal Airlines, Kuwait Airways, Salam Air, Mahan Air, flynas, and Azur Air. \*

Dubai’s Roads and Transport Authority will provide a fully integrated ground transportation solution for Dubai World Central (DWC) with a regular bus service from key locations in Dubai and a dedicated fleet of taxis serving the airport. Dubai Airports will also have an express bus service operating between DXB and DWC every 30 minutes departing from DXB Terminals 1, 2 and 3. Customers will also be able to take advantage of the free shaded parking at DWC’s 2,500 capacity car park.

Runway refurbishment not new to DXB

As the site of numerous large-scale engineering programmes, including the upgrade of the northern runway in 2014, DXB’s operational, construction and engineering teams are well versed in handling the challenges presented by massive, complex undertakings such as the upcoming refurbishment programme.

At peak times, more than 90 construction vehicles per hour will enter and exit the airport, adding additional traffic to the roads around DXB. More than 18,500 truckloads of concrete, asphalt, materials and personnel will need to be transported to and from the airport for the duration of the runway refurbishment programme. More than 1,900 employees will be involved in the project.

To reduce the already minimal risk of construction overrun, Dubai Airports has started a number of works in advance of the full runway closure. Dubai Airports has also identified work packages that are not critical to the completion and safe recommissioning of the new runways and which can be completed once the runway has returned to normal operation. This will provide a safety buffer should there be any unexpected delays, allowing non-essential work to be completed after the 45 days.

Advice for passengers

Passengers are advised to confirm their airport of departure and arrival via their airline’s schedule or by accessing www.dubaiairports.ae. Additionally, while Dubai Airports will provide updates on any impact on road traffic around the airport due to construction vehicular activity, passengers are advised to leave for the airport a little earlier to ensure that they arrive on time.

UK to invest £1.4bn on Black Cat roundabout and 10-mile dual carriageway

The Government of UK has decided to build a £1.4bn new 10-mile dual carriageway to connect Caxton Gibbet roundabout near Cambourne with proposed Black Cat roundabout.

The project will help motorist travelling on congested A428 to drive smoothly as it will become a local road, serving communities between St Neots and Caxton Gibbet.

The new 10 mile dual carriageway will connect directly between the upgraded Black Cat junction and the Caxton Gibbet roundabout near Cambourne in Cambridgeshire, with a new junction at Cambridge road and new bridges.

Highway England said there are plans to create a three-tier junction at the Black Cat in Bedfordshire, which will allow seamless passage through the junction while keeping the roundabout clear for other drivers who will take turns between the roads.

The Black Cat roundabout will also improve journeys on the A1, the A421 and the A428 motorways.

The proposed new road scheme follows a public consultation carried out in 2017 in which over 4,000 people and organisations participated.

Highways England project lead Lee Galloway said: “This major new dual carriageway between St Neots and Cambridge and upgrade for the Black Cat junction will mean quicker and safer journeys for people and will also boost the economy and unlock housing.

“As well as significant improvements locally, the project will be a vital component in improving the regional and national road network. The improvements will complement our £1.5bn A14 upgrade and form part of a wider transformation of road links between Cambridge, Milton Keynes and Oxford.”

Work on the upgrade is expected to commence in 2022.

The project is being funded by the UK Government's £15bn Road Investment Strategy, which is the biggest investment in road infrastructure since the 1970s.

*UK plans to upgrade Black Cat roundabout and build a new 10-mile dual carriageway to reduce congestion. Credit: Crown copyright.*

Press release / Image source:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/route-unveiled-for-major-new-road-and-junction-at-black-cat>

Other sources:

<https://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/news/local-news/major-upgrade-cambridgeshire-busy-road-15848762>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-47290440>

Route unveiled for major new road and junction at Black Cat

Drivers using three of the busiest roads in east England are set to benefit from a major upgrade creating a new 10-mile dual carriageway and transforming one of the region’s most congested junctions.

Published 18 February 2019

In a project that will improve a key east-west road link, journeys on the A1, the A421 and the A428 will be improved by a new three tier junction at the Black Cat roundabout in Bedfordshire, which will allow drivers to pass through the junction uninterrupted, while keeping the roundabout clear for drivers making turns between the roads.

And a brand new, 10 mile dual carriageway will link directly between the upgraded Black Cat junction and the Caxton Gibbet roundabout near Cambourne in Cambridgeshire, with a new junction at Cambridge road and new bridges. The existing A428 will become a local road serving communities between St Neots and Caxton Gibbet.

Options for the new road scheme were put to the public in 2017, and the route being announced today (18 February 2018) combines the best mix of benefits and were also the most popular options at consultation. The chosen options were referred to at the consultation as the Orange Route and Option C respectively.

Highways England project lead Lee Galloway said:

This major new dual carriageway between St Neots and Cambridge and upgrade for the Black Cat junction will mean quicker and safer journeys for people and will also boost the economy and unlock housing. As well as significant improvements locally, the project will be a vital component in improving the regional and national road network. The improvements will complement our £1.5bn A14 upgrade and form part of a wider transformation of road links between Cambridge, Milton Keynes and Oxford.

Well over 4,000 people took part in our consultation last year, with more than 2,000 people attending one of our public events, and it is great to see that our proposals have such strong backing. I would like to thank everyone who took part for their contribution in helping to shape this vital upgrade for the area’s road network. With the options now chosen, we can push ahead with a more detailed design, which we will put to people for their input again later this year.

Currently, the A428 between the A1 at Black Cat and the A1198 at Caxton Gibbet is a single carriageway with a series of roundabouts and give-way junctions. It experiences severe congestion and delays during peak periods or if there is an incident in the wider South Cambridgeshire area. The improvements will cut the average peak time journeys between the Black Cat and Caxton Gibbet junctions by more than a third – around a 10 minute saving on every trip.

The improvements will tackle these delays by creating a new dual carriageway, with junctions served by slip roads, and bridges to carry local roads over it. The new dual carriageway will lead directly to the Black Cat junction which is itself being upgraded to allow smoother, safer access between the A1, the A421 and the A428. The A428 currently joins the A1 at Wyboston 1.5 miles to the north.

Retaining the existing A428 for local traffic will offer significant benefits for communities along the route, while four new routes for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians will maintain and improve access across the new road.

Three options for the new road were put to the public in 2017, along with three options for the junction upgrade. The chosen options announced today were referred to at the consultation as the Orange Route and Option C respectively. 89 percent of respondents agreed with the need for the upgrade, with a clear majority of respondents backing the options chosen today (83 per cent for the Orange route and 60 per cent for Option C).

The scheme is valued between £810m and £1.4bn, and is being funded by the Government’s £15bn Road Investment Strategy, the biggest investment in road infrastructure since the 1970s.

Today’s announcement paves the way for a further, more detailed consultation later in 2019, and a planning application, expected in 2020. Subject to statutory processes, main construction work on the upgrade could start before April 2022.

For more information about the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet improvements and to keep up to date, visit the scheme web page.

General enquiries

Members of the public should contact the Highways England customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

Media enquiries

Journalists should contact the Highways England press office on 0844 693 1448 and use the menu to speak to the most appropriate press officer.

GIC, Mitsubishi in talks with GMR Infra to buy minority stake in Airport Hold Company

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/gic-mitsubishi-in-talks-with-gmr-infra-to-buy-minority-stake-in-airport-hold-company/articleshow/68072785.cms>

<https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/gmr-s-airport-arm-in-final-talks-to-sell-25-30-stake-to-gic-mitsubishi-119021901086_1.html>

Drone 'no fly zone' around UK airports to be extended to 5km

<https://news.sky.com/story/drone-no-fly-zone-around-uk-airports-to-be-extended-to-5km-11642498>

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/8464676/drone-exclusion-zone-major-airports/>

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/travel/news/110735510/uk-expands-nofly-zone-for-drones-around-airports>

The Parking Spot opens a newly developed location at Salt Lake City International Airport

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/the-parking-spot-opens-a-newly-developed-location-at-salt-lake-city-international-airport-300797565.html>

Weathernews develops an AI road management support system prototype that automatically recognizes mixed snow surface conditions  
<https://global.weathernews.com/news/12545/>

Skanska widens highway in California, USA, for USD 96 M, about SEK 860 M

<https://group.skanska.com/media/230120/Skanska-widens-highway-in-California%2c-USA%2c-for-USD-96-M%2c-about-SEK-860-M>

French health insurtech Alan raises €40m

<https://www.bankingtech.com/2019/02/french-health-insurtech-alan-raises-e40m/>

Andhra Bank plans to sell 30% in IndiaFirst Life Company <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/andhra-bank-plans-to-sell-30-in-indiafirst-life-company/articleshow/68073184.cms>

Israel's Delek in talks to sell remaining stake in insurer Phoenix

<https://in.reuters.com/article/us-delek-group-divestiture-phoenx-hldgs/israels-delek-in-talks-to-sell-remaining-stake-in-insurer-phoenix-idINKCN1Q8265>

Self-Driving Cars Might Kill Auto Insurance as We Know It

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-02-19/autonomous-vehicles-may-one-day-kill-car-insurance-as-we-know-it>

Auto-Owners Insurance Signs Agreement to Acquire Capital Insurance Group

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/auto-owners-insurance-signs-agreement-to-acquire-capital-insurance-group-300798151.html>

EU insurance watchdog seeks to avoid Brexit no-deal disruption

<https://in.reuters.com/article/britain-eu-insurance/eu-insurance-watchdog-seeks-to-avoid-brexit-no-deal-disruption-idINKCN1Q829Y>

Blockchain-powered insurtech launches to 'disrupt' motor market

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/blockchain-powered-insurtech-launches-to-disrupt-motor-market-17719>

Chubb appoints new life sciences leader for the UK and Ireland

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/chubb-appoints-new-life-sciences-leader-for-the-uk-and-ireland-17716>

UK Government appoints data firm Floow ‘to make car insurance smarter’

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/uk-government-appoints-data-firm-floow-to-make-car-insurance-smarter-17713>

RMS launches new HD wildfire risk model for US

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/rms-launches-new-hd-wildfire-risk-model-for-us-17710>

GIC, Mitsubishi in talks to acquire up to 30% stakes in GMR Airports

Singapore’s sovereign wealth fund GIC and Japan-based conglomerate Mitsubishi are engaged in discussions to acquire minority stakes in GMR Airports.

GMR Airports operates as a subsidiary of GMR Infrastructure. The airport company manages airports in in Delhi, Hyderabad and Cebu (the Philippines).

GMR Airports secured rights to build a new airport in Goa in 2017 and secured the privatisation contract for the Nagpur airport in October last year. Additionally, it secured a contract to develop and operate an airport in Crete islands, Greece in 2017.

Through the divestiture of the stake, GMR Infrastructure plans to raise nearly Rs40bn ($562m) - Rs50bn ($702.48m) which will be used to repay parts of its Rs200bn ($2.8bn) of net debt.

A spokesman for GMR Infrastructure told The Economic Times: “a number of investors have shown interest” in the airport platform and that it continues “to engage with them constructively.”

Recently, GMR Infra revealed its plans to demerge airports holding company in which it currently owns 91.95% stake.

“Taking into account the feedback from various stakeholders, the board has appointed a committee to evaluate the merits of a demerger which we will be doing in consultation with advisors in the coming months,” the spokesperson told the news agency.

GMR Airports reported a profit before tax of Rs3.65bn ($51.28m) for the October-December quarter, compared a profit of Rs3.94bn ($55.36m) a year ago.

Earlier, GMR tried to sell its airport company, including via an IPO. The company has discussed with a number of companies including the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) to offload a stake in Hyderabad airport.

In January this year, Malaysia Airport Holdings, a shareholder in the Hyderabad airport terminated an agreement to sell all of its 11 per cent shareholding at the airport to GMR’s airport holding company.

Third party source:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/gic-mitsubishi-in-talks-with-gmr-infra-to-buy-minority-stake-in-airport-hold-company/articleshow/68072785.cms>

Other sources:

<https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/gmr-s-airport-arm-in-final-talks-to-sell-25-30-stake-to-gic-mitsubishi-119021901086_1.html>

GIC, Mitsubishi in talks with GMR Infra to buy minority stake in Airport Hold Company

GMR has for the last couple of years made efforts to divest its airport company, including via an IPO.

In October, it won the privatisation contract for the Nagpur airport and the year before to build a new airport in Goa.

Mumbai: Singapore’s GICNSE 0.20 % and Japanese diversified conglomerate Mitsubishi Corp. are in talks with GMR Infra for a minority stake in its airport holding co. as Indian airport developers step up attempts to reduce debt and get more investors.

Three people aware of the development said that GMR, with interests in airports, roads and energy aims to raise Rs 4,000-Rs 5,000 crore by selling stake in airport business. The money will primarily be used to retire part of its Rs 20,000 crore of net debt.

A spokesman for the conglomerate said that a “number of investors have shown interest” in the airport platform and that it continues “to engage with them constructively,”. He didn’t elaborate.

GMR recently announced plans to demerge airports holdco with the aim of eventually listing it, one of the people cited above said. He added however that the listing wouldn’t require an public offer.

“Taking into account the feedback from various stakeholders, the board has appointed a committee to evaluate the merits of a demerger which we will be doing in consultation with advisors in the coming months,” said the spokesperson.

A Mitsubishi spokesperson said on a phone call that the company wouldn’t comment. An email sent to GIC remained unanswered before the story went to press.

India's infrastructure companies have stepped up efforts in recent months to sell shares and retire a large portion of their considerable debt. Spanish conglomerate Ferrovial, Canadian pension fund PSP and UAE-based sovereign fund Abu Dhabi Investment Authority earlier this month submitted final bids for a minority stake in the airport's business of GVK Power and Infra, GMR's rival. A robust growth in traffic has however ensured the airport businesses are profitable.

GMR's airports business posted a profit before tax of Rs 365 crore for the October-December quarter, compared to a profit of Rs 394 crore a year earlier. GVK's airport company posted a net profit of Rs 274 crore in 2017-18 (the latest available figures for the segment) compared to a loss of Rs 260 crore a year earlier.

GMR has for the last couple of years made efforts to divest its airport company, including via an IPO. It has spoken to various companies including the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) for a stake in its Hyderabad airport. It has done so even as it cautiously bids for Indian and international airport projects.

The parent company GMR Infra currently owns 91.95 per cent of GMR Airport.

GMR currently operates the airports in Delhi-India’s busiest-and Hyderabad—the country’s fourth busiest. In October, it won the privatisation contract for the Nagpur airport and the year before to build a new airport in Goa. Also in 2017, it won a contract to develop and operate an airport in Crete islands, Greece. It has also operationalized the Mactan-Cebu international airport in Philippines . The consortium of GMR-Megawide, has also submitted a proposal for the long-term development of the airport, including the construction of a second runway with the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA).

In January this year, Malaysia Airport Holdings, a shareholder in the Hyderabad airport terminated an agreement to sell all of its 11 per cent shareholding at the airport to GMR’s airport holding company.

In the last four years, GMR Infra has, at the group level raised Rs 1,480 crore via a qualified institutional placement of shares, Rs 1,400 crore via a rights issue and Rs 2,000 crore via issuance of foreign currency convertible bonds from Kuwait Investment Agency. In 2016, it received a compensation of $271 million after a long drawn legal battle with the Maldives government on an airport project. It also issued international bonds of $812 million via the Delhi airport and $350 million via the Hyderabad airport.

Goa and Crete are greenfield airport projects

Skanska wins contract to widen state highway in California, US

Swedish construction and development firm Skanska has won a contract from Riverside County Transportation Commission to widen the highway State Route 60 in Riverside, California, US.

The construction company said that the SEK860m ($96m) road widening contract will be included in its US order bookings for the first quarter 2019.

The scope of contract includes State Route 60 for about 7km (4.5 miles) to accommodate additional truck climbing lanes on the east and westbound sides.

Additionally, the contractor will upgrade the inside and outside shoulders to standard widths. The company will also responsible for upgrading the existing asphalt concrete pavement to Jointed Plain Concrete Pavement.

Construction work on the project is likely to commence in May this year and the project is slated for completion by December 2021.

State Route 60, which is around 122km-long, is a major transportation corridor. The highway runs almost parallel to Interstate 10, as works as a bypass alternate route east-west route through the area.

Skanska is also constructing a $400m Pensacola Bay Bridge replacement project in Florida, which was awarded to the company by Florida Department of Transportation in July 2016 while the work begun in one year later in July 2017.

The bridge, which is scheduled to complete by the middle of 2021, will replace the existing bridge, which was constructed in 1960. It carries over 55,000 cars between Pensacola and Gulf Breeze every day.

*Skanska to widen highway State Route 60 in Riverside, California. Credit: Bmamlyuk.*

Image source:

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pomona_Freeway.jpg>

Press release:

<https://group.skanska.com/media/230120/Skanska-widens-highway-in-California%2c-USA%2c-for-USD-96-M%2c-about-SEK-860-M>

Other sources:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California_State_Route_60>

<https://www.pnj.com/story/news/local/pensacola/beaches/2019/02/05/pensacola-bay-bridge-contractor-skanska-misses-early-completion-deadline/2776902002/>

<https://www.constructiondive.com/news/skanska-usa-wins-398m-pensacola-bay-bridge-contract/422435/>

<https://www.constructiondive.com/news/fl-crews-break-ground-on-398m-pensacola-bay-bridge/446471/>

Skanska widens highway in California, USA, for USD 96 M, about SEK 860 M

Skanska has signed a contract with Riverside County Transportation Commission to widen the highway State Route 60 in Riverside, California, USA. The contract is worth USD 96 M, about SEK 860 M, which will be included in US order bookings for the first quarter 2019.

The project involves widening State Route 60 for about 7 kilometres (4.5 miles) to accommodate adding truck climbing lanes on the east and westbound sides. The inside and outside shoulders will be upgraded to standard widths and the existing asphalt concrete pavement will be upgraded to Jointed Plain Concrete Pavement.

Construction will begin in May 2019 and the project is scheduled for completion December 2021.

Skanska is one of the leading development and construction companies in USA, specialized in building construction, civil infrastructure and developing commercial properties in select U.S. markets. Skanska USA had sales of SEK 67 billion in 2018 and had about 9,000 employees in its operations.

UK to extend drones exclusion zone to 5Km around airport

The Government of UK is set to pass a new legislation next month that will extend “no fly zone” for drones and model aircraft around UK airports to about 5Km.

Through the new law, the government and the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) aim to avoid re-occurrence of security breach committed by illegal drones flying near [Heathrow Airport](https://www.airport-technology.com/news/heathrow-drone-spotted-airfield/) and [Gatwick Airport](https://www.airport-technology.com/news/gatwick-airport-closed-drone/).

Once the rule becomes effective from 13 March, the persons violating the “no fly zone” will face a prison sentence of up to five years.

Prior to flying any drones in the restricted area, the operator will have to obtain a permit from the government, according to the CAA.

Additionally, works are under progress for a new Drones Bill which will be introduced in future. It will empower police officers to stop and search people doubted of using drones above 400ft or within 5km of an airport.

Transport Secretary Chris Grayling said: “The law is clear that flying a drone near an airport is a serious criminal act. We’re now going even further and extending the no-fly zone to help keep our airports secure and our skies safe.

“We are also working to raise awareness of the rules in place. Anyone flying their drone within the vicinity of an airport should know they are not only acting irresponsibly, but criminally, and could face imprisonment.

Home Secretary Sajid Javid said: “Extending stop and search to include drones will help police tackle disruption like the recent misery we saw at UK airports, when travel was ruined for thousands of innocent passengers, and bring those responsible to justice.

“Police are clear that stop and search is one of the most powerful tools they have to target and disrupt crime and I remain committed to giving them all the support they need to protect the public.”

Separately, the government and the CAA have teamed up with retailer Jessops to make people aware about safely flying drones.

*UK government to pass new law that limits drones flight outside 5Km of airport boundary. Credit: Crown copyright.*

Press release / Image source:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-drone-safety-partnership-with-business-launched-as-government-sets-out-plans-to-limit-drone-misuse>

Other sources:

<https://news.sky.com/story/drone-no-fly-zone-around-uk-airports-to-be-extended-to-5km-11642498>

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/8464676/drone-exclusion-zone-major-airports/>

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/travel/news/110735510/uk-expands-nofly-zone-for-drones-around-airports>

New drone safety partnership with business launched as government sets out plans to limit drone misuse

Legislation coming into force next month to extend airport ‘no-fly’ zones and partnership announced with Jessops to raise awareness of responsible drones use.

Published 20 February 2019

From:

Department for Transport, Home Office, Civil Aviation Authority, The Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP, and The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP

drone

extended ‘no-fly zone’ banning drones and model aircraft from 5km of runways to come into force next month

government to give police new anti-drone misuse stop and search powers

new partnership with retailer as part of a national campaign ahead of new law

The government and the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) have today (20 February 2019) announced a new partnership with the retailer Jessops, as part of a national campaign to increase public awareness of the rules around flying drones. Working with the CAA, the government is dialling up a campaign to help educate the public about responsible drone use, including issuing a digital toolkit to airports to help them raise awareness of the new rules.

Following on from new laws last year restricting the use of drones and bringing forward a new drone-users register, today, the government also announced new legislation to extend the ‘no-fly’ zone around airports, banning drones from flying within 5km of runways.

The new exclusion zone will be increased by several kilometres, including banning drone flight within 5km of runway ends. The enlarged zone will better protect the UK’s airports from those misusing drones, and will come into force on 13 March 2019.

Work to progress a new Drones Bill is also underway and will be introduced in due course. It will give police officers powers to stop and search people suspected of using drones maliciously above 400ft or within 5km of an airport — helping them to tackle disruption such as that seen at Gatwick in December. It will also give additional new powers to the police to clamp down on those misusing drones and other small unmanned aircraft — including the power to access electronic data stored on a drone with a warrant.

Transport Secretary Chris Grayling said:

The law is clear that flying a drone near an airport is a serious criminal act. We’re now going even further and extending the no-fly zone to help keep our airports secure and our skies safe.

We are also working to raise awareness of the rules in place. Anyone flying their drone within the vicinity of an airport should know they are not only acting irresponsibly, but criminally, and could face imprisonment.

Home Secretary Sajid Javid said:

Extending stop and search to include drones will help police tackle disruption like the recent misery we saw at UK airports, when travel was ruined for thousands of innocent passengers, and bring those responsible to justice.

Police are clear that stop and search is one of the most powerful tools they have to target and disrupt crime and I remain committed to giving them all the support they need to protect the public.

Ian Savage, Head of Retail and Academy Training at Jessops, said:

Drones are one of the most exciting ways of capturing stunning aerial photos and videos, and with prices more affordable than ever they are within reach of any budding photographer and videographer. Many are intuitive and simple to operate, making them ideal for beginners, while the more sophisticated models now offer features such as full manual control of the camera and stunning 4K 60fps video, that help advanced photographers take their shots to the next level.

Along with the pleasure drones bring comes a responsibility for the user to ensure they are flying their drone safely and legally. As one of the leading drone retailers Jessops is committed to ensuring it communicates the new laws to all its customers, and it will be doing this through extensive training from our dedicated drone specialists Connor Keenan and Jon Dick.

Tim Johnson, Policy Director at the CAA, said:

It is illegal to fly drones close to airports and anyone flouting the rules can face severe penalties including imprisonment. Anyone operating a drone must do so responsibly and observe all relevant rules and regulations. The rules for flying drones are designed to keep all airspace users safe.

The CAA’s Dronecode provides advice on how to fly your drone safely and follow the rules. you can see it at www.dronesafe.uk

The Home Office is also reviewing the UK’s approach to countering the malicious use of drones, and will consider how best to protect the full range of the UK’s critical national infrastructure — including testing and evaluating technology to counter drones.

The Home Office will also extend stop and search to people suspected of carrying corrosives substances in a public place, which will help prevent acid attacks. Currently, they must be suspected of intent to cause injury.

Tech snag at passport control forced Melbourne Airport to manually screen passengers

Melbourne Airport’s security screening system suffered from a technological problem that forced the Australian Border Force (ABF) officials to manually check the passengers flying to overseas.

The airport requested the travellers to give additional time for security check through passport control and added that no flights will be delayed due to the problem.

Melbourne Airport said that the issue with the SmartGates was raised shortly after 4am which was resolved by around 10.45am.

SmartGates are being used at the airport for process passengers using passport control that works on facial recognition and ePassport technology.

An airport spokeswoman told the Herald Sun that due to the technical glitch; the passengers had to wait up to six minutes while going through security check compared to usual wait time of up to three minutes.

In order to deal with the situation, the ABF called additional resources to help move people through. The ABF urged passengers to arrive at the airport ahead of their flight to allow enough time for security check.

Following record-breaking passenger numbers, Melbourne Airport has hinted at plans for upgrades and expansions to keep pace with increasing demand.

Separately, Melbourne Airport welcomed 577,000 travellers for January 2019 backed by record number of international arrivals. Now, it is planning to for upgrades and expansions in a bid to able to manage growing number of passengers in the future.

Melbourne Airport CEO Lyell Strambi said it was great to kick-start the year with record-breaking passenger volumes.

“This year we have ambitious plans to build on the success of 2018 by upgrading many aspects of the airport to improve the overall traveller experience, catering to our growing passenger volumes which are set to reach almost 70 million people by 2038,” Strambi added.

“We will be working with our tourism partners to attract new carriers and services while focusing on expanding our runway capabilities to ensure we can keep up with Victoria’s demands for air travel.”

*Technical problem hits passenger screening system at Melbourne Airport. Credit: Melbourne Airport.*

Image source:

<https://www.melbourneairport.com.au/Corporate/Media-centre/Gallery>

Third party source:

<https://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/victoria/tech-glitch-hits-melbourne-airport-security/news-story/6280e4cd4db452dac7d3dd911c444b7a>

Other source:

<https://infrastructuremagazine.com.au/2019/02/19/expansion-plans-for-melbourne-airport-after-record-passenger-numbers/>

<https://www.melbourneairport.com.au/Corporate/News/passenger-performance-January-2019>

Tech glitch at Melbourne Airport passport control

A tech glitch at Melbourne Airport’s international terminal has forced Border Force officials to manually screen people through passport control.

International-bound travellers at Melbourne Airport asked to allow extra time because of passport control tech issues. Picture: Jason EdwardsSource:News Corp Australia

A tech glitch at Melbourne Airport’s international terminal has forced Border Force officials to manually screen people through passport control.

The airport this morning tweeted passengers for international flights were being processed manually through security and urged people to allow extra time.

The issue with the SmartGates — which process people through passport control automatically using facial recognition and ePassport technology — was raised shortly after 4am.

Flights were not affected and the airport announced the problem was fixed about 10.45am.

Travellers usually waited up to three minutes while going through security and the wait this morning was around six minutes, an airport spokeswoman earlier told the Herald Sun.

The Australian Border Force said extra staff had been brought in to help move people through and technical staff were working to fix the problem as quickly as possible.

The ABF was advising people to arrive at the airport well ahead of their flight to allow enough time for processing.

RMS rolls out new HD wildfire risk model solution for US

RMS, a US-based catastrophe risk modelling specialist, has rolled out its latest risk model solution that will enable re/insurer to address pervasive wildfire risk in the country.

Known as the RMS U.S. Wildfire High Definition (HD) Model, the new offering is said to be the most comprehensive solution available in the market.

The HD Model offers an improvement on zoning and mapping products which are currently being used by the re/insurers to evaluate wildfire risk.

Capturing the full impact of wildfire at high resolution, the new solution provides a better understanding of the complex behaviours that depicts fire spread, ember accumulation, and smoke dispersion.

It also simulates more than 18 million wildfires across the contiguous US, and allows users to gain more granular and comprehensive approach to underwriting and portfolio management.

RMS senior director of product management Chris Folkman said: “The past five years have demonstrated that the industry needs better ways to manage their wildfire risk comprehensively: for underwriting, for reinsurance purchasing, and for capital management.

“After three consecutive seasons with major cat events, it’s clear that wildfire needs to be treated more like a peak peril and less like a simple matter of attritional loss.

“Wildfire risk has a steep gradient, where different houses in the same neighbourhood can have drastically different risk profiles. We’re confident our analytics can equip property writers to price, underwrite, and deploy capital with precision – for any contiguous US location.”

RMS teamed up with a number of insurers, mitigation experts, and government agencies to obtain data and related information required building the model.

It is estimated that wildfires have caused over $30bn in claims and five of the 10 most destructive wildfires ever have happened in 2017 and 2018.

<https://www.rms.com/newsroom/press-releases/press-detail/2019-02-14/rms-releases-us-wildfire-high-definition-model-to-empower-reinsurers-to-address-pervasive-wildfire-risk>

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/rms-launches-new-hd-wildfire-risk-model-for-us-17710>

<http://www.artemis.bm/news/rms-to-enhance-view-of-u-s-wildfire-risk-with-new-hd-model/>

French digital health insurtech Alan rakes up $45m in new funding round

French digital health insurance startup Alan has raised €40m ($45m) capital in a new Series B round led by Index Ventures, and partners of DST Global.

The latest round, which takes total funding for the Paris-based startup to €75m, follows a Series A round in April 2018 in which the company raked up around €23m capital.

Alan will spend the capital to boost its user base in France, with a focus on SMEs and freelancers. The company will also expand its team to 175 employees by the end of 2019.

The health insurance firm is looking to develop more consumer friendly health insurance product by using transparent pricing and reimbursement policies along with telemedicine services and care navigation tools like Alan Map.

It is also planning to target small and medium sized companies with its modern health insurance options that have been traditionally ignored.

DST Global managing partner Tom Stafford said: “Legacy solutions lead many employers to provide limited and inefficient health insurance for their employees.

“Through Alan, companies can sign-up quickly and easily and offer best-in-class healthcare for their employees at a competitive price and in a digital format.”

The company has grown its insured base to 27,000 people and its revenue has increased to €22m ($25m) in 2018.

<https://medcitynews.com/2019/02/french-health-insurance-startup-alan-raises-45-million/?rf=1>

<https://www.mobihealthnews.com/content/french-digital-health-insurance-startup-alan-announces-%E2%82%AC40m-series-b-funding-round>

<https://www.bankingtech.com/2019/02/french-health-insurtech-alan-raises-e40m/>

UK selects telematics firm Floow for smart motor insurance

The Government of UK has teamed up with telematic systems provider Floow to guide on its new UPLIFT project that seeks to offer smarter insurance solution for motor industry in the country.

Through collaboration with Floow, the government wants to understand risk and role of telematics in making insurance simple and transparent for motorists.

Headed by a team of global experts in data science, driving behaviour psychology and insurance risk, the UPLIFT project will work to adopt new technologies in risk understanding.

The team will also collaborate to examine and develop bias analysis, identification and reduction, increase transparency and fairness for consumers and establish new industry standards in ethical data handling.

Floow CEO Aldo Monteforte said: “Through the UPLIFT project, we aim to define a blueprint for improving insurance products making mobility smarter and safer for all.

For some motorists, the advent of big data can be scary, but in truth the new era of safer driving and personalised risk that telematics enables is empowering for the consumer – and will result in lower and fairer insurance premiums, fewer accidents and safer roads.”

The project seeks to slash the risk on UK roads by making road users more self-aware of their driving habits.

A recent research by the Floow underlines that nearly 72% of drivers in the UK had used their mobile phone behind the wheel.

Through better driver awareness of the risks of distraction, erratic motoring, tiredness and the dangers of driving at unsociable hours, the project aims to provide a significant improvement on UK road safety. It is expected to reduce insurance claims at a time when the average crash costing the UK economy £83,893.

UPLIFT will also focus to improve how fraudulent claims are managed. More than 215,000 fraudulent insurance claims worth £1.3bn were made in the UK in 2016.

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/uk-government-appoints-data-firm-floow-to-make-car-insurance-smarter-17713>

<http://www.actuarialpost.co.uk/article/the-floow-chosen-to-advise-on-road-safety-uplift-project-15564.htm>

Chattanooga, Cleveland secures Tennessee DEC’s loans for clean water projects

The Tennessee Department and Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has sanctioned millions in loans for clean water and wastewater projects in Chattanooga and Cleveland cities.

Chattanooga and Cleveland will join other three cities who together will receive a total of $66.8m low-interest loans that aim to promote clean water and drinking water infrastructure.

Chattanooga has been sanctioned two loans totalling $24m for inflow and infiltration correction for Dobb Branch Sewer improvements and inflow and infiltration correction for the South Chickamauga Sewer Basin.

The $3m first loan is with federal funding in the amount of $2,700,000 and an additional $300,000 in principal compassion which the city does not require to repay.

A companion loan is funded from the State Revolving Fund at $21m and both the loans van be repaid over the next 20 years at an interest rate of 2.05%.

Separately, the City of Cleveland has been awarded a loan increase in the amount of $379,500 for its collection system expansion. The amount is meant for the installation of almost 7,750 linear feet of sewer lines to replace septic tanks. The project is being funded from the State Revolving Fund at an interest rate of 1.56%. The loan can be repaid over the next 20 years.

TDEC Commissioner David Salyers said: “These programs help communities make updates they need in infrastructure, and we are glad we can assist in this way.

“Abundant, clean water is important to quality of life in Tennessee, and this program is an excellent way to make such improvements affordable.”

Since its inception in 1987, the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan Program in Tennessee has awarded over $2bn in loans.

Similarly, Tennessee’s Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Program has given more than $300m in low-interest loans since its inception in 1996.

Third party source:

<https://newschannel9.com/news/local/chattanooga-cleveland-to-get-millions-in-clean-water-wastewater-loans-from-tdec>

Other sources:

<https://www.chattanoogan.com/2019/2/19/385076/Chattanooga-Cleveland-Get-Wastewater.aspx>

<https://smokeybarn.com/springfield-gets-19m-water-wastewater-loan-in-addition-to-haslams-7-mil/>

<https://www.timesfreepress.com/news/breakingnews/story/2019/feb/19/state-grants-24-million-loans-clean-water-projects-chattanooga/488980/>

Chattanooga, Cleveland to get millions in clean water, wastewater loans from TDEC

Chattanooga and Cleveland are among five cities in Tennessee that will receive money from the Tennessee Department and Environment and Conservation (TDEC) for low-interest loans to promote clean water and drinking water infrastructure improvements.

Tennessee’s Revolving Fund Loan Program maintains priority ranking lists for both the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. Over $90 million is loaned annually to cities, utility districts, and energy or water/waste water authorities, with projects appearing on the priority ranking lists for planning, design, and construction of eligible water and wastewater projects.

Chattanooga

Chattanooga will get two loans totaling $24 million for inflow and infiltration correction for Dobb Branch Sewer improvements and inflow and infiltration correction for the South Chickamauga Sewer Basin.

The first loan is for $3 million with federal funding in the amount of $2,700,000 and an additional $300,000 in principal forgiveness that will not have to be repaid.

A $3 million cap applies to the federal funding in the clean water loan program. A companion loan is funded from the State Revolving Fund at $21 million. Both loans have a 20-year repayment period at an interest rate of 2.05 percent.

Cleveland/Bradley County

Meanwhile, the City of Cleveland will get a loan increase in the amount of $379,500 for its collection system expansion to include the installation of approximately 7,750 linear feet of sewer lines to replace septic tanks. The project is funded from the State Revolving Fund with a 20-year repayment period and an interest rate of 1.56 percent.

“These programs help communities make updates they need in infrastructure, and we are glad we can assist in this way,” said Salyers. “Abundant, clean water is important to quality of life in Tennessee, and this program is an excellent way to make such improvements affordable.”

Through the State Revolving Fund Program, communities, utility districts and water and wastewater authorities can obtain loans with lower interest rates than most can obtain through private financing. Interest rates for loans can vary from zero percent to market rate based on each community’s economic index. Loans utilizing EPA grant funds can also include a principal forgiveness component.

Tennessee’s Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan Program has awarded more than $2 billion in low-interest loans since its inception in 1987. Tennessee’s Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Program has awarded more than $300 million in low-interest loans since its inception in 1996.

The Department of Environment and Conservation administers the State Revolving Fund Program in conjunction with the Tennessee Local Development Authority. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency provides grants to fund the program, and the state provides a 20 percent match. Loan repayments are returned to the program and are used to fund future SRF loans.

Auto-Owners Insurance to purchase Capital Insurance Group

US-based Auto-Owners Insurance has signed an agreement to purchase California-based insurance brokerage firm Capital Insurance Group (CIG).

Offering a mixture of coverage, protection and value, CIG insures personal lines and a range of commercial and agricultural businesses in California, Washington, Oregon, Nevada and Arizona,

CIG President and CEO Arne Chatterton said: “We are eager to build on our 120-year legacy by aligning ourselves with Auto-Owners, a carrier committed to the independent agency system operating with high integrity and core values that align well with our own.”

Auto-Owners chairman and CEO Jeff Tagsold said: “Capital Insurance Group is the premier regional independent agency carrier on the West Coast.

“Adding Capital Insurance Group and its affiliates to the Auto-Owners family of companies expands our operating footprint into four additional states, providing access to more families and businesses to insure, and giving us even greater geographic diversification.”

Auto-Owners was founded in 1916. The multi-line property and casualty insurer writers business through over 47,500 licensed agents in 26 states. It provides multiple lines of insurance, including life, home, auto and business.

Additionally, Auto-Owners manages a life insurance company, an excess and surplus lines company, and is affiliated with Concord General Mutual Insurance Company in the north-eastern US.

The acquisition is subject to regulatory approval.

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/auto-owners-insurance-signs-agreement-to-acquire-capital-insurance-group-300798151.html>

<https://www.insurancejournal.com/news/west/2019/02/19/518157.htm>

Weathernews develops new AI road management support system

Japanese technology company Weathernews has developed an artificial intelligence (AI)-based road management support system to deal with real-time recognition of road surface snow conditions.

Known as the AI Road Management Support System, the new technology is said to be the world’s first such solution. It analyses photos and video from fixed-point cameras and automatically identifies road surface conditions in real time.

In this system, the AI has been educated using machine learning to perceive differences in image data between accumulated snow, packed snow, slush, and dry road.

As a result, the new system is capable of recognising intricate road conditions in which different types of snow are mixed together.

Weathernews said that the system can precisely detect road surface conditions even if a car is driven through a snowstorm at night, which is very difficult with conventional image analysis methods.

The company noted that the new system will help in more efficient work on snow and ice countermeasures, to cut traffic accidents, improve self-driving technology, among other benefits.

In a statement, the company said: “Initially, we will push forward with development, aiming to have it ready for implementation this summer, so that it can be put into use next winter season by road managers and municipalities for their work on snow and ice countermeasures.”

In the future, the company is planning to combine not just video and still photos from fixed cameras, but also video, photos, and comments on road surface conditions sent to us by weather reporters through the Weathernews smartphone app.

*Photo taken by Weathernews’ road management support system on 22 January 22 shows many cars unable to move due to snow. Credit: Weathernews Inc.*

Image source:

<https://d10dsiq6bzfe4y.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/ORGA40653964_report2_2.jpg>

Press release / Image source:

<https://global.weathernews.com/news/12545/>

Weathernews develops an AI road management support system prototype that automatically recognizes mixed snow surface conditions

The world’s first AI model under time-varying snow conditions

Weathernews Inc. (Head Office: Mihama-ku, Chiba-shi; CEO: Chihito Kusabiraki) has constructed the world's first AI model related to snow on roads, and succeeded in developing a prototype "AI Road Management Support System" that automatically recognizes road surface conditions in real time, based on photos and video from fixed-point cameras. In this system, the AI is trained using machine learning to detect subtle differences in image data between accumulated snow, packed snow, slush, and dry road, giving it the capability to recognize complex road conditions in which different types of snow are mixed together. This system is able to accurately detect road surface conditions even in a car driving through a snowstorm at night, which is very difficult with conventional image analysis methods. We believe that this new system will lead to more efficient work on snow and ice countermeasures, a reduction in traffic accidents, improvement of self-driving technology, etc. Initially, we will push forward with development, aiming to have it ready for implementation this summer, so that it can be put into use next winter season by road managers and municipalities for their work on snow and ice countermeasures.

The world's first ever AI technology for real-time recognition of road surface snow

Currently, decisions on snow and ice work are based mainly on weather forecasts, fixed-point cameras, and visual inspections by patrols. However, visually checking dozens of monitor screens has its limitations. Detecting changes in snow conditions as quickly as possible requires support from the system side, but there has been little progress in the introduction of image analysis and AI. All around the world there is an abundance of AI models for recognizing people, faces, cars, etc., but there were none capable of the detailed recognition of snow or road conditions necessary for developing this system. Additionally, because conventional image processing methods cannot cope with changes in camera angles and brightness, they are unsuitable for practical work in which camera orientation frequently altered during observations.

Therefore, from different viewpoints of AI structure modeling, a novel AI model for recognizing a variety of snow conditions under changes in camera location and orientation has been successfully innovated. Our prototype system shows high performance of recognizing subtle differences in snow quality, such as packed snow, slush, etc., in real time.

Input image

Recognition results from our proprietary AI model

Yellow: snow accumulation 42%

Pink: packed snow 25.7%

Green: black slush 32.3%

In the future, we would like to use not just video and still photos from fixed cameras, but also video, photos, and comments on road surface conditions sent to us by weather reporters through the Weathernews smartphone app.

Design Concept for Terminal Modernization Program at Pittsburgh International Airport Revealed at Annual State of the Airport Event

<http://www.flypittsburgh.com/newsroom/news-releases/design-concept-for-terminal-modernization-program>

Sweden's Visby Airport introduces new automated bag drop system

<http://www.airport-world.com/news/general-news/7021-sweden-s-visby-airport-introduces-new-automated-bag-drop-system.html>

<https://www.passengerterminaltoday.com/news/self-service/self-bag-drop-kiosks-installed-at-visby-airport-in-sweden.html>

Alaska Airlines deepens Bay Area commitment with plans for new San Francisco International Airport lounge

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/alaska-airlines-deepens-bay-area-commitment-with-plans-for-new-san-francisco-international-airport-lounge-300798513.html>

RIDOT Begins Testing for Autonomous Vehicle Pilot Project

<https://www.golocalprov.com/news/ridot-begins-testing-for-autonomous-vehicle-pilot-project>

<https://patch.com/rhode-island/narragansett/ridot-debuts-little-roady-autonomous-shuttles>

Audi Never Wants You to Stop at a Traffic Light Again

<https://www.news18.com/news/auto/audi-never-wants-you-to-stop-at-a-traffic-light-again-2042529.html>

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/motors/8467908/you-could-get-all-green-lights-and-slash-your-travel-time-with-new-traffic-sensor-tech/>

Continual and HERE Technologies Collaborate to Improve Connected Mobility

<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20190220005487/en/Continual-Technologies-Collaborate-Improve-Connected-Mobility>

Traffic Technology Services, Inc. Establishes Oregon DOT as First Statewide Vehicle-to-Infrastructure Service, Escalates Virginia DOT to Largest

<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20190220005869/en/Traffic-Technology-Services-Establishes-Oregon-DOT-Statewide>

JBA broadens access to Sri Lanka flood model via Simplitium’s ModEx platform

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/jba-broadens-access-to-sri-lanka-flood-model-via-simplitium-s-modex-platform-17730>

SCOR appoints Conoscente as Global P&C CEO as Peignet retires

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/scor-appoints-conoscente-as-global-p-c-ceo-as-peignet-retires-17720>

Allianz Targets Tech, Insurance Investments with $1.1B Venture Capital Fund

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/allianz-pleased-with-allianz-x-performance-as-vc-fund-rises-to-1bn-17721>

AAIC launches cyber insurance for farmers, ranchers and SMEs

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/aaic-launches-cyber-insurance-for-farmers-ranchers-and-smes-17725>

FCA finds no evidence insurance brokers harm customers

<https://www.ft.com/content/c26de416-34e2-11e9-bd3a-8b2a211d90d5>

<https://www.fca.org.uk/news/press-releases/fca-publishes-wholesale-insurance-brokers-market-study-final-report>

Lloyds PPI bill grows £750m to £19.4bn

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-47302897>

Nassau Re Launches Insurtech Incubator Will Give Space and Support to Startups in Hartford

<https://insurancenewsnet.com/press-releases/nassau-re-launches-insurtech-incubator-will-give-space-and-support-to-startups-in-hartford#.XG4-S7jhUdU>

SCOR appoints Conoscente as Global P&C CEO as Peignet retires

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https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/allianz-pleased-with-allianz-x-performance-as-vc-fund-rises-to-1bn-17721

AAIC launches cyber insurance for farmers, ranchers and SMEs

https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/aaic-launches-cyber-insurance-for-farmers-ranchers-and-smes-17725

FCA finds no evidence insurance brokers harm customers

https://www.ft.com/content/c26de416-34e2-11e9-bd3a-8b2a211d90d5

https://www.fca.org.uk/news/press-releases/fca-publishes-wholesale-insurance-brokers-market-study-final-report

Nassau Re Launches Insurtech Incubator Will Give Space and Support to Startups in Hartford

<https://insurancenewsnet.com/press-releases/nassau-re-launches-insurtech-incubator-will-give-space-and-support-to-startups-in-hartford#.XG4-S7jhUdU>

Visby Airport launches new automated bag drop technology in Sweden

Visby Airport in Sweden has introduced a new fully integrated bag drop system, aimed at helping passengers to make their more comfortable.

Flyer departing from the airport need to complete check-in process and take a print-out of a bag tag at a separate automated check-in kiosk. After that they can drop-off their luggage at the automated bag-drop system.

The airport also has extended this facility to tech-savvy travellers, who can check-in at home and then sent their boarding card sent to their smartphone. It will allow them to print the bag tag directly prior to moving to bag drop.

Visby Airport director of airport Gunnar Jonasson said: “With this modern, innovative bag drop service, Visby Airport will be an even smoother and more efficient airport.

“It is gratifying that we can now offer automated solutions for every step of our passengers’ journey at the airport. This investment is an important part of the development work to modernise Visby Airport in preparation for the needs of the future.

Jonasson added that the airport in close collaboration with airlines and other partners takes all necessary step to make the travel experience as efficient as possible.

Swedavia, which operates Visby Airport is providing self-service concepts in a bid to make air travel hassle-free for flyers through lesser congestion queues at the airport.

One of Swedavia is also targeting to achieve its sustainability goals of making all ten airports under its watch to be fossil-free by 2020.

Visby Airport achieved this target in June 2018. By doing so, it became the second Swedavia airport to reach the target following Ronneby Airport.

*Sweden’s Visby Airport deploys new automated bag drop system. Credit: W.carter.*

Image source:

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Visby_flygplats_ing%C3%A5ngen_fr%C3%A5n_parkeringen_Visby_Sweden.jpg>

Third party source:

<http://www.airport-world.com/news/general-news/7021-sweden-s-visby-airport-introduces-new-automated-bag-drop-system.html>

Other source:

<https://www.passengerterminaltoday.com/news/self-service/self-bag-drop-kiosks-installed-at-visby-airport-in-sweden.html>

Sweden's Visby Airport introduces new automated bag drop system

Visby Airport has unveiled a new integrated bag drop system which it believes will make flying from the Swedish gateway easier and more convenient for passengers.

“With this modern, innovative bag drop service, Visby Airport will be an even smoother and more efficient airport," predicts airport director, Gunnar Jonasson.

"It is gratifying that we can now offer automated solutions for every step of our passengers’ journey at the airport. This investment is an important part of the development work to modernise Visby Airport in preparation for the needs of the future.

"Everything we do takes place in close collaboration with airlines and other partners at the airport and is designed to make the travel experience as efficient as possible."

Airport operator, Swedavia, notes that the aim of its self-service concepts, such as automated bag drop, automated check-in machines and automated entry gates at the security checkpoint, are to make travel easier for passengers through smoother flows and fewer queues at the airport.

It adds that when the airport group develops its airports, the focus is on automation and digitisation since new technology accounts for a large share of its innovative solutions.

Today more than 80% of passengers use some form of self-service overall at Swedavia’s airports.

Self-service solutions are found across Sweden, from Malmö Airport in the south to Kiruna Airport in the north.

One of Swedavia’s sustainability targets is for the company’s operations – at all ten airports – to be fossil-free by 2020 at the latest.

At Visby Airport, this target was reached in June last year, thus making it the second Swedavia airport to reach the target after Ronneby Airport, which became completely fossil-free in the autumn of 2016.

Rhode Island DOT launches self-driving vehicle pilot project

The Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) in US has launched trial of the self-driving vehicle as part of the initial phase of a pilot project expected to be rolled out in Providence this spring.

Known as “Little Roady” shuttles, the trial of autonomous vehicles is part of the Rhode Island Transportation Innovation Partnership (TRIP), a multi-agency effort initiated by the island transport department in 2017.

The RIDOT said that the self-driving vehicle pilot programme will help to gain valuable insight into the benefits and shortcomings of integrating the new technology.

Additionally, it will also help improve transit and provide information for communities, the workforce, and policymakers about autonomous vehicles.

Governor Gina Raimondo said: “This is a very exciting day as we kick-off testing of autonomous vehicles, putting Rhode Island on the map as a leader in this new high-tech field in transportation.

“And we'll do it in a careful and safe manner partnering with institutions of higher education to carefully study and evaluate the service and its integration on Rhode Island roads.”

The Little Roady Shuttles are fully electric vehicle and accommodate up to five passengers. During the trial, an attendant will be available in the shuttle to manage the vehicle in case of emergency.

The shuttles will travel on low-speed roads along the Woonasquatucket River from Olneyville to Providence Station, with 12 stops in between. A fleet of six vehicles will be allowed to travel simultaneously on the road.

The testing period in Quonset will be followed by similar trail in Providence, before the final launch of the technology for service. The vehicles will complete 500 miles of testing between the two locations.

RIDOT said that the trail in Providence will focus on testing of all sensors and safety technologies along with obstacle avoidance and operation in all weather conditions.

Rhode Island Public Transit Authority CEO Scott Avedisian said: “This project gives us the opportunity to gain first-hand experience with this new technology and that information will be invaluable when we look ahead to the impact that autonomous vehicles will have on public transportation in the future.”

The shuttles have been developed May Mobility.

*RIDOT starts testing for autonomous vehicle pilot project. Credit: Rhode Island Department of Transportation.*

Image source:

<http://www.dot.ri.gov/projects/TRIP/LittleRoady.php>

Press release:

<http://news.transportation.org/Pages/StateDotNewsDetail.aspx?MessageId=66248>

Third party source:

<https://www.golocalprov.com/news/ridot-begins-testing-for-autonomous-vehicle-pilot-project>

Other sources:

<https://patch.com/rhode-island/narragansett/ridot-debuts-little-roady-autonomous-shuttles>

RIDOT KICKS OFF TESTING FOR AUTONOMOUS VEHICLE PILOT PROJECT

"Little Roady Shuttle" to aid research on autonomous vehicle technology"

Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) Director Peter Alviti, Jr., along with state and local officials, today hosted a demonstration of autonomous vehicle technology at the Quonset Business Park in North Kingstown. The vehicles are being tested this week on low-volume roads in the Park as the initial phase of a pilot project scheduled to launch in Providence this spring.

The debut of the autonomous vehicles is the latest step in a multi-agency effort called the Rhode Island Transportation Innovation Partnership (TRIP), which RIDOT launched in 2017. TRIP also includes a research component, with the goal of studying autonomous mobility solutions, ridership, workforce impacts, environmental impacts, and technology adoption, among others.

The research being conducted in this pilot project will help the Department better understand the opportunities and challenges that come with integrating this new technology onto Rhode Island roads. The research will help improve transit and provide information for communities, the workforce, and policymakers.

"This is a very exciting day as we kick-off testing of autonomous vehicles, putting Rhode Island on the map as a leader in this new high-tech field in transportation," Governor Gina Raimondo said. "And we'll do it in a careful and safe manner partnering with institutions of higher education to carefully study and evaluate the service and its integration on Rhode Island roads."

"Under Governor Raimondo and Director Alvitti's leadership, Rhode Island is leading the way with the Little Roady pilot program that will explore all aspects of autonomous vehicle technology in a responsible manner," said Congressman Langevin. "I am proud to be a part of this exciting day, and I will continue to support RIDOT and secure federal resources for innovative transportation solutions for Rhode Island."

"Thanks to the Governor's RhodeWorks program, we've made great strides in rebuilding our transportation system," Alviti said. "At the same time, we're working on projects like the autonomous vehicle pilot project to make our transportation system better, and provide more mobility choices for our customer, the Rhode Island taxpayer."

"This project gives us the opportunity to gain first-hand experience with this new technology and that information will be invaluable when we look ahead to the impact that autonomous vehicles will have on public transportation in the future," said Scott Avedisian, CEO of the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA). "Having some of our bus operators ride the shuttle routes is also going to allow them to share important feedback on the role of on-board personnel and passenger needs."

"Quonset is pleased to host this innovative transportation pilot as a test site," said Steven King, Managing Director of the Quonset Development Corporation. "As home to many Rhode Island companies at the forefront of engineering and design, Quonset is excited to assist in the fielding of this cutting-edge technology to Rhode Island."

"Every time we expand to a new city, it allows us to learn something new. Partnering with RIDOT, we are more closely integrated with existing rail and other services than ever before," said May Mobility CEO Edwin Olson. "We're fanatical about solving real-world transportation problems, and with this new route, we'll show how our self-driving technology can have a positive impact for the citizens of Rhode Island. Not someday, but today."

Called the Little Roady Shuttle, each vehicle is fully electric and capable of carrying five passengers as well as an attendant who is trained how to operate the vehicle manually if needed. Up to six vehicles will be on the road at the same time, operating on low-speed roads along a 5-mile route along the Woonasquatucket River corridor with 12 stops, from Olneyville to Providence Station.

The Little Roady shuttles are provided by May Mobility, Inc., which entered into a public-private partnership with RIDOT last fall, following a competitive request-for-proposals (RFP) process.

Under the terms of the public-private partnership, RIDOT will contribute $800,000 for the first year of operation. This includes $300,000 of 100 percent federal research funds through the Federal Highway Administration and a $500,000 grant awarded by the R.I. Attorney General's Office as part of a settlement with Volkswagen. RIDOT's contract with May Mobility includes options to extend the service for an additional two years.

The testing period in Quonset will be followed by similar testing in Providence, prior to the start of service. This includes testing of the vehicles and all their sensors, and a rigorous acceptance testing protocol in which the vehicles must pass several safety tests including adhering to lanes, avoiding obstacles, and safe operations in both daytime and nighttime conditions as well as in different types of adverse weather. Between the two locations, the fleet will undergo 500 miles of testing.

RIDOT and May will develop a public education campaign featuring signs along the route and a website as the launch of the service draws nearer.

TRIP includes many partner agencies and governmental entities, including the City of Providence, the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA), the Rhode Island Division of Motor Vehicles and the Quonset Development Corporation. Various higher education institutions are expected to participate in the research program.

May Mobility, a Michigan-based startup, is developing self-driving shuttles for college campuses, corporate clients, and central business districts. It launched a private corporate service in Detroit in June 2018 and has entered into agreements for public service routes in Columbus, Ohio and Grand Rapids, Michigan. The company plans to hire fleet attendants and managers from Rhode Island and will set up a local operations office in Providence.

More information about the TRIP program can be found at [www.ridot.net/TRIP](http://www.ridot.net/TRIP).

Alaska Airlines to open new lounge at San Francisco International Airport

American passenger carrier Alaska Airlines has introduced its plans to build a brand new lounge at San Francisco International Airport (SFO) in California.

Spanning across 8,500ft², the top floor lounge will be located in Terminal 2 at the SFO and offer views of the Bay and runway.

The SFO lounge will be Alaska Airlines’ first in Terminal 2.

Scheduled to open next year, the new facility that features Bay Area brands and design elements is part of Alaska Airlines’ multi-year commitment to invest in new and existing lounges to better serve guests.

Alaska Airlines Bay Area vice president Annabel Chang said: “We are thrilled to announce this landmark investment in the Bay Area that will provide guests flying through SFO with our modern and comfortable lounge experience.

“SFO is our second largest hub with an average of 150,000 passengers flying on a daily basis, and we want to ensure airport visitors can rest, relax and enjoy our wide array of lounge offerings.”

Travellers can enjoy a range of fresh and healthy food options, handcrafted espresso beverages and taste the wine and beer of reputed brands.

The lounge will be designed that each visitor will find different amenities and seating areas to fit their needs, claims the airlines.

In April last year, Alaska Airlines launched its first East Coast lounge at JFK International Airport. Its flagship 15,800ft² lounge at is slated to open in June at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.

Besides establishing a new lounge in SFO, the airline is modernising the amenities of its lounges in Portland, Anchorage, Los Angeles and the Seattle.

*Rendering of Alaska lounge at T2 scheduled to open in 2020. Credit: PRNewsfoto/Alaska Airlines.*

Press release / Image source:

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/alaska-airlines-deepens-bay-area-commitment-with-plans-for-new-san-francisco-international-airport-lounge-300798513.html>

Alaska Airlines deepens Bay Area commitment with plans for new San Francisco International Airport lounge

The airline is upgrading and expanding its lounge portfolio to better serve guests

Alaska Airlines logo (PRNewsfoto/Alaska Airlines)

SEATTLE, Feb. 20, 2019 /PRNewswire/ -- Alaska Airlines today unveiled plans to build a new 8,500-square-foot top floor lounge at San Francisco International Airport (SFO). Located in Terminal 2, guests will be treated to the highest viewpoint of any other domestic lounge at SFO with stunning sights of the Bay and runway. Expected to open in 2020, the Alaska Airlines SFO lounge is the company's first in Terminal 2 and is part of a multi-year commitment to invest in new and existing lounges with guests' every comfort in mind.

To celebrate the announcement, flyers traveling through SFO's Terminal 2 today will have the opportunity to win a free Alaska Lounge membership for the entire year. Guests are invited to Gate 54B where they can experience a demo of Alaska's upgraded lounge experience, complete with comfortable seating, giveaways, music, and special appearances by San Francisco Giants mascot Lou Seal and San Jose Sharks mascot S.J. Sharkie. For a chance to win, travelers can take a picture of themselves enjoying the lounge experience and post it to Twitter and Instagram, tagging @AlaskaAir with the hashtag #MostWestCoast.

"We are thrilled to announce this landmark investment in the Bay Area that will provide guests flying through SFO with our modern and comfortable lounge experience," said Annabel Chang, Alaska Airlines' vice president of the Bay Area. "SFO is our second largest hub with an average of 150,000 passengers flying on a daily basis, and we want to ensure airport visitors can rest, relax and enjoy our wide array of lounge offerings."

Featuring Bay Area brands and design elements, the Lounge's warm finishes and welcoming vibe are tailored to make guests feel welcome and comfortable. Visitors can choose from a wide array of fresh and healthy food options, including Greek yogurt, steel cut oatmeal, and hardboiled eggs in the morning and seasonal salads, soups, and a tapas bar throughout the afternoon and evening. Those looking for something a bit more filling can purchase made to-order meals such as an Egg and Brioche sandwich with a cage-free egg, caramelized onions, and Tillamook cheddar, or a Korean Rice Bowl with steamed vegetables, gochujang sauce, and chicken or tofu.

As part of the elevated system-wide lounge program, guests can enjoy handcrafted espresso beverages or loose-leaf teas brewed by an Alaska Lounge barista. The lounge bar will offer a selection of local microbrews on draft, West Coast wines and top-shelf spirits, such as California's own Hangar 1® vodka. No matter the mood a traveler may be in – looking to get some work done, socialize with others, or grab a bite to eat and recharge after a long day – each visitor will find different amenities and seating areas to fit their needs.

Alaska Airlines opened its first East Coast lounge in April 2018 at JFK International Airport, and the new flagship 15,800-square-foot lounge at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport is expected to open in June. In addition to opening a new lounge in SFO, Alaska is revitalizing the look-and-feel and upgrading the amenities of its lounges in Portland, Anchorage, Los Angeles and the Seattle. Exciting changes are underway, and guests can soon expect new furniture and finishes, expanded seating and upgraded amenities, including a wide variety of food and beverage offerings.

A preliminary rendering of Alaska's new SFO lounge, created in partnership with Graham Baba Architects, is available for download. For more information about the Alaska Lounge program, please visit www.alaskaair.com/content/airport-lounge.

Alaska Airlines and its regional partners fly 44 million guests a year to more than 115 destinations with an average of 1,200 daily flights across the United States and to Mexico, Canada and Costa Rica. With Alaska and Alaska Global Partners, guests can earn and redeem miles on flights to more than 900 destinations worldwide. Alaska Airlines ranked "Highest in Customer Satisfaction Among Traditional Carriers in North America" in the J.D. Power North America Airline Satisfaction Study for 11 consecutive years from 2008 to 2018. Learn about Alaska's award-winning service at newsroom.alaskaair.com and blog.alaskaair.com. Alaska Airlines, Virgin America and Horizon Air are subsidiaries of Alaska Air Group (NYSE: ALK).

ACAA unveils design for $1.1bn terminal upgrade at Pittsburgh International Airport

The Allegheny County Airport Authority (ACAA) in Pennsylvania, the US, has unveiled new terminal design for a planned $1.1bn renovation of Pittsburgh International Airport.

The ACAA oversees management of Pittsburgh International Airport as well as Allegheny County Airport.

The concept design of the new terminal was developed by Luis Vidal of luis vidal + architects in partnership with architectural and engineering firms [Gensler and HDR](https://www.airport-technology.com/news/acaa-terminal-pittsburgh-airport-modernisation/). The ACAA awarded a contract for terminal design to Gensler and HDR in July last year.

Scheduled to become operational by 2023, the new facility will incorporate two levels; the first will be for departures and the other for arrivals. It will be constructed adjacent to the current Airside facility between Concourses C and D.

Allegheny County executive Rich Fitzgerald said: “This is a facility that truly reflects the growing Pittsburgh region and the renaissance that is ongoing here, including at the airport.

“The story of this airport is really a story about moving our region forward – about creating new jobs, retaining ones that are already here and maximizing our assets for the highest and best use for our citizens without saddling local taxpayers with the bill.”

Besides separate arrival and departures facilities, the concept design features additional space for an expanded TSA checkpoint, shorter walking distances for arriving and departing passengers, indoor and outdoor green plazas and gathering spaces.

It also includes extra space for concessions, artwork and other amenities, plan for technological improvements and more automated systems. The design elements, however, are subject to change.

The construction of the new terminal will be funded by revenue from airlines, concessions and parking fees along with natural gas drilling.

ACAA CEO Christina Cassotis said: “This new terminal, inspired by the beauty, tech renaissance and people of our region will integrate seamlessly into the great design of the existing Airside Terminal.

“In considering this design, we looked at function first, then form, to construct a building that will be both iconic, practical and affordable and that can be easily adapted as the technology and transportation needs of our community change.”

*New terminal design for Pittsburgh International Airport has been unveiled. Credit: Pittsburgh International Airport.*

Press release / Image source:

<http://www.flypittsburgh.com/newsroom/news-releases/design-concept-for-terminal-modernization-program>

Other sources:

<https://www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/news/2019/02/20/first-look-pittsburgh-international-airports-1-1b.html>

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2019/feb/20/design-for-11-billion-pittsburgh-airport-remodel-u/>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allegheny_County_Airport_Authority>

Design Concept for Terminal Modernization Program at Pittsburgh International Airport Revealed at Annual State of the Airport Event

PITTSBURGH — As part of a special board meeting and the annual State of the Airport event on Wednesday, Feb. 20, the Allegheny County Airport Authority Board of Directors approved a visionary concept design for the Terminal Modernization Program at Pittsburgh International Airport.

The concept design for the new terminal to be built adjacent to the current Airside facility between Concourses C and D and scheduled to open in 2023, was unveiled to airport employees and the public on Wednesday.

It is based on a unique philosophy of nature, technology and community – NaTeCo – developed over the past seven months by the design team joint venture of architectural and engineering firms Gensler and HDR in association with luis vidal + architects.

“This is a facility that truly reflects the growing Pittsburgh region and the renaissance that is ongoing here, including at the airport,” said County Executive Rich Fitzgerald. “The story of this airport is really a story about moving our region forward – about creating new jobs, retaining ones that are already here and maximizing our assets for the highest and best use for our citizens without saddling local taxpayers with the bill.”

“This new terminal, inspired by the beauty, tech renaissance and people of our region will integrate seamlessly into the great design of the existing Airside Terminal,” said Airport Authority CEO Christina Cassotis. “In considering this design, we looked at function first, then form, to construct a building that will be both iconic, practical and affordable and that can be easily adapted as the technology and transportation needs of our community change.”

The firms, which were awarded the design contract in July 2018, have been studying the Pittsburgh region and taking their inspiration directly from the rolling hills and rivers, neighborhoods and communities, and new economic diversity that has led to Pittsburgh’s re-emergence over the past few decades.

“I’m pleased to be part of this historic venture to bring all of these rich elements together at Pittsburgh International Airport,” said architect Luis Vidal, founder and Executive President at luis vidal + architects. “The combination of nature, technology and community form the DNA of the region and that should be reflected in the structure of the building to enhance the experience for all users and leave a memorable impression.”

Specifics of the design for the new terminal that consolidates check-in, ticketing, security and baggage operations into one connected facility, including square footages, will continue to be refined over the next phase of the project – Schematic Design – which is expected to run through summer 2019.

While subject to change, the concept design currently features:

Separate levels for departing and arriving passengers and a non-public level for building systems such as baggage belts

Additional space for an expanded TSA checkpoint

Shorter walking distances for arriving and departing domestic and international passengers

Indoor and outdoor green plazas and gathering spaces

Additional space for concessions, artwork and other amenities

Planning for technological improvements and more automated systems

Emphasis on sustainability

The Airport Authority has engaged the community in the design process by forming Program Advisory and Best Practice Working Groups to solicit input and feedback about features of the new terminal. Outreach events and surveys were conducted this past summer in Market Square and at the airport’s annual Holiday Open House in December. The team will continue to seek input on the new terminal throughout the Schematic Design phase.

“We have worked very hard, and will continue working to further refine this concept that draws on the best features of the region, reflects its transformation and considers the future of aviation,” said Ty Osbaugh, Aviation Leader and Principal at Gensler. “This concept allows for a more modern, adaptable facility that will truly reflect and belong to Pittsburgh.”

Bill Peduzzi, Vice President and Aviation Director at HDR, which will handle the engineering implementation of the design, said “the Pittsburgh region is unique and this modernization program will add another signature piece of infrastructure that represents our character and values as well as positions our region for continued growth and success in the future.”

Additional details about the concept design and Terminal Modernization Program, including new design renderings, videos and FAQs, are available at www.pittransformed.com and stories about the project can be found on the airport’s news site www.BlueSkyPIT.com.

About Allegheny County Airport Authority:

Allegheny County Airport Authority, which manages Pittsburgh International Airport and Allegheny County Airport, is committed to transforming Pittsburgh’s airports to reflect and serve the community, inspire the industry, and advance the region’s role as a world leader. Its 2018 Annual Report detailing growth and improved financial position can be found at www.flypittsburgh.com/AR18.

Pittsburgh International Airport serves more than 9.5 million passengers annually on 17 carriers. Air Transport World named Pittsburgh International its 2017 Airport of the Year. Travel + Leisure and J.D. Power have again named Pittsburgh International a Top 10 Domestic Airport in 2018.

L’Oréal launches AI-powered Skin Diagnostic based on Scientific Research in Skin Ageing

<https://www.cosmeticsdesign-europe.com/Article/2019/02/21/L-Oreal-and-Modiface-launch-digital-diagnostic-tool-for-skin-ageing>

<https://brandspurng.com/2019/02/19/loreal-launches-ai-powered-skin-diagnostic-based-on-scientific-research-in-skin-ageing/>

Clean Skincare Brand Naturally Serious, Exclusive to Sephora, Launches Sustainable Packaging with #ItGetsGreener Initiative

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/clean-skincare-brand-naturally-serious-exclusive-to-sephora-launches-sustainable-packaging-with-itgetsgreener-initiative-300796606.html>

SkinCeuticals Announces the Launch of a New Glycolic Acid Cream

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/skinceuticals-announces-the-launch-of-a-new-glycolic-acid-cream-300797969.html>

Stella Rising to Launch Pour Moi Skincare on Amazon

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/stella-rising-to-launch-pour-moi-skincare-on-amazon-300799114.html>

FabFitFun Announces Spring Box + Partnership with Venus Williams

<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20190220005322/en/FabFitFun-Announces-Spring-Box-Partnership-Venus-Williams>

Naturally Serious adopts new sustainable packaging for its product range

Naturally Serious has announced that it has rolled out its product range packed in sustainable packaging in 40 Sephora doors across the country

The adoption of new packaging by Naturally Serious is part of the Clean at Sephora program.

At present, Naturally Serious is using eco-friendly cartons derived from a responsibly-managed sustainable forest and produced suing power in a carbon-neutral facility.

Now, the skincare brand excusive to Sephora has decided to use recyclable jars and tubes for product packaging.

Naturally Serious managing director Rochelle Jacobs said: “We've continued to learn so much from our consumers in the few, short months since we launched. Not only do they care about what they're putting on their skin, but also how their products are impacting the earth – we do too.

“As such, we are so excited to further enhance our products to ensure they are really making a difference in sustainable beauty and packaging."

Naturally Serious' range of seven cruelty-free products has been blended with naturally derived formulas with serious, new technology.

The company claims that its product line are free from harmful chemicals, which includes parabens, phthalates, preservatives, mineral oil, sulfates, PEG, formaldehyde, petrolatum, silicones, drying alcohols, artificial colours and artificial fragrances.

Naturally Serious claims that each of its products also features the patented anti-pollution blend of 6 anti-oxidants (pomegranate, goji berry, grape seed, green tea, red tea and white tea).

These ingredients are said to better deal with visible signs of aging and skin damage caused by UV rays, pollution, free radicals and other environmental aggressors.

Naturally Serious’ product range is available on Sephora.com as well as in select Sephora stores.

Sephora offers a large assortment of 14,000 products from 200 curated brands and helps users to engage with trained beauty advisors in more than 400 stores across the Americas, as well as 600 locations inside JCPenney.

*Naturally Serious launches its product range in sustainable packaging at Sephora. Credit: PRNewsfoto/Naturally Serious.*

Press release/ Image source:

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/clean-skincare-brand-naturally-serious-exclusive-to-sephora-launches-sustainable-packaging-with-itgetsgreener-initiative-300796606.html>

Clean Skincare Brand Naturally Serious, Exclusive to Sephora, Launches Sustainable Packaging with #ItGetsGreener Initiative

(PRNewsfoto/Naturally Serious)

NEW YORK, Feb. 20, 2019 /PRNewswire/ -- Naturally Serious, the next generation of cleanly-made, ethically-developed, and clinically-tested products is launching locally-sourced, reusable, recyclable or compostable packaging in 40 Sephora doors across the country exclusively as part of the Clean at Sephora program. Currently packaged in eco-friendly cartons derived from a responsibly-managed sustainable forest and created with wind power in a carbon-neutral facility, the addition of recyclable jars and tubes will be further bringing the brand's clean ethos to life.

"We've continued to learn so much from our consumers in the few, short months since we launched. Not only do they care about what they're putting on their skin, but also how their products are impacting the earth – we do too" says Rochelle Jacobs, Managing Director. "As such, we are so excited to further enhance our products to ensure they are really making a difference in sustainable beauty and packaging."

Naturally Serious' range of seven cruelty-free products combines naturally derived formulas with serious, cutting-edge technology. Along with an efficacious combination of ingredients, Naturally Serious adheres to a list of B.A.D. ingredients (Banned, Ambiguous, Debatable) that each product is formulated without. These have been recognized by researchers and consumers alike as being potentially harmful – namely parabens, phthalates, preservatives, PEG, formaldehyde, petrolatum, mineral oil, sulfates, silicones, drying alcohols, artificial colors and artificial fragrances.

The full collection is comprised of products that are vegan- or vegetarian-formulated (some contain beeswax) and do not contain gluten. Each product also features the brand's patented Anti-Pollution Blend of 6 anti-oxidants (pomegranate, goji berry, grape seed, green tea, red tea and white tea) that outperforms other widely used naturals to combat visible signs of aging and skin damage caused by UV rays, pollution, free radicals and other environmental aggressors.

The brand is proud to be included in Sephora's Clean at Sephora initiative, which spotlights products that adhere to strict guidelines – including being free of sulfates SLS and SLES, parabens, formaldehyde, phthalates, mineral oils, retinyl palmitate, oxybenzone, coal tar, hydroquinone, triclosan, triclocarban and less than one percent of synthetic fragrance.

Naturally Serious is available on Sephora.com and select Sephora stores with prices ranging from $16 to $56.

ABOUT NATURALLY SERIOUS

Clean. Natural. Serious. Naturally Serious takes your skin seriously! Cleanly and ethically developed without BS, Naturally Serious products combine powerful ingredients with cutting-edge technology for clinically advanced results. Through sun, sweat and environmental stress, Naturally Serious works over time to detox your skin from free radicals, dead cells and pollution. Utilizing the best of nature and science, it even helps repair the look of past skin damage and helps to reduce the appearance of fine lines, wrinkles and dark spots caused by photoaging. Finally, you can (literally) put your best face forward.

For more information on Naturally Serious Skin Care, please visit NaturallySeriousSkin.com. Join the conversation on Instagram at @NaturallySeriousSkin using the hashtag #NaturallySeriousSkin.

ABOUT SEPHORA

Since its debut in North America 20 years ago, Sephora has been a leader in global prestige omni-retail, teaching and inspiring clients to play in a universe of beauty and wellness, while creating the world's most loved beauty community. With an unbiased approach to experiential retail through its expertise, innovation and entrepreneurial spirit, Sephora invites clients to play with 14,000 products from 200 carefully curated brands, enjoy personalized services at the Beauty Studio aided by digital innovations, and engage with expertly trained beauty advisors in more than 400 stores across the Americas, as well as 600 locations inside JCPenney. Clients can also experience Sephora online and through mobile apps and access the free-to-join Beauty Insider program that offers unique rewards and experiences across three spending tiers. Let's Beauty Together. For more information, visit: https://www.sephora.com/about-us and @Sephora on social media.

Allianz boost fund size of its digital investment unit to €1bn

German insurance major Allianz Group has increased the capital allocation to €1bn for its digital investment unit Allianz X as part of its digital transformation strategy.

In 2016, Allianz X was launched with an initial €430m investment and the new funding it has become one of the largest corporate venture funds in Europe by fund size.

Allianz X intends to use the additional funding to make direct investments in global digital companies related to insurance and asset management.

Allianz X’s investment track record, successful collaborations with growth companies along with the contribution towards the Allianz‘s overall digital transformation strategy were the main factors for funding increase.

Allianz SE chief business transformation officer Iván de la Sota said: “We are very pleased with the progress Allianz X has made thus far and are committed to further invest and develop the next generation of digital growth companies related to Allianz’s core business.

“Our digitalisation approach is multifaceted; Allianz X is a valuable addition – not only in meeting the changing expectations of our customers.”

Allianz X successful investment in digital businesses

As of now, Allianz X has directly invested more than 15 in digital businesses related to insurance around the world.

Especially, Allianz X invested $96.6m in microinsurer BIMA that utilizes mobile technology to serve low-income customers in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

It also invested $30m in Kansas City-headquartered working capital marketplace C2FO and a $35m Southeast Asian mobile platform Go-Jek in February and April 2018, respectively.

Lately Allianz X participated in N26’s Series D funding round after co-leading N26’s $160m Series C round last year.

Besides providing funding support, Allianz X focuses on developing strategic partnerships between the portfolio company and one or more Allianz operating entities or global business lines, using expertise on both sides.

Allianz X CEO Dr. Nazim Cetin said: “Since shifting our strategy, we have built a great portfolio in which many companies have already developed successful partnerships with Allianz’s business units.

“We are very excited about raising our investment budget to €1bn and will use the funds entrusted to us to both strengthen our portfolio and build strong, global platforms that create new businesses for Allianz.”

<https://www.allianzx.com/2019/02/20/allianz-x-increases-fund-size-to-1-billion-euros/>

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/allianz-pleased-with-allianz-x-performance-as-vc-fund-rises-to-1bn-17721>

<https://www.finextra.com/newsarticle/33412/allianz-x-raises-digital-investment-fund-to-eur1-billion/retail>

Wholesale insurance brokers did no harm to customers, says FCA

The UK Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) has given clean chit to wholesale insurance brokers in the country when it said that the industry’s practices did not do significant harm to customers.

Issuing a final report of its Wholesale Insurance Brokers market study initiated in November 2017, the UK watchdog said it found no evidence against competition concerns as expressed earlier that brokers had excessive market power and they manipulate market for their own benefits.

During its investigation, the FCA probed the so-called pay-to-play system in insurance industry.

Under this system, insurance brokers can force insurers to sign up to consultancy-style service agreements to get placement business that artificially inflates the insurance prices.

However, lack of evidences forced the regulator to say: “Our conclusion is that we are unable to conclude that pay-to-play exists at scale or that there is any basis for us to intervene at present.”

After reviewing the “conflict of interest” issue, the FCA observed: “We found that not all of them demonstrate the same level of completeness in identifying the relevant conflicts inherent to their business models.”

As a result, the FCA has decided not to introduce intrusive remedies in the sector.

FCA executive director of strategy and competition Christopher Woolard said: "This was a significant and in-depth analysis of a sizeable and complex market to determine whether clients were at risk of harm.

“Encouragingly, we found no evidence that they were, but we found some areas with scope for improvement and we will work with the industry to ensure these are addressed.”

Areas of Concern

However, the FCA has highlighted some areas of concern which have scope for improvement. It includes firms’ management of conflicts of interest, and the information firms disclose to clients.

It also includes improvement on contractual agreements between brokers and insurers which, in a small number of cases, have the potential to limit competition.

Instead of making new regulations, the FCA said it will work with firms to address these concerns.

<https://www.fca.org.uk/news/press-releases/fca-publishes-wholesale-insurance-brokers-market-study-final-report>

<https://www.fca.org.uk/publication/market-studies/ms17-2-2.pdf>

<https://www.ft.com/content/c26de416-34e2-11e9-bd3a-8b2a211d90d5>

<http://www.morningstar.co.uk/uk/news/AN_1550656735864572600/uk-fca-finds-no-competition-problems-in-wholesale-insurance-study.aspx>

Nassau Re rolls out insurtech incubator to support insurance start-ups

American re/insurer Nassau Re has rolled out an insurtech incubator to provide support to start-ups working for the life insurance, annuity and reinsurance industries.

Known as Nassau Re/Imagine, the insurtech incubator will be based in its Boat Building headquarters in Hartford, Connecticut.

Developed in partnership with the City of Hartford and Connecticut Innovations, the new platform will also offer complimentary office space and business development services to start-ups.

To support its insurtech incubator, Nassau Re will provide up to 48,000ft² of workspace which will have flexible, open space configurations to accommodate different sizes and types of businesses.

Apart from office space, the startups will be offered with legal, human resources, and business development support.

Nassau Re CEO Phil Gass said: “We are excited to launch our Nassau Re/Imagine initiative, as Nassau Re looks to be a leader in Hartford’s emerging insurtech expansion plans.

“Through Nassau Re/Imagine, our goal is to help accelerate Hartford’s transformation as a centre for insurtech innovation by fostering new companies that will continue to attract a new generation of talent to the city and state.

“Further, Nassau Re will provide a free, convenient and supportive environment for founders to develop strong business relationships with Nassau Re and other carriers in the area.”

Connecticut Innovations CEO Matt McCooe said: “Hartford continues to evolve into an insurtech hub and premier insurance companies, like Nassau Re, are leading the charge by supporting startups in the ecosystem.

“This incubator will help attract companies to Connecticut and forge stronger relationships between corporates and startups. This is an innovative and exciting new venture by Nassau Re's executive team.”

<https://news.nsre.com/nassau-re-launches-insurtech-incubator/>

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/insurtech-incubator-nassau-re-imagine-launches/>

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/nassau-re-launches-insurtech-incubator-in-hartford-17733>

Continual partners with HERE Technologies to improve connected travel

HERE Technologies​ has teamed up with Continual to develop a new solution for mobile network operators (MNO) that will monitor and map the connected experience of users on the go.

As part of the collaboration, Continual will integrate HERE Cellular Signals and HERE Traffic Analytics into its Mobility Experience Analytics solution to deliver various benefits to MNOs.

HERE Cellular Signals accurately correlates accumulated information about mobile network performance onto roadways. HERE Traffic Analytics offer visibility into road traffic patterns.

Upon integration into Continual’s AI-based analytics, the update solution will allow MNOs to better prioritise network tasks to improve the travelling users’ experience.

It will also help improve the prediction and automation of network changes to alleviate for cells with increased load.

Additionally, the combined solution will deliver better service to car drivers and passengers, and support connected and autonomous vehicles as well as 5G services.

HERE Technologies senior manager strategic partners Michiel Verberg said: “As 5G networks and always-online automated vehicles edge closer to reality, we’re seeing growing convergence between the mobile telecom and automotive markets.

“We’re excited that Continual’s existing deep relationships with MNOs coupled with our established automotive partnerships will provide us with a unique opportunity to better address this important evolving market.”

Continual CMO Assaf Aloni said: “Continual’s Mobility Experience Analytics solution re-defines the approach that mobile operators and automotive companies can adopt towards monitoring and improving the connected experience of car drivers, passengers and subscribers who are traveling.

“HERE’s impressive portfolio of automotive and network technologies is very synergistic with ours, and the partnership is enabling us to create even stronger solutions for Connected Mobility.”

Continual and HERE will showcase their integrated solution at Mobile World Congress being organised in Barcelona, from 25 – 28 February.

*Mobility experience map. Credit: Business Wire.*

Press release / Image source:

<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20190220005487/en/Continual-Technologies-Collaborate-Improve-Connected-Mobility>

Continual and HERE Technologies Collaborate to Improve Connected Mobility

Dynamic maps combined with network road experience metrics and optimization will deliver better service to car drivers and passengers, smoothing the path towards connected and autonomous vehicles and 5G

Companies to demonstrate integrated solution at Mobile World Congress

Mobility experience map. (Photo: Business Wire)

BARCELONA, Spain--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Continual, a leading provider of Connected Car and subscriber Mobility Experience Analytics, and HERE Technologies, a global leader in mapping and location services, have partnered to create a pioneering integrated solution for mobile network operators (MNO), designed to continuously monitor and map the connected experience of users on the move across the entire road network. The product also provides the added benefit of performance analysis of different mobile networks.

Continual and HERE Technologies create pioneering integrated solution to map the connected experience of users on the move, targeting connected and autonomous vehicles and 5G

Under the new collaboration, Continual is embedding HERE Cellular Signals and HERE Traffic Analytics into its Mobility Experience Analytics solution to deliver a range of benefits to MNOs. HERE Cellular Signals is a unique data asset that accurately correlates aggregated information about mobile network performance onto roadways, while HERE Traffic Analytics provides visibility into road traffic patterns. Integrated into Continual’s AI-based analytics, the enriched solution will enable MNOs to better prioritize network tasks to improve the experience of users who are traveling, as well as to enhance the prediction and automation of network changes to mitigate for cells with increased load.

Connected and Autonomous Vehicles (CAV) are placing new demands on mobile networks, and MNOs are seeking to provide seamless connectivity to enhance their operation and safety. This trend is driving the need for nationwide, instantaneous network quality heatmaps that can be drilled down in relation to any relevant parameter or service. Smart Cities will also require up-to-date reports detailing crowd locations, movement of pedestrians, car traffic flow, and so on, to optimize infrastructure development. Both commercial and public sector organizations will be able to use this information for better planning and marketing.

At the same time, legacy networks will remain in service for several more years, and mobile operators will have an even greater need to understand the effects of multi-vendor, multi-technology networks – combining 3G, 4G and 5G – on the customer experience. A new integrated Continual dashboard will provide a single location for monitoring such environments.

“As 5G networks and always-online automated vehicles edge closer to reality, we’re seeing growing convergence between the mobile telecom and automotive markets,” said Michiel Verberg, Senior Manager Strategic Partners, HERE Technologies. “We’re excited that Continual’s existing deep relationships with MNOs coupled with our established automotive partnerships will provide us with a unique opportunity to better address this important evolving market.”

“Continual’s Mobility Experience Analytics solution re-defines the approach that mobile operators and automotive companies can adopt towards monitoring and improving the connected experience of car drivers, passengers and subscribers who are traveling,” said Assaf Aloni, CMO of Continual. “HERE’s impressive portfolio of automotive and network technologies is very synergistic with ours, and the partnership is enabling us to create even stronger solutions for Connected Mobility.”

Continual and HERE will demonstrate their integrated solution at Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, 25 – 28 February 2019, on Stands 5D81 in Hall 5 (Israeli Pavilion) and 2E14EX in Hall 2 respectively.

About Continual

Continual provides Connected Car manufacturers and mobile network operators with a unique toolset for analyzing and improving the connected journey experience. Continual analyzes voice and data usage patterns for all subscribers, 24/7, flagging adverse network experiences that affect subscribers and connected vehicles. Using AI and advanced Machine Learning, it correlates all the important parameters and establishes the impact of these experiences on subscribers. Groundbreaking pattern recognition technology gives visibility into user experience profiles along travel routes, providing vital information to network operators and to businesses serving the Connected Car markets. Continual is headquartered in Caesarea, Israel. For more information, please visit https://www.continualexperience.com/.

About HERE Technologies

HERE, the Open Location Platform company, enables people, enterprises and cities to harness the power of location. By making sense of the world through the lens of location we empower our customers to achieve better outcomes – from helping a city manage its infrastructure or an enterprise optimize its assets to guiding drivers to their destination safely. To learn more about HERE, including our new generation of cloud-based location platform services, visit http://360.here.com and www.here.com.

SCOR appoints new CEO for its global property and casualty business

France-based reinsurance firm SCOR has named Jean-Paul Conoscente as the new CEO of SCOR Global P&C, effective 1 April this year.

Conoscente, who is currently serving as CEO of reinsurance at SCOR Global P&C, will also join the group’s executive committee.

In his role, Conoscente will succeed Victor Peignet who has stepped down following 35 years of service with the company.

SCOR chairman and CEO Denis Kessler said: “On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee, and on my own personal behalf, I would like to thank Victor Peignet wholeheartedly for his immense contribution to the SCOR group over the past 35 years.

“I salute his visionary leadership, his great intelligence, his exceptional work ethic and his strong passion for reinsurance, which have positioned SCOR Global P&C in the top tier of the industry. Victor’s career path has been exemplary in every way. ”

Conoscente joined the SCOR Group in 2008 in New York, where he headed SCOR Global P&C’s North American business prior to taking responsibility of all reinsurance business across the division.

Recently, [SCOR Global Life partnered with wearable technology company Garmin Health](https://www.verdict.co.uk/life-insurance-international/news/scor-garmin-health/) to improve its underwriting in Asia Pacific region.

<https://www.scor.com/en/media/news-press-releases/jean-paul-conoscente-promoted-chief-executive-officer-scor-global-pc-and>

Southwest Airlines cancels nearly 400 flights as maintenance woes, winter storms linger

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/travel/flights/2019/02/21/southwest-airlines-400-thursday-flights-canceled-maintenance-weather-las-vegas-snow/2938518002/>

Sydney Airport to establish cyber security centre (exclusive)

<https://www.itnews.com.au/news/sydney-airport-to-establish-cyber-security-centre-519622>

Dublin Airport says flights resume after drone sighting suspension

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/world/dublin-airport-says-flights-resume-after-drone-sighting-11277142>

<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2019/02/22/world/drone-sighting-briefly-halts-flights-irelands-dublin-airport/#.XG-EFLjhUdU>

Adani Group in race to buy 23.5% in Mumbai Airport

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/airlines-/-aviation/adanis-group-in-race-to-buy-23-5-in-mumbai-airport/articleshow/68105474.cms>

First look: ABIA opens $350M terminal expansion

<http://www.austintexas.gov/news/9-gate-expansion-barbara-jordan-terminal-austin-airport-opens>

<https://www.bizjournals.com/austin/news/2019/02/21/first-look-abia-opens-350-terminal-expansion.html>

US startup launches affordable gunfire detection system for terminals

<https://www.passengerterminaltoday.com/news/security/us-startup-launches-affordable-gunfire-detection-system-for-terminals.html>

<https://facilityexecutive.com/2019/02/safe-zone-gunfire-detector-2/>

Ashoka Buildcon wins Rs 1,382 cr contract from NHAI in Karnataka

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/indl-goods/svs/construction/ashoka-buildcon-wins-rs-1382-cr-contract-from-nhai-in-karnataka/articleshow/68097763.cms>

Barhale buys Scottish traffic sign supplier

<https://www.constructionenquirer.com/2019/02/21/barhale-buys-scottish-traffic-sign-supplier/>

<https://www.theconstructionindex.co.uk/news/view/barhale-buys-signs-supplier>

GTCR acquires broker AssuredPartners from Apax VIII

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/gtcr-acquires-broker-assuredpartners-from-apax-viii/>

Incidents of sextortion grow as cyber crime booms: Beazley Breach Response

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/incidents-of-sextortion-grow-as-cyber-crime-booms-beazley-breach-response-17738>

Munich Re seeks 'digital transformation' with Coupa partnership

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/munich-re-seeks-digital-transformation-with-coupa-partnership-17746>

Health data start-up HumanAPI attracts $10m investment from SCOR and Guardian Life

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/health-data-start-up-humanapi-attracts-10m-investment-from-scor-and-guardian-life-17745>

Neptune Flood and Hippo Insurance Partner to Create First Online Home and Flood Insurance Solution

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/neptune-flood-and-hippo-insurance-partner-to-create-first-online-home-and-flood-insurance-solution-300799379.html>

Houston Insurance Broker Launches Online Tool to Connect Agents, Customers

<https://www.insurancejournal.com/news/southcentral/2019/02/21/518396.htm>

Apax to Sell Insurance Broker AssuredPartners to GTCR Group

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-02-21/apax-to-sell-insurance-broker-assuredpartners-to-gtcr-group>

Insurtech Trov Now Selling in 7 Additional States and D.C.

<https://www.insurancejournal.com/news/national/2019/02/21/518321.htm>

Aquiline Capital Partners Announces Agreement to Acquire Relation Insurance Services

<https://www.apnews.com/88a9a6d4e4124039a32c507d98bb7616>

Dublin Airport resumes operations after drone sighting

Dublin Airport in Ireland was forced to temporarily suspended flights operations in the morning hours of 21 February after a drone was found flying near the airfield.

The Irish Aviation Authority (IAA) ordered to suspend operations for around 30 minute when a pilot reported a drone flight over the airfield at around 11.30am.

During this brief pause, the airport authorities grounded all aircraft scheduled to take off while three incoming flights - two to Belfast airport and one to Shannon airport - were diverted.

Using its official Twitter account, the airport said: “For safety reasons we are temporarily suspending flight operations @DublinAirport due (to) the confirmed sighting of a drone over the airfield.” It further added that the travelers should check with their airlines before leaving for the airport.

However, operations resumed in less than hour after the situation normalized, the airport said. For the suspension of flights, the aviation authorities apologised the affected passengers.

Flying drones within 5km of an airport boundary is a criminal offense in Ireland. Registration IAA is mandated for the drones weighing more than 1kg.

The airport authorities said that an investigation by the Irish police service Garda has been initiated into the illegal drone flights.

The incident at Dublin Airport is the latest in a series of recent drone sightings that have afflicted airport operations worldwide.

Recently, [Dubai International Airport suspended operations on the morning of 15 February](https://www.airport-technology.com/news/drone-dubai-airport/) after suspected drone activity was reported near the airport.

Earlier, the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) [briefly halted operations at New Jersey’s Newark Liberty International Airport](https://www.airport-technology.com/news/newark-liberty-international-airport/) on the evening of 21 January after two drones were seen flying in the airport’s airspace.

In January, London’s [Heathrow Airport temporarily halted all departing flights](https://www.airport-technology.com/news/heathrow-drone-spotted-airfield/) as a safety measure after a drone was spotted flying near the airfield.

In last December, [Gatwick Airport halted operations for 36 hours](https://www.airport-technology.com/news/operation-resumes-gatwick-airport/) which affected around 140,000 passengers over the Christmas period.

The UK government is set to pass new [legislation next month that will extend the ‘no-fly zone’](https://www.airport-technology.com/news/airport-uk-drones-exclusion-zone/) for drones and model aircraft around the UK airports to about 5km of runways.

*Dublin Airport resumes operations after briefly shutting the airport due to drone sightings. Credit: Mitch Nielsen on Unsplash.*

Image source:

<https://unsplash.com/photos/pWtNPCpvVA8>

Third party source:

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/world/dublin-airport-says-flights-resume-after-drone-sighting-11277142>

Other sources:

<https://www.irishexaminer.com/breakingnews/ireland/update-drone-which-grounded-flights-in-dublin-could-return-airport-warns-906124.html>

<https://edition.cnn.com/2019/02/21/europe/dublin-airport-flights-suspended-drone-intl/index.html>

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/garda-inquiry-after-drone-sighting-grounds-dublin-flights-1.3801559>

Dublin Airport says flights resume after drone sighting suspension

DUBLIN: Dublin Airport on Thursday (Feb 21) briefly suspended flights following the "confirmed sighting" of a drone at the airfield north of the Irish capital.

Aviation authorities apologised to passengers for the suspension of flights for around 15 minutes after the aerial device was spotted in the skies overhead.

Advertisement

"Flight operations have now resumed... following an earlier drone sighting," the airport said on Twitter at around midday (1200 GMT).

Dublin Airport, which lies about six miles (10 kilometres) north of the city centre, handled nearly 30 million passengers in 2017.

Dozens of airlines operate from the Irish hub, flying to more than 180 destinations in 42 countries.

Thursday's incident follows several drone sightings in neighbouring Britain in the run-up to Christmas and last month which caused travel misery for tens of thousands of people.

Gatwick Airport near London suspended all flights over three days in December after drones were repeatedly spotted in the air.

Meanwhile, Heathrow Airport, Europe's busiest hub, suspended all departing flights for around an hour in January following a drone sighting, while flights at Dubai International Airport were temporarily grounded last week due to suspected drone activity.

This week, the British government said the no-fly zones for drones around airports would be extended to three miles from next month.

Barhale Construction wraps up acquisition of Scottish traffic material supplier Fleming

Barhale Construction Services, a UK-based safety and construction products provider, has acquired Fleming & Co. (Machinery), a traffic management and equipment supplier in Scotland.

Financial terms of the transaction have not been revealed by both parties.

Established in 1882, Fleming & Co, supplies a complete range of traffic management equipment including traffic signs and cones, as well as protective clothing, contractors tools and janitorial supplies to customers in Scotland, the North of England and Ireland.

Glasgow-based Fleming & Co, founded in 1882, supplies construction companies with kit ranging from traffic cones and wheelbarrows to PPE and first aid kits.

BCS Group general manager James Mulchinock said that the acquisition of Fleming & Co will bring signs manufacturing in-house and help to cut dependency on third parties.

Mulchinock further said: “It also strategically fits well with our existing BCS Group offering by significantly widening our footprint.

“The intention is to invest in the business, with innovative new stock lines and an increased stock holding, extending the supply chain and a full product catalogue.

“Having a base on the doorstep of some of our key clients will enable us to grow our customer base across the region.”

As per term of the agreement, Fleming & Company (Machinery) will operate as a standalone company within BCS Group in the short term. It will retain its trading name and brand.

Additionally, the acquired entity will continue to be managed by the current team fully supported by BCS Group.

BCS, part of the Barhale group, offers an array of construction and safety products, which includes temporary road signs and construction site signage.

Third party source:

<https://www.theconstructionindex.co.uk/news/view/barhale-buys-signs-supplier>

Other source:

<https://www.constructionenquirer.com/2019/02/21/barhale-buys-scottish-traffic-sign-supplier/>

<https://flemingsonline.co.uk/about-us/>

Barhale buys sign supplier

Barhale Construction Services has acquired Fleming & Co (Machinery) Ltd, a manufacturer of traffic signs.

Glasgow-based Fleming & Co, founded in 1882, supplies construction companies with kit ranging from traffic cones and wheelbarrows to PPE and first aid kits.

Barhale Construction Services (BCS), part of the Barhale contracting group, is in a similar line of business, supplying a range of construction and safety products. BCS already offers temporary road signs and construction site signage but the acquisition of Fleming & Co strengthens this offering as Fleming actually makes some of the products.

BCS general manager James Mulchinock explained the rationale behind the acquisition: “Firstly, it will allow us to bring our signs manufacturing in-house, reducing the need to rely on third parties. Secondly, it strategically fits well with our existing BCS Group offering by significantly widening our footprint. The intention is to invest in the business, with innovative new stock lines and an increased stock holding, extending the supply chain and a full product catalogue - giving existing customers the added value that is synonymous with BCS Group.

“Thirdly, the acquisition of Fleming & Co. with its experienced, dedicated and knowledgeable staff, will give us a complete solution for customers operating in and around Scotland. Having a base on the doorstep of some of our key clients will enable us to grow our customer base across the region.”

Adani Group offers to acquire 23.5% stake in Mumbai Airport

Indian diversified conglomerate Adani Group has presented an offer to acquire a 23.5% stake in Mumbai Airport.

The offer submitted before two South African firms including Airports Company South Africa (ACSA) and Bidvest, values the Mumbai International Airport at around $1.34bn (Rs90bn).

Under the right of first refusal (RoFR) clause, the South African companies have asked the existing shareholder GVK to match the offer till February-end.

Bidvest’s stake in the Mumbai Airport has been valued at Rs12.48bn ($175.5m), or Rs 77 per share, the Economic Times has reported referring the documents it has seen.

Bidvest has written to GVK and ACSA, with a copy marked to AAI, and requested the partners to match the offer within a month.

Sources close to GVK told the ET that the company has received stake sale proposal from both the partners in the consortium

“The GVK group will match the offer and buy the 23.5% stake in the company. We will not let the stake in the company go to anyone else,” one source told the news agency.

In 2018, Bidvest started stake sale process and appointed investment banker Rothschild to oversee the process.

MIAL, which operates the Mumbai Airport, is a JV formed by GVK, Airports Authority of India (AAI), Bidvest and ACSA. GVK Airport Developers holds 50.5%, Bidvest owns 13.5%, ACSA 10% and the rest is owned by AAI.

Recently, Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, Canada-based PSP Investments and Spanish conglomerate Ferrovial, have bid to purchase a stake in MIAL.

*Adani Group plans to purchase 23.5% stake in Mumbai Airport. Credit: A. Savin.*

Image source:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chhatrapati_Shivaji_Maharaj_International_Airport#/media/File:Mumbai_03-2016_114_Airport_international_terminal_interior.jpg>

Third party source:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/airlines-/-aviation/adanis-group-in-race-to-buy-23-5-in-mumbai-airport/articleshow/68105474.cms>

Other sources:

<https://www.cnbctv18.com/aviation/adani-group-looking-to-buy-23-5-stake-in-mumbai-airport-says-report-2375921.htm>

Adani Group in race to buy 23.5% in Mumbai Airport

The Adani Group has sought to buy the stakes of Airports Company South Africa and Bidvest at a valuation of Rs 9,500 cr.

GVK has time till February-end to comply or face a protracted corporate or legal battle.

MUMBAI | NEW DELHI: The Adani Group has made a formal offer to buy out the 23.5% held by two South African firms in Mumbai airport, setting the stage for a battle with the GVK Group which has also shown interest in increasing its stake.

The Adani Group has sought to buy the stakes of Airports Company South Africa (ACSA) and Bidvest, the joint venture partners of GVK in the Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL), at a valuation of Rs 9,500 crore, people aware of the situation said.

With an offer on the table, the South Africans — believed to be keen on exiting the venture — have invoked the right of first refusal (RoFR) clause, forcing the cash-strapped Hyderabad-headquartered infrastructure conglomerate to scurry for funds to ward off what is now being perceived as a smart corporate move by the Adanis to take a large chunk of the country’s second-busiest airport. As per the agreement, the invocation can happen only once. GVK has time till February-end to comply or face a protracted corporate or legal battle.

VALUATION LOWER THAN EXPECTATION

Bidvest’s holdings have been valued at Rs 1,248.75 crore, or Rs 77 per share, according to documents seen by ET. At this rate, MIAL is valued at about Rs 9,500 crore, lower than the promoter group’s expectation. Bidvest has written to GVK and ACSA, with a copy marked to AAI, asking the two partners to match the offer within a month, according to the letter dated January 26, 2019. ET was first to report the developments on February 1.

Adani Group officials declined to comment. An email sent to GVK group and MIAL did not elicit any response.

People close to GVK said that it has received stake sale proposal from both the partners in the consortium and the RoFR clause gives GVK group a chance to match the offer.

“The GVK group will match the offer and buy the 23.5% stake in the company. We will not let the stake in the company go to anyone else,” said one of them, who did not want to be identified.

Bidvest launched an official stake sale process last year by roping in investment bank Rothschild. At the same time, GVK also launched efforts to raise funds at GVK Power and Infrastructure’s airport holding company. Citi has been working with GVK to find a partner.

Holding company GVK Airport Developers has a near majority stake in the consortium that’s running Mumbai airport since 2006 and also building a second one in Navi Mumbai for about Rs 16,000 crore. The holding company is estimated to have Rs 5,000-5,500 crore debt.

MIAL, the underlying operating company, is a JV between GVK, Airports Authority of India (AAI), Bidvest and ACSA. GVK Airport Developers owns 50.5% of MIAL, Bidvest holds 13.5%, ACSA owns 10% and the rest is with AAI.

However, almost the entire promoter holding is pledged with banks including ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank and Yes Bank, said banking industry officials. GVK promoters took the loans to finance their Australia project and Bengaluru airport venture.

MIAL also owns 74% stake of the planned Navi Mumbai International Airport Ltd while the rest is held by local nodal body City and Industrial Development Corp (Cidco).

VALUATION CONCERNS

ET reported earlier this week that three investors Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, PSP Investments of Canada and Spanish conglomerate Ferrovial, the operators of Heathrow, Aberdeen, Southampton and Glasgow airports, have bid to buy a stake in MIAL. However, the value discovered is much less than what the promoters were expecting. Most bids are at a Rs 12,000-13,000 crore valuation range, said people directly involved in the negotiations, while the promoters have been seeking an enterprise valuation of ?20,000 crore.

At Rs 13,000 crore valuation, GVK’s 51% will only help raise Rs 6,500 crore, and may not be enough to block Adani Group from stepping in unless a white knight comes in and bail it out. Some of the lenders too have been trying to reduce their exposure to the highly leveraged group that was earlier forced to sell the Bengaluru airport stake to Prem Watsa.

“For the GVK promoters, raising emergency funds may be the only option and that is exceedingly tough considering their leverage. The tepid response of the three investors for the holding company has made matters worse.

At this valuation, they may end up losing control. The Reddys are already fully pledged and Adanis saw a great opportunity as they are upping their game in infrastructure,” said an official directly involved in the process.

Adani Group has presence in ports and real estate businesses and is expanding into roads, waterways and airports. Adani Transmission has acquired Reliance Infrastructure’s Mumbai power distribution business for Rs 18,000 crore. The group has also bid for six airport projects — Ahmedabad, Guwahati, Mangalore, Jaipur, Thiruvananthapuram, Lucknow — and is confident of winning big. Bids are to open on Monday.

Another group company, Adani Infra, is one of the two shortlisted firms for the Rs 22,000-crore Dharavi Redevelopment Project. Dubai-based Seclink Group is the other candidate. Large swathes of the Asia’s largest slum adjoin the airport land and displacing the people living there to exploit the prime real estate of the airport project has always been a challenge. If Adani Group gets both, it will open up a massive value proposition for the conglomerate.

MIAL has the right to develop 5% of the total land area of Mumbai airport for real estate. However, the airport operator has monetised only a small portion of the land so far, pending approvals.

BANK ROLE

Corporate circles are keenly watching the developments, especially the next move from the banks. Last year, the lenders to GVK promoters had approached several strategic players if they would be keen to buy out the loan but most relented as it would be perceived a hostile move. Adanis may not like to be a junior partner and would seek to have a greater sway in the airport company.

The 23.5% stake also does not come with any rights or board seat, thereby making the negotiations even more interesting. Some expect GVK to move court to block any potential transaction and a protracted legal battle to follow.

“Have you ever seen them (the Adanis) agree on a minority stake? I would be surprised if negotiations are not underway with the lenders too for a bigger chunk. It’s a conscious strategic move,” said a CEO of an infrastructure company on condition of anonymity. “In this flux, financial sponsors or pension funds may find it difficult to come in and partner GVK.”

Mumbai handled almost 49 million passengers in the year ended March 2018. It also holds the record for being the world’s busiest single runway airport. The much-delayed Navi Mumbai airport is seen as a critical alternative to the existing congested facility.

The government has announced a deadline of 2020-21for the first commercial flight to take off from the new airport. Given the rapid increase in aviation demand, the builders of the airport have enhanced the size of the project, doubling its initial yearly passenger handling capacity to 20 million, and increasing the final capacity by 50% to 90 million. The airport project is yet to get some environmental clearances needed to begin full-fledged construction.

MIAL has to share 38.70% revenue with AAI for the Mumbai airport and 12% with Cidco for the Navi Mumbai airport project.

Ashoka Buildcon set to bag highway contract in Karnataka

Ashoka Concessions (ACL), a subsidiary of India-based construction major Ashoka Buildcon, is set to bag a highway contract in the Indian state of Karnataka.

ACL emerged as the lowest bidders for the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) highway project for which a number of firms were competing.

In a filing to Bombay Stock Exchange, Ashoka Buildcon said that ACL emerged as the lowest bidder at the financial bid opening meeting held on 21 February 2019 at New Delhi. The quoted bid project cost for the project is Rs13.82bn ($194.12m).

The contract is part of four-laning of approximately 220km long Tumkur – Shivamogga section of highway which has been divided into five packages and forms part of Bharatmala project.

As per terms of the contract, the contractor will be responsible for building 56km highway section from Bettadahalli Shivamogga (Package IV) in Karnataka under hybrid annuity mode (HAM).

In order to construct the highway, the government is offering around 40% of the project cost while the remaining amount will be invested by the contractor.

Pursuant to the contract, the shareholders will monitor the execution of the project.

In April last year, ACL bagged a Rs16.87bn ($237) project from the NHAI for a section of the Vadodara-Mumbai expressway in Gujarat.

The company was supposed to build eight lane stretch of Vadodara-Mumbai expressway from Ankleshwar to Manubar in Gujarat under hybrid annuity mode.

*Ashoka Buildcon set to win $194.12m highway contract in Karnataka, India. Credit: Sumeet.*

Image source:

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Delhi_Noida_Direct_flyway_(Uttar_Pradesh_-_2011-06-18).jpg>

Third party source:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/indl-goods/svs/construction/ashoka-buildcon-wins-rs-1382-cr-contract-from-nhai-in-karnataka/articleshow/68097763.cms>

[https://www.bseindia.com/corporates/anndet\_new.aspx?newsid=41d4f1bd-837c-4b55-b85b-5c3479172413#](https://www.bseindia.com/corporates/anndet_new.aspx?newsid=41d4f1bd-837c-4b55-b85b-5c3479172413)

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Ashoka Buildcon wins Rs 1,382 cr contract from NHAI in Karnataka

The contract to build 56 km highway stretch is under hybrid annuity mode (HAM) under which the government provides 40 per cent of the project cost to start work.

The 4-laning of about 220 km long Tumkur – Shivamogga section is divided into five packages.

NEW DELHI: Ashoka BuildconNSE 1.28 % Thursday said it has won a Rs 1,382 crore highway contract in Karnataka from National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

The contract to build 56 km highway stretch is under hybrid annuity mode (HAM) under which the government provides 40 per cent of the project cost to start work, while the remaining investment is made by the developer.

The company's subsidiary Ashoka Concessions Ltd (ACL) had submitted its bid to NHAI for the Tumkur - Shivamogga section of highway from Bettadahalli Shivamogga (Package IV) in Karnataka on HAM under Bharatmala project.

"ACL emerged as the lowest bidder at the financial bid opening meeting held on February 21, 2019 at New Delhi. The quoted bid project cost for the project is Rs 1,382 Crore," Ashoka Buildcon said in a BSE regulatory filing.

Earlier, the NHAI had decided that the development of Tumkur-Shivamogga Section of NH-206 in Karnataka will be done on HAM.

The 4-laning of about 220 km long Tumkur – Shivamogga section is divided into five packages.

Procter & Gamble Supports Worldwide Ban on Cosmetic Animal Testing

<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20190221005523/en/Procter-Gamble-Supports-Worldwide-Ban-Cosmetic-Animal>

ZitSticka launches to transform the way people treat and talk about acne

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/zitsticka-launches-to-transform-the-way-people-treat-and-talk-about-acne-300798257.html>

Neptune Flood and Hippo to create online home and flood insurance solution

Data driven flood insurance firm Neptune Flood has teamed up with Hippo Insurance to create online home and flood insurance solution.

Neptune Flood, which was launched in April 2017, enables users to quote and purchase flood insurance within two minutes without requiring submitting the standard elevation certificate.

Both partners use similar digital models to provide a speedy and hassle-free digital experience.

As part of the collaboration, Neptune Flood’s API can be quickly integrated into Hippo’s platform, which will enable home and flood insurance customers to get access to the better offering.

Hippo Insurance CEO and co-founder Assaf Wand said: “Many of our customers, across Texas, Pennsylvania and California are in need of high-quality flood insurance to properly protect their homes and prized valuables.

“Neptune Flood's use of technology, expedited onboarding experience and fantastic coverage options makes them a perfect match for our modern home insurance coverage and seamless sign-up process.”

Eliminating inefficiencies and outdated policy provisions, Hippo offers enhanced coverage at a savings of up to 25%.

Its 60-second online quote and four-minute policy binding process is said to be one of the fastest and easiest way to obtain home insurance on the market.

Neptune Flood CEO Jim Albert said: “Neptune is forming relationships with transformational distribution partners with a passion for changing the way households think about and buy insurance.

“Hippo is an example of our commitment to best in class partners who share our values in educating and helping our neighbours better protect their homes against the risk of flooding, while saving time and money."

So far Hippo has raised approximately $109m through its initial funding rounds in a bid to reinvent home insurance.

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/neptune-flood-and-hippo-insurance-partner-to-create-first-online-home-and-flood-insurance-solution-300799379.html>

<https://www.dig-in.com/news/insurtechs-neptune-hippo-partner-to-increase-flood-insurance-coverage?feed=0000015a-13ec-d9c8-abfb-f7fcdd7f0000>

Apax VIII to sell its entire stake in AssuredPartners to GTCR

Apax VIII, a fund advised by Apax Partners, has signed an agreement to sell its entire stake in American insurance brokerage firm AssuredPartners, to an investor group led by GTCR.

Earlier, GTCR owned AssuredPartners from its inception in 2011 until it sold the company to Apax VIII in 2015.

Along with GTCR, Apax IX – a separate fund advised by Apax Partners – will also purchase a significant minority stake in AssuredPartners.

Founded in 2011, AssuredPartners distributes property and casualty insurance products, risk management, employee benefits and personal insurance.

AssuredPartners co-founder and CEO Jim Henderson said: “Apax has been a superb partner for Assured over the last three years and we are delighted to be renewing this successful partnership.

“At the same time, we are excited to welcome back the GTCR team who we know very well and value their expertise and insight. We look forward to working with both firms who share our vision and commitment to scaling the business further.”

GTCR managing director Aaron Cohen said: “AssuredPartners is a trusted advisor to its customers, offering unique capabilities to assist leading companies in all of their insurance and risk management needs.

“We are thrilled to be partners with Jim Henderson, Tom Riley and the team once again and look forward to the continued expansion of the AssuredPartners platform.”

The transaction, whose financial terms were not disclosed, is scheduled to complete in the second quarter of 2019.

<https://www.assuredpartners.com/About-Us/In-the-News/NewsDetail/ArticleID/2048/Apax-VIII-sells-its-stake-in-AssuredPartners-to-GTCR>

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/gtcr-acquires-broker-assuredpartners-from-apax-viii/>

P&G joins movement to ban on cosmetic animal testing worldwide

Procter & Gamble (P&G) has joined hands with the Humane Society International #BeCrueltyFree campaign that seeks to ban animal testing for cosmetics worldwide by 2023.

Originally launched in 2012, the #BeCrueltyFree campaign aims to extend the European Union’s legal pattern to countries where this practice is still practiced under law.

As part of the collaboration, the Cincinnati-based maker of consumer goods will support joint education and capacity-building programs for non-animal alternatives.

Additionally, it will keep working for new animal-free methods to safety assessment while advocating for the legislative end of cosmetic animal testing in key global beauty markets.

Humane Society International and the Humane Society of the United States president Kitty Block said: “This partnership represents an important milestone in our efforts to end animal testing for cosmetics worldwide through our #BeCrueltyFree campaign.

“By working together with forward-looking companies like Procter & Gamble, we can make this ambitious goal a reality.”

P&G, HSI, the HSUS, and the Humane Society Legislative Fund have been partnering on the development and regulatory uptake of animal-free test methods.

P&G corporate communications and animal welfare advocacy Dr. Harald Schlatter said: “We’ve invested more than $420m over forty years in developing non-animal test methods.

“Our researchers have led or co-designed at least twenty-five cruelty-free methods that have replaced animal testing of cosmetic products. HSI and the HSUS have been powerful partners in advancing these methods globally.”

HSI research and toxicology vice president Troy Seidle said: “Animal testing of cosmetics not only causes unnecessary animal suffering, but it also represents outdated science.

“For more than 20 years, we have collaborated with Procter & Gamble to advance the development and regulatory acceptance of non-animal testing approaches, but in order to finally move proposed cosmetics animal testing bans into law, in the US, Canada, Brazil, Chile, South Africa and other influential markets, we need the active support of major industry leaders such as P&G.

“With the power of P&G’s household brands, I’m confident we can achieve a legislative end to cosmetic animal testing globally within five years.”

*P&G has joined the Humane Society International #BeCrueltyFree campaign. Credit: Business Wire.*

Press release / Image source:

<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20190221005523/en/Procter-Gamble-Supports-Worldwide-Ban-Cosmetic-Animal>

Procter & Gamble Supports Worldwide Ban on Cosmetic Animal Testing, Joins Humane Society International’s #BeCrueltyFree Campaign

P&G has joined the Humane Society International #BeCrueltyFree campaign to ban animal testing for cosmetics in all major global beauty markets by 2023. (Photo: Business Wire)

CINCINNATI--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Today the Procter & Gamble Company (NYSE: PG) joins with the Humane Society International #BeCrueltyFree campaign, to ban animal testing for cosmetics in all major global beauty markets by 2023.

The #BeCrueltyFree campaign was launched in 2012 with the aim of extending the European Union’s legal precedent – banning cosmetics animal testing and the sale of newly animal tested cosmetics – to countries where this practice is still allowed or even mandated by law. P&G’s support for #BeCrueltyFree will include joint education and capacity-building programs for non-animal alternatives, continued development of new animal-free approaches to safety assessment and advocating for the legislative end of cosmetic animal testing in key global beauty markets.

Kitty Block, President of Humane Society International and the Humane Society of the United States, said: “This partnership represents an important milestone in our efforts to end animal testing for cosmetics worldwide through our #BeCrueltyFree campaign. By working together with forward-looking companies like Procter & Gamble, we can make this ambitious goal a reality.”

Kathy Fish, Chief Research, Development and Innovation Officer, Procter & Gamble, shared, “We are pleased to partner with the Humane Society International in the quest to end cosmetic animal testing. I’m proud of the passion and expertise our researchers have contributed already to this goal. I know they will continue to be a force for good, providing leadership and advocacy to help achieve our shared vision.”

For over two decades, P&G, HSI, the HSUS, and the Humane Society Legislative Fund have collaborated on the development and regulatory uptake of animal-free test methods. The organizations expect that by bringing their complementary strengths together, they will reach the end goal more quickly. A key focus will be gaining acceptance of new methods by regulators and enrolling many companies and governments globally to adopt cruelty-free public policies and practices.

Dr. Harald Schlatter, P&G Corporate Communications and Animal Welfare Advocacy, added: “We’ve invested more than $420 million over forty years in developing non-animal test methods. Our researchers have led or co-designed at least twenty-five cruelty-free methods that have replaced animal testing of cosmetic products. HSI and the HSUS have been powerful partners in advancing these methods globally.“

Troy Seidle, HSI Vice President for Research & Toxicology, said: “Animal testing of cosmetics not only causes unnecessary animal suffering, but it also represents outdated science. For more than 20 years, we have collaborated with Procter & Gamble to advance the development and regulatory acceptance of non-animal testing approaches, but in order to finally move proposed cosmetics animal testing bans into law, in the United States, Canada, Brazil, Chile, South Africa and other influential markets, we need the active support of major industry leaders such as P&G. With the power of P&G’s household brands, I’m confident we can achieve a legislative end to cosmetic animal testing globally within five years.”

About Humane Society International

Humane Society International and its partner organizations together constitute one of the world’s largest animal protection organizations. For more than 25 years, HSI has been working for the protection of all animals through the use of science, advocacy, education and hands-on programs. Celebrating animals and confronting cruelty worldwide – on the web at hsi.org.

The Humane Society of the United States is the most effective animal protection organization, as rated by our peers. For more than 60 years, we have celebrated the protection of all animals and confronted all forms of cruelty. We and our affiliates are the nation’s largest provider of hands-on services for animals, caring for more than 100,000 animals each year, and we prevent cruelty to millions more through our advocacy campaigns. Read about our more than 60 years of transformational change for animals and people. HumaneSociety.org

The Humane Society Legislative Fund is a social welfare organization incorporated under section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code and formed in 2004 as a separate lobbying affiliate of The Humane Society of the United States. The HSLF works to pass animal protection laws at the state and federal level, to educate the public about animal protection issues, and to support humane candidates for office. Visit us on all our channels: on the web at hslf.org, on our blog at animalsandpolitics.com, on Facebook at facebook.com/humanelegislation and on Twitter at twitter.com/HSLegFund.

About Procter & Gamble

P&G serves consumers around the world with one of the strongest portfolios of trusted, quality, leadership brands, including Always®, Ambi Pur®, Ariel®, Bounty®, Charmin®, Crest®, Dawn®, Downy®, Fairy®, Febreze®, Gain®, Gillette®, Head & Shoulders®, Lenor®, Olay®, Oral-B®, Pampers®, Pantene®, SK-II®, Tide®, Vicks®, and Whisper®. The P&G community includes operations in approximately 70 countries worldwide. Please visit http://www.pg.com for the latest news and information about P&G and its brands.

Human API raises $10m from Guardian Life and SCOR Life

Human API, an American health data startup, has raised nearly $10m in funding from Guardian Life Insurance Company and SCOR Life & Health Ventures.

Additional investors who joined the funding round includes lueRun Ventures and SciFi VC.

The California-based company plans to spend the capital to support growth and expansion for its health data aggregation platform.

Using its technology, Human API gathers and connects medical data from various sources including EHR systems, labs, pharmacies, wearables and health apps onto one platform.

Levering this pooled data, the healthcare providers and insurance carriers can enhance patient safety besides controlling costs by replacing medical tests and improving underwriting models.

SCOR Global Life deputy CEO Brona Magee said: “SCOR Global Life seeks to extend protection and peace of mind and to make life insurance more accessible, relevant and desirable to consumers.

“We look to build solutions with our insurance clients that enable them to provide their customers with a simpler, faster buying experience.

“This partnership with Human API supports our efforts to accelerate the underwriting process through electronic health data and automated decision making.

“Human API is in a unique position to transform health data exchange and create innovation opportunities across the healthcare and insurance ecosystem.”

<https://www.scor.com/en/media/news-press-releases/scor-life-health-ventures-invests-human-api>

<https://medcitynews.com/2019/02/health-data-startup-human-api-raises-10m-on-new-life-insurance-capabilities/>

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/scor-life-health-invests-in-startup-humanapi/>

Frank Medina unveils online insurance agent finding tool

American insurance brokerage firm Frank Medina has unveiled its latest online tool that enables consumers to search for reputable insurance agents in their area.

Dubbed Insurance Agent Near Me, the new tool is free to use and allows users to connect with reputable insurance agents in their vicinity.

Frank Medina said that it recognised a crucial gap in the way consumers used to search and select choose insurance agents, and thus it developed a tool that would make agent searching hassle-free process.

The toll displays a list of all the major insurance products which are being searched online every day. After that, it suggests customers about the agents based on their proximity and relevance to the customer’s search terms.

In order to determine which agents are nearby, Insurance Agent Near Me uses a search algorithm based on users’ current IP address.

Tool developer Frank Medina said: “We wanted to do something that addresses the challenges that customers face in finding local insurance agents.

“With a lot of insurance services moving online, over 70% of customers search online when trying to find insurance products.

“However, because most customers lack the time or expertise to study the different types of insurance policies available and decide exactly what they need, they still rely heavily on insurance agents for advice and guidance. The problem arises when they need to decide who is the right agent.”

Medina further said that a Google search for “insurance agent near me” usually gives more than 400 million results that could be frustrating for customers who are looking for truly local agents.

<https://www.insurancebusinessmag.com/us/news/technology/frank-medina-launches-online-insurance-agent-search-tool-159108.aspx>

<https://www.insurancejournal.com/news/southcentral/2019/02/21/518396.htm>

Austin-Bergstrom Airport opens new 9-gate terminal expansion

Austin-Bergstrom International Airport in Texas, US, has launched first phase of a new nine-gate expansion terminal inside the Barbara Jordan Terminal.

The $350m terminal and apron expansion project started in 2016. It includes setting up nine gates, an outdoor terrace overlooking the airfield as well as a new baggage claim area.

With the addition of nine new gates, the total number of gates at the airport will touch 34 and will help the airport to deal with steadily increasing number of passengers.

Covering an area of 175,000ft², the terminal expansion project includes 88,359ft² of concourse space, 52,282 ft² of apron level space for baggage makeup conveyors, additional inbound baggage systems, airline operations space, among others.

It also includes 28,205ft² of mezzanine and platform level space, as well as 5,770ft² of outdoor east terrace.

The project also focused on expanding the paved aircraft area around the terminal to better house larger and more aircraft while boosting increased overnight aircraft parking at Austin’s airport.

The terminal has been designed to meet LEED Silver certification for overall energy and environmental sustainability.

In collaboration with ABIA's Planning and Engineering Division, architecture and interior design firm Gensler and contractor Hensel Phelps designed and constructed the terminal.

The original Barbara Jordan Terminal has capacity to accommodate 11 million travellers per annum. Last year, the airport welcomed 15.8 million passengers.

Press release / Image source:

<http://www.austintexas.gov/news/9-gate-expansion-barbara-jordan-terminal-austin-airport-opens>

Other source:

<https://communityimpact.com/austin/transportation/2019/02/21/austin-bergstrom-international-airport-debuts-new-expansion/>

<https://www.kxan.com/news/local/austin/austin-airport-launches-phase-one-of-new-expansion-terminal/1799555693>

9-Gate Expansion of the Barbara Jordan Terminal at Austin Airport Opens

On Barbara Jordan's birthday, the Austin airport opened a 9-gate expansion to the terminal that bares name

First International flight arriving in the 9-gate expansion of the Austin airport

First flight to depart the 9-gate expansion was a Delta 5:40 a.m. departure from Austin to Atlanta. Above is the first international flight to arrive, a AeroMexico nonstop from Mexico City to Austin.

AUSTIN, Texas – The Austin-Bergstrom International Airport, in seeking to elevate the passenger experience, opened Phase I of the new 9-gate expansion. The expansion became operational on Barbara Jordan’s birthday, Feb. 21 with a Delta to Atlanta flight at 5:40 a.m.

The terminal and apron expansion is a $350 million project. The project includes: Nine gate terminal inside the Barbara Jordan Terminal

Adding nine new gates to the terminal, which increases the total number of gates to 34. This includes increasing international flight gates from two to six.

The terminal expansion project is nearly 175,000 square feet and includes:

88,359 square feet of concourse space

52,282 square feet of apron level space for baggage makeup conveyors, additional inbound baggage systems, airline operations space, airport support space, and other related ancillary facilities

28,205 square feet of mezzanine and platform level space

5,770 square feet of outdoor east terrace.

Expanding the paved aircraft area around the terminal by 48 acres to better accommodate larger and more aircraft and increased overnight aircraft parking at Austin’s airport.

Designed to meet LEED Silver certification for overall energy and environmental sustainability.

The original Barbara Jordan Terminal was designed to serve 11 million passengers annually. In 2018, the airport served 15.8 million annual passengers.

175,000 square feet of the new terminal, gate area, and wider concourse space will be added. The terminal, if stood on end it would be taller than the Frost Tower in downtown Austin.

6,000 tons of steel was used in the construction of the 9-gate expansion.

Twenty consulting firms were engaged with a five-person, all women on-site project delivery team.

The Barbara Jordan Terminal

The terminal at the Austin-Bergstrom is named after Barbara Jordan. As an elected official Barbara Jordan accomplished many firsts. She was the first African American to serve in the Texas Senate since Reconstruction (1966-72), the first African American woman elected to the U.S.. Congress from the South (1972-78) and the first woman to deliver the keynote address at a national party convention (Democratic Convention 1976, and again in 1992).

Her riveting Watergate testimony in 1974 inspired America's attention to the strength and foundation of the Constitution of the United States of America. Many Austinites remember her fondly as an educator at The University of Texas at Austin/LBJ School of Public Affairs (1979-96) and, respectfully as Governor Ann Richards' counsel on ethics. Many also remember well the way she captivated listeners with her powerful voice, oratorical skills, and her ability to clarify complex moral issues of the day.

The first life-sized statue of the late Barbara Jordan resides in the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport. Created by California artist Bruce Wolfe, the bronze sculpture depicts Jordan seated, in deep thought, with her finger tips pressed together; her glasses and a book placed in her lap.

The airport of choice for Central Texas is Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (AUS). New nonstop international flights include Calgary, Canada (YYC) on WestJet www.westjet.com; Frankfurt, Germany (FRA) on Lufthansa www.lufthansa.com; London Gatwick, United Kingdom (LGW) on Norwegian Air, www.norwegian.com/us; and Mexico City, Mexico (MEX) on AeroMexico, www.aeromexico.com. Austin also welcomes new carrier Spirit Airlines, www.spirit.com. Find all nonstop routes with the free interactive flight guide on www.abia.org. Connect with us on Twitter, @AUStinAirport, Facebook, www.facebook.com/abia and on Instagram, @AUSairport.

Upgrade of troubled Vanuatu airport nears completion

<https://www.radionz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/383313/upgrade-of-troubled-vanuatu-airport-nears-completion>

Government should cap Heathrow passenger charges says British Airways owner IAG

<http://www.cityam.com/273729/government-should-cap-heathrow-passenger-charges-says>

<https://www.thisismoney.co.uk/money/markets/article-6737763/BA-fury-Heathrows-shareholders-land-500m.html>

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Stellar Partners, Inc. Announces Agreement to Acquire Pacific Gateway Concessions

<https://www.aviationpros.com/airports/airport-revenue/concessionaire-retail/press-release/21069591/stellar-partners-inc-stellar-partners-inc-announces-agreement-to-acquire-pacific-gateway-concessions>

GMR, Terna sign agreement for new airport in Greece; to invest 500 mn euros

<https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/gmr-terna-sign-concession-agreement-for-new-airport-in-greece-119022200216_1.html>

Corridor with first cable-stayed bridge, largest intersection and longest bridge in Qatar to be ready by 2021

<https://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/24/02/2019/Corridor-with-first-cable-stayed-bridge,-largest-intersection-and-longest-bridge-in-Qatar-to-be-ready-by-2021>

<https://www.gulf-times.com/story/623176/Sabah-Corridor-to-reduce-north-south-travel-time-b>

Hobart City Deal to deliver $730M in transport infrastucture projects

<http://www.roadsonline.com.au/hobart-city-deal-to-deliver-730m-in-transport-infrastucture-projects/>

<https://minister.infrastructure.gov.au/tudge/releases/2019/february/at017_2019.aspx>

Arceo.ai Launches to Bridge the Cybersecurity - Insurance Gap

<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20190220005282/en/Arceo.ai-Launches-Bridge-Cybersecurity---Insurance-Gap>

Swiss Re pilots satellite imaging for use in crop claim settlements

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/swiss-re-pilots-satellite-imaging-for-use-in-crop-claim-settlements/>

Berkshire Hathaway in Talks to Sell Workers’ Compensation Unit Applied Underwriters

<https://www.insurancejournal.com/news/national/2019/02/22/518536.htm>

Ping An Plans IPO of Fintech Unit at $8 Billion Value

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-02-25/ping-an-is-said-to-plan-ipo-of-fintech-unit-at-8-billion-value>

Thai Insurtech Startup Raises US$ 10 M Funding, Eyes Expansion into Singapore

<http://fintechnews.sg/29089/thailand/sunday-insurtech/>

UK life insurers brace for hit from pension superfunds

<https://www.ft.com/content/98ee26b4-3041-11e9-ba00-0251022932c8>

Ping An Plans IPO of Fintech Unit at $8 Billion Value <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-02-25/ping-an-is-said-to-plan-ipo-of-fintech-unit-at-8-billion-value>

Thai Insurtech Startup Raises US$ 10 M Funding, Eyes Expansion into Singapore

<http://fintechnews.sg/29089/thailand/sunday-insurtech/>

<https://e27.co/vertex-ventures-se-asia-india-led-us10m-funding-for-insurtech-startup-sunday-20190224/>

Plug and Play Singapore's Fintech and Insurtech Program Welcomes First Two Partners from Indonesia

<https://markets.businessinsider.com/news/stocks/plug-and-play-singapore-s-fintech-and-insurtech-program-welcomes-first-two-partners-from-indonesia-1027977886>

Arceo.ai Launches to Bridge the Cybersecurity - Insurance Gap

<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20190220005282/en/Arceo.ai-Launches-Bridge-Cybersecurity---Insurance-Gap>

Swiss Re pilots satellite imaging for use in crop claim settlements

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/swiss-re-pilots-satellite-imaging-for-use-in-crop-claim-settlements/>

Berkshire Hathaway in Talks to Sell Workers’ Compensation Unit Applied Underwriters

<https://www.insurancejournal.com/news/national/2019/02/22/518536.htm>

Great-West Life’s Flexbox to help increase access to workplace health benefits plans for employees of small businesses

<https://www.greatwestlife.com/common/news/news-releases/great-west-life_s-flexbox-to-help-increase-access-to-workplace-h.html>

IAG urges UK’s aviation regulator CAA to cut passenger charges at Heathrow

International Airlines Group (IAG), owner of British Airways, Iberia and Aer Lingus​, has urged the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to negotiate with London’s Heathrow Airport and slash passenger charges.

The request comes after Heathrow paid another £500m in dividends to the airport's foreign investors. The amount is collected from passengers flying from the airport and which makes Heathrow one of costlier airports in the world, claims IAG.

If the UK’s aviation regulator can negotiate a cap on the fees with Heathrow, the airport will give airlines discount on passenger-related charges which will be ultimately passed to travellers, making their travel cost-effective.

In a statement, an IAG spokesman said: “Britain needs cost-effective airport infrastructure that boosts the UK's competitiveness, not just the airport's shareholders.

“Heathrow is already the most expensive hub airport worldwide and the Government must protect consumers by putting a cap on what they pay to use it.”

However, a Heathrow spokesman said that the airport has already slashed passenger charges in 2018. He added: “It is private investment that has transformed Heathrow into what it is today, providing IAG with some of its most profitable routes.

“It is right that our shareholders receive returns in record years and it will ensure we expand whilst keeping airport charges close to 2016 levels.”

Heathrow's single largest investor is Spain-based airport operator Ferrovial. Other shareholders include Singapore's GIC, the Qatar Investment Authority, and the China Investment Corporation.

The airlines also fear that the Heathrow planned third runway lead to higher passenger charges.

The CAA has been authorise by the Government to check Heathrow’s spending and agree on the new passenger charges. Earlier, the government had that Heathrow should keep charges “close to today’s level”.

*IAG requests the Civil Aviation Authority to slash passenger charges at Heathrow Airport. Credit: Kenneth Iwelumo*

Image source:

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Heathrow_Terminal_5C_Iwelumo-1.jpg>

Third party source:

<https://www.ft.com/content/5e873c3a-36af-11e9-bd3a-8b2a211d90d5>

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IAG hits out at aviation regulator over Heathrow rebates deal

CAA cut out of negotiations on charges between airlines and airport operator

IAG, owner of British Airways, has hit out at the UK’s aviation regulator for its “inability” to broker a groundbreaking deal on charges between airlines and London’s Heathrow airport.

The Anglo-Spanish group said it and other carriers had cut the Civil Aviation Authority out of negotiating an effective fee cap they agreed with the airport. The deal will see Heathrow offer airlines rebates on passenger-related charges for the first time, a concession that could amount to several hundred million pounds.

While Heathrow has framed the rebate as a way to encourage airlines to expand capacity at the airport, IAG said the airlines were motivated by the fact that Heathrow had been “overpaid” to the tune of £434m in passenger charges.

The criticism from IAG reflects tensions between airlines and the CAA over whether the regulator will be able to control costs for Heathrow’s proposed £14bn third runway.

IAG said the CAA was “unable to broker this deal” because it wanted “any extra customer charges between 2020-21 to be repaid over the next 20 years. Airlines couldn’t stomach this proposal as the airport had been overpaid for years with no redress”.

The airlines “cut the CAA out of the loop and agreed a five-year repayment period directly with the airport”, said IAG.

The tension comes as airlines worry that Heathrow’s third runway project will lead to higher passenger charges. The CAA will be responsible for scrutinising Heathrow’s spending and for agreeing the new passenger charges; the government has said it expects Heathrow to keep charges “close to today’s level”.

IAG said the rebate agreement raised “serious questions about [the CAA’s] ability to control Heathrow’s expansion costs”.

The CAA still has to approve the rebate deal and was kept informed of its development, but was not involved in devising it.

Between 2014 and 2017, Heathrow made £434m in customer charges beyond the CAA’s expectation of £3bn — an excess of 15 per cent — because passenger numbers surpassed the forecasts on which the charges were based.

John Holland-Kaye, Heathrow’s chief executive, said the agreement “shows we’re acting as a normal commercial business that incentivises [airlines] to grow passenger numbers” with the rebate.

The CAA said: “Airport charges at Heathrow are capped under the terms of its licence and the operator cannot by law exceed these caps. While passenger numbers have exceeded expectations, our interim price control review which precipitated the commercial deal between the airport and airlines provides the opportunity to review the assumptions” about passenger numbers.

In its results last week, Heathrow said it had had 80.1m passengers in 2018, up 2.7 per cent on the year before and average aeronautical revenue per passenger decreased by 1 per cent to £21.78. From 2019, as determined by the CAA, Heathrow can charge a maximum of £22.91 per passenger.

Heathrow said airlines representing more than half its traffic had already signed the agreement, with most of its other carriers “expected to sign in coming days”.

There is no guarantee the airlines will pass on the rebates to passengers, and one has already indicated it would keep the money to invest in services.

Rory Boland, travel editor of consumer organisation Which?, said: “Airlines will think they’ve struck it lucky with this rebate from Heathrow, so passengers will be disappointed, if unsurprised, to hear that they are unwilling to share their good fortune . . . Airlines with a windfall could use this opportunity to pass on the savings to customers.”

Qatar unveils road project Sabah Al Ahmad Corridor

Qatar has unveiled its latest road project that will feature a cable-stayed bridge along with the largest intersection, longest bridge, deepest and longest bi-directional tunnel.

Scheduled to become operational by 2021, the 37km-long Sabah Al Ahmad Corridor project will comprise the upgrade of seven main roads.

These roads are E Ring, F Ring, Mesaimeer, Bu Erayyen, Al Bustan, Lebday and sections of Al Markhiya Street.

Additionally, the corridor will extend for about 25km from Hamad International Airport to Umm Lekhba Interchange, also called Landmark Interchange, on Doha Expressway.

Furthermore, Ashghal – the Public Works Authority of Qatar – will improve 12km of local and peripheral roads intersecting with the corridor.

Once operational, the project will provide an alternative route to the busy 22 February Street and help to slash vehicular traffic on Doha Expressway.

Besides doubling traffic capacity, the corridor will link the south of the country to the north through Doha by connecting the Doha Expressway with the southern part through Al Wakra Bypass.

People travelling from Hamad International Airport are expected to reach Umm Lekhba Intersection in about 18 minutes as against the existing 50 minutes through Doha Expressway and 22 February Street, thus they will be able to save travel time by 70%.

The new corridor will also form an important connection between the north and the south of Doha through Al Watiyyat Interchange, at F Ring Road, which will help manage traffic to both Sabah Al Ahmad Corridor and Doha Expressway.

This interchange will also provide a vital connection between Doha Expressway and Southern Part of Doha Express Highway (Al Wakra Bypass) along with the Mesaieed Road further south.

The existing three lanes road in each direction will be upgraded to between four and five lanes in each direction which will help accommodate almost 20,000 vehicles per hour in both directions on the corridor.

The plan also includes converting all roundabouts to more efficient and safer signalised junctions along with constructing and upgrading 17 interchanges.

These interchanges will include construction of 32 bridges and 12 vehicular underpasses to help improve connectivity and provide smooth traffic movements in addition to 12 pedestrian bridges.

As part of the project, a 65km-long pedestrian and cycle paths along with 1.5 million square metre of landscaping will also be developed.

Press release:

<http://www.ashghal.gov.qa/en/MediaHub/News/Pages/HE-the-Prime-Minister-and-the-Kuwaiti-Emir-Representative-Kick-off-the-Sabah-Al-Ahmad-Corridor-Project.aspx#.XHOY_rjhUdU>

Third party source:

<https://thepeninsulaqatar.com/article/24/02/2019/Corridor-with-first-cable-stayed-bridge,-largest-intersection-and-longest-bridge-in-Qatar-to-be-ready-by-2021>

HE the Prime Minister and the Kuwaiti Emir Representative Kick off the "Sabah Al Ahmad Corridor" Project

24 February 2019

HE the Prime Minister and the Kuwaiti Emir Representative Kick off the "Sabah Al Ahmad Corridor" Project

His Excellency Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Interior and His Highness Sheikh Nasser Al Mohammad Al Ahmad Al Sabah, Representative of His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al Ahamd Al Jaber Al Sabah, Emir of Kuwait, have launched Sabah Al Ahmad Corridor project, in the presence of a number of ministers, members of Kuwaiti delegation and diplomatic representatives and senior officials as well as representatives from the project contractors were also present in the ceremony.

The launching of Sabah Al Ahmad Corridor coincides with the celebrations of Kuwait's National Day and His Highness Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Emir of the State of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad to recognise Kuwait support and strengthen bonds of solidarity and brotherhood between Qatar and Kuwait. The diplomatic relationship between the two countries is growing stronger under the guidance of the countries’ two leaders H.H Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of Qatar and H.H Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah, Emir of Kuwait.

Sabah Al Ahmad Corridor is the first in Qatar to be called the "Corridor" instead of a road due to its great importance and specifications of its unique construction, with the completion of the new Corridor in 2021 with a length of 25 kilometers and a total works of 37 kilometers, the road will have the first Cable-Stayed Bridge in Qatar as well as the largest intersection, longest bridge, deepest and longest bi-directional tunnel.

The road will increase the importance of the Corridor that will include the upgrade of seven (7) main roads to become not only the "Doha traffic relief" by providing an alternative route to the busy 22 February street and a double traffic capacity, but also will link another traffic from the south of the country to the north via Doha By linking the Doha Expressway with the southern part of it (Al Wakra Bypass).

Statements from their excellences ministers on the launching ceremony of Sabah Al Ahmad Corridor.

On this occasion, H.E Eng. Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Bin Turki Al Subaie, Minister of Municipality and Environment, E Eng. Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Bin Turki Al Subaie, Minister of Municipality and Environment, expressed his happiness at the launch of "Sabah Al Ahmad Corridor" project in Qatar, which expresses our gratitude to the State of Kuwait for its unwavering brotherly stand with the people of Qatar.

Naming “Sabah Al Ahmad Corridor” after H.H Emir of Kuwait is a token of appreciation for Kuwait’s consistent support of Qatar both politically and economically.

He continued to say that this is the least that Qatar could do to honour this bond. In a reference to the road’s significance, the Minister highlighted that Sabah Al Ahmad Corridor is a vital artery of Qatar’s road network enhancing north-south connectivity and providing access to more than 25 residential areas.

H.E Mr. Jassim bin Saif Al Sulaiti, the Minister of Transport and Communications expressed that the launch of Sabah Al Ahmad Corridor is a gesture to celebrate Kuwait’s 58th National Day and 28th liberation anniversary on February 25th and share the festivities with our brothers in Kuwait. Like every year we celebrate with our bothers in Kuwait these two great occasions, hoping to intensify affection and brotherhood between the two sisterly countries.

He added that the new Corridor includes several multi-level interchanges, which will significantly relieve traffic on Doha Expressway, provide smooth traffic flow between south and north of Doha as well as reduce the travel time by up to 70%. It will also provide a direct connection to Hamad International Airport as well as a link to approximately 15 major expressways and ring roads to serve many economic, commercial, health and education facilities across Doha.

H.E Dr. Saad Bin Ahmad Al Muhannadi, President of The Public Works Authority Ashghal, expressed his pride of the launch of the new Sabah Al Ahmad Corridor project as a consolidation of the brotherly relations between the people of Qatar and Kuwait and the loyalty to the people and His Highness the Emir of the State of Kuwait.

He explained that Sabah Al Ahmad Corridor is the first road in the country called the Corridor because of its strategic importance and specifications of its unique construction on pointing out that the road will serve as a "Doha traffic relief" where it will reduce traffic congestion on 22 February Street through finding a parallel alternative road, with a vehicle capacity of nearly the double.

H.E the President of The Public Works Authority explained that the Corridor project was launched in 2018, includes four (4) contracts, which will upgrade E-Ring Road, F-Ring Road, Mesaimeer Road, Al Bustan Street South and Al Bustan Street North and is expected to be complete by 2021.

He added “Sabah Al Ahmad Corridor will facilitate access to five (5) of the 2022 FIFA World Cup stadiums namely Ras Bu Abboud, Al Thumama, Al Wakrah, Khalifa International and Qatar Foundation Stadiums”.

Overview of Sabah Al Ahmad Corridor

Sabah Al Ahmad Corridor will extend for approximately 25 kilometres from Hamad International Airport to Umm Lekhba Interchange (known as Landmark Interchange) on Doha Expressway. Its scope includes the upgrade of seven (7) main roads namely, E Ring, F Ring, Mesaimeer, Al Bustan, Bu Erayyen, Lebday and sections of Al Markhiya Street. In addition, Ashghal will enhance 12 kilometres of local and peripheral roads intersecting with the Corridor. The total road works of the project is approximately 37 kilometres.

“Delivering traffic relief in Doha”

Once completed in 2021, Sabah Al Ahmad Corridor will significantly contribute to the relief of traffic congestion on Doha Expressway in particular, 22 February Street. The new Corridor will be a vital alternative and parallel route that will serve thousands of daily commuters from the north to the south of Doha. Commuters travelling from Hamad International Airport will be able to reach Umm Lekhba Intersection in approximately 18 minutes compared to the current 50 minutes via Doha Expressway and 22 February Street reducing traffic time by 70%.

The new Corridor will also form a vital link between the north and the south of Doha through Al Watiyyat Interchange, at F Ring Road, which will constitute a key point to accommodate traffic to both Sabah Al Ahmad Corridor and Doha Expressway. This interchange will also create a vital connection between Doha Expressway and Southern Part of Doha Express Highway (Al Wakra Bypass) as well as to Mesaieed Road further south.

The current road layout holds up to three (3) lanes in each direction, which will be upgraded to between four (4) and five (5) lanes in each direction. This expansion will accommodate approximately 20,000 vehicles per hour in both directions on the Corridor while Doha Expressway currently accommodates 12,000 vehicles per hour, which will significantly improve traffic movements in the surrounding areas.

The project will convert all roundabouts to more efficient and safer signalised junctions as well as build and upgrade 17 interchanges. These interchanges will deliver 32 bridges and 12 vehicular underpasses to enhance connectivity and provide smooth traffic movements in addition to 12 pedestrian bridges.

65 kilometres of pedestrian and cycle paths along with 1.5 million square metre of landscaping will also be delivered as part of the project’s scope of works.

Record achievements

First Cable-Stayed Bridge in Qatar

Sabah Al Ahmed Corridor includes the first Cable-Stayed Bridge in Qatar with a length of 1200 metres. It extends from Mesaimeer Road to Al Bustan Street and crosses over Halul Intersection on Mesaimeer Road and Faleh Bin Nasser Intersection on Salwa Road.

Longest Bridge

The Corridor will be the home to the longest flyover in the country, which spans 2.6 kilometres extending from Al Bustan Street to Bu Erayyen Street and crossing over Al Waab Street and Rasheeda Street.

Largest Interchange

Sabah Al Ahmad Corridor will include the largest Interchange in Qatar. The impressively complex Umm Lekhba (Landmark) Interchange has nine (9) bridges providing a free traffic flow in all directions highlighting its significance as a key access point on Doha Expressway for local residential areas and malls.

Longest and deepest bi-directional tunnel

The project consists of the recently opened Al Rayyan Road, which is the longest and deepest bi-directional tunnel in Qatar. It sits 25 metres below ground level and extends for 2.1 kilometres connecting Bu Erayyen Street and Lebday Street.

Residential Areas and Main Roads

The new Corridor is a major link facilitating connections to 15 main roads namely Al Wakra Road, Ras Bu Abboud Road, E Ring Road, F Ring Road, Industrial Road, Salwa Road, Al Rayyan Road, Al Waab Street, Al Luqta Street, Al Markhiya Street, Doha Highway and Khalifa Avenue. It will serve 25 densely populated residential areas such as Al-Thumama, Al Nuaija, Bu Hamour, Al Waab, Al Rayyan, Al Luqta, Al Gharrafa, etc.

World Cup Stadiums

Sabah Al Ahmad Corridor will facilitate access to most of the World Cup FIFA 2022 stadiums including Ras Bu Abboud, Al Thumama, Al Wakra, Khalifa International and Qatar Foundation Stadiums.

Qatar Rail

The Corridor provides easy access to some of Doha Metro stations such as the Economic Zone, Al Waab and Old Rayyan.

Drive through Sabah Al Ahmad Corridor project

Once completed, road users coming from Hamad International Airport and southern Doha and heading north will be able to use the new Corridor via F-Ring Road then continue on the existing Mesaimeer flyover to use the new 900-metre bridge crossing over Al Shehaimiya Interchange (formerly known as Bu Hamour Interchange). The new Cable-Stayed Bridge will allow road users to drive towards the north avoiding Halul Intersection and Faleh Bin Nasser Intersection on Salwa Road to smoothly reach Al Bustan Street. From there, road users will be able to continue their journey using the 2.6 kilometre bridge. This will allow them to avoid the Snay Bu Hasa Intersection and Al Waab Intersection as well as Lekhwiya Roundabout, which will be converted to a signalised junction. At this stage, road users would have reached Bu Erayyen Street where they will be able to drive through the recently opened tunnel at Lebday Interchange in Al Rayyan, which connects to Lebday Street. Two additional bridges will deliver a free traffic flow to alleviate the traffic at Mekkah and Al Luqta Intersections and deliver connectivity to Thani Bin Jassim tunnel to continue their journey to the north, road users will be able to drive through Al Markhiya Street in Al Gharrafa and reach Umm Lekhba Interchange (known as Landmark Interchange).

4 contracts

The Corridor project is composed of 4 contracts: E-Ring and F-Ring Road Upgrade, Mesaimeer Road Upgrade, Al Bustan Street South Upgrade and Al Bustan Street North which will deliver new interchanges and connections:

Contract One – E-Ring & F-RingRoad Upgrade Project

The E-Ring Road project will construct and upgrade 8.5 kilometers of roads to create strategic links between eight (8) expressways and major ring roads, which will further strengthen north-south connectivity in Qatar. It will enable the connectivity between the Southern Part of Doha Expressway and the Doha Expressway, in addition to creating a vital connection between D-Ring Road, E-Ring Road, F-Ring Road, G-Ring Road, Rawdat Al Khail Street and Industrial Area Road.

Apart from enhancing the connectivity, the E-Ring Road upgrade project will relief traffic congestion on the adjacent roads such as Doha Expressway, Najma Street, Airport Road and Al Wakrah Main Road and significantly reduce the travel time by up to 60% by using the new road to reach their destinations.

As part of the E-Ring Road upgrade project, there will be two vital multi-level interchanges, Al Watiyyat and formally known Al Khamees Al Obaidly Interchange, In addition to a five-lane on each side connecting both interchanges.

Ashghal has opened up to 90% of Al Watiyyat Interchange to traffic via Doha Expressway, Rawdat Al Khail Road, Industrial Area Road and E-Ring Road heading towards Hamad International Airport, Bu Hamour and Mesaimeer via F-Ring Road; or towards Al Wakra and Al Wukair via the Southern Part of Doha Expressway.

Al Watiyyat Interchange once completed at the F-Ring interchange and the Southern Part of Doha Expressway, Al Watiyyat Interchange includes three (3) main bridges and four (4) vehicular underpasses to facilitate access to the surrounding residential areas such as Al Thumama, Mesaimeer, Bu Hamour, Nuaija, Al Wakra and Al Wukair. It will also provide a free flow traffic for road users coming from these areasheading to Hamad International Airport, southern areas or northern areas throughout Doha.

In line with 2022 FIFA World Cup readiness, Al Watiyyat Interchange will facilitate the commute between the stadiums of Al Wakra, Ras Bu Abboud and Al Thumama allowing fans to travel in a record time to attend the games. It directly connects to Al Thumama Stadium, this achievement comes as part of the infrastructural readiness to host this major worldwide event. The new interchange will facilitate new paths to the stadium goers where it consists of two (2) bridges and six (6) pedestrian and cycle underpasses that will provide an easy and safe journey to the stadiums.

Formerly known Khamees Al Obaidly Interchange will be replaced by another three-level interchange composed of three levels , consisting two (2) bridges and nine (9) vehicle underpasses to form a strategic free flow connection between Rawdat Al Khail Street, Industrial Area Road in both directions and E-Ring Road on the southern part of Doha Expressway.

Road users can also use tunnels that provide free traffic flow between the southern part of the Doha Expressway, as well as the E-Ring and F-Ring Road, Rawda Al Khail Street and Industrial Area Road.

Upon completion, this interchange will allow road users to avoid the traffic congestion on the surrounding roads to facilitate access to Nuaija, Al Maamoura, Al Thumama and Industrial areas.

The E-Ring and F-Ring Road upgrade project will improve access to economic and public facilities such as Hamad International Airport and the Industrial Area among others.

2. Contract 2 – Mesaimeer Road Upgrade Project

The Mesaimeer Road Upgrade extends 4 kilometres along Mesaimeer Bridge via Mesaimeer south intersection (Bu Hamour Junction) to South of Al Waab intersection.

The project will include the upgrade of Mesaimeer Road and part of Al Bustan Street to four (4) lanes instead of three (3) lanes in each direction, as well as upgrading three main interchanges to include shehaniyah intersection and Halul Roundbaout and Faleh Bin Nasser Intersection and the construction of two bridges with four lanes in each direction. The first bridge is 900 metres long and crosses over Bu Hamour Street at Al Shehaniya Interchange while the second cable-stayed bridge is 1.2 kilometres long. The project includes:

the Project consists of an 8.4 kilometres of pedestrian and cycle paths spanning the whole length of the main carriageway in both directions in addition to the construction of three (3) pedestrian bridges.

Upon the project completion, the road capacity is expected to accommodate 10000 vehicles per hour in both direction, which will significantly reduce travel time up to 65%.

Mesaimeer Road Upgrade project will deliver connectivity to several main roads such as F-Ring Road, Industrial Area Road, Bu Hamour Street, Halul Street and Salwa Road which will serve as the connection to users heading from north to south and link many densely residential areas such as Bu Hamour, Mesaimeer, Al Maamoura and Al Waab. The project will also serve multiple public amenities such as the Wholesale Marketin addition to businesses areas along Salwa Road and health and education facilities surrounding the area as well as close by residential compounds.

The Public Works Authority Ashghal upgraded the surrounding areas and also included lanes expansion and conversion of all roundabouts to signalised junctions t such as Bu Hamour Street, Halul Street, Al Jassasiya Street, Snay Bu Hasa Street and the Wholesale Market Street, Al Sidr Street parallel to Mesaimeer Road to enhance capacity and deliver a smooth traffic flow in the surrounding areas such as Bu Hamour and Al Waab while the constructionworks being conducted on Mesaimeer Road and Al Waab which will enhance traffic flow in thes urrounding areas.

3. Contract 3 – Al Bustan Street South Upgrade

Al Bustan South Road project is the natural extension of the Mesaimeer Road upgrade project with a length of 3.1 km and a number of four (4) lanes in each direction. Senay Bu Hasa intersection will also be upgraded as well as Al Waab intersection and Lekhwiya Roundabout, 10 bridges will be constructed to provide a 18.2 km of pedestrian and cycle paths.

The project includes the longest bridge in Qatar with a length of 2.6 km over Snay Bu Hasa, Al Waab Street and Al Rasheeda Street.

Main Interchanges

Al Waab / Al Bustan Interchange

A three-level interchange between Al Waab Street and South of Al Bustan Street. This interchange includes a bridge providing a free traffic flow along Sabah Al Ahmad Corridor as well as two (2) Flyovers to connect the traffic between Al Waab Street and Al Bustan Street, reducing traffic congestion at Al Waab intersection.

Snay Bu Hasa / Al Bustan Interchange

A two-level signalised junction. This interchange will improve traffic flow along Snay Bu Hasa and provide access to Al Waab area

Al Rasheeda Interchange / Al Bustan Interchange

A two-level signalized junction. This junction will provide a free flow connectivity to Al Rasheeda Street , Al Khufoos, and Al Sadd Street and improve the accessibility to residential areas including Fereej Al Emir and Luaib.

4. Contract 4 – Al Bustan Street North Upgrade

Located at the northern far end of Sabah Al Ahmad Corridor, Al Bustan Street North Upgrade will provide a link between Sabah Al Ahmad Corridor and 22 Februaury Street; it is also considered one of the iconic architectural icons because the project is located in a densely populated areas in the heart of Doha.

The project will upgrade 3.6 kilometres of roads from east of Al Luqta Roundabout to Sabah Al Ahmad Corridor with Mekkah Street. The project includes the upgrade of main roads intersecting the Corridor, such as 1.7 km of Al Shamal Road, Khalifa Avenue and Al Ittihad Street, as well as parallel service roads. The project includes the upgarde of Al Bustan Street to four (4) lanes in each direction instead of three lanes to increase the capacity to about 8000 vehicles per hour and improve the level of traffic safety.

The main carriageway on Al Bustan Street will be upgraded from 3 to 4 lanes in each direction to increase the vehicular capacity by up to 8000 vehicles per hour and improve the road safety.

The project consist of four (4) interchanges with 13 vehicular bridges and underpasses, in addition to pedestrian and cycle paths of 16 km will be parallel service roads to serve the surrounding areas such as Madinat Khalifa, Duhail and Al Gharrafa.

Al Bustan Street works as a main link between Umm Lekhba, Al Gharrafa, Al Luqta and Madinat Khalifa north to connect many commercial facilities and residential areas. It also links a number of important roads, such as Al Shamal Road, Al Luqta Street, Mekkah Street and Al Rayyan Road.

Main Interchanges:

Umm Lekhba Interchange: will be the largest interchange in Qatar, as it comprise of 9 bridges providing free flow connectivity in all directions. It links Al Markhiya Street to Doha Expressway and Sabah Al Ahmad Corridor.

Thani Bin Jassim Interchange: A multi-level bridge connecting Al Ittihad Street to Sabah Al Ahmad Corridor, facilitating traffic movements to road users from Al Bustan Street and Al Luqta to Al Gharrafa Area.

Sabah Al Ahmad Corridor/Khalifa Avenue: A multi-level intersection that includes a tunnel providing a free traffic flow along Sabah Al Ahmad Corridor linking Al Gharrafa to Al Luqta area and a ground-level traffic signals providing traffic flow in all directions.

Sabah Al Ahmad Corridor/Mekkah Street: A multi-level intersection that includes a tunnel which provides a smooth traffic along Sabah Al Ahmad Corridor linking Al Gharrafa to Al Luqta areas to the southern part of Al Rayyan project. Traffic signals at a ground-level will provide traffic control in all directions.

GMR, Terna JV sign agreement with Greece to build Kasteli International Airport

Ariadne Airport Group, a joint venture (JV) between Greek firm GEK Terna and India-based GMR Airports, and Greek Transport Minister Christos Spirtzis signed the concession contract to build Kasteli International Airport.

As per the terms of the contract, the Greek-Indian consortium will construct the new airport on island of Crete with an investment of approximately €850m.

Out of the total €850m investment, the consortium will invest more than €500m in the project, which is also financially backed by a combined state grant and equity.

Under the 35-year concession, the contractor will be responsible for design, constructing, financing, operating and managing new international airport at Crete.

The scope of the project will also include other key infrastructure projects such as the completion of the north road axis as well as networks of peripheral roadways.

Scheduled to become operational by 2024-25, the construction of the airport is expected to conclude over the next five years.

It will create 1,500 jobs during the construction period as well as nearly 7,500 direct jobs once completed, as per an Air Transport Action Group (ATAG) study.

GMR Infra said the project will be funded through a mixture of equity, accruals from the existing airport, and financial grant being provided by the Government of Greece.

Once operational, Kasteli Airport is likely to manage more than seven million travellers per annum. The new airport will replace the existing Nikos Kazantzakis facility.

Third party source:

<https://greekcitytimes.com/2019/02/25/work-on-cretes-new-kasteli-airport-set-to-begin/>

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GMR, Terna sign agreement for new airport in Greece; to invest 500 mn euros

The concession agreement is for design, construction, financing, operation and maintenance of new international airport of Heraklion at Crete

Indo-Greek JV to begin work on $1 bn airport in Crete next year

GMR Infrastructure on Friday said its subsidiary GMR Airports and its Greek partner Terna Group have signed a concession agreement for construction of the new international airport in Greece's island Crete.

The consortium intends to invest over EUR 500 million (approx Rs 4,034.28 crore) for development of the new airport, GMR Infrastructure said in a regulatory filing.

The concession agreement is for design, construction, financing, operation and maintenance of new international airport of Heraklion at Crete, Greece.

The concession period for the project is 35 years including phase 1 construction of five years, the company added.

GMR Infra said the entire project will be funded through a mix of equity, accruals from the existing airport, and financial grant being provided by the Greece government.

"Debt is not required in this project," the company added.

This is GMR Group's first foray in the European Union (EU) region and the company said it is looking forward to expanding its footprint in the EU.

Swiss Re trails satellite imaging technology for faster claim-settlement

Swiss Re, a Zurich-based reinsurance company, has started testing use of satellite imaging in the claim settlement process to improve claim settlement in crop insurance scheme.

The reinsurer has already completed a pilot project with the Maharashtra government in India.

Swiss Re India head of CM P&C at India branch told The Hindu Business Line: “One example of the new technology we have brought into the country is in the agriculture sector. Satellite imaging is quite powerful these days.

The satellite imaging can be used to quickly estimate the drought level or soil moisture content level in a particular area.

Using the image, the farmers can be paid claims quickly in case the area has suffered from drought.

At the same time, the technology can also forecast whether the soil has low moisture level that indicates the low yield of crops in the region.

“You can estimate the deviation that will happen and can settle claims,” Ray told the publication. He further said that the use of such technology can be a means of value addition to the current methods under the scheme.

“We are a big agriculture insurer worldwide. We are trying very hard on making the claim settlement process much faster and smoother with the use of technology. We are also trying to use technology to understand crop losses better,” he told the news agency.

Swiss Re captures nearly 8% to 10% of the crop insurance market in India. The company opened a branch office in India in 2017.

Swiss Re India Branch CEO Satish Raju added the company is keen to work across all line of businesses in the country.

“We want to utilise our international experience. We are keen to help support the country’s focus in terms of health, crop and help improve insurance penetration. This is our broad-based approach,” he told The Hindu Business Line.

Swiss Re, established in 1863, operates through offices in more than 25 countries across the globe.

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/swiss-re-banks-on-tech-to-improve-claim-settlement-in-crop-insurance/article26313652.ece>

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/swiss-re-pilots-satellite-imaging-for-use-in-crop-claim-settlements/>

<https://www.swissre.com/dam/jcr:a4299253-c559-4d6b-a7d8-5008c65e087e/pr_20080212_nelc_en.pdf>

Berkshire Hathaway discusses to offload Applied Underwriters

Berkshire Hathaway is negotiating to divest its Applied Underwriters workers compensation business to a group of insurance companies, Reuters reported citing people familiar with the development.

Along with a group of insurance firms, a hedge fund-backed reinsurance firm is also engaged in discussion to acquire Applied Underwriters at almost the value of its book of business, the sources told the news agency.

Berkshire Hathaway considers its workers compensation business a non-core asset. Hence, the company has put the business on sale, one source told the publication.

Applied Underwriters provides workers compensation and other employment-related insurance products for small and medium-sized (SEMs) businesses.

The sources added that there is a possibility that deal might collapse.

Berkshire Hathaway’s insurance businesses include the motor insurer Geico, General Re, and a unit that offers protection against catastrophes or unusual risks.

In May 2006, Berkshire Hathway acquired Applied Underwriters and all of its subsidiaries – including its North American Casualty insurance companies.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/berkshire-divestiture-insurance/buffetts-berkshire-hathaway-in-talks-to-sell-workers-comp-unit-sources-idINKCN1QB2E0>

<http://www.berkshirehathaway.com/news/may2206.html>

Thai insurtech start-up Sunday rakes up $10m funding

Sunday, a Thailand-based insurtech start-up, has raked up nearly $10m in Series A funding round led by Vertex Ventures SEA & India.

The company intends to spend the money to expand its operations to other markets in Southeast Asia as well as Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore.

Besides offering an artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning based risk-prediction model, the insurtech provides integrated sales and services platforms which have been designed to reinvent the entire insurance value chain.

Sunday co-founder and CEO Cindy Kua said: “At Sunday, we believe the only way to solve this is to own and simplify the entire value chain using data and technology.

“We want to create a platform where people are able to find any insurance for themselves and their businesses at anytime and anywhere.

“There is more than one way to reach customers now and, in the future, which is why we have built capabilities to also integrate our solutions into various businesses and ecosystems.”

Kua further added there are more than 330 million internet users in South East Asia. Thai consumers spend more than four hours per day on mobile internet.

In order to target this tech-savvy segment, Sunday has rolled out more than a hundred variations of products and platforms to cover various risks such as extended warranty and flight delay along with auto and health insurance.

The Thai insurer also provides customised employee health benefits and real-time claims management solutions for the SME market in Thailand.

<https://www.bankingtech.com/2019/02/fun-days-for-insurtech-start-up-sunday-with-10m-funding/>

<http://fintechnews.sg/29089/thailand/sunday-insurtech/>

<https://www.finextra.com/pressarticle/77383/insurtech-startup-sunday-raises-series-a-funding-of-10m-led-by-vertex-ventures/retail>

Hilton unveils new meetings-and-events-focused hotel brand

Global hospitably firm Hilton has launched its new meetings-and-events-focused hotel brand Signia Hilton.

It is 17th brand of Hilton that will be focus on high-end meetings and events, and be positioned between the luxury-level Conrad brand and its flagship Hilton properties.

Hilton president and CEO Christopher Nassetta said: “In our 100th year of hospitality, we are more focused than ever on providing exceptional experiences to all of our guests – and that includes evolving those experiences to meet their changing needs.

“We are proud to launch Signia Hilton, which exemplifies our innovative spirit and will raise the bar on what it means to deliver truly customer-inspired hospitality.”

Each hotel under the new Signia Hilton brand will include a minimum of 500 guest rooms and 75ft² per key of flexible meetings and events space.

Additionally, each property of the new brand will offer, as claimed by Hilton, impressive arrivals, unmatched lobby experiences, modern guest rooms, a destination bar, a signature restaurant, improved wellness experiences among other facilities.

Hilton full service brands senior vice president and global head David Marr said: “Signia Hilton grew from feedback from top meeting professionals, owners, developers and guests.

“After countless hours of collaboration, together, we created Signia Hilton, a brand that will resonate with travelers, ‘wow’ meeting professionals and set a new, elevated standard for the meetings and events industry.”

Signia Hilton will operate as a global brand with a curated portfolio of hotels in top urban and resort locales. It will include Signia Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek, Signia Hilton Atlanta and Signia Hilton Indianapolis.

*Hilton debuts hotel brand that will focus on meetings and events. Credit: Hilton.*

Press release / Image source:

<https://newsroom.hilton.com/corporate/news/33924>

Hilton Launches New Brand, Signia Hilton, Delivering Sophisticated Travel While Reimagining Meetings and Events

Signature dining, design-forward guest rooms and premium wellness amenities elevate business and leisure travel at Hilton’s premier meetings and events brand

February 22, 2019 12:00 PM Eastern Standard Time

MCLEAN, Va.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Hilton (NYSE: HLT) today announced the launch of Signia Hilton, its dynamic, new meetings-and-events-focused brand. The portfolio of hotels is setting out to transform the industry for meeting professionals and sophisticated business travelers by infusing state-of-the-art technology and design into every aspect of the guest experience.

The brand further reinforces Hilton’s commitment to innovation that meets the evolving needs of today’s travelers and will bring premium experiences to top urban and resort destinations around the world.

“In our 100th year of hospitality, we are more focused than ever on providing exceptional experiences to all of our guests – and that includes evolving those experiences to meet their changing needs,” said Christopher J. Nassetta, president and CEO, Hilton. “We are proud to launch Signia Hilton, which exemplifies our innovative spirit and will raise the bar on what it means to deliver truly customer-inspired hospitality.”

With a minimum of 500 guest rooms and 75 square feet per key of flexible meetings and events space, each Signia Hilton will offer business and leisure travelers elevated experiences from arrival to departure with the following elements:

Impressive arrivals: Signia Hilton will offer a true sense of arrival with modern architecture, manicured landscaping and welcoming team members who will invite travelers to enjoy the grandeur and energy of the hotel.

Unmatched lobby experiences: Thoughtful design connected to the local culture will foster an impressive and comfortable space that doubles as a lobby and social destination for guests throughout their stay.

Modern guest rooms: From the premium design and quality finishes that take inspiration from each hotel’s unique destination, to the innovative technology that matters most to guests, like Digital Key, the rooms will serve as a haven for comfort and convenience.

A destination bar: Each hotel will feature a bar that ties back to the exciting city or resort destination where it resides. With its premier location in the hotel, the bar will serve as the heart of the hotel, emanating a dynamic energy throughout the entire space.

A signature restaurant: The signature restaurants at each Signia Hilton will be based on a chef-driven concept, designed to offer both locals and guests elevated presentations and experiences that they will want to share with friends and business partners.

Premium wellness experiences: From infinity pools to state-of-the art spas, fitness classes and facilities, each Signia Hilton will offer an upgraded experience, all in a space designed to make guests feel their best.

The Signia meeting experience: The meetings and events spaces will be the signature showpiece of each Signia Hilton. Large ballrooms and pre-function areas will feature smart design paired with the newest technologies to elevate today’s meetings. As the modern meeting attendee is looking for spaces that inspire innovative thinking, the small to mid-size meeting rooms will feature unique design and technology that spark new ideas and optimize work and collaboration.

“Signia Hilton grew from feedback from top meeting professionals, owners, developers and guests,” said David Marr, senior vice president and global head, Full Service Brands, Hilton. “After countless hours of collaboration, together, we created Signia Hilton, a brand that will resonate with travelers, ‘wow’ meeting professionals and set a new, elevated standard for the meetings and events industry.”

Signia Hilton will be a global brand with a carefully curated portfolio of hotels in top urban and resort locales and will include Signia Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek, Signia Hilton Atlanta and Signia Hilton Indianapolis.

As part of Hilton, Signia Hilton guests will enjoy benefits of Hilton Honors, the award-winning guest-loyalty program for Hilton’s distinct hotel brands. For more information, visit newsroom.hilton.com/SigniaHilton or connect with Signia Hilton on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

About Signia Hilton

Signia Hilton is a new, dynamic meetings and events-focused brand that is infusing sophisticated travel and premium experiences into every aspect of the guest experience. Each Signia Hilton will offer unparalleled meetings and events capabilities with world-class design, state-of-the-art technology and signature food and beverage offerings, all backed by the Hilton name and award-winning Hilton Honors program. Learn more about the brand by visiting SigniaHilton.com.

About Hilton

Hilton (NYSE: HLT) is a leading global hospitality company with a portfolio of 17 world-class brands comprising more than 5,600 properties with nearly 913,000 rooms, in 113 countries and territories. Dedicated to fulfilling its mission to be the world’s most hospitable company, Hilton earned a spot on the 2018 world’s best workplaces list, and has welcomed more than 3 billion guests in its nearly 100 year history. Through the award-winning guest loyalty program, Hilton Honors, more than 85 million members who book directly with Hilton have access to instant benefits, including digital check-in with room selection, Digital Key, and Connected Room. Visit newsroom.hilton.com for more information, and connect with Hilton on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, and YouTube.

Adani Group wins bid to manage five Indian airports

Indian conglomerate Adani Enterprises has emerged as the highest bidder to manage, operate and develop the facilities of five airports in the country.

Out of six airports, the group was the highest bidder for Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Mangalore, Trivandrum and Lucknow Airports.

The decision on the Guwahati Airport has been put on hold after a stay order from a court.

In December, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) invited bids for the six projects on the basis of per-passenger fee.

Almost 32 technical bids were submitted by 10 companies including GMR Group, Adani Group, National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF), Fairfax India, Australia-based AMP Group and PNC Infratech.

The Adani Group quoted Rs168 per passenger for the Thiruvananthapuram International Airport, Rs115 for Mangalaru Airport, Rs174 for Jaipur, Rs171 for Lucknow and Rs177 for the Ahmedabad airport.

The competing bidders could not match the Adani Group offers. These airports will mark Adani Group’s foray into the Indian aviation sector.

A senior AAI official was quoted by Business Standard as saying: “Adani group is the highest bidder for five airports. Since financial criteria was the only eligibility, the group will be awarded the airports as soon as formalities are cleared. After the award of bids, Adanis can take control of the airport.”

As per the AAI’s request for proposal document the winning concessionaire shall be responsible for operations and management of the existing airport assets.

Additionally, the company will design, engineer, finance, construct and develop the additional air-side, terminal, city-side and land-side infrastructure.

*Adani Group enters into aviation business in India. Credit: Ramon Kagie on Unsplash.*

Image source:

<https://unsplash.com/photos/hYwulGJHiVM>

Third party source:

<https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/adani-group-forays-into-airport-sector-wins-bid-to-operate-5-airports-119022500417_1.html>

Other source:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/adani-group-highest-bidder-for-five-airports/article26363494.ece>

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/adani-highest-bidder-for-five-airports-including-ahmedabad-jaipur-lucknow/articleshow/68150898.cms>

Adani group forays into airport sector; wins bid to operate 5 airports

Out of 6 airports, Adani is the highest bidder for Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Mangalore, Trivandrum & Lucknow Airport

Global private equity funds bullish about six Indian airports up for sale

Making a large foray into the airport sector, Gautam Adani-led Adani Enterprises has won five out of six airports. Sources aware of the development said that Adanis were the highest bidder for Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Mangalore, Trivandrum and Lucknow Airport.

The government had put the airports on sale and invited bids from private players to operate them for 50 years

That Adanis were very eager for the airports is visible from their aggressive bidding. For instance, for Ahmedabad airport, Adani outbid the GMR group by quoting Rs 177 per passenger against GMR’s Rs 85. For Lucknow airport Adani bid Rs 171per passenger beating AMP capital’s quote of Rs 139. The bids were based on the highest monthly fee per passenger.

“Adani group is the highest bidder for five airports. Since financial criteria was the only eligibility, the group will be awarded the airports as soon as formalities are cleared. After the award of bids, Adanis can take control of the airport,” said a senior AAI official. It’s very likely that the group will win the Guwahati airport as competition is weak for the project. The bid will for Guwahati airport will be opened tomorrow.

Experts say that the entry of a conglomerate like Adani into the airport sector will mark a new era of competition into the sector which till now has been dominated by two companies GMR and GVK group. To break the duopoly, the government had allowed companies without any prior experience to bid for the projects.

“Hitherto Airports sector in India was predominantly dominated by couple of players, an entry of a private player with deep pockets to manage these operational assets augurs well for the sector and in the days ahead we should see good competition amongst the players, “ said Jagannarayan Padmanabhan, Director and Practice lead- Transport and Logistics at CRISIL.

Till now, the group which has a large presence in infrastructure had a miniscule presence in aviation. While it has an Air Operators Permit in the name of Karnavati Aviation and owns an airstrip in Mundra (Gujarat), primarily those have been utilised for its internal logistical need.

However, analysts say the group’s interest in airport sector was inevitable considering the growth of civil aviation sector in the country. An analyst of a brokerage firm tracking the company said that that a closer look at the choice of business that the group has entered will show they are also sectors in which the government has put a significant policy thrust. “They have been very ambitious and aggressive in their expansions and in choosing segments which have demand but need a large capital expenditure and good execution skills, which the group has built on. Airports are again a long term business, which needs huge capital expenditure, and once again government is the main customer, so it fits in their strategy,” the analyst said.

Between financial year 2014 and financial year 2018, the group made an entry into four new business segments- wind energy, solar manufacturing, power distribution, and aerospace and defence.

Ping An mulls to raise $1bn through IPO of fintech business

Chinese insurer Ping An Insurance (Group) Co is reportedly planning to raise $1bn through an initial public offering (IPO) of its fintech business OneConnect.

Sources familiar with the development were quoted by Bloomberg as saying that the proposed IPO, which will be launched in Hong Kong in the second half of this year, may value OneConnect at about $8bn.

The listing of fintech business is part of Ping An earlier plan to raise approximately $3bn in funding in 2018; however, the company postponed its listing plan after increased market volatility.

This IPO plan is still at an early stage, and details such as valuation and fundraising of the OneConnect offering may change depending on market conditions, according to the publication.

OneConnect offers cloud computing and other technology services to small- and medium-sized (SMEs) financial organisation.

The company serves over 460 banks and more than 1,800 other financial services companies including insurance firms, brokerages, fund managers and private-equity houses.

Last year, Ping An spun off and floated Ping An Healthcare and Technology Co, which operates as Good Doctor and offers technology platforms leveraged by insurers, hospitals as well as pharmacies.

In January 2019, Ping An Property and Casualty Insurance Company of China (Ping An P&C) launched a [credit based smart auto claim solution for car owners](https://www.verdict.co.uk/life-insurance-international/news/ping-an-smart-auto-insurance/).

The credit based system helps car owners to file claims in hassle-free manner besides promoting good driving habits.

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-02-25/ping-an-is-said-to-plan-ipo-of-fintech-unit-at-8-billion-value>

<https://www.bankingtech.com/2019/02/ping-an-plans-8bn-ipo-of-fintech-subsidiary/>

Hobart City Deal to provide $522m to improve transport infrastructure

Australian Minister for Cities, Urban Infrastructure and Population Alan Tudge has announced that a combined A$730m ($522.55m) congestion-busting package will help improve the transport infrastructure in Hobart City in Tasman, Australia.

Out of total $522.55m funding, nearly A$486m ($347.89m) will come from the Federal Government of Australia while nearly A$221m ($158.21m) will be provided by the Tasmanian government.

As part of the overall package, the Greater Hobart Councils will also contribute A$23m ($16.47m) to the ‘Greater Hobart Transport Vision’.

Minister Tudge said this element of the 10-year deal would secure a reliable, sustainable and cost-effective transport system.

“Hobart suffers congestion at times, just like other cities. Hobart is also growing and we want to eliminate those local, frustrating pinch-points but also future-proof the wider network for the next generations,” he added.

“This is all about reducing congestion so the community can spend more time with family and friends and less time in the car, providing significant civil construction jobs and making it easier for Tasmania’s world-famous industries to get their goods to market.”

Under the Hobart City Deal, the Bridgewater Bridge replacement is the main project which will be jointly funded by the Federal Government with A$461m ($329.90m) and A$115m ($82.30m) from Tasmanian government.

The remaining projects include a fifth lane for the Southern Outlet, a South East Traffic Package, progressing a Hobart Transit Centre, and establishing a Derwent Ferry Service.

It also includes upgrading and integrating the public transport system, as well as new methods to improve transport flows around and through the CBD including Macquarie and Davey Streets.

Additionally, the Australian government has also agreed to provide additional A$25m ($17.89m) to reduce traffic jam and improve access in and around the city’s Northern Suburbs by activating the Northern Suburbs Transit Corridor.

The A$25m ($17.89m) commitment to the corridor is part of its A$1bn nationwide Urban Congestion Fund.

Moreover, the Tasmanian government has also sanctioned an additional A$20m ($14.31m), aimed at better use of transport infrastructure to address congestion affecting the Kingborough municipal area.

*A$522m project aims to decongest transport infrastructure in Hobart City in Tasman, Australia. Credit: Melburnian.*

Image source:

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Hume_Freeway_Craigieburn_Bypass.jpg>

Press release:

<https://minister.infrastructure.gov.au/tudge/releases/2019/february/at017_2019.aspx>

Third party source:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-02-23/hobart-city-deal-contains-no-surprises/10841792>

City Deal to tackle congestion across Hobart

The Hobart City Deal is a 10-year vision for Greater Hobart that will create the right conditions to secure Hobart's long-term future as a productive and liveable city.

The $730 million congestion busting package—unveiled today as a key plank of the City Deal—will mean families spending more time together and the people of Hobart getting home sooner and safer.

Driving this commitment will be $486 million from the Morrison Government and $221 million from the Tasmanian Government to bolster a range of transport infrastructure projects.

In addition, the Greater Hobart Councils will be contributing $23 million to the “Greater Hobart Transport Vision” as part of the overall package.

Federal Minister for Cities, Urban Infrastructure and Population Alan Tudge said this element of the Deal would secure a reliable, sustainable and cost-effective transport system.

“Hobart suffers congestion at times, just like other cities. Hobart is also growing and we want to eliminate those local, frustrating pinch-points but also future-proof the wider network for the next generations,” he said.

“This is all about reducing congestion so the community can spend more time with family and friends and less time in the car, providing significant civil construction jobs and making it easier for Tasmania's world-famous industries to get their goods to market.”

At the centre of this raft of infrastructure investment is $461 million from the Morrison Government and $115 million from the Hodgman Government to jointly fund the Bridgewater Bridge replacement—the largest transport infrastructure project in Hobart's history.

Other investments will include a fifth lane for the Southern Outlet, a South East Traffic Package, progressing a Hobart Transit Centre, establishing a Derwent Ferry Service, modernising and integration of the public transport system, and considering ways to improve transport flows around and through the CBD including Macquarie and Davey Streets.

The Morrison Government is also committing an additional $25 million to ease congestion and improve access in and around the city's Northern Suburbs by activating the Northern Suburbs Transit Corridor.

Attorney-General and Liberal Member for Clark, Elise Archer identified the Northern Suburbs Transit Corridor Growth Strategy as potentially a game-changer for the city.

“The Northern Suburbs Transit Corridor is a priority area for urban renewal under the City Deal,” Ms Archer said.

“A greater diversity of housing solutions will be encouraged along the corridor and this will support the future delivery of the most effective public transport solution, while also reducing congestion.”

The Morrison Government's $25 million commitment to the corridor is part of its $1 billion nationwide Urban Congestion Fund, which is tackling the economic and social cost of congestion in major cities by fixing congestion hot spots.

“Building on the work undertaken to date, the Tasmanian Government and the Hobart and Glenorchy Councils will develop a strategy for urban renewal and activation of the Northern Suburbs Transit Corridor along the existing rail corridor,” Ms Archer said.

The Hodgman Government has also allocated an additional $20 million towards the better utilisation of transport infrastructure to help address congestion affecting the Kingborough municipal area. To complement this new commitment to the region, a further $800,000 will be spent redeveloping the Kingston bus interchange and providing a higher volume of services.

Hobart's transformative City Deal commits all levels of government to work together to deliver a transport vision to keep the Tasmanian capital and surrounding areas moving for decades to come.

Britons face five-hour airport queues in Spain with no-deal Brexit

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/feb/26/britons-face-five-hour-airport-queues-in-spain-with-no-deal-brexit>

Heathrow and airlines agree new deal to grow passenger numbers

<http://mediacentre.heathrow.com/pressrelease/details/81/Corporate-operational-24/10775>

### We covered one Heathrow story yesterday ([IAG urges UK aviation regulator CAA to cut Heathrow passenger charges](https://www.airport-technology.com/news/iag-aviation-regulator-heathrow/))

22/02/2019 - Preferred option published for London Luton Airport expansion

<https://www.luton.gov.uk/news/Pages/Preferred-option-published-for-London-Luton-Airport-expansion.aspx>

DIGITAL AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWERS A STEP CLOSER FOR NEW ZEALAND

<https://www.frequentis.com/sites/default/files/pr/2019-02/MEDIA%20RELEASE_Airways_Frequentis_digital%20tower%20announcement%20final.pdf>

New bridge over Oregon Inlet finally opens to traffic

<https://outerbanksvoice.com/2019/02/25/new-bridge-over-oregon-inlet-finally-opens-to-traffic/>

<https://www.ncdot.gov/projects/bonner-bridge/Pages/default.aspx>

<https://www.witn.com/content/news/Replacement-for-Bonner-Bridge-now-open-on-OBX-506331261.html>

Designing new mobility traffic systems: Apply for funding

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/designing-new-mobility-traffic-systems-apply-for-funding>

22nd Feb

U.S. Department of Transportation Announces $605 Million Loan for Houston’s Grand Parkway Project

<https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/dot0819>

RTG’s Limehouse acquires Decyber

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/rtgs-limehouse-acquires-decyber/>

Germany agrees to extend passporting rights for UK insurers

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/germany-agrees-to-extend-passporting-rights-for-uk-insurers/>

Insurers improve gender diversity but boardroom change ‘negligible’, finds ABI

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/insurers-improve-gender-diversity-but-boardroom-change-negligible-finds-abi-17762>

Brit expands capacity for Bermuda sidecar and Lloyd’s Syndicate 2988

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/brit-expands-capacity-for-bermuda-sidecar-and-lloyd-s-syndicate-2988-17757>

Insurtech Axinan unveils igloo

<https://www.finextra.com/pressarticle/77392/insurtech-axinan-unveils-igloo>

Insurers, reinsurers must work with insurtech on cyber risk

<https://www.businessinsurance.com/article/20190225/NEWS06/912326891/Insurers-reinsurers-must-work-with-insurtech-on-cyber-risk-Willis-Towers-Watson>

Go-Jek partners with insurtech firm Gigacover to provide driver insurance

<https://sbr.com.sg/transport-logistics/news/go-jek-partners-insurtech-firm-gigacover-provide-driver-insurance>

<https://kr-asia.com/go-jek-singapore-teams-up-with-insurtech-firm-gigacover-to-protect-drivers>

Zurich Insurance acquires Sea Pine Technologies strengthening and accelerating Zurich's delivery of innovative solutions

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/zurich-insurance-acquires-sea-pine-technologies-strengthening-and-accelerating-zurichs-delivery-of-innovative-solutions-300801332.html>

FedNat Holding Company to Acquire Homeowners Insurance Operations of 1347 Property Insurance Holdings, Inc.

<https://globenewswire.com/news-release/2019/02/25/1741957/0/en/FedNat-Holding-Company-to-Acquire-Homeowners-Insurance-Operations-of-1347-Property-Insurance-Holdings-Inc.html>

Brexit no deal will force Brits to wait five-hour in queues at Spanish airport

British consumer group Which? has warned that the British tourist will have to wait five-hour or more in queues at Spanish airport in case of Brexit no deal.

To deal with such potential delays, the consumer group has urged the tourists to take food and water as well as essential things.

In case the UK leaves the European Union without a deal, airports in Alicante, Tenerife, Lanzarote and Malaga will be worst affected due to the extra border checks required.

Which? said that the Alicante airport in southern Spain would require the resources to manage an additional 201 hours of immigration checks on British passport holders per day.

According to the estimates by the European Tourism Association, these checks add an extra 90 seconds for each UK passport holder.

This will take a single passport lane nearly 5 hours to process the 189 travellers on a single Ryanair flight, if all those passengers were UK passport holders.

Alicante Airport is expected to cause serious problems as 43% of its arrivals are from the UK. Even in February, the airport processes as many as 10 aircraft from the UK per hour. Altogether, nearly 2.9 million British passengers travel through the airport each year.

The Government of Spain has not announced its plan to deal with the additional immigration requirements.

However, Portugal is planning to open special lanes at Faro airport in the Algarve and Funchal, the capital of Madeira, to provide fast-track access for British passport holders.

Which? travel editor Rory Boland was quoted by theguardian.com as saying: “Airports can be chaotic at the best of times but if additional checks at passport control are implemented in the event of a no-deal, it seems that very long queues are going to be an unwanted side effect.

“Until there is a deal or these airports announce simpler arrangements, you should consider what you may need if you have to fly to them, as it is very likely that you’ll be in a queue for several hours. Make sure you have food, water and essentials for kids like nappies to hand,” Boland added.

Third party source:

<https://www.which.co.uk/news/2019/02/uk-holidaymakers-could-face-queues-several-hours-long-at-spanish-airports-in-event-of-no-deal-brexit/>

Other sources:

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2019/feb/26/britons-face-five-hour-airport-queues-in-spain-with-no-deal-brexit>

UK holidaymakers could face queues several hours long at Spanish airports in event of no-deal Brexit

Alicante, Tenerife, Lanzarote and Malaga worst affected

By Guy Hobbs

26 Feb 2019

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New Which? Travel research has found that in the event of a no-deal Brexit, Alicante airport in southern Spain would need the staff and resources to deal with an estimated additional 201 hours of immigration checks on British passport holders, on average, every single day.

Potential delays for British holidaymakers arriving at their destination would be due to the extra border checks required by Brussels if the UK leaves the EU without a deal. This would automatically make UK passport holders subject to the same checks as third country, non-EU arrivals to Schengen Area countries such as Spain, France and Italy where there are no border controls for EU citizens moving between them.

The European Tourism Association (Etoa) has estimated that these checks add an extra 90 seconds for each UK passport holder. To put that in context, it would take a single passport lane an extra 17,010 seconds – nearly 5 hours – to process the 189 passengers on a single Ryanair flight, if all those passengers were UK passport holders.

And with each new arrival throughout the day, that additional processing time will lead to further delays. Alicante airport currently copes with more than 8,000 UK arrivals on average per day. There are also some incredibly busy periods. When we we checked Alicante airport’s arrivals on 22 February, we found as many as 10 planes arriving from the UK, in a single hour.

Unless a reciprocal agreement is struck, or more staff and resources are put in place, UK travellers will face queues many, many hours long on arrival at Alicante and other popular Schengen Area airports after March 29.

Which? has identified the airports where UK passport holders are mostly likely to face disruption. Below are the the Schengen Area airports where UK arrivals makeup the highest proportion of all international arrivals.

Europe’s worst hit airports

Some of these UK arrivals won’t be British. They may be Spanish or Portuguese nationals returning home, for example, and they therefore won’t be subject to additional checks. However, given the airports at the top of the list are the most popular UK holiday destinations, it’s likely to the vast majority of passengers will be UK passport holders.

Half of all arrivals to Faro airport are from the UK. However, the Portuguese prime minister has announced plans to open special fast-track lanes for UK passport holders at both Faro and Funchal airports.

That means Alicante airport is where UK holidaymakers are most likely to face longer queues this summer. Forty-three per cent of all arrivals are from the UK. The estimated 201 hours of immigration checks needed each day at Alicante could require as many as 25 new staff and passport lanes.

Spanish airports will be particularly affected by the new rules. Six of the 10 busiest airports for UK arrivals are on mainland Spain or its islands. Tenerife South, Lanzarote, Malaga, Ibiza and Palma de Mallorca airports also face severe disruption without a contingency plan to open new lanes, or employ more staff.

The Spanish government has yet to announce how it will tackle the additional immigration requirements. We asked Spain’s national border agency, the Guardia Civil, whether it plans to add extra facilities or employ more staff, but it has yet to respond.

Airport chaos

A spokesperson for the European Commission confirmed to Which? that ‘as of the withdrawal date, UK nationals will not be entitled to use the separate lanes provided for EU/EEA/CH citizens’.

It also stated that British holidaymakers ‘will be subject to thorough checks of all entry conditions for third country nationals upon entry’.

Immigration officials will be obliged to check passport validity, passport expiry date, purpose and length of stay, and whether visitors can support themselves financially. These additional border checks have been estimated to add an extra 90 seconds at immigration per UK passenger, on top of the 25 seconds it currently takes to check passports.

Which? Travel Editor, Rory Boland, said ‘Airports can be chaotic at the best of times, but if additional checks at passport control in Spain, Italy and other popular EU destinations are implemented in the event of a no deal, it seems that very long queues are going to be an unwanted side effect.

‘Until there is a deal or these airports announce simpler arrangements, you should consider what you may need if you have to fly to them – as it is very likely that you’ll be in a queue for several hours. Make sure you have food, water and essentials for kids like nappies to hand’.

RTG’s Limehouse acquires Decyber

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/rtgs-limehouse-acquires-decyber/>

Germany agrees to extend passporting rights for UK insurers

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/germany-agrees-to-extend-passporting-rights-for-uk-insurers/>

Insurtech Axinan unveils igloo

<https://www.finextra.com/pressarticle/77392/insurtech-axinan-unveils-igloo>

Zurich Insurance acquires Sea Pine Technologies strengthening and accelerating Zurich's delivery of innovative solutions

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/zurich-insurance-acquires-sea-pine-technologies-strengthening-and-accelerating-zurichs-delivery-of-innovative-solutions-300801332.html>

FedNat Holding Company to Acquire Homeowners Insurance Operations of 1347 Property Insurance Holdings, Inc.

<https://globenewswire.com/news-release/2019/02/25/1741957/0/en/FedNat-Holding-Company-to-Acquire-Homeowners-Insurance-Operations-of-1347-Property-Insurance-Holdings-Inc.html>

North Carolina DOT opens new $252m bridge over Oregon Inlet for traffic

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) in the US has announced the opening of a $252m new bridge over Oregon Inlet to traffic.

The new 2.8 mile-long structure will replace the existing 2.4 mile-long Herbert C. Bonner Bridge, which was constructed in 1963. The total project length is 3.5 miles, including a new road leading up to the bridge.

NCDOT board member Allen Moran said: “It’s a great day for all residents and visitors to the Outer Banks. This new bridge will be a critical lifeline to the people and the pristine beaches of Hatteras Island for generations to come.”

In July 2011, the NCDOT awarded a design-build contract to PCL Civil Constructors with HDR Engineering of the Carolinas as the lead design firm.

Construction work on the new structure started in March 2016. The new bridge rises 90ft above Oregon Inlet at its highest point, with 8ft foot shoulders on both sides.

With an expected life span of at least 100-year, the bridge has been built using stainless reinforcing steel and concrete to provide for extra protection against its salt water environment.

Additionally, the foundation of the bridge is longer and driven deeper into the inlet floor to avoid the issues with scour (sand washing away from around the piles) that plague the existing bridge.

With the new opening of new bridge, demolition of the old Herbert C. Bonner Bridge will start and is expected to be complete by the end of 2019.

A 1,000ft section of the south end of the old bridge will remain in place as a pedestrian walkway.

*North Carolina DOT opens Herbert C. Bonner replacement bridge over Oregon Inlet for traffic. Credit: NCDOTcommunications.*

Image source:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/ncdot/18858299452/>

Press release:

<https://www.ncdot.gov/news/press-releases/Pages/2019/2019-02-25-bonner-bridge-replacement.aspx>

Other sources:

<https://www.ncdot.gov/projects/bonner-bridge/Pages/project-facts.aspx>

New Bridge Over Oregon Inlet Opens to Traffic

​The N.C. Department of Transportation opened the new bridge over Oregon Inlet to traffic today at 12:20 p.m.

“It’s a great day for all residents and visitors to the Outer Banks,” said NCDOT Board Member Allen Moran. “This new bridge will be a critical lifeline to the people and the pristine beaches of Hatteras Island for generations to come.”

Construction began on the state-of-the-art $252 million bridge in March of 2016. The new bridge is 2.8 miles long and rises 90 feet above Oregon Inlet at its highest point, with 8-foot shoulders on each side. It is the first bridge in the state built with stainless reinforcing steel, which will provide extra protection against its salt water environment. All told, the bridge is built to last 100 years.

The new bridge replaces the Herbert C. Bonner Bridge, which was built in 1963. With the new bridge open, demolition of the old bridge will begin soon, and is scheduled to be complete by the end of the year. A 1,000-foot section of the south end of the old bridge will remain in place as a pedestrian walkway.

An informal Community Day event to celebrate completion of the new bridge was held Feb. 9. A more formal dedication of the bridge is being planned for April 2.

The North Carolina Department of Transportation opened the replacement for the Herbert C. Bonner Bridge to traffic today at 12:20 p.m.

“It’s a great day for all residents and visitors to the Outer Banks,” said NCDOT Board Member Allen Moran. “This new bridge will be a critical lifeline to the people and the pristine beaches of Hatteras Island for generations to come.”

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An informal Community Day event to celebrate completion of the new bridge was held Feb. 9. A more formal dedication of the bridge is being planned for April 2.

Heathrow strikes deal with airlines to increase passenger numbers

London’s Heathrow Airport has signed an agreement with airlines about airport charges that will help increase passenger traffic besides driving investment and growth.

The new arrangement, which would extend existing regulatory settlement to 2021, includes an incentive by Heathrow for airlines to boost passenger numbers.

Heathrow said that airline decision fill their existing aircraft could help further slash airport charges and thus help to deliver significant passenger benefits.

At present, airlines at Heathrow operate with average load factors below the IATA global average; however, achieving global averages for filling aircraft will help reduce passenger charges by 10-20%.

With the arrival more travellers, Heathrow can spread the development costs of expansion across a larger passenger base. It will enable the airport to keep airport charges close to 2016 levels in real terms throughout the expansion project.

The CAA has extended its support for the commercial arrangement and is likely to commence a public consultation on the solution in the coming weeks.

Heathrow CEO John Holland-Kaye said: “Over the past several months we’ve been working hard with our airline partners to agree a deal on airport charges to 2021.

“We are delighted that the result is the first-ever commercial agreement at Heathrow which will unlock hundreds of millions of pounds of potential investment for our passengers.

“We’ve shown that we can achieve more by working together and we will continue working to build on this momentum as we expand.”

Recently, International Airlines Group (IAG), the owner of British Airways, Iberia and Aer Lingus, lambasted the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) for [not negotiating a cut in passenger charges with London’s Heathrow Airport](https://www.airport-technology.com/news/iag-aviation-regulator-heathrow/).

Home to more than 80 airlines and Britain’s largest cargo port, Heathrow welcomes more than 80 million travellers per annum.

*Heathrow signs pacts with airlines to increase passenger numbers aimed at reducing passenger charges. Credit: LHR Airports Limited.*

Press release / Image source:

<http://mediacentre.heathrow.com/pressrelease/details/81/Corporate-operational-24/10775>

Heathrow and airlines agree new deal to grow passenger numbers

Aircraft

Landmark deal on airport charges worth several hundred million pounds heralds a new phase of airport and airline commercial cooperation supporting growth at Heathrow

New arrangement would extend current regulatory settlement to 2021 and includes an incentive for airlines to grow passenger numbers

Airline moves to fill their existing aircraft could result in further reductions to airport charges and will help unlock affordable growth

Heathrow and airlines representing each of the alliances have already signed the agreement, with others due to sign in the coming weeks

Heathrow today announced that the UK’s hub airport has signed a landmark deal on airport charges worth hundreds of millions of pounds with airlines operating at the airport. Following detailed negotiations over the past several months, Heathrow and major airlines operating at the airport have agreed terms which should deliver significant passenger benefits in releasing funds to drive investment and growth. The CAA has supported the negotiation of the commercial arrangement and is expected to launch a public consultation on the solution in the coming weeks.

Under the terms of the agreement, Heathrow will establish a new growth incentive that will encourage airlines to increase passenger numbers at the airport ahead of expansion. Airlines at Heathrow currently operate with average load factors below the IATA global average. If airlines at Heathrow reached global averages for filling aircraft there is an opportunity to reduce passenger charges by 10-20% against what they might otherwise be, in addition to helping Heathrow meet the Government’s affordability target for expansion. With more passengers on each existing flight, Heathrow would be able to spread the development costs of expansion across a larger passenger base – helping to keep airport charges close to 2016 levels in real terms throughout the expansion project.

If the CAA gives final approval to the commercial arrangement, the current regulatory settlement would be extended until December 2021 – removing the need to negotiate an interim iH7 regulatory settlement. This would allow all parties – from the regulator to airlines and the airport – to focus their resources on agreeing the regulatory settlement that will be in place during the main expansion works from 2022 (subject to the airport being successful in its development consent order application). The commercial agreement is not intended to provide an alternative framework for future regulatory settlements, which will continue to be determined by the CAA. It is based on commercial rebates supplementing existing regulation, securing the protections that regulation currently provides to investors and representing an additional offer to airlines reflecting Heathrow’s continued commitment to growing the airport and delivering for passengers.

Heathrow CEO John Holland-Kaye said: “Over the past several months we’ve been working hard with our airline partners to agree a deal on airport charges to 2021. We are delighted that the result is the first-ever commercial agreement at Heathrow which will unlock hundreds of millions of pounds of potential investment for our passengers. We’ve shown that we can achieve more by working together and we will continue working to build on this momentum as we expand.”

About Heathrow

Heathrow is Europe’s largest airport and one of the world’s top international aviation hubs. As the UK’s global gateway, Heathrow welcomes more than 80 million passengers every year. The airport is home to more than 80 airlines and is Britain’s largest cargo port, helping to drive British trade growth by connecting the nation to more than 200 destinations around the world. Heathrow is currently ranked by passengers as the 'Best Airport in Western Europe’ for the third year running and the ‘Best Airport for Shopping’ for eight years in a row. Terminal 2 also holds the title of the ‘World’s Best Airport Terminal’ and is Heathrow’s most sustainable, now powered by 100% renewable gas and electricity.

Frequentis to set up digital air traffic control tower at New Zealand’s Invercargill Airport

Air navigation services provider Airways has awarded a contract to Austria-based technology company Frequentis to develop a digital air traffic control system for Invercargill Airport in New Zealand.

The new remotely operated digital air traffic control tower will deliver better aviation safety, improved weather resiliency and the option to deliver extended levels of services in the country.

Airways air traffic services general manager Tim Boyle said: “A digital tower at Invercargill Airport is the first step in our journey to modernise the way we provide air traffic services at airports.

“We’re excited about the safety and efficiency advantages the technology offers to the airport, airlines, and ultimately travellers.”

As per terms of the collaboration, Airways and Frequentis will collectively work to deploy the digital system at the airport.

Upon becoming operational by 2020, the digital tower will be operated at first by controllers based at the airfield. Subsequently, the operation command will be transferred to a centralised hub to deliver services to various regional locations.

Digital tower technology allows controllers to manage air traffic even in low light, or during adverse weather conditions.

Its augmented reality features provides aircraft information including altitude and speed in real-time, to be overlaid on screens.

Frequentis Australasia managing director Martin Rampl aid: “As the application of remote tower technology becomes more widespread, the safety and capacity benefits that controllers can obtain become clearer.

“We are absolutely delighted to have been selected by Airways New Zealand to implement the Frequentis smartVISION solution in Invercargill and very much look forward to supporting them in their goal to enhance their regional air traffic control services.”

With digital air traffic services, Airways is planning to replace its existing network of aging towers in the future.

After Invercargill Airport, Airways aims to install a digital tower at Auckland International Airport next year.

*Frequentis to deploy digital air traffic control tower at Invercargill Airport in New Zealand. Credit: J. Glover.*

Image source:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:ATL-Tower.jpg>

Press release :

<https://www.frequentis.com/sites/default/files/pr/2019-02/MEDIA%20RELEASE_Airways_Frequentis_digital%20tower%20announcement%20final.pdf>

DIGITAL AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWERS A STEP CLOSER FOR NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand’s first remotely operated digital air traffic control tower is a step closer. Air navigation services provider Airways has awarded a contract to global technology provider Frequentis to develop a digital system for Invercargill Airport.

Airways is pursuing digital tower technology as a national alternative to conventional towers that will provide greater aviation safety, improved weather resiliency and the option to provide extended levels of services to New Zealand’s regions.

“A digital tower at Invercargill Airport is the first step in our journey to modernise the way we provide air traffic services at airports,” Airways General Manager of Air Traffic Services Tim Boyle says. “We’re excited about the safety and efficiency advantages the technology offers to the airport, airlines, and ultimately travellers.”

Airways and Frequentis will work in partnership to deploy the digital system in Invercargill. It is due to go live in 2020 and will be operated at first by controllers based at the airfield, before later moving to a centralised hub providing services to a number of regional locations.

Digital tower technology allows controllers to manage traffic from a remote location by replicating the view they would have from a conventional tower using high definition cameras and surveillance sensors.

An advanced set of tools including infrared camera equipment, object detection and tracking ability will provide vastly improved situational awareness, particularly in low light, or during adverse weather conditions. Augmented reality features allow live aircraft information, such as altitude and speed, to be overlaid on screens.

Digital air traffic control towers are being implemented at airports worldwide, with fully operational towers already in place in Europe. Frequentis is also deploying a solution for the US Department of Defence.

Frequentis Australasia Managing Director Martin Rampl says: “As the application of remote tower technology becomes more widespread, the safety and capacity benefits that controllers can obtain become clearer.

“We are absolutely delighted to have been selected by Airways New Zealand to implement the Frequentis smartVISION solution in Invercargill and very much look forward to supporting them in their goal to enhance their regional air traffic control services.”

Invercargill Airport General Manager Nigel Finnerty says: “As Southland’s gateway to the world, Invercargill Airport is a growing regional airport and we’re pleased to be leading the introduction of digital air traffic control into New Zealand.

“Digital towers will help to future-proof our airport operations, ensuring we’re able to safely and efficiently meet the ongoing needs of all those who fly here.”

Digital air traffic services are Airways’ preferred option for replacing its existing network of aging towers in the future. We are working closely with our customers and our people to decide what the best fit for digital services will be for New Zealand.

Following Invercargill Airport, Airways plans to install a digital tower at Auckland International Airport in 2020. This will first be as a back-up system, and later as a full replacement for the existing tower.

Airways is looking to a number of intelligent transport technologies to modernise New Zealand’s air traffic network and meet the needs of an increasingly complex and busy airspace.

As well as digital air traffic control tower systems, these include:

• Development of an unmanned aerial vehicle traffic management (UTM) system and drone detection capability.

• Installation of the new Leidos Skyline-X air traffic management platform. This is due to go live in 2020 and replaces Airways’ two existing ATM platforms, installed between 2000 and 2003. The new Skyline-X platform includes a number of features to optimise the air traffic system.

• Introduction Automatic dependent surveillance – broadcast (ADS–B) as the main aircraft surveillance technology. This satellite supported tracking system will provide a much more detailed picture of airspace than is currently possible with radar.

About Airways New Zealand

Airways is a world-leading commercial Air Navigation Service Provider (ANSP). We look after key aviation infrastructure around New Zealand and manage the more than 1 million traffic movements per year into and around New Zealand’s 30 million square kilometres of airspace.

Airways provides air traffic control and engineering training, and has delivered air traffic management, navigation services and consultancy in more than 65 countries.

About Frequentis

Frequentis is an international supplier of communication and information systems for control centres with safety-critical tasks. These control centre solutions are developed and distributed by Frequentis in the business segments Air Traffic Management (civil and military air traffic control, and air defence) and Public Safety & Transport (police, fire and rescue services, emergency medical services, vessel traffic and railways). Frequentis maintains a worldwide network of subsidiaries and local representatives in more than fifty countries. The company’s products and solutions are behind more than 25,000 operator positions in over 140 countries. With this extensive portfolio, Frequentis is the leading provider of voice communication systems… all making our world a safer place every day!

Germany passes law to extend passporting rights to re/insurers in no-deal Brexit

The German legislator has passed a bill, known as Brexit-Steuerbegleitgesetz – Brexit-StBG that empowers the regulator BaFin to extend passporting rights of UK financial institutions including re/insurers in the event of a no-deal Brexit.

The new regulation, which will become effective from 29 March this year, will allow the extension of passporting rights for up to 21 months after the UK leaves the EU without a deal.

These measures are said to be part of a wider set of legislation concerning primarily tax matters, according to international law firm Clyde & Co.

Insurance contracts won’t be void post- Brexit

As per the German insurance contract law, Brexit will not automatically cause the insurance contracts to be void as the lack of a licence does not affect the effectiveness of a contract.

that the European regulator is of the opinion that UK insurers will not be able to service existing insurance contracts after the lapse of their passporting rights in case of a no-deal Brexit.

However, the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (EIOPA) has urged that regulators could consider restricting the issuance of a new authorisation to UK insurers so that they could easily wind up the existing business.

Additionally, the EIOPA opines that national authorities should grant permission for the finalisation of portfolio transfers by UK insurers without an authorisation post-Brexit if they started the process prior to the withdrawal date.

Clyde & Co partner Henning Schaloske said: “This is a welcome move by the German legislator to remove some of the uncertainty for both insurers and policyholders in the event of a no-deal Brexit, which is increasingly being seen as a very real possibility.

“The extension of passporting rights for up to 21 months post-Brexit is a significant development and should provide sufficient time for the resolution of outstanding contracts but it is important that regulators across the EU continue to work together in a spirit of cooperation to address issues relating to cross-border insurance.”

The German regulation is in line with similar initiatives launched by other EU member states such as France and Spain.

<https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=f9b28954-1f17-4df8-bec0-a091d469e315>

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/germany-agrees-to-extend-passporting-rights-for-uk-insurers/>

<https://www.insuranceage.co.uk/regulation/3864026/germany-extends-passporting-rights-for-uk-insurers>

<https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=460edb99-d3f9-472a-a475-2a39ffe0d2d5>

Zurich Insurance buys American insuretech start-up Sea Pine Technologies

Zurich North America, a subsidiary of Zurich Insurance Group, has purchased Dallas-based insuretech start-up Sea Pine Technologies, for an undisclosed sum.

Sea Pine Technologies, founded in 2016, specialises in digital applications for the marketing of vehicle protection products.

The acquired entity helps dealers to fulfil the growing consumer demand for automotive Finance & Insurance (F&I) products, retain customers and increase their bottom lines

Zurich noted that the acquisition of Sea Pine Technologies will further boost its automotive F&I capabilities and strengthens its offerings to both auto dealers and car owners.

Zurich North America CEO Kathleen Savio said: “Zurich continues to invest in the businesses and customer segments where it sees the best opportunities for excellence.

“This acquisition builds on our strengths by delivering competitive capabilities for us in North America and accelerates our delivery of innovative and valued solutions to our customers.”

Zurich North America head of strategy, innovation and business development said: “This acquisition exemplifies our customer-led spirit of innovation that Zurich continues to foster as we apply customer insights to develop new ways to augment our own capabilities with companies ready to deliver innovative products and services that meet our customers' needs now and in the future.”

The acquisition is culmination of a Zurich relationship with Sea Pine that started last year when the duo started a pilot programme with auto dealers to test Sea Pine's digital application.

Zurich North America head of direct markets Vince Santivasi stated that Sea Pine's technology, combined with Zurich's current F&I selling system and its vast experience will significantly increase F&I product sales through additional channels.

The transaction completed on 31 January this year.

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/zurich-insurance-acquires-sea-pine-technologies-strengthening-and-accelerating-zurichs-delivery-of-innovative-solutions-300801332.html>

<https://www.americaninno.com/chicago/inno-news-chicago/zurich-insurance-group-acquires-dallas-tech-startup/>

FedNat to buy 1347 Property’s homeowners insurance businesses

FedNat has agreed to acquire substantially all of homeowners insurance operations of 1347 Property Insurance, in a mix of cash and stock deal valued at about $51m.

Under the terms of the deal, FedNat will buy Maison Insurance Company, Maison Managers, and ClaimCor. These businesses are collectively known as Maison.

Maison operates as a property and casualty insurer focused on the coastal homeowners’ markets in Louisiana and Texas, as well as Florida.

The $51 m deal value will be equally paid in a mix of a 50/50 cash and stock, including the issuance of about 1.35 million shares of FedNat common stock.

The cash component of deal, along with the replacement of surplus notes owed by Maison to 1347 PIH, totalling $18m along with accrued interest, will be repaid at closing of the transaction.

FedNat CEO Michael Braun said: “Maison represents a unique opportunity to accelerate the diversification of our predominantly Florida homeowners’ book into Louisiana and coastal Texas, two states where we have already been operating and have been looking for additional growth opportunities.

“The transaction is a great financial and strategic fit for FedNat. The acquisition is a digestible size and efficiently financed. Based on meaningful reinsurance and operating expense synergies, we expect the acquisition to be immediately accretive to earnings per share.

“Strategically, the deal diversifies our book and enhances our platform for further geographic expansion through direct access to non-Florida agents, which complements our existing wholesale distribution in Texas and Louisiana.”

Besides the purchase price, 1347 PIH will have five-year rights of first refusal to provide reinsurance of up to 7.5% of any layer in FedNat’s catastrophe reinsurance programme and a five-year agreement for 1347 PIH to provide investment advisory services to FedNat.

Completion of the transaction is conditional upon Maison posting consolidated GAAP net book value of minimum $42m as of closing and satisfaction of other customary closing conditions.

<https://globenewswire.com/news-release/2019/02/25/1741957/0/en/FedNat-Holding-Company-to-Acquire-Homeowners-Insurance-Operations-of-1347-Property-Insurance-Holdings-Inc.html>

Insurtech Axinan rolls out on-demand digital insurance solutions

Singapore-based insurtech Axinan has rolled out its on-demand digital insurance solutions known as igloo to meet the everyday lifestyle needs of millennials.

igloo will offer tailored Phone Screen Protection (PSP) plans. These plans will allow users to purchase policies and make claims digitally and seamlessly through their igloo mobile app.

In order to offer the PSP insurance policies, Axinan has selected digital insurer FWD Singapore as the official insurance partner.

The PSP plans, available in the form of daily, monthly and yearly subscription plans, will allow users to get their phone screens replaced in case physical damage to the screens.

Axinan has collaborated with a number of phone repair service companies to provide repair services.

Axinan founder and CEO Wei Zhu said: “Axinan is an insurtech firm with a focus on developing insurance products for millennials and hence has built products catering to their lifestyle centred around gadgets, travel, e-commerce – domains not covered by traditional insurers.

“With igloo, we aim to provide a comprehensive suite of coverage that will be made readily available with the everyday needs of millennials in Southeast Asia in mind.”

FWD Singapore CEO Abhishek Bhatia said: “As a brand that has continuously leveraged on technology to create real value and convenience in the insurance industry, FWD is delighted to work with Axinan on the Phone Screen Protection plans.

“We believe digital innovation will play a key role in fulfilling consumer demands today, and this partnership is a demonstration of how by focusing on what customers need, companies can provide real value-added digital services.

Axinan, which was established in 2016, uses big data, actuarial risk management and machine-learning to developing solutions for enterprises.

<https://www.finextra.com/pressarticle/77392/insurtech-axinan-unveils-igloo>

<https://www.digitalnewsasia.com/business/singapore-based-insurtech-firm-axinan-launches-igloo>

MedData introduces new solution to help hospitals get paid quickly

MedData, a MEDNAX company and a technology-enabled management services for hospitals and healthcare firm, has unveiled its latest RCM Solution that accelerates reimbursement for providers

Known as MedData FastTrack, the new technology simply and seamlessly eliminates the challenges associated with traditional reimbursement and helps providers to keep focusing on patient care.

MedData president and COO Emily Fisher said: “Physicians and physician practices want a faster, less complicated method of medical coding and billing that helps maintain a steady stream of cash in the door.

“MedData FastTrack is a difference maker because of how it accelerates reimbursement and increases revenue in the simplest way possible for providers.”

Upon receiving clinical care by a patient, it generally takes months for providers to receive payment for their services with traditional reimbursement methods.

The existing method is not only inefficient and complex but also slows the revenue cycle, creates compliance risk. As a result, it is difficult to maintain a consistent cash-flow.

Using new technology to streamline coding and billing, MedData FastTrack provides a better alternative to the standard way of reimbursement.

The new solution uses in-built intelligent automation to visit, capture, and complete documentation translation using optical character recognition (OCR), and offer enrollment.

MedData FastTrack also simultaneously run processes that provide complete data integrity and instantly abolish procedural delays that stall cash flow.

Its computer-assisted coding with natural language processing (NLP) automates much of the coding process while human supervision is required to maintain quality and accuracy.

The new platform provides complete front-end edits that ensure a clean claim rate and better analytic reporting tracks each claim through final adjudication.

Further, MedData FastTrack’ fully integrated patient self-pay solution keeps patients informed from the first day throughout the entirety of care with a personal, one-on-one customer experience.

Depending on specialty, MedData FastTrack clients can gain about 20% improvement in the adjudication of total charges that leads to 35% faster payment.

Press release :

<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20190225005950/en/MedDatas-New-RCM-Technology-Solution-Accelerates-Reimbursement>

MedData's New RCM Technology Solution Accelerates Reimbursement for Providers

BRECKSVILLE, Ohio--(BUSINESS WIRE)--MedData, a MEDNAX (NYSE: MD) company and a leading provider of technology-enabled management services for hospitals and healthcare providers, today announced the launch of MedData FastTrack, a tech-infused solution for faster reimbursement.

MedData FastTrack, a new RCM technology solution, simply and seamlessly removes the challenges of traditional reimbursement so providers can keep their focus on caring for patients

“Physicians and physician practices want a faster, less complicated method of medical coding and billing that helps maintain a steady stream of cash in the door,” said MedData President and COO Emily Fisher. “MedData FastTrack is a difference maker because of how it accelerates reimbursement and increases revenue in the simplest way possible for providers.”

Normally, after a patient has received clinical care, it can take months for providers to receive payment for their services with traditional reimbursement methods. The existing processes are inefficient and complex, which slows the revenue cycle, creates compliance risk, and makes it difficult to maintain a consistent cashflow.

Providers face additional financial challenges prevalent in today’s healthcare environment such as shrinking margins, rising costs, and collecting from patients over-burdened by self-pay balances.

MedData FastTrack provides a better alternative to the standard way of reimbursement. It utilizes forward-looking technology to streamline coding and billing in several ways:

Intelligent automation is built in to visit capture, documentation translation with optical character recognition (OCR), and provider enrollment.

Concurrently run processes provide comprehensive data integrity and immediately remove procedural delays that stall cash flow.

Specialty-specific, computer-assisted coding with natural language processing (NLP) automates much of the coding process with human oversight to ensure quality and accuracy.

Thorough front-end edits ensure an elite clean claim rate, and enhanced analytic reporting tracks each claim through final adjudication.

A fully integrated patient self-pay solution on Day 1 keeps patients informed throughout the entirety of care with a personal, one-on-one customer experience.

This comprehensive approach results in cleaner claims, faster reimbursement, and increased collections. Depending on specialty, MedData FastTrack clients can realize 20% improvement in the adjudication of total charges which leads to 35% faster payment.

“We’ve been experts in coding and billing for decades, and we understand the unique requirements of individual physician specialties. MedData FastTrack simply and seamlessly removes the challenges of traditional reimbursement so that providers can put more of their time and energy into what’s most important – caring for their patients,” Fisher said.

About MedData

MedData, a MEDNAX (NYSE: MD) company, is a leading provider of technology-enabled management services for hospitals and health systems. For four decades, the company has been providing innovative solutions to the medical community and serving hundreds of millions of patients across numerous medical specialties. MedData currently serves more than 10,000 physicians at a growing network of 3,000+ facilities nationwide from its headquarters in Brecksville, Ohio, and more than 20 regional offices across the U.S.

UK launches competition to develop smart traffic management system

The Government of UK has announced a competition aimed at developing a smart traffic management system that can integrate and interact with new transport technologies.

It is a Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) competition for which the funding will be provided by the GovTech Catalyst that enables the public sector to recognise and work with innovative businesses.

It is a two phase competition and a decision to proceed with the second phase will depend on the successful outcomes from first phase.

In order to reach in the second phase, the participating organisations are required to develop a feasibility study, including the proposed architecture and projection of on-going costs and development.

Organisations can apply for a share of up to £250,000 to develop a traffic management system that can accommodate both traditional vehicles and new mobility technologies such as self-driving cars. It will be implemented in Oxfordshire Council.

The applicant must develop a system that can gather data from various sources, such as infrastructure owned by Oxfordshire County Council including CCTV, traffic light control systems and number plate recognition.

To support data gathering, the system must leverage information from sources on the Internet of Things (IoT) and share this data with different teams and organisations. Additionally, the system should be able to allow Oxfordshire County Council to identify data gaps.

Furthermore, the system should be capable of producing data metrics that can adjust itself as per the council policies, including changes in performance indicators.

During the second phase, successful applicants will develop a test system that will be deployed at the Oxfordshire County Council’s Urban Traffic Management Control Centre in Kidlington.

During this phase, each successful applicant will be given up to £500,000 to develop their prototype and undertake field trials for one year.

The competition will open on 4 March 2019 and the deadline for registration is 10 April 2019.

Press release:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/designing-new-mobility-traffic-systems-apply-for-funding>

<https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/328/overview>

Designing new mobility traffic systems: Apply for funding

Organisations can apply for a share of up to £250,000 to develop a traffic management system that can integrate and interact with new transport technologies.

From:

Innovate UK and UK Research and Innovation

An aerial view of the city centre of Oxford.

Applicants will design a traffic management system to be implemented in Oxfordshire that can accommodate new mobility technologies such as self-driving cars.

The growth of new mobility technologies such as drones, electric vehicles and self-driving cars will bring new challenges for traffic networks across the country. To meet the potential of this technology, it is essential to design systems that future-proof the UK’s transport infrastructure.

Innovate UK and Oxfordshire County Council have up to £250,000 for organisations to help develop a traffic management system that can accommodate both traditional vehicles and new mobility technologies throughout Oxfordshire.

This is a Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) competition, with funding from the GovTech Catalyst, which helps the public sector to identify and work with innovative businesses.

Find out more about the SBRI and how it works..

An integrated and interactive network

The new system must be able to collect data from numerous sources, including infrastructure owned by Oxfordshire County Council such as CCTV, traffic light control systems and number plate recognition.

To support data gathering, the system must:

use information from sources on the Internet of Things and share this data with different teams and organisations

allow Oxfordshire County Council to identify data gaps

produce data metrics that can adapt to council policies, including changes in performance indicators

Applicants are encouraged to include solutions that:

enable communication between traffic management and road users

identify which modes of transport are being used

explore integration with other council functions, such as emergency planning and social services

integrate with artificial intelligence and machine learning

A 2-phase competition

The competition will comprise of 2 phases. In phase 1, organisations must develop a feasibility study, including the proposed architecture and estimates of ongoing costs and development. A total of £250,000 has been allocated to phase 1.

In the second phase, successful applicants will develop a test system to be installed at the Oxfordshire County Council’s Urban Traffic Management Control Centre in Kidlington. Each applicant will receive up to £500,000 to develop their prototype and undertake field tests for 1 year.

Competition information

the competition opens on 4 March 2019 and the deadline for registration is at midday on 10 April 2019

organisations of any size are eligible to apply

up to £250,000 including VAT is available

a briefing event will be held in Oxford on 8 March 2019

MAHB allocates up to RM300 mil to upgrade baggage handling system at KLIA this year

<https://www.nst.com.my/business/2019/02/463934/mahb-allocates-rm300-mil-upgrade-baggage-handling-system-klia-year>

<https://themalaysianreserve.com/2019/02/27/mahb-to-replace-klia-baggage-handling-system/>

Passengers happier when technology smooths their way through passport checks (from UK team)

<https://www.sita.aero/pressroom/news-releases/passengers-happier-when-technology-smooths-their-way-through-passport-checks>

30,000 flights won’t be able to land at Milan’s Airport Linate during Italy’s high summer season

<https://www.eturbonews.com/245925/30000-flights-wont-be-able-to-land-at-milans-airport-linate-during-italys-high-summer-season>

Government to consult on ban on 10-year-old tyres to boost road safety

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-consult-on-ban-on-10-year-old-tyres-to-boost-road-safety>

ADB to give $75m for upgrading K-P road

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1919069/2-adb-give-75m-upgrading-k-p-road/>

<https://nation.com.pk/27-Feb-2019/adb-gives-75m-loan-to-upgrade-kp-road>

UPDATE 1-Insurer Direct Line names Penny James CEO

<https://in.reuters.com/article/direct-line-ins-ceo/update-1-insurer-direct-line-names-penny-james-ceo-idINL3N20L4FC>

Pool Re places first catastrophe bond for terrorism risk

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/pool-re-places-first-catastrophe-bond-for-terrorism-risk-17772>

​Montreal Insurtech Breathe Life raises $4.5 million CAD to accelerate U.S. expansion

<https://betakit.com/%E2%80%8Bmontreal-insurtech-breathe-life-raises-4-5-million-cad-to-accelerate-u-s-expansion/>

LIIBA creates BDAWG Claims Sub-Group, names Ed’s Ben Kelly Chair

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/liiba-creates-bdawg-claims-sub-group-names-eds-ben-kelly-chair/>

Berkshire Hathaway GUARD Adding Commercial Package Coverage

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/berkshire-hathaway-guard-adding-commercial-package-coverage-300802326.html>

Heavy Iron Underwriters Launches Crane & Rigging Operators Program

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/heavy-iron-underwriters-launches-crane--rigging-operators-program-300802386.html>

Accenture Completes First Cloud-Based Implementation of Its Life Insurance & Annuity Platform

<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20190226005042/en/Accenture-Completes-Cloud-Based-Implementation-Life-Insurance-Annuity>

Max India exits health insurance biz, divests stake in Max Bupa for Rs 510 cr

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/max-india-exits-health-insurance-biz-divests-stake-in-max-bupa-for-rs-510-cr/articleshow/68173878.cms>

Automated passport check doubles passenger happiness, says SITA report

Use of automated passport checking technology at airports has boosted the passengers’ satisfaction two fold in 2017, reveals a report by IT technology firm SITA.

Titled SITA 2019 Passenger IT Insights, the report highlights that 44% of passengers used automated passport control last year, an increase from 21% in 2017.

At passport control, which has been traditionally a difficult state of the air travel, travellers were 3.85% more satisfied when they used self-scanning gates to verify their ID, compared to those using agent-assisted controls.

The report further states that the user of the technology had a satisfaction rate of 8.36 out of 10.

SITA president air travel solutions Matthys Serfontein said: “One of the standout findings of our report this year is that at every point in the journey, where passengers use technology, the rate of satisfaction is higher.

“Airlines and airports can see the benefit of their technology investments in making it easy for passengers, every step of the way. Over the years, booking, check-in and bag drop have increasingly become automated and passengers like it.

“Interestingly, this year the report shows how introducing automated passport controls, in collaboration with government and border agencies, also increases passenger satisfaction.”

Separately, automated gates used for boarding not only accelerate the processing of passengers but also they support more efficient operations and faster turnarounds.

SITA’s reports indicate that satisfaction is 2.2% higher when passengers scan their own documents to board the aircraft.

Serfontein added: “Today, we have our Smart Path solution at airports around the world, from Australia to the Americas, which uses biometrics to automate the journey. Across the board we have found that passengers are keen to use the biometric self-service process, when given a choice, over 90% of travelers typically opt in.”

Additionally, SITA research shows that 59% passengers are ‘very willing’ to use their mobiles for ID verification along the journey, with a further 33% is ready to use the technology.

The outcomes of SITA’s report are based on a survey in which travellers from 20 countries across the Americas, Asia, Europe, Middle East and Africa, participated.

*Passenger feels more satisfaction when they use automated passport checks at airports, says SITA report. Credit: SITA.*

Press release / Image source:

<https://www.sita.aero/pressroom/news-releases/passengers-happier-when-technology-smooths-their-way-through-passport-checks>

Passengers happier when technology smooths their way through passport checks

Use of automated passport control nearly doubles and passenger satisfaction is up too

Airline passengers are using automated technology for passport checks at double the rate recorded in 2017 and are more satisfied when doing so too. This is according to the SITA 2019 Passenger IT Insights, co-sponsored by Air Transport World, which shows that in 2018, 44% of passengers sailed through automated passport control, a jump from 21% in 2017.

The report released today, explores how technology is contributing to a smoother passenger experience at every step of the journey. At passport control, a traditional pain point of the journey, passengers were 3.85% more satisfied when they used self-scanning gates to verify their ID, compared to those using agent-assisted controls. These technology users had a satisfaction rate of 8.36 out of 10.

Matthys Serfontein, SITA President, Air Travel Solutions, said: “One of the standout findings of our report this year is that at every point in the journey, where passengers use technology, the rate of satisfaction is higher. Airlines and airports can see the benefit of their technology investments in making it easy for passengers, every step of the way. Over the years, booking, check-in and bag drop have increasingly become automated and passengers like it. Interestingly, this year the report shows how introducing automated passport controls, in collaboration with government and border agencies, also increases passenger satisfaction.”

Automated gates used at boarding are another success for the industry and its passengers. Not only do they speed up the processing of passengers but they support more efficient operations and faster turnarounds. Again, SITA’s Insights show that satisfaction is 2.2% higher when passengers scan their own documents to board.

Serfontein added: “Today, we have our Smart Path™ solution at airports around the world, from Australia to the Americas, which uses biometrics to automate the journey. Across the board we have found that passengers are keen to use the biometric self-service process, when given a choice, over 90% of travelers typically opt in. Actions speak louder than words and it's becoming very clear from our Smart Path™ implementations that people like using biometrics for easy travel.”

It seems that when it comes to verifying their identity, passengers are ready to use technology even more and in a variety of ways. SITA reports that 59% are ‘very willing’ to use their mobiles for ID verification along the journey, with a further 33% open to the idea.

While proving your identity using your mobile device is not an option widely available today, with nine out of ten passengers potentially welcoming this service, airlines and airports can be confident when moving to mobile services for ID identification. Passengers are looking to make their journey as easy as possible and mobile is top of the technologies they want to use.

The key findings of SITA’s report are based on a survey of passengers from 20 countries across the Americas, Asia, Europe, Middle East and Africa, representing over 70% of global passenger traffic. This is the 13th edition of the SITA Passenger IT Insights which is available here.

Asian Development Bank loans $75m to Pakistan for K-P road upgrade

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has granted a $70m loan to Pakistan that will be used to improve road conditions, capacity, and road safety on provincial roads in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

As per terms of the agreement, the ADB’s funding will help widen and upgrade the 42km-long section of the busy Mardan-Swabi road in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P).

Initially, the Manila-based bank sanctioned a $140m loan for the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Provincial Road Improvement Project.

The original project aims improve eight sections of key provincial roads and help to improve transport efficiency and safety.

In May 2018, the Pakistani government urged the bank for additional financing. Subsequently, the ADB had approved a $75m loan in December last year.

The additional loan will be utilised to upgrade the existing two-lane road between Mardan and Swabi to a four-lane divided road. It road upgrade will cater to the increased traffic demand and improve environmental resilience.

As part of the project, toll booths and gender-sensitive amenities including bus shelters and pedestrian facilities will be built.

Also, road safety measures will be implemented as part of capacity-building efforts of the K-P Communications and Works Department.

The upgraded road will not only ease traffic congestion but also make travel faster and safer for tourists, commuters and trucks in the region.

ADB Pakistan country director Xiaohong Yang said: “The new dual carriageway will bring many benefits to the K-P region.

“The road will connect a thriving agricultural region with a busy industrial hub, and link the region to important tourist destinations such as Swat and Kalam through the Swat Expressway.”

Excluding the high volume of non-motorised traffic, average daily traffic on the road connecting the two cities is almost 7,000 vehicles, which will continue to grow at a rate of 3.4% per annum.

*Asian Development Bank grants $75m in loans to upgrade K-P road in Pakistan. Credit: Lysippos.*

Image source:

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cathcart,_landscape_-_rsa.jpg>

Third party source:

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1919069/2-adb-give-75m-upgrading-k-p-road/>

Other sources:

<https://nation.com.pk/27-Feb-2019/adb-gives-75m-loan-to-upgrade-kp-road>

ADB to give $75m for upgrading K-P road

Loan will be utilised to widen, upgrade 42km section of Mardan-Swabi road. PHOTO: FILE

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the government of Pakistan signed a $75-million loan agreement for widening and upgrading 42 kilometres of the busy Mardan-Swabi road in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa (K-P).

The loan agreement was inked on Tuesday by ADB Country Director for Pakistan Xiaohong Yang and Economic Affairs Division Secretary Noor Ahmed.

Financing for the new road section expands the scope of a $140-million loan for the ongoing K-P Provincial Road Improvement project. The original project will improve eight sections of key provincial roads in a bid to improve transport efficiency and safety.

The additional $75 million in financing, approved by the ADB board of directors in December 2018, will help upgrade the existing two-lane road between Mardan and Swabi to a four-lane divided road to meet increasing traffic demand and improve environmental resilience.

Under the project, tolling and gender-sensitive amenities will be built including bus shelters and pedestrian facilities, and road safety measures will be promoted as part of capacity-building efforts of the K-P communications and works department.

The Mardan-Swabi road spans the fertile agricultural and emerging industrial heartland of K-P along Indus and Kabul rivers. The upgraded road will ease traffic congestion and make travel faster and safer for tourists, commuters and truckers in the region.

ADB sets $7.5 billion lending programme for Pakistan

Speaking on the occasion, Xiaohong said, “The new dual carriageway will bring many benefits to the K-P region.

The road will connect a thriving agricultural region with a busy industrial hub, and link the region to important tourist destinations such as Swat and Kalam through the Swat Expressway.”

Average daily traffic on the road connecting the two cities is about 7,000 vehicles, excluding the high volume of non-motorised traffic. Traffic will continue to grow at a 3.4% pace annually.

MAHB plans to upgrade baggage handling system at Kuala Lumpur International Airport

Airport operator Malaysia Airports (MAHB) has set aside MYR 300m ($73.72m) to upgrade baggage handling system (BHS) at the main terminal of the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA).

KLIA is said to be the Malaysia’s main international gateway that managed 28.1 million passengers last year. The airport requires upgrade to manage the growing number of travellers.

MAHB corporate communications general manager Nik Anis Nik Zakaria was quoted by themalaysianreserve.com as saying that the tender process to acquire a new upgraded baggage handling system will start this year.

“We plan to upgrade and replace the baggage handling system with a new technology and provide the best services for passengers,” Nik Anis told the publication.

Entire replacement work which involves renovation of the baggage handling system including screening equipments, sorters and 42km of conveyor line used to deliver passenger bags, will last nearly three years. The long period of replacement will ensure minimum disruptions to the airport’s operations.

The airport operator will install backup lines to handle baggages during the replacement period to ensure minimal interruptions during the exercise.

The airport operator also said that KLIA baggage handling system is nearing its end of life and new system would improve efficiency and security screening at the airport.

Currently, baggage arrival on-time performance service level agreement at KLIA is aimed at 20 minutes (first bag) for the main terminal and 25 minutes for the satellite building.

KLIA reported an average short shipment index of 4.7 per 10,000 passengers in 2018 which was below industry standard for Asia related airport benchmark at 19.2 bags per 10,000 travellers.

*MAHB allocates $73.72m to upgrade baggage handling system at Kuala Lumpur International Airport. Credit: Morio.*

Image source:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:KLIA2_international_departure_hall_2016_September_1.jpg>

Third party source:

<https://www.nst.com.my/business/2019/02/463934/mahb-allocates-rm300-mil-upgrade-baggage-handling-system-klia-year>

Other sources:

<https://themalaysianreserve.com/2019/02/27/mahb-to-replace-klia-baggage-handling-system/>

MAHB allocates up to RM300 mil to upgrade baggage handling system at KLIA this year

SEPANG: Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd (MAHB) is set to embark on baggage handling system (BHS) replacement exercise at the main terminal of the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) beginning this year.

Corporate communication general manager Nik Anis Nik Zakaria said the airport operator would allocate between RM250 million and RM300 million to undertake the entire replacement exercise over a period of three years.

She added that MAHB expected to announce the replacement exercise via an open-tender this year.

“We (MAHB) are committed to improve the KLIA Main Terminal’s BHS as it has been operating more than 20 years.

“There are plans to upgrade and replace the overall system with newer technology migration to provide the best BHS to our passengers,” she said during Media Familiarisation Tour on the baggage handling system at klia2, here, today.

She said the familiarisation tour aimed at educating passengers on MAHB’s ongoing initiative to improve its services.

“The upgrade works for the KLIA Main Terminal’s BHS involve an extensive process with multiple parties from both airlines and airport operator for the automated conveyor and screening systems,” she said.

Nik Anis said the asset replacement exercise will be executed in phases and expected to complete by 2022, citing that MAHB operates a running airport.

“BHS assets at KLIA Main Terminal is coming to the end of life-cycle which requires system modernisation for seamless integration.

“We need to replace most of our screening and conveyor systems from the current high speed motor to ultra high speed motor,” she said, adding that the exercise would enable passengers to reduce their baggages’ average travelling time under 10 minutes.

MAHB Engineering division general manager Khairiah Salleh said the replacement exercise would require the company to re-configure a saviour (backup) line for the BHS conveyor, while installing better screening equipment and sorter systems for the baggages.

“KLIA Main Terminal has about 42km conveyor line and we expect to reduce travel time for the baggages. Both KLIA and klia2 handled 31 million baggages with 60 million passengers last year,” she said.

Khairiah said MAHB would need to build new conveyor with assistance from consultants and original equipment manufacturers to undertake the replacement exercise with a minimum disruption.

She cautioned that there are occurrences of short shipment (mishandled bags) due to transfer mishandling, ticketing and loading error and amongst others.

However, KLIA has lower short shipment index about 4.7 bags per 10,000 passengers in 2018, which was below than the industry standard for Asia related airport benchmark at 19.2 bags per 10,000 passengers.

The new BHS is expected to improve efficiency and provide better security screening for baggages for the main terminal and satellite building.

Currently, KLIA’s arrival on-time performance standard service level agreement (first bag) is about 20 minutes for the main terminal and 25 minutes for the satellite building.

Max India offloads 51% stake in Max Bupa and quits health insurance business

Max India has divested its entire 51% stake in Max Bupa Health Insurance to private equity firm True North Fund VI in an all cash transaction valued at more than INR5.1bn ($71.54m).

The proposed transaction gives Max Bupa at an enterprise valuation of Rs10.01bn ($140.42m).

Upon completion of the transaction, True North will nominate directors on Max Bupa's board, while Max India's nominated directors will resign.

Bupa, the UK-based healthcare group and existing joint venture (JV) partner in Max Bupa, will continue to continue to impart an active role in the health insurance JV.

As per the terms of the agreement, the use of the Max brand will be phased out over a period of two years and replaced with a suitable name; however, the Bupa brand name will continue.

Commenting on the deal, Max Group founder and chairman Analjit Singh said: “We are rebalancing our portfolio of businesses with a much sharper focus on growing shareholder value, and this transaction is a step towards that journey.

“We are sure that Max Bupa will continue its excellent performance under its new shareholders, ably supported by the founding JV partner Bupa.”

Max Group vice chairman designate Mohit Talwar said: “Our selection criteria for the potential investor in Max Bupa was based on a shared vision for the company, alignment with our JV partner Bupa, and a commitment to invest in the long-term growth of the company.”

True North partner Divya Sehgal said: “As the health insurance sector grows in India, True North is looking to build the most trusted brand in health insurance in the country.

“We believe Max Bupa is one of the best positioned brands and businesses in the sector. Our priority is to work seamlessly with both teams at Max and Bupa through this transition towards the benefit of Max Bupa's customers, employees and stakeholders.”

The transaction is pending completion of agreements and approval from shareholders of Max India besides from regulatory bodies. It is scheduled to be completed within FY20.

<https://truenorth.co.in/pdf/MBHI_stake_Press%20Release.pdf>

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/max-india-exits-health-insurance-biz-divests-stake-in-max-bupa-for-rs-510-cr/articleshow/68173878.cms>

British motor insurer Direct Line appoints new CEO

Direct Line Insurance Group, a UK-based motor insurance firm, has named Penny James as its new CEO who will assume the new role from 9 May this year.

James will succeed Paul Geddes who will resign as a member of the Board after the annual general meeting on 9 May and will leave the group at the end of July.

Prior to assuming the new role, James has been working as the CFO of the company since March 2018.

Direct Line Group chairman Mike Biggs said: “The Board is delighted to appoint Penny James as Chief Executive of DLG. She combines a deep understanding of our sector with outstanding leadership skills, financial and risk expertise, and deep strategic thinking.

“The Board is confident that Penny is ideally suited to leading the delivery of DLG’s short-term strategic imperatives, including technological and business transformation, and the development of the next stage of our strategy. “

James said: “It is a privilege to be taking over the leadership of Direct Line Group. DLG has a talented and diverse group of people, a customer-focused culture, powerful brands and a multi-channel, multi-product business.

“Together with our strong balance sheet, this has helped make DLG the successful business it is today and means we are ideally placed to thrive in an evolving market.

“This year we are beginning to execute the next phase of our business transformation strategy, in pursuit of our mission to make insurance much easier and better value for our customers.”

Before joining Direct Line, James worked with Prudential as group chief risk officer and a member of the board.

Prior to that, she worked as Prudential’s director of group finance, and held management roles at Omega Insurance as well as UK General Insurance of Zurich Financial Services.

<https://www.directlinegroup.co.uk/en/news/company-news/2019/direct-line-group-announces-new-ceo.html>

<https://www.insurancebusinessmag.com/uk/news/breaking-news/direct-line-group-announces-new-ceo-160110.aspx>

India shuts at least four airports after Pakistani warplanes cross border: official

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-india-kashmir-airport/india-shuts-at-least-four-airports-after-pakistani-warplanes-cross-border-official-idUSKCN1QG0NJ>

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/airports-in-leh-jammu-srinagar-pathankot-on-high-alert-commercial-flights-put-on-hold-1466044-2019-02-27>

<https://www.timesnownews.com/business-economy/industry/article/airport-news-india-pakistan-jet-airways-indigo-spicejet-goair-issue-advisory-5-airports-closed-amid-india-vs-pak-air-strike-tussle/373450>

30,000 flights won’t be able to land at Milan’s Airport Linate during Italy’s high summer season

<https://www.eturbonews.com/245925/30000-flights-wont-be-able-to-land-at-milans-airport-linate-during-italys-high-summer-season>

Canadian insurtech Breathe Life secures $4.5m funding

Canadian insurtech Breathe Life has gained C$4.5m ($m) funding in a seed round led by Diagram Ventures with participation from Real Ventures.

The technology company plans to spend the money for new hiring and continue the company’s expansion into the US.

Breathe Life offers white-label solutions to life and health carriers, distribution organisations, and advisors and help them to identify potential customers, match them to the right products and sell insurance on their smartphones or desktops.

Breathe Life co-founder and CEO Ian Jeffrey said: “The life insurance industry faces distribution challenges as more consumers expect a fast and seamless digital buying experience.

“At the same time, the opportunity for providers to target and engage with consumers on their own terms has never been greater.

“Breathe Life helps distributors tap into vast and underserved markets with digital solutions that make it more efficient and cost-effective both to find and acquire new customers and nurture existing ones.”

Breathe Life said that its customer and investor National Bank achieved an 18% increase in sales and a 26% increase in first-year premiums in just 13 weeks of using Breathe Life. The solution also helped the bank to cut the cost of customer acquisition by 33%.

Diagram Ventures founder and CEO Francois Lafortune said: “Breathe Life is helping insurance carriers and distributors to get ahead of the pack, taking advantage of the latest technologies to win market shares vs. traditional competitors and to compete head-to-head with technology-first new entrants.

“The experienced team of entrepreneurs and operators at Breathe Life have made incredible progress to date, and we look forward to supporting the company as it continues to grow.”

<https://www.canadianunderwriter.ca/inspress/breathe-life-secures-4-5-million-cad-to-modernize-how-life-insurance-is-bought-and-sold-helping-providers-and-advisors-reach-and-engage-underserved-markets/>

<https://www.bizjournals.com/newyork/prnewswire/press_releases/New_York/2019/02/26/UN64563>

<https://montrealgazette.com/business/montreal-startup-raises-4-5-million-to-help-sell-life-insurance-to-millennials>

Berkshire Hathaway GUARD to roll out new commercial package coverage

Berkshire Hathaway GUARD Insurance Companies is set to introduce a commercial package product designed to complement the company's current Businessowner's Policy.

The new commercial package product will include coverages for property, general liability, umbrella, and employment-related practices liability insurance (EPLI).

The package product, which will be initially launched in Pennsylvania with other states to follow, will address the insurance requirements of larger, more complex operations or businesses with multiple exposures.

Berkshire Hathaway GUARD Insurance Companies executive vice president Lyle Hitt said: “Our initial target markets include light-to-medium manufacturing, wholesalers and distributors, truck stops/travel plazas, resorts, and country clubs, and we will eventually expand into new markets.”

The commercial package will include commercial property coverage with built-in equipment breakdown, inland marine, and crime coverage.

It will also cover general liability with base limits of $1m to $6m with even higher limits considered; employment-related practices liability insurance (EPLI); and commercial umbrella for added protection.

Berkshire Hathaway GUARD Insurance Companies vice president of commercial package Ellen Hauser said: “GUARD's coverages are unique and built with a wide range of add-ons and industry-specific endorsements. We take a customised approach to expanding the limits and scope of traditional property and casualty insurance."

Berkshire Hathaway purchased GUARD in October 2012 and unveiled a new identity as Berkshire Hathaway GUARD Insurance Companies next year.

Berkshire Hathaway unveiled plans to expand into the [property construction insurance market in the UK and Ireland](https://www.verdict.co.uk/life-insurance-international/news/berkshire-hathaway-enters-property-construction-insurance-market-in-uk-and-ireland/).

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/berkshire-hathaway-guard-adding-commercial-package-coverage-300802326.html>

American personal care product maker Nu Skin Enterprises forays into Peru

Nu Skin Enterprises, an American producer and marketer of personal care products, has announced its plan to foray into Peru, as part of its strategy to strengthen company's presence in Latin America.

The company, which sells its products under Nu Skin and Pharmanex brands, will its Peruvian operation on 7 March this year in Lima, Peru.

Nu Skin Enterprises west region president Tyler Whitehead said: “Nu Skin's business in Latin America has seen incredible growth over the past year as our products and business opportunity continue to improve lives throughout the region.

“Peru is a well-established market for direct selling, and we have seen great anticipation from potential customers and sales leaders there. We are committed to investing in Peru as a new market and are confident in a successful future."

The company will provide a range of personal care products at launch with plans to introduce additional products over the coming months.

Nu Skin Enterprises president Ryan Napierski said: “For 35 years, Nu Skin has grown around the world by providing customers innovative products deeply rooted in science and technology and building a strong partnership with our sales leaders to help them succeed with a rewarding business opportunity.

“Providing our empowering products and opportunity to the people of Peru is the latest milestone in our growth initiatives and an exciting new chapter of Nu Skin's global operations.”

Nu Skin sells its products using a global network of direct sales leaders in Asia, the Americas, Europe, Africa and the Pacific.

*Skincare firm Nu Skin Enterprises enters in Peruvian market. Credit: UtahStizzle.*

Press release:

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/nu-skin-enterprises-expands-to-peru-300802529.html>

Image source:

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:NuskinBuildingProvo_(cropped).jpg>

Other source:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nu_Skin_Enterprises>

Nu Skin Enterprises Expands To Peru

PROVO, Utah, Feb. 26, 2019 /PRNewswire/ -- Nu Skin Enterprises, Inc. today announced plans to open in Peru, expanding the company's presence in Latin America. Peru will begin operations on March 7, 2019, with a grand opening event in Lima, Peru.

"Nu Skin's business in Latin America has seen incredible growth over the past year as our products and business opportunity continue to improve lives throughout the region," said Tyler Whitehead, West Region president. "Peru is a well-established market for direct selling, and we have seen great anticipation from potential customers and sales leaders there. We are committed to investing in Peru as a new market and are confident in a successful future."

Nu Skin will offer a selection of its most popular personal care products at launch with plans to introduce additional products over the coming months. A list of the innovative Nu Skin products available in Peru at launch and information on the grand opening can be found at https://www.nuskin.com/content/nuskin/en\_US/products/peru.html.

"For 35 years, Nu Skin has grown around the world by providing customers innovative products deeply rooted in science and technology and building a strong partnership with our sales leaders to help them succeed with a rewarding business opportunity. Providing our empowering products and opportunity to the people of Peru is the latest milestone in our growth initiatives and an exciting new chapter of Nu Skin's global operations," adds Ryan Napierski, president.

About Nu Skin Enterprises, Inc.

Founded more than 30 years ago, Nu Skin Enterprises, Inc. develops and distributes innovative consumer products, offering a comprehensive line of premium-quality beauty and wellness solutions. The company builds upon its scientific expertise in both skin care and nutrition to continually develop innovative product brands that include the Nu Skin® personal care brand, the Pharmanex® nutrition brand, and most recently, the ageLOC® anti-aging brand. The ageLOC brand has generated a loyal following for such products as the ageLOC LumiSpa skin cleansing and treatment device, ageLOC Youth nutritional supplement, the ageLOC Me® customized skin care system, as well as the ageLOC TR90® weight management and body shaping system. Nu Skin sells its products through a global network of sales leaders in Asia, the Americas, Europe, Africa and the Pacific. As a long-standing member of direct selling associations globally, Nu Skin is committed to the industry's consumer guidelines that protect and support those who sell and purchase its products through the direct selling channel. Nu Skin is also traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "NUS." More information is available at nuskin.com.

Runway upgrade at Italy’s Linate Airport will divert 30,000 flights during summer

Italy’s Linate Airport will shut down its operations for three months from 27 July to 27 October 2019 during the summer for maintenance of its runway.

As a result, nearly 30,000 flights will be diverted to other airports including Malpensa and Orio al Serio in Milan, reported eturbonews.com.

Malpensa Airport is expected to handle 100,000 to 120,000 travellers every day, instead of its usual daily 75,000 to 80,000 passengers.

The closure of Linate Airport will force flyers to opt for longer journey routes and sustain financial burden of costly air fares and additional transportation cost including taxis fares.

The move is expected to create a lot of frustration among holidaymakers, as they will have to wait for more time for long queues at security checkpoints and passport control.

Andrea Tucci, aviation director of aviation business development at SEA Group, is confident that the investments on new technologies will help manage additional air traffic from Milano to Malpensa.

SEA Group operates Linate as well as Milano Malpensa airports.

In order to manage the additional passenger traffic, Malpensa Airport will have to provide far more seats in waiting areas, additional staff for food and beverages outlets, and trained passenger assistance.

Alitalia, the flag carrier of Italy that operates the 66% of the movements in Linate Airport, has said that almost 200 of its flights from Milan Linate will be moved to Milan Malpensa.

The passengers who have already booked flights during the period of closure can opt to fly from Milan Malpensa or seek refunded.

Third party source:

<https://www.eturbonews.com/245925/30000-flights-wont-be-able-to-land-at-milans-airport-linate-during-italys-high-summer-season>

Other source:

<https://aeronauticsonline.com/milan-linate-closes-for-three-months-to-renew-the-airport/>

30,000 flights won’t be able to land at Milan’s Airport Linate during Italy’s high summer season

Milan’s Airport Linate is not only very passenger friendly but also very easy to reach from Milan’s city center.

There are three airports for Milan with Linate being the closest to the city center. It takes only 15-20 minutes to reach the city center of Milan, being 8 km away from Linate, and an average taxi fare costs 25 euros.

Milan’s Airport Linate will close for three months during the summer for maintenance of its runway.

Over 30,000 flights have to be moved from July 27 to October 27, 2019 to two other airports – mainly Malpensa.

The airport closure hits Milan Linate Airport during its busiest time of the year, which means 752 flights and nearly 100,000 seats – just in one week from July 29 to 4 August 4, 2019.

It also means that Malpensa has to digest 100,000 to 120,000 passengers a day, instead of its usual 75-80,000 passengers per day.

Passengers will have a much longer journey, and cheap flights are no longer cheap, as additional transportation might cost as much as the flight – taxis fares to Milan – Malpensa Airport are at 95 euros.

While back in October last year you could still book flights to Milan -Linate with15 daily flights just from London with British Airways and Alitalia to Linate for example, now there is only one problem, you will not land in Linate or take off from Linate Airport.

Most of the flights will be moved up north to Milan at Malpensa Airport, Varese, and 50 km away from Milan city center, or to Orio al Serio Bergamo which is 60 km away from the city center.

It was known in advance that Linate’s runways will be getting a make-over.

But operating airlines such as Air France, British Airways, Alitalia, KLM, Iberia, Lufthansa, Scandinavia Airlines, and Brussels Airlines for flights already sold did not exist on the airport’s homepage last year.

The move will cause a lot of frustration among holidaymakers

Linate is also a very important hub for Sardinia of Air Italy, former Meridiana and now part of Qatar Airways. The famous island of Sardinia where many Italians have their villas and their yachts is the summer hot spot not only for Italians but also for many foreigners attracted to the area.

Can Malpensa handle the airport traffic?

Malpensa is already known for long waiting times for the baggage. It has always been one of the main issues of the airport, and it likely will not get better this summer.

Travelers should calculate more time for long queues at security checkpoints and passport control when flying to Milan this summer.

Andrea Tucci, Aviation Director of aviation business development SEA – the company that is operating the two airports – is confident that the massive investments on new technologies will pay out for the big move of air traffic to Milano to Malpensa.

However, in checking the official website of Linate Airport, there is still nothing said about the forthcoming closure and everything seems normal. Until you get there.

The airport is not only done with investments of more technologies, it also needs far more seats in waiting areas, additional staff for food and beverages outlets, and trained passenger assistance, as Malpensa is going to have a hot summer and will have to handle a passenger increase of over 25 percent during this year’s peak summer months.

Delhi Police and Maruti Suzuki unveil red light and speed detection system

Car maker Maruti Suzuki in collaboration with Delhi Police unveiled ‘Red Light Violation Detection and Speed Violation Detection System (RLVDS and SVDS)’ to nab the traffic offenders.

The new detection system has been installed at nine signalised junctions in a 14-kms corridor between Dhaula Kuan and Sarai Kale Khan on Ring Road in Delhi.

The system, which is said to be first of its kind in the National Capital Region, will also promote road safety by using technology along with boosting transparent implementation of traffic rules.

Additionally, the fully automated system will seek to offer safe driving experience to motorists and help pedestrians in crossing the road safely. Also, it will boost compliance with road traffic rules and decrease accidents and fatalities at junctions.

Delhi Lieutenant Governor Anil Baijal said that the project displays the effective use of technology for better enforcement and creating a culture of compliance of traffic rules.

Equipped with modern 3-D radars and over 100 high resolution cameras, the new system operating round the clock can easily track presence of vehicles and violation of traffic rules.

The cameras capture multiple offences–Red Light Violation Detection (RLVD); Speed Violation Detection (SVD), Stop Line Violation, Wrong-Side Violation as well as the registration number of the violating vehicle.

After capturing the required information, the system automatically encrypts and transfers the data of violation to the centralised server at Delhi Traffic Police Headquarters in Todapur, near Naraina.

Subsequently, the system helps in generating e-challans along with photo evidence and sends it to the violators through SMS/email/post.

Moreover, the automated system can analyse data and produce trend reports for monitoring system-effectiveness and efficiency.

As part of its CST initiative, Maruti Suzuki has invested approximately Rs16 Crore to establish the system. The system will be maintained by implementation partners DIMTS and Aabmatica for a period of two years.

*Maruti Suzuki launches red light and speed detection system in Delhi. Credit: Kevan.*

Press release:

<https://www.marutisuzuki.com/corporate/media/press-releases/2019/delhi-police-and-maruti-suzuki-join-hands-for-launch-of-automated-red-light-violation>

Image source:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/kevandotorg/13829348104/>

Delhi Police and Maruti Suzuki join hands for launch of Automated Red Light Violation Detection and Speed Violation Detection System

Feb 26, 2019

Promotes road safety by use of technology to strengthen enforcement of traffic regulations transparently

An initiative of Delhi Police supported by Maruti Suzuki as part of its CSR

System set up at 9 signalised junctions between Dhaula Kuan & Sarai Kale Khan on Ring Road

New Delhi: Delhi Police and Maruti Suzuki India Limited, today jointly announced the launch of first of its kind “Red Light Violation Detection and Speed Violation Detection System”.

The initiative was launched by Hon’ble Lieutenant Governor Delhi, Shri Anil Baijal along with Mr. Amulya Patnaik, Commissioner, Delhi Police, Mr R C Bhargava, Chairman, Maruti Suzuki and Mr. Kenichi Ayukawa, Managing Director & CEO, Maruti Suzuki. The whole idea took birth at a meeting of Chairman Maruti with Hon’ble Lt. Governor Delhi, last year.

The initiative aims to provide safe driving experience to motorists, help pedestrians in crossing the road safely and improve compliance with road traffic rules, thereby reducing accidents and fatalities at junctions. The completely automated system, from violation-capturing till issuance of an e-challan, is expected to strengthen the rule enforcement with transparency. It is also expected to increase awareness on pedestrian safety and help in smooth traffic movement.

Advantages of RLVDS and SVDS

Create a culture of compliance among road users

Better enforcement with use of technology

Transparent and efficient

Capture multiple violations

Red light

High speed

Stop line

e-Challan; 24X7 operations

Launching the RLVDS and SVDS initiative, Hon’ble Lieutenant Governor Delhi, appreciated the efforts of Delhi Police and Maruti Suzuki to improve the road safety scenario in the city. Shri Anil Baijal said that the project displays the effective use of technology for better enforcement and creating a culture of compliance of traffic rules. The system will reinforce safety for motorists as well as pedestrians along with enabling smooth flow of traffic and bringing down accidents.

This high technology automated system is expected to instill a culture of discipline amongst motorists and promote adherence of traffic rules.

The system, set up along the Ring Road, is a 14-kms corridor between Dhaula Kuan and Sarai Kale Khan, covers high traffic intensity junctions. The project is the first of its kind in the National Capital Region and is aligned with Government’s focus to bring down accidents and fatalities in the country.

The new system has sophisticated 3-D radars and over 100 high resolution cameras to track presence of vehicles and violation of traffic rules. The cameras capture multiple offences–Red Light Violation Detection (RLVD); Speed Violation Detection (SVD), Stop Line Violation, WrongSide Violation along with the registration number of the violating vehicle.

The system automatically encrypts and transfers the data of violation to the centralized server at Delhi Traffic Police Headquarters in Todapur, near Naraina. The system facilitates generation of e-challans alongwith photo evidence and sends it to the violators through SMS/email/post. The system is also capable of doing data-analytics and generating trend reports for monitoring system-effectiveness and efficiency.

The system is capable of 24x7 operation and will specially benefit road users at night.

Maruti Suzuki has invested about Rs 16 Crore in setting up the system. From its launch, the high-tech system will be under the charge of Delhi Police while Maruti Suzuki along with its implementation partners – DIMTS and Aabmatica – will maintain it for two years.

Harris Corporation Completes Network Operations Control Center Supporting India’s Aviation Communications Infrastructure

<https://www.harris.com/press-releases/2019/02/harris-corporation-completes-network-operations-control-center-supporting>

Flight operations resume at 8 airports across north India

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/five-airports-closed-for-civilian-flights-say-officials/story-gfWz2RGGvbyofWQRvC3AHN.html>

UKEF supports Tamale Airport development

<https://www.adsadvance.co.uk/ukef-supports-tamale-airport-development.html>

[https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/business/Tamale-Airport-phase-2-to-take-off-Aviation-Min-announces-653776#](https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/business/Tamale-Airport-phase-2-to-take-off-Aviation-Min-announces-653776)

ADB SAFEGATE Launches Safedock X, a New Era in Airport Gate Operations

<https://blog.adbsafegate.com/adb-safegate-launches-safedock-x-a-new-era-in-airport-gate-operations/>

Istanbul Airport to directly employ 16,000 workers in first phase

<https://www.passengerterminaltoday.com/news/airport/istanbul-airport-to-directly-employ-16000-workers-in-first-phase.html>

<https://www.arabianaerospace.aero/16-000-people-to-be-employed-initially-at-istanbul-airport.html>

Contractors shortlisted for $354M North-South Corridor project

<http://www.roadsonline.com.au/contractors-shortlisted-for-354m-north-south-corridor-project/>

<https://www.infrastructure.sa.gov.au/nsc/regency_road_to_pym_street>

Improvements for Maitland roundabout

<http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/about/news-events/news/members-of-parliament/2019/190228-improvements-for-maitland-roundabout.html>

Bangladesh to have digital traffic system

<https://elevenmyanmar.com/news/bangladesh-to-have-digital-traffic-system-pm-asianewsnetwork>

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/government-affairs/2019/02/27/pm-govt-to-introduce-digital-traffic-system-in-dhaka>

Beazley, Marsh launch cyber & breach solution for US manufacturers

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/beazley-marsh-launch-cyber-breach-solution-for-us-manufacturers/>

Pay-by-mile car insurtech By Miles raises £5m Series A funding

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/pay-by-mile-car-insurtech-by-miles-raises-5m-series-a-funding-17784>

Trilogy MGA launches UK construction product

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/trilogy-mga-launches-uk-construction-product-17783>

Allianz, Generali and Liberty lining up bids for BBVA insurance arm: sources

<https://in.reuters.com/article/bbva-bancassurance-m-a/allianz-generali-and-liberty-lining-up-bids-for-bbva-insurance-arm-sources-idINKCN1QG2M1>

S.Africa's Liberty sells short-term insurance tech platform to Standard Bank

<https://in.reuters.com/article/liberty-holdings-ma-standard-bk-grp/safricas-liberty-sells-short-term-insurance-tech-platform-to-standard-bank-idINL5N20M6L1>

Eden Health Announces $10 Million Series A to Bring Integrated Primary Care and Insurance Navigation Solution Nationwide

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/eden-health-announces-10-million-series-a-to-bring-integrated-primary-care-and-insurance-navigation-solution-nationwide-300802972.html>

Munich Re Teams Up with CyberCube to Bolster Cyber Risk Analytics

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/munich-re-teams-up-with-cybercube-to-bolster-cyber-risk-analytics-300802523.html>

NSW government to upgrade traffic management at Maitland roundabout

The Government of New South Wales (NSW) in Australia has allocated nearly $1.5m ($m) to upgrade traffic management improvements at Maitland roundabout.

The investment will save travel times to motorists travelling through the New England Highway, Cessnock Road and Church Street roundabout at Maitland.

Additionally, the project will improve traffic flow and help to reduce congestion in the morning and afternoon traffic peaks.

Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Scot MacDonald said: “Work will start in April and involves installing traffic lights on the eastbound approach to the roundabout to help reduce westbound queues.

“The traffic lights are expected to better manage traffic in the afternoon peak by providing more frequent gaps between vehicles, to allow westbound traffic to travel through the roundabout,” MacDonald added.

As part of the project, traffic queue detectors will be installed on the New England Highway westbound approach to activate the traffic lights in the afternoon peak.

It will help move westbound traffic via the roundabout more swiftly. Beyond peak hours, the roundabout will operate normally.

The scope of the project also includes widening Cessnock Road to extend the left lane by approximately 100m to near the U-turn bay.

Liberal candidate for Maitland and Maitland councillor Sally Halliday said: “This will improve traffic flow and reduce the queue length on Cessnock Road in the morning peak, by providing additional lane capacity for traffic travelling through the roundabout to Church Street.”

Roads and Maritime Services of the NSW government will inform the community prior to work starts.

Press release:

<http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/about/news-events/news/members-of-parliament/2019/190228-improvements-for-maitland-roundabout.html>

Other source:

<https://www.maitlandmercury.com.au/story/5930027/traffic-lights-to-improve-peak-hour-congestion/>

<http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/projects/hunter/index.html>

Improvements for Maitland roundabout

Motorists travelling through the New England Highway, Cessnock Road and Church Street roundabout at Maitland will soon see traffic flow improvements with work starting to help reduce congestion.

Parliamentary Secretary for the Hunter Hon. Scot MacDonald MLC said the NSW Liberal National Government is investing $1.5 million in traffic management improvements to the roundabout to help improve travel times in the morning and afternoon traffic peaks.

“Work will start in April and involves installing traffic lights on the eastbound approach to the roundabout to help reduce westbound queues,” Mr MacDonald said.

“The traffic lights are expected to better manage traffic in the afternoon peak by providing more frequent gaps between vehicles, to allow westbound traffic to travel through the roundabout.”

Liberal candidate for Maitland Sally Halliday said she was thrilled to see progress towards addressing congestion issues. “While I have been out on the campaign trail speaking to Maitland residents, this has been one of the hot topic issues raised with me,” Mrs Halliday said.

Traffic queue detectors will be installed on the New England Highway westbound approach to trigger the traffic lights in the afternoon peak. Outside of peak hours, the roundabout will operate normally.

Mrs Halliday said work also includes widening Cessnock Road to extend the left lane by around 100 metres to near the U-turn bay.

“This will improve traffic flow and reduce the queue length on Cessnock Road in the morning peak, by providing additional lane capacity for traffic travelling through the roundabout to Church Street,” Mrs Halliday said.

Roads and Maritime Services will notify the community before work starts.

For more information on road projects, visit the the Hunter page.

Operations resume at nine airports across North India

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in India has announced that flight operations at all nine airports have resumed that were shut for civilian traffic amid intensifying tensions between India and Pakistan.

The airports at Srinagar, Jammu, Leh, Pathankot, Kangra, Kullu Manali, Amritsar, Shimla, Pithoragarh were closed in the morning of 27 February closed; however, flight operations have resumed as of now.

The closures of airports lead to cancellation of hundreds of flights while some of the flights moving Jammu, Leh and Srinagar airports were diverted to their origin stations.

Several airlines including Vistara, Jet Airways, GoAir and IndiGo issued statements about the cancelling of operations.

In a tweet, Vistara airlines said: “Due to airspace restrictions, flights to and from Amritsar, Srinagar, Chandigarh and Jammu are currently on hold. Customers are requested to check flight status before commencing their journey to the airport.”

Similarly, Jet Airways tweeted: “As per instructions from Delhi ATC regarding airport closure, flight operations to/from Amritsar, Srinagar, Jammu & Leh have been suspended until further notice. We request our guests check their flight status before proceeding to the airport.”

IndiGo and GoAir also announced that flights to and from Srinagar, Jammu, Chandigarh, Amritsar and Dehradun have been suspended temporarily.

With immediate effect, Air India has started avoiding the route of Pakistan air space for flights to Gulf countries, Europe and the US.

***Indian DGCA order resuming of fight operations resume at nine airports across North India. Credit: Philipp Katzenberger on Unsplash.***

Image source:

<https://unsplash.com/photos/bXKPQ3FSjGE>

Third party source:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/five-airports-closed-for-civilian-flights-say-officials/story-gfWz2RGGvbyofWQRvC3AHN.html>

Other sources:

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/airspace-shut-over-jammu-leh-and-srinagar-say-sources-1999943>

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/srinagar-jammu-leh-airports-closed-for-civilian-air-traffic/article26383477.ece>

<https://www.timesnownews.com/business-economy/industry/article/airport-news-india-pakistan-jet-airways-indigo-spicejet-goair-issue-advisory-5-airports-closed-amid-india-vs-pak-air-strike-tussle/373450>

Flight operations resume at 8 airports across north India

Airports at Srinagar, Jammu, Leh, Pathankot, Amritsar, Shimla, Kangra, Kullu Manali, Pithoragarh were among those closed, officials said.

Several airlines issued statements about the cancelling of operations.(HT Photo/Representative image)

Flight operations in all the eight airports across north India which were shut on Wednesday morning have resumed. The airports were closed for civilian air traffic in the morning, according to a statement by the Airports Authority of India.

A spokesperson of aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation said, “As of now, ops to these airports resumed.” Airports at Srinagar, Jammu, Leh, Pathankot, Amritsar, Shimla, Kangra, Kullu Manali, Pithoragarh were among those closed amid escalating tensions between India and Pakistan.

The Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) said airports in Jammu, Srinagar and Leh in Jammu and Kashmir and Shimla, Kangra, and Kullu in Himachal Pradesh were closed for commercial operations and most of the flights to and from these airports are cancelled. A NOTAM is issued for a stipulated period for closure of airspace and can be revised anytime.

Though the notification cited ‘technical reason’ for the closure of the airspace, multiple sources confirmed the instruction has come from the Indian Air Force (IAF).

National carrier Air India, which uses Pakistan airspace for westbound flights, had issued a direction to use alternative routes. Some international flights that use Indian and Pakistan airspace for transit had also started avoiding the route.

The move came after Pakistani aircraft violated Indian air space in the Nowshera sector of Jammu and Kashmir’s Rajouri district on Wednesday morning as Indian Air Force scrambled jets and pushed them back. News agency ANI reported that a Pakistan Air Force F-16 was shot down in Indian retaliatory fire in Nowshera’s Lam valley.

Officials said some of the flights towards Jammu, Leh and Srinagar airports were diverted to their origin stations.

Several airlines issued statements about the cancelling of operations.

“Due to airspace restrictions, flights to and from Amritsar, Srinagar, Chandigarh and Jammu are currently on hold,” Vistara airlines said in a tweet.

Jet Airways said as per instructions from Delhi air traffic control regarding airport closure, flight operations to Amritsar, Srinagar, Jammu and Leh have been suspended until further notice.

IndiGo also announced that flights to and from Srinagar, Jammu, Chandigarh, Amritsar and Dehradun have been temporarily suspended.

The air space violation by Pakistani aircraft comes a day after IAF jets flew across the Line of Control to blow up Jaish-e-Mohammed’s biggest terror camp.

The Pakistani government has claimed in a statement that its air force undertook strikes across the Line of Control “from within Pakistani airspace”. It said its strikes “were not a retaliation to continued Indian belligerence”.

ADB Safegate introduces new advanced visual docking guidance system for airports

ADB Safegate has rolled out its new docking guidance, aimed at providing fully automated safe docking to aircraft in all weather conditions while allowing maximum use of gates and thus supporting high traffic handling capacity.

Known as Safedock X Advanced Visual Docking Guidance System (A-VDGS), the new system uses surveillance technologies, modern display capabilities and advanced integration to deliver fully automated airport apron management.

Featuring a high-resolution full colour display, the Safedock X provides improved clarity for both pilots and ground staff. The display also shares more information to meet any apron management task.

As a result, the system becomes an important part in support of Airport Collaborative Decision Making (A-CDM) and helps to cut delays and shorten gate turns.

Additionally, Safedock X can manage different displays for air crew and ground crew while a mobile operator panel offers improved situational awareness and flexibility for ground crews.

Safedock X scanner can detect objects as small as 10cm X 10cm on the apron that could damage aircraft. It is also capable of monitoring approach accuracy as aircraft enter the gate to avoid accidents and delays.

The system helps in positive identification of the aircraft that decreases the risk of it docking at the wrong gate.

It can be easily integrated with the Advanced Surface Movement Guidance and Control System (A-SMGCS) to provide improved situational awareness and accurate turn predictability, and serves as an A-SMGCS sensor to avoid black spots near terminal buildings.

ADB Safegate CEO Christian Onselaere said: “Safedock X represents a new era in docking systems and apron management, with many features that help make docking and aircraft turnaround safer, faster and more efficient.

“This will enable synchronisation and management of landside resources such as baggage handling, catering, gate management and security as part of a long-term vision to help airports adopt Total Airport Management (TAM).”

Safedock X will be showcased at Inter Airport South East Asia from 27 February – 1 March 2019, where ADB Safegate will also show its other solutions for the airfield, apron and tower safety.

***ADB Safegate rolls out new advanced visual docking guidance system. Credit: ADB Safegate.***

Press release / Image source:

<https://blog.adbsafegate.com/adb-safegate-launches-safedock-x-a-new-era-in-airport-gate-operations/>

ADB Safegate launches Safedock X, a new era in airport gate operations

SINGAPORE. ADB SAFEGATE announces Safedock X, an innovative, next generation docking guidance solution designed to bring a new level of safety and efficiency to apron operations. ADB SAFEGATE’s new Safedock X Advanced Visual Docking Guidance System (A-VDGS) combines new surveillance technologies, modern display capabilities and advanced integration to ensure safe docking in all weather conditions and bring fully automated airport apron management a step closer to reality.

This latest member of the widely adopted Safedock family displays more information in more ways than ever before. It features a high-resolution full color display offering unprecedented clarity for both pilots and ground staff. Highly flexible, the new display can share more information to meet any apron management task, making it a key element in support of Airport Collaborative Decision Making (A-CDM), helping reduce delays and shorten gate turns.

Safedock X can also support separate displays for air crew and ground crew, while a mobile operator panel offers improved situational awareness and flexibility for ground crews.

Safedock X - Pilot view

An advanced sensor suite ensures fully automated safe docking in all weather conditions, allowing maximum use of gates and thus high traffic handling capacity. Safety is improved by the scanner’s ability to detect objects as small as 10 cm by 10 cm on the apron that could damage aircraft and by monitoring approach accuracy as aircraft enter the gate to avoid accidents and delays. A positive identification of the aircraft reduces the risk of it docking at the wrong gate.

The solution offers increased integration with other systems. Integrated with the Advanced Surface Movement Guidance and Control System (A-SMGCS) for greater situational awareness and accurate turn predictability, Safedock X acts as an A-SMGCS sensor to eliminate black spots near terminal buildings.

As well as improving apron utilization and thus raising airport performance, Safedock X offers low Total Cost of Ownership. With superior reliability and lifecycle costs, Safedock X has onboard preventive maintenance tools to minimize downtime. It also incorporates methods to manage heat efficiently, giving long component and system life, particularly in hot climates.

As a major development of the Safedock A-VDGS family, Safedock X will add to its impressive record of service. 18 million times a year, or every two seconds, an aircraft is safely docked with Safedock A-VDGS. Over 300 airports use Safedock A-VDGS and more than two billion passengers, or about half of all air travelers each year, get to the gate safely because of Safedock A-VDGS.

Safedock X represents a new era in docking systems and apron management, with many features that help make docking and aircraft turnaround safer, faster and more efficient

“Safedock X represents a new era in docking systems and apron management, with many features that help make docking and aircraft turnaround safer, faster and more efficient,” says Christian Onselaere, CEO, ADB SAFEGATE. “With its advanced integration systems, Safedock X is a major part of our strategy to interconnect airside systems with landside operations. This will enable synchronization and management of landside resources such as baggage handling, catering, gate management and security as part of a long-term vision to help airports adopt Total Airport Management (TAM).”

“Safedock X brings the future of fully automated, tightly integrated and intelligent docking and apron management closer to reality.”

Safedock X is launched at Inter Airport South East Asia (27 February – 1 March 2019), where ADB SAFEGATE will also show its other solutions designed to drive safety at the airfield, apron and tower.

ADB SAFEGATE provides integrated solutions that raise efficiency, improve safety, boost environmental sustainability and reduce operational costs for airports, airlines and ANSPs. The company works with airports and airlines to solve operational bottlenecks from approach to departure. Solutions encompass airfield lighting, tower-based traffic control systems, intelligent docking automation and services, as well as applying advanced IT and analytics to deliver industry-leading Total Airport Management. With more than 1,200 employees, ADB SAFEGATE serves more than 2,500 airports in more than 175 countries, from the busiest and largest like Atlanta, Beijing, Dubai, Heathrow, Charles De Gaulle, Frankfurt, Istanbul, New Delhi and Changi to fast-growing airports across Asia and Africa.

Pratt Industries to set up second paper packaging factory in Virginia

Pratt Industries has unveiled plans to set up a new paper packaging and shipping materials manufacturing facility in the Botetourt County Shell Building in Virginia, the US.

The new facility, which will be established with an investment of $20m, will be Pratt’s second manufacturing operation in Virginia.

Upon becoming operational, the factory will enable the company to boost the market share of its paper-based packaging and shipping materials Virginia and the neighbouring states.

Virginia Governor Ralph Northam said: “Pratt Industries’ decision to locate a new manufacturing operation at the Botetourt Center at Greenfield is an important win for the Roanoke region and the Commonwealth, and underscores the advantage of having infrastructure in place that accelerates the timeline to production.

“This major investment that will have strong positive impact on the regional economy and help advance Virginia’s thriving manufacturing industry.”

The new facility is expected to create nearly 50 jobs. The state and county will provide Pratt Industries with over $600,000 in performance-based incentives for the facility.

The first incentive of $300,000 Commonwealth Opportunity Fund grant will be given to Pratt once it creates 50 jobs and a minimum investment of $20.1m.

Additionally, the company will have to obtain a certificate of occupancy for the shell building with construction of an additional 60,000ft² of area. After the additional space, the total size of the building will be around 160,000ft².

Botetourt County will provide a second $300,000 economic development grant.

Secretary of Commerce and Trade Brian Ball said: “Pratt Industries is at the forefront of sustainable and recyclable packaging, and has led the way in the creation of green-collar jobs with over 8,000 employees worldwide.

“Advanced manufacturers of this caliber are a welcome addition to Virginia’s corporate roster, and we are confident that Pratt will be a strong addition to the Roanoke region’s booming manufacturing industry cluster.”

Press release:

<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/all-releases/2019/february/headline-838823-en.html>

Other source:

<https://www.roanoke.com/news/local/botetourt_county/packaging-company-to-invest-million-in-botetourt-county-s-greenfield/article_64ddf089-35c7-537b-8b65-2506d80020b6.html>

Governor Northam Announces 50 New Jobs in Botetourt County

Pratt Industries, Inc. to invest over $20 million to establish new packaging and shipping materials manufacturing operation

RICHMOND—Governor Ralph Northam today announced that Pratt Industries, Inc., the world’s largest privately held, 100 percent recycled paper and packaging company, will invest over $20 million to establish a new paper packaging and shipping materials manufacturing operation in the Botetourt County Shell Building. The facility will be Pratt’s second manufacturing operation in Virginia and will allow the company to increase market share and grow sales of its paper-based packaging and shipping materials within Virginia and the surrounding states. Virginia successfully competed with multiple states for the project, which will create 50 new jobs.

“Pratt Industries’ decision to locate a new manufacturing operation at the Botetourt Center at Greenfield is an important win for the Roanoke region and the Commonwealth, and underscores the advantage of having infrastructure in place that accelerates the timeline to production,” said Governor Northam. “We are proud to partner with an innovative, global manufacturer like Pratt Industries that shares Virginia’s commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainability. This major investment that will have strong positive impact on the regional economy and help advance Virginia’s thriving manufacturing industry.”

Since its founding almost 30 years ago, Pratt Industries, Inc. has grown to become the fifth-largest corrugated packaging company in the United States with sophisticated manufacturing facilities in over 27 states. The company’s more than 8,000 employees service a variety of industries with packaging and recycling needs while maintaining a commitment to the environment and sustainability. Pratt Industries’ products are primarily made from post-consumer recycled materials.

“We are thrilled that Pratt Industries will establish its second Virginia manufacturing operation in Botetourt County, expanding its footprint in the Commonwealth and creating 50 new jobs,” said Secretary of Commerce and Trade Brian Ball. “Pratt Industries is at the forefront of sustainable and recyclable packaging, and has led the way in the creation of green-collar jobs with over 8,000 employees worldwide. Advanced manufacturers of this caliber are a welcome addition to Virginia’s corporate roster, and we are confident that Pratt will be a strong addition to the Roanoke region’s booming manufacturing industry cluster.”

“Pratt Industries is excited to expand in Virginia,” said Chief Operating Officer of Pratt Industries David Dennis. “We are grateful to the Roanoke Regional Partnership, Botetourt County, and VEDP for their efforts to bring Pratt to Botetourt County.”

The Virginia Economic Development Partnership worked with Botetourt County, the Roanoke Regional Partnership, and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to secure the project for Virginia. Governor Northam approved a $300,000 grant from the Commonwealth’s Opportunity Fund to assist Botetourt County with the project. Pratt Industries is eligible for Sales and Use tax exemptions on manufacturing equipment, as well as recycling tax credits for the processing of recyclable materials.

“We are delighted to welcome an industry leader and environmentally conscious company to Botetourt County,” said Botetourt County Board of Supervisors Chairman Billy Martin. “Pratt Industries is a quality company and good-paying jobs are exactly what we want to attract to Botetourt County.”

“Adding 50 new jobs with a capital investment of more than $20 million is a significant commitment to our area, and we are so pleased that Pratt Industries has placed their confidence in Botetourt County by choosing to grow here,” said Senator Steve Newman. “Our skilled workforce welcomes Pratt Industries. I’d like to extend a special thank you to the Botetourt County Office of Economic Development and to the County Board of Supervisors for their vision and leadership. Their work, along with the Roanoke Regional Partnership and the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, has once again added valuable development to our region.”

“This announcement is another example of industry and government working together to leverage their respective strengths to attract investment and create jobs,” said Delegate Terry Austin. “Pratt Industries has quickly established itself as a leader in the packaging industry with its use of 100 percent recycled products, and its presence in Botetourt will complement the recent economic announcements we have had in the past few years. The Botetourt County Shell Building in the Greenfield Industrial Park is the result of dedicated strategic planning, and it is good to see this decades-long vision continue its path towards fruition. Thank you to all of the people and organizations that made this announcement possible.”

Allianz, Generali compete with Liberty to grab slice of BBVA insurance business

Germany-based insurance major Allianz and Italian insurer Generali are vying with American rival Liberty Mutual to grab a slice of the bancassurance business of Spanish lender BBVA.

Four sources familiar with the development told Reuters that the successful bidders will be allowed to purchase a minimum of 50% in each of BBVA’s insurers across the world, including Spanish and Mexican businesses.

BBVA launched the sale of its bancassurance business towards the end of last year and appoint Bank of America to oversee the process.

The sources told the publication that the Spanish bank intends to structure the operation into a joint venture within a network of insurers across Spain, Mexico and Latin America.

The entire network is expected to be valued at approximately $1.7bn. BBVA’s bancassurance business offers life, health, home and car insurance products to its customers.

However, BBVA will not offload its life insurance network in Spain which will continue to be a core part of the Spanish lender, two of the sources told the news agency.

BBVA is not in hurry to seal the deal, as the bank wants to find a sound buyer which has a full proof plan to develop its client network across Spain and South America.

“This is a slow-moving process as bidders need time to finalise their business plans and BBVA wants to be actively involved in drafting the industrial strategy,” one source told Reuters.

Allianz, Generali and Liberty Mutual are set to submit non-binding proposals while the final bidders will be shortlisted by March-end.

The German insurer is seen as a possible front-runner for the deal, the sources added.

<https://in.reuters.com/article/bbva-bancassurance-m-a/allianz-generali-and-liberty-lining-up-bids-for-bbva-insurance-arm-sources-idINKCN1QG2M1>

Eden Health rakes up $10m funding to support expansion across US

Eden Health, a US-based primary care and insurance navigation firm for employers, has gained $10m in a Series A funding round to support the expansion across the US.

The round, which was led by existing investor Greycroft, also saw the participation from existing investors including PJC, 645 Ventures and Max Ventures as well as from new investors Convene, Aspect Ventures and Brand Foundry.

Eden Health offers integrated solution for employers across primary care, mental healthcare and insurance navigation.

Upon downloading the Eden Health app, the employees can connect with a personal care team that offers digital care round the clock, same-day in-person care at an Eden Health medical office, specialist guidance and referrals, and insurance navigation.

Eden Health co-founder and CEO Matt McCambridge said: “While the explosion of digital tools has resulted in new ways to think about and manage our health, it has also added even more complexity to a highly fragmented benefits market. Employees are expected to navigate through dozens of distinct solutions, often while they are sick and least able to manage their care.

“We founded Eden Health so employers could provide their employees with a simple, personalized way to access the best healthcare in the world and navigate the complicated insurance landscape.

“Based on our rapid growth, it's clear that employees are looking for a central hub and a personalized care team to guide them along every step of their unique healthcare journey."

Following its roll out in 2018, Eden Health's solution has launched in multiple US states and will have nationwide coverage by the end of the year.

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/eden-health-announces-10-million-series-a-to-bring-integrated-primary-care-and-insurance-navigation-solution-nationwide-300802972.html>

Munich Re selects CyberCube’s insurance analytics to boost cyber risk analytics

Munich Re has selected CyberCube’s cyber insurance analytics platform to support quantification, modelling and control cyber accumulation risk.

As per terms of the agreement, CyberCube will provide advanced risk modeling capabilities to Munich Re with several cyber risk aggregation scenarios.

It will help the German reinsurer to deal with the cyber challenges in the fast-evolving risks landscape.

CyberCube said that its cyber risk-modeling platform enables (re)insurers to boost their accumulation risk management and exposure measurement across multiple insured portfolios.

Munich Re chief underwriter Stefan Golling said: “Cyber insurance is a key focus of our innovation strategy. We have made significant investments in our own cyber risk expertise and we seek to complement this with insights from the cyber eco-system.

“Leveraging the capabilities of CyberCube will help our underwriting and risk modelling teams in better quantifying cyber risk and understanding potential cyber accumulation scenarios."

CyberCube CEO Pascal Millaire said: “CyberCube is delighted to support Munich Re in making significant progress to tackle one of the largest opportunities – and threats – to the global P&C (re)insurance market in our generation.

“Our industry-leading cyber risk-modeling platform is powered by several best-in-class data sources and Symantec's leading threat intelligence. We are pleased to use these capabilities to support a leader in the reinsurance market."

Munich Re, founded in 1880, operates in all lines of the insurance business across the globe.

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/munich-re-teams-up-with-cybercube-to-bolster-cyber-risk-analytics-300802523.html>

South African insurer Liberty to divest insurance tech platform to Standard Bank

Liberty Holdings, a South Africa-based insurance company, has signed an agreement to divest its technology platform to Standard Bank Group for ZAR145m ($10.45m).

The technology platform, which supports Liberty’s short-term insurance business, enables its financial advisers to offer a more comprehensive product offering that supports clients on their life journey.

Standard Insurance, a wholly owned subsidiary of Standard Bank Group, underwrites these short-term products which enable customers to pro-actively manage their short-term risk by using an enhanced digital capability.

In a statement, Liberty said: “The transaction provides Liberty Holdings with the opportunity to reduce future capital requirements and de-risk its business.”

The proceeds will be used to support Liberty’s existing business and to provide numerous initiatives under its turnaround strategy.

Liberty said for the financial period ended 31 December 2018, the recorded loss attributable to the business from costs incurred in establishing the technology platform was ZAR51m ($3.68m) and the capitalised expenditure incurred up to 31 December 2018 was ZAR94m ($6.73m).

<https://in.reuters.com/article/liberty-holdings-ma-standard-bk-grp/safricas-liberty-sells-short-term-insurance-tech-platform-to-standard-bank-idINL5N20M6L1>

<https://www.moneyweb.co.za/wp-content/uploads/ftp/senspdfs/SENS_20190227_S411575.pdf>

<https://businesstech.co.za/news/banking/302256/liberty-sells-short-term-insurance-technology-platform-to-standard-bank/>

Indian PM to inaugurate and lay foundation of $423m highway projects in Tamil Nadu

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate and lay foundation of a number of highway projects worth Rs29.95bn ($422.77m) in the state of Tamil Nadu.

These projects are expected to slash pollution level, provide faster and safer journey, decrease travel time while helping to save fuel, PTI reported.

In a statement, the Indian Ministry of Road Transport and Highways said: “Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will dedicate to the nation and lay the foundation stones for five National Highways projects worth Rs29.95bn ($422.77m) in Kanyakumari tomorrow.”

The prime minister will inaugurate the two/four lane of Madurai-Ramnathpuram section of NH-87 (Old NH-49) that connects Madurai, Sivaganga, and Ramnathpuram districts.

Additionally, he will also handover a flyover at Marthandum and Parvathipuram junctions of NH-47 in Kanniyakumari district.

Furthermore, the PM will dedicate four lane section of NH-44 from Panagudi to Kanniyakumari as well as Narikulam Tank portion in Kanniyakumari district.

Also, Modi will lay the foundation stone for four-lane of Madurai-Chettikulam-Natham section of NH-785 in Madurai and Dindigul districts.

In the second week of February, Modi laid the foundation stone of Rs19.38bn ($273.55m) NH 31 D highway project in Jalpaiguri, in the Indian state of West Bengal.

As per the project details, the 41.7km-long National Highway section will include eight major bridges, 17 minor bridges, three vehicular underpasses, three railway over bridges, as well as two flyovers.

Upon becoming operational, the highway project is expected to reduce the distance from Salsalabari and Alipurduar to Siliguri by around 50km.

Third party source:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/pm-to-launch-lay-foundation-of-rs-2995-cr-highway-projects-in-tn/articleshow/68201996.cms>

Other sources:

<https://www.devdiscourse.com/article/business/428956-modi-to-visit-kanyakumari-to-lay-foundation-for-5-nh-projects-worth-rs-3000-cr>

<https://www.financialexpress.com/infrastructure/roadways/pm-modi-in-west-bengal-lays-foundation-stone-for-national-highway-project-how-it-will-benefit-local-people/1481321/>

PM to launch, lay foundation of Rs 2,995 cr highway projects in TN

He will also launch a road safety park and transport museum there.

These projects will benefit the local populace by way of reduced pollution, fast and safe journey, reduced travel time, and fuel saving, it said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch and lay foundation stone for highway projects worth Rs 2,995 crore in Tamil Nadu on Friday, the government said.

He will also launch a road safety park and transport museum there.

"Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will dedicate to the nation and lay the foundation stones for five National Highways projects worth Rs 2,995 crore in Kanyakumari tomorrow," Ministry of Road Transport and Highways said in a statement here Thursday.

The prime minister will dedicate to the nation the two/four laning of Madurai-Ramnathpuram section of NH-87 (Old NH-49) falling in Madurai, Sivaganga, and Ramnathpuram districts, a flyover at Marthandum and Parvathipuram junctions of NH-47 falling in Kanniyakumari district, and four laning from Panagudi to Kanniyakumari section of NH-44 (Old NH-7) and Narikulam Tank portion in Kanniyakumari district, it said.

Modi will lay the foundation stone for four-laning of Madurai-Chettikulam-Natham section of NH-785 in Madurai and Dindigul districts, the statement added.

These projects will benefit the local populace by way of reduced pollution, fast and safe journey, reduced travel time, and fuel saving, it said.

Airport operator IGA to hire 16,000 staff for Istanbul Airport

Turkish airport operator IGA has unveiled plans to recruit 16,000 employees initially for the newly opened Istanbul Airport.

According to the plan, the operator will hire 2,700 staff for operations, 3,522 security staff as well as approximately 2,000 people to manage duty free and retail operations at the airport.

Ground handling firms Havas will hire 1,178 staff while Çelebi will recruit 2,000 workers. A further 2,532 people will be hired to work in cleaning, valet and parking departments.

Nearly 1,300 people will be employed to manage the food court services while almost 1,000 will work in other retail areas.

Furthermore, Turkish Airlines will also recruit additional staff as per the demand to manage the expanded operations at the airport.

IGA CEO Kadri Samsunlu said: “In cooperation with our business partners, we will achieve a number of employees that by far exceeds that of Atatürk Airport.

“Considering the phases that will come into play in the future, the numbers we have achieved at our initial phase display the major employment potential at the airport.

“Obviously, the human resources policies of such a broad system should be managed through effective planning and great care.”

Of 1,085 staff who are currently working in operations with IGA, almost 155 are blue collar, 930 are white collar, 30% are female, 70% are male.

IGA said that it will high levels of diversity and equality among its workforce.

Samsunlu added. “We have a young and dynamic team. Considering the averages, we have set ourselves a goal to further increase the number of female employees in the upcoming period. Our goal is to hire young talents who will shape the world aviation sector.

“To that end, we have already initiated our internship and training programs,” he said. “In 2018, 79 students interned in various departments of ours, and 18 of these students were able to get a job in those departments upon completion of their internship.”

Istanbul Airport is expected to create around 225,000 jobs and will contribute an additional household income of $4.4bn by 2025, according to a survey commissioned by IGA in 2016.

Third party source:

<https://www.passengerterminaltoday.com/news/airport/istanbul-airport-to-directly-employ-16000-workers-in-first-phase.html>

Other source:

<https://www.arabianaerospace.aero/16-000-people-to-be-employed-initially-at-istanbul-airport.html>

Istanbul Airport to directly employ 16,000 workers in first phase

Turkish airport operator IGA plans to hire more than 16,000 members of staff during the first wave of recruitment for the newly opened Istanbul Airport.

Plans include 2,700 hires in operations, 3,522 in security and 2,000 in duty free and retail. Ground handling firms Havas and Çelebi will hire 1,178 and 2,000 workers respectively, with a further 2,532 hires in cleaning, valet and parking services; 1,300 in the food court; and around 1,000 in other retail areas. Turkish Airlines will also provide further employment in accordance with the expansion strategy of the airport.

Kadri Samsunlu, CEO of IGA, said, “In cooperation with our business partners, we will achieve a number of employees that by far exceeds that of Atatürk Airport. Considering the phases that will come into play in the future, the numbers we have achieved at our initial phase display the major employment potential at the airport. Obviously, the human resources policies of such a broad system should be managed through effective planning and great care.”

Among IGA’s 1,085 team members currently working in operations, 155 are blue collar, 930 are white collar, 70% are male, 30% are female and the average age is 32. IGA plans to carefully monitor its employment strategy to ensure high levels of diversity and equality moving forward.

“We have a young and dynamic team,” added Samsunlu. “Considering the averages, we have set ourselves a goal to further increase the number of female employees in the upcoming period. Our goal is to hire young talents who will shape the world aviation sector.

“To that end, we have already initiated our internship and training programs,” he said. “In 2018, 79 students interned in various departments of ours, and 18 of these students were able to get a job in those departments upon completion of their internship.”

An economic impact survey commissioned by IGA in 2016 found that, by 2025, Istanbul Airport would be responsible for creating 225,000 jobs, either directly or indirectly, contributing an additional household income of US$4.4bn. It would also make a contribution to the Turkish economy equal to 4.9% of the national income in 2025.

Acceptance Insurance Provides Bus Passes to Veterans

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/acceptance-insurance-provides-bus-passes-to-veterans-300804377.html>

Triple+ and Berkshire Hathaway GUARD Insurance Companies Partner on Smart Water Leak Prevention Pilot Project

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/triple-and-berkshire-hathaway-guard-insurance-companies-partner-on-smart-water-leak-prevention-pilot-project-300804209.html>

Skuld to cease Lloyd's syndicate 1897 as profits slip; expects job cuts

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/skuld-to-cease-lloyd-s-syndicate-1897-as-profits-slip-expects-job-cuts-17794>

Cincinnati Financial completes acquisition of Munich Re subsidiary

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/cincinnati-financial-completes-acquisition-of-munich-re-subsidiary/>

JLT & Allianz partner on corporate reputation cover for SMEs

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/jlt-allianz-partner-on-corporate-reputation-cover-for-smes/>

Skincare/Wellness+Stem Cell & Full-Spectrum Hemp Company TresMonet™ Fast-Tracks Official Launch, Announcement of Executive Team and First Products After Beauty and Business Leaders Declare Company A Brand To Watch

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/skincarewellnessstem-cell--full-spectrum-hemp-company-tresmonet-fast-tracks-official-launch-announcement-of-executive-team-and-first-products-after-beauty-and-business-leaders-declare-company-a-brand-to-watch-300804017.html>

Decernis Announces gComply Module for Cosmetics

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/decernis-announces-gcomply-module-for-cosmetics-300803777.html>

ALASTIN Skincare® Unveils New TriHex Preview Regimen During AAD (American Academy of Dermatology)

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/alastin-skincare-unveils-new-trihex-preview-regimen-during-aad-american-academy-of-dermatology-300803688.html>

Regency Road to Pym Street Project request for proposal

<https://minister.infrastructure.gov.au/tudge/releases/2019/february/at019_2019.aspx>

<http://www.roadsonline.com.au/contractors-shortlisted-for-354m-north-south-corridor-project/>

Daimler AG and BMW Group to jointly develop next-generation technologies for automated driving

<https://media.daimler.com/marsMediaSite/en/instance/ko.xhtml?oid=42640196&ls=L2VuL2luc3RhbmNlL2tvLnhodG1sP29pZD00ODM2MjU4JnJlbElkPTYwODI5JmZyb21PaWQ9NDgzNjI1OCZib3JkZXJzPXRydWUmcmVzdWx0SW5mb1R5cGVJZD00MDYyNiZ2aWV3VHlwZT10aHVtYnM!&rs=0>

CCEA approves construction of four-lane bridge over Brahmaputra

<https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/ccea-approves-construction-of-four-lane-bridge-over-brahmaputra-119030100027_1.html>

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/govt-nod-for-4-lane-bridge-over-brahmaputra/articleshow/68208818.cms>

Alastin Skincare to introduce new TriHex Preview Regimen during AAD

Alastin Skincare, a US-based clinically-tested skin care products maker, is set to unveil the TriHex Preview Regimen with TriHex Technology at the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) meeting held between 1-5 March.

The comprehensive trial kit provides a full regimen of Alastin's daily skincare line in TSA-friendly sizes, which are said to be suitable for the users who are using TriHex Technology first-time. It is also ideal for enthusiastic Alastin users who want their must-have skincare in travel-ready sizes.

The Alastin TriHex Preview Regimen with TriHex Technology features Gentle Cleanser, Restorative Skin Complex with TriHex Technology, Ultra Nourishing Moisturizer with TriHex Technology as well as HydraTint Pro Mineral Broad Spectrum SPF 36.

Gentle Cleanser removes environmental pollutants and makeup and helps to clean and soothe skin; and Restorative Skin Complex with TriHex Technology is a serum deals with fine lines and wrinkles, helps restore volume to skin and helps even skin tone.

Ultra Nourishing Moisturizer with TriHex Technology featuring antioxidants and soothing phyto-nutrients along with a blend of botanicals helps calm over-exposed, stressed skin and maintain its barrier function.

HydraTint Pro Mineral Broad Spectrum SPF 36 protects the skin from environmental pollution and provides skin with the most gorgeous natural glow.

The Preview Regimen, which retails for $175, can be used up to four weeks.

Alastin claims that its products are paraben-free, cruelty-free, and gluten-free and are suitable for all skin types

***American skincare firm Alastin to unveil new TriHex Preview Regimen during AAD. Credit: PRNewsfoto/ALASTIN Skincare, Inc.***

Press release / Image source:

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/alastin-skincare-unveils-new-trihex-preview-regimen-during-aad-american-academy-of-dermatology-300803688.html>

ALASTIN Skincare® Unveils New TriHex Preview Regimen During AAD (American Academy of Dermatology)

CARLSBAD, Calif., Feb. 28, 2019 /PRNewswire/ -- ALASTIN Skincare®, Inc., a specialty aesthetics company dedicated to developing and marketing innovative, clinically-tested physician-dispensed skin care products with patented TriHex Technology®, announces the launch of the TriHex Preview Regimen With TriHex Technology® at the American Academy of Dermatology meeting March 1-5, 2019 in Washington DC.

(PRNewsfoto/ALASTIN Skincare, Inc.)

The comprehensive trial kit offers a full regimen of ALASTIN's daily skincare line in TSA-friendly sizes that are ideal for first-time TriHex Technology users as well as for avid ALASTIN users who want their must-have skincare in travel-ready sizes.

The ALASTIN TriHex Preview Regimen with TriHex Technology contains the brand's best-sellers in one chic, convenient case which includes:

Gentle Cleanser - This sulfate-free gel cleanser features a unique blend of moisturizers and antioxidants to clean and soothe skin while effortlessly removing environmental pollutants and makeup.

Restorative Skin Complex with TriHex Technology® – This fast-absorbing serum promotes skin's natural ability to produce new, healthy elastin and collagen to combat environmental exposure. It tackles fine lines and wrinkles, helps restore volume to skin and helps even skin tone.

Ultra Nourishing Moisturizer with TriHex Technology® - A blend of botanicals helps calm over-exposed, stressed skin while powerful antioxidants and soothing phyto-nutrients help maintain skin's barrier function.

HydraTint Pro Mineral Broad Spectrum SPF 36 – This luxe tinted SPF glides on for a lightweight, flattering finish and gives skin the most gorgeous natural glow. Powerful antioxidants protect the skin from environmental pollution in this all-physical broad-spectrum, oil-free mineral formulation.

The Preview Regimen allows for up to four weeks of use and offers a great introduction to ALASTIN's key patented TriHex Technology formulations. TriHex Technology helps support the skin's ability to rebuild and recycle the extracellular matrix (ECM) by clearing out the damaged byproducts of aging from exposure to sun and pollution, promoting the skin's ability to generate fresh, new skin that is strong and supple. TriHex Technology goes beyond traditional skincare to help reawaken the skin's natural ability to rejuvenate itself, leading to a more youthful appearance and healthier skin while enhancing skin elasticity and youthful volume.

Formulated for all skin types, ALASTIN products are paraben-free, cruelty-free, and gluten-free.

The TriHex Preview Regimen retails for $175 and can be purchased from ALASTIN Skincare aesthetic physicians' offices. Visit www.alastin.com to find a physician retailer near you.

About ALASTIN Skincare, Inc.

ALASTIN Skincare is dedicated to developing innovative, clinically-tested skin care products that correct, protect and maintain healthy skin for a lifetime. Our unparalleled Procedure Enhancement and Restore & Renew products are formulated with a proprietary combination of key peptides and other synergistic ingredients using the latest technology and are clinically tested to demonstrate safety and their ability to help reawaken the skin's youthful regenerating processes.

Daimler partner with BMW to jointly develop self-driving technologies

German luxury car makers BMW and Daimler - maker of Mercedes-Benz cars – have teamed up to develop automated driving and driver assistance systems.

Both the partners have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to jointly develop the so-called level three and four systems next generation of self-driving technology, which is scheduled to be market-ready by 2025.

Daimler board of management member Ola Källenius said: “Autonomous driving is one of the most revolutionary trends for us at the moment, and the entire Daimler Group is working very hard on it. As always at Daimler, our top priority is safety.

“Instead of individual, stand-alone solutions, we want to develop a reliable overall system that offers noticeable added-value for customers. Working with the right partners, we want to make significant advances in enhancing the performance of this technology and bring it safely on the road.”

The two partners said that the joint development of the self-driving technology will be carried out through a scalable architecture including several stages of automation, with levels 3 and 4 to support automated driving on highways.

Going forward, BMW and Daimler will consider the possibility of extending their partnership, aimed at covering higher levels of automation, both on highways and in urban areas.

The latest collaboration will not affect the ongoing collaborations of the two companies and will continue as before.

In future, both Daimler and BMW will also explore additional partnerships with other technology companies and automotive makers, so that the platform can become more successful in the market.

BMW board of management member Klaus Fröhlich said: “As we continue to pursue our strategy, we are combining the expertise of two technology leaders.

At the BMW Group, long-term partnerships within a flexible, scalable, non-exclusive platform are fundamental to advancing the industrialisation of autonomous driving.

“Combining the key expertise of our two companies will boost our innovative strength and speed up the spread of this technology.”

***German luxury car makers BMW and Daimler to develop level three and four systems next generation of self-driving technology. Credit: Daimler AG.***

Press release / Image source:

<https://media.daimler.com/marsMediaSite/en/instance/ko.xhtml?rs=0&ls=L2VuL2luc3RhbmNlL2tvLnhodG1sP29pZD00ODM2MjU4JnJlbElkPTYwODI5JmZyb21PaWQ9NDgzNjI1OCZib3JkZXJzPXRydWUmcmVzdWx0SW5mb1R5cGVJZD00MDYyNiZ2aWV3VHlwZT10aHVtYnM!&oid=42640196>

Other sources:

<https://auto.ndtv.com/news/bmw-and-daimler-ag-joins-hands-to-develop-self-driving-cars-2000702>

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-02-28/daimler-bmw-deepen-cooperation-with-self-driving-car-venture>

Daimler AG and BMW Group to jointly develop next-generation technologies for automated driving

28.

February 2019

Stuttgart/Munich

Long-term strategic cooperation planned

Next generation of technologies for driver assistance systems and highly automated driving on highways (SAE Level 3 and Level 4)Technology to be market ready by mid-2020sKlaus Fröhlich: Consistent pursuit of scalable platform strategy and pooling of expertise from two technology leaders

Ola Källenius: Working with the right partners, we want to continue enhancing this technology and get it ready for the road.

Goal: a flexible platform and shorter innovation cycles

Stuttgart/Munich. The Daimler AG and BMW Group are to join forces on automated driving. Initially, the focus will be on advancing the development of next-generation technologies for driver assistance systems, automated driving on highways and parking features (up to SAE Level 4). The two companies have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to jointly develop this technology, which is key for future mobility. The Daimler AG and BMW Group view their partnership as a long-term, strategic cooperation and aim to make next-level technologies widely available by the middle of the coming decade.

Ola Källenius, Member of the Board of Management of Daimler AG, responsible for Group Research and Mercedes-Benz Cars Development said: “Autonomous driving is one of the most revolutionary trends for us at the moment, and the entire Daimler Group is working very hard on it. As always at Daimler, our top priority is safety. Instead of individual, stand-alone solutions, we want to develop a reliable overall system that offers noticeable added-value for customers. Working with the right partners, we want to make significant advances in enhancing the performance of this technology and bring it safely on the road.”

“As we continue to pursue our strategy, we are combining the expertise of two technology leaders. At the BMW Group, long-term partnerships within a flexible, scalable, non-exclusive platform are fundamental to advancing the industrialisation of autonomous driving. Combining the key expertise of our two companies will boost our innovative strength and speed up the spread of this technology,” said Klaus Fröhlich, Member of the Board of Management of BMW AG, Development.

The planned cooperation offers the Daimler AG and BMW Group a number of obvious advantages: the skills and experience of the individual partners and a scalable architecture will speed up and streamline the development of future technology generations. Besides the synergies, new technologies will be faster to market, with shorter innovation cycles. For both companies, the safety of vehicle occupants and other road users is of the utmost importance and a key reason for making the reliability of systems a key criterion for the collaboration. The two partners continue to pursue their goal of being the pace-setter in development.

Joint development work will be carried out via a scalable architecture covering several stages of automation, with Levels 3 and 4 enabling automated driving on highways. In addition, the two partners plan to discuss the possibility of extending their collaboration to cover higher levels of automation, both on highways and in urban areas. These considerations underline the sustainable, long-term nature of the cooperation, which includes the aim to create a scalable platform for automated driving. The development of current-generation technologies and ongoing collaborations of the two companies will remain unaffected and continue as before. Ongoing development of latest-generation technologies and existing collaborations will remain unaffected by the projected cooperation and go ahead as planned. The Daimler AG and BMW Group will also explore additional partnerships with other technology companies and automotive manufacturers that could contribute to the success of the platform.

Autonomous driving at Daimler AG

Daimler AG has been working on series development projects not only for specific Level 3 vehicles but also for Levels 4 and 5. Long a leader in active safety systems, it programmed its systems largely in-house right from the very beginning. 2019 will see the launch in San José, Silicon Valley, of its first pilot programme, with Bosch, on self-driving vehicles (Levels 4/5) in urban environments. This will be the next milestone within the existing cooperation between both partners and the cooperation will continue as planned. Early next decade, Daimler will bring to the market not only highly automated (Level 3) vehicles but also fully automated (Level 4/5) vehicles. It is the only to the OEM in the world to be so well-positioned to apply autonomous driving in every relevant context, from passenger cars and vans to buses and trucks, and is therefore relying on scalable solutions to deliver automated driving.

Autonomous driving at the BMW Group

The BMW Group has been working on highly automated driving since 2006, and has established a non-exclusive platform with technology specialists, suppliers and OEMs to take it to series maturity. Since 2017, work in this area has been consolidated at the Autonomous Driving Campus in Unterschleissheim, just north of Munich, and the industrialisation and scalability of the technology is being advanced with the support of partners. Brand new agile software development is used at the Campus to speed up development of the platform and set new industry standards. Around the world, more than 70 test vehicles are trialling state-of-the-art technology. They collect data in order to improve machine learning with artificial intelligence through simulations and test new Level 2 - 5 functions out on the road. The generation of technologies that is currently under development will go into series production as Level 3 automation in 2021 in the BMW iNEXT where it will also be Level 4 enabled for pilot projects.

Also read the blog post by Dr. Michael Hafner, Head of Drive Technologies and Automated Driving Mercedes-Benz Cars Development, about the strategic cooperation with BMW regarding the topic automated driving at the following link:

<https://blog.daimler.com/en/2019/02/28/mercedes-bmw-automated-driving-joint-venture-cooperation/>

Skanska USA and HOK complete $154m expansion of Tampa Airport’s main terminal

Construction and development specialist Skanska USA and design firm HOK have wrapped up the $154m expansion and renovation of the main terminal building at the Tampa International Airport.

The new and upgraded structure, whose construction began in 2014, will improve the passenger experience and help them to easily find their way. It will also expand concession options for passengers at the airport.

The work, which forms part of a three-phase expansion and modernisation project, will enable Tampa Airport to manage up to 34 million passengers per annum.

In 2018, the airport served a record 21 million passengers and is expected to continue to grow this year.

Skanska was responsible for expanding the main terminal transfer level and redevelopment of the airport’s main terminal and functional improvements to airsides A, C, E and F.

As part of the transfer level expansion, Skanska raised the former east and west outdoor decks, built four transfer-level terraces, transferred all four shuttle car lobbies to the airsides, and created space for a food court by relocating the former airside D shuttle lobby.

The company also improved the ticket and baggage claim way-finding signage.

The redeveloped main terminal building includes improvement across the entire floor, creation of additional seating areas, intermixing of airside concessions, and making four outdoor terraces accessible to meters-greeters, passengers and employees.

Additionally, the airside functional improvements for all gate lounges included power poles, seating options, recycle units as well as the interconnected concessions.

In total, the project added 98,000ft² of new enclosed and useable space and 69 concessions spaces in five facilities.

As part of the project, the contractor installed 32 new escalators and modernised of all 24 public elevators in the main terminal.

Skanska executive vice president and Florida general manager said: “Our team at Skanska worked in close collaboration with our design partner on this project, HOK, to deliver a Main Terminal that is more efficient and will better serve the evolving needs of today’s airport passengers.

“With the delivery of this renovation and expansion, passengers at Tampa International Airport will benefit from more ample seating areas, selection of dining and shopping options and a look and feel that reflects Tampa’s best attributes.”

Skanska said that use of sustainable design and building methods will make the passenger terminal project 30% more energy efficient than current energy required standards.

***Skanska USA and HOK wrap up expansion of Tampa Airport’s main terminal. Credit: Skanska USA.***

Press release / Image source:

**From:** Daniel Garrun [mailto:DanielGarrun@nridigital.com]   
**Sent:** Thursday, February 28, 2019 2:20 PM  
**To:** newsleads\_asia@progressivemediagroup.in  
**Subject:** [Verdictnews\_Asia] FW: NEWS: Skanska USA and HOK Complete $154M Expansion and Renovation at Tampa International Airport

Skanska USA and HOK Deliver the $154M Expansion and Renovation of the Main Terminal Project at Tampa International Airport

Tampa, FL, (February 27, 2019) – Skanska USA, one of the world’s leading construction and development firms, and global design firm HOK announce the completion of the $154 million expansion and renovation of Tampa International Airport’s Main Terminal, which will enhance the passenger experience, improve wayfinding and expand concession options for travelers at one of the nation’s best airports.

The design-build team of Skanska and HOK led the redevelopment of the Main Terminal and concessions program – one of the largest elements of the first phase of the Airport’s Master plan expansion. Construction commenced in 2014.

The work is part of a three-phase expansion and modernization that will allow Tampa International Airport to accommodate up to 34 million annual passengers. The airport served a record 21 million passengers in 2018 and is projected to continue to grow in 2019.

As part of the Main Terminal renovation, the creation of additional areas for passengers to rest, conduct business or enjoy family time was a top priority.

In its role as builder, Skanska led the Main Terminal Transfer Level expansion and redevelopment of the Airport’s Main Terminal and functional improvements to airsides A, C, E and F. The Transfer Level expansion included raising the former east and west outdoor decks, creating four transfer-level terraces, relocating all four shuttle car lobbies to the airsides, and the removal of the former airside D shuttle lobby to create space for a food court. Another key improvement made was to the ticket and baggage claim wayfinding signage.

The redeveloped Main Terminal improves sight lines across the entire floor, creates additional seating areas, intermixes airside concessions, and makes four outdoor terraces accessible to meters-greeters, passengers and employees with two terrace spaces dedicated to restaurants. The airside functional improvements for all gate lounges included power poles, seating options, recycle units plus the interwoven concessions. Overall, the project added 98,000 square feet of new enclosed and useable space and 69 concessions spaces in five facilities. The work also included the installation of 32 new escalators and renovation of all 24 public elevators in the Main Terminal.

“Our team at Skanska worked in close collaboration with our design partner on this project, HOK, to deliver a Main Terminal that is more efficient and will better serve the evolving needs of today’s airport passengers,” said Michael C. Brown, Skanska’s Executive Vice President, General Manager for Florida. “With the delivery of this renovation and expansion, passengers at Tampa International Airport will benefit from more ample seating areas, selection of dining and shopping options and a look and feel that reflects Tampa’s best attributes.”

HOK provided architecture, landscape architecture, interior and lighting design and sustainable consulting services for the terminal and airside project.

With its completion, the project added 55,000 square feet to the terminal’s third-floor transfer level. By pushing back shuttle enclosures and moving restaurants to the perimeter, it opened a central area for shops and comfortable lounge seating. Additionally, privacy glass was installed in restaurant and event spaces to allow for more natural light.

“When guests visit the renovated terminal, they will experience design details reflecting the beautiful Tampa Bay region,” says Leesa Coller, AIA, HOK’s design principal for the project. “The comprehensive design integrates the soft colors of the beaches and bay as well as the lush greens and brightly colored local flora.”

Sustainable design and building methods used in the passenger terminal project will make it 30 percent more energy efficient than current energy required standards, with the lighting systems using LED lamps and an aluminum ceiling painted in matte white to provide better light reflection. As part of this historic expansion, the airport also launched a new public arts program that is enhancing its spaces with innovative works of art.

About Skanska USA

Skanska USA is one of the largest, most financially sound construction and development companies in the U.S., serving a broad range of clients including those in transportation, power, industrial, water/wastewater, healthcare, education, sports, data centers, government, aviation, life sciences and commercial. Headquartered in New York with offices in 29 metro areas, we have nearly 11,000 employees committed to being leaders in safety, project execution, sustainability, ethics and people development. In 2017, our work in building construction, civil and power/industrial construction, commercial development and infrastructure development (public-private partnerships) generated $7.3 billion in revenue. Global revenue of parent company Skanska AB, headquartered in Stockholm and listed on the Stockholm Stock Exchange, totaled $18.8 billion in 2017. Skanska shares are publicly traded in the U.S. on the OTC market under the symbol SKBSY through a Level I American Depository Receipt program.

About HOK

With 24 offices around the globe, HOK designs buildings and spaces that respond to the needs of people and the environment. HOK designers are rooted in technical excellence, driven by imagination and focused on a solitary goal: to deliver solutions that inspire clients and communities. hok.com | Twitter: @HOKNetwork

Aeromexico taps Passur’s integrated traffic management solutions

Aeromexico, flag carrier airline of Mexico, has selected Passur Aerospace’s integrated suite of traffic management solution to manage growing operations at its primary hub at Mexico City International Airport (MEX).

The technology vendor said that the new solution will enable Aeromexico to boost the capacity of MEX and avoid delays and congestion.

It will also help the passenger carrier to improve customer satisfaction, slash operational expenses, gain improved on time performance/punctuality, schedule integrity, capacity growth, and higher aircraft use.

As per the agreement, Passur will deploy many of the core elements of its Passur Integrated Traffic Management (PITM) platform.

The PITM platform includes advanced flight trajectory prediction, airport capacity enhancement, demand and capacity forecasting tools and collaborative airport surface flow management programmes.

Aeromexico MEX senior vice president Alejandro Contreras Campos said: “Ensuring predictable, reliable service in and out of Mexico City International Airport is an essential requirement toward realising our goal of maintaining and growing Aeromexico's position as a dominant hemispheric transfer hub and carrier.

“We are making this investment in Passur because we believe we must lead innovation – in collaboration with our main stakeholders – to ensure our airline and primary hub lead in global performance and competitiveness.”

Passur's solutions will be provided on a web-hosted, common operating platform, and will include participation of all key MEX stakeholders, including Mexico's Air Navigation Service Provider/ATC (SENEAM) and the airport operator Aeropuerto Internacional de la Cuidad México (AICM).

The technology firm believes that its solutions will form a core element of the eventual planned deployment of an Airport Collaborative Decision Making (A-CDM) system at the airport.

Apart from Aeromexico, Passur’s platform is being used by two other major partners in the SkyTeam alliance including Delta Air Lines and Air France.

***Aeromexico to leverage Passur’s integrated suite of traffic management to optimise operations at MEX. Credit: John Taggart.***

Image source:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Aerom%C3%A9xico,_Boeing_787-8_Dreamliner,_N961AM_-_LHR.jpg>

Press release :

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/aeromexico-contracts-with-passur-aerospace-for-passurs-integrated-suite-of-traffic-management-solutions-300803200.html>

Other source:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aerom%C3%A9xico>

Aeromexico Contracts With PASSUR Aerospace for PASSUR's Integrated Suite of Traffic Management Solutions

Focusing on HUB Optimization, Operational Resilience, & On Time Performance to Support Aeromexico's Growth Plans

STAMFORD, Conn., Feb. 27, 2019 /PRNewswire/ -- PASSUR® Aerospace, Inc. (OTC: PSSR), a global leader in digital operational excellence, announced it has contracted with Aeromexico for implementation of PASSUR's main suite of traffic management optimization capabilities – part of Aeromexico's long-term strategic investments in the growth of its primary hub operation.

Aeromexico's primary objectives are to increase the capacity of Mexico City International Airport (MEX) to accommodate growth while reducing delays and congestion, increasing customer satisfaction, and reducing operating costs, to achieve Improved On Time Performance/Punctuality; Schedule Integrity; Capacity Growth; and Higher Aircraft Utilization.

PASSUR will be implementing many of the core elements of its PASSUR Integrated Traffic Management (PITM) platform, adapted from its original US configuration, for customers in Canada, Western Europe, and now Latin America. Main areas of PASSUR capabilities (software, concepts of operation, best practices training) to be provided include:

Advanced flight trajectory prediction

Airport capacity enhancement

Demand and capacity forecasting tools

Collaborative airport surface flow management programs

"Ensuring predictable, reliable service in and out of Mexico City International Airport is an essential requirement toward realizing our goal of maintaining and growing Aeromexico's position as a dominant hemispheric transfer hub and carrier," said Alejandro Contreras Campos, Senior Vice President Mexico City International Airport for Aeromexico. "We are making this investment in PASSUR because we believe we must lead innovation – in collaboration with our main stakeholders – to ensure our airline and primary hub lead in global performance and competitiveness."

"PASSUR welcomes Aeromexico as our first business partner in Latin America, reflecting our strong investment in the global application of PASSUR solutions," said Niels Steenstrup, Chief Commercial Officer, PASSUR Aerospace. "We anticipate a strong partnership built around providing major, measurable gains in operational, customer service, and financial performance to Aeromexico and its stakeholders."

PASSUR's solutions are delivered on a web-hosted, common operating platform, and will include participation of all key MEX stakeholders, including SENEAM (Mexico's Air Navigation Service Provider/ATC) and AICM (Aeropuerto Internacional de la Cuidad México, the airport operator). The PASSUR solutions will be a core element of the eventual planned deployment of an Airport Collaborative Decision Making (A-CDM) system at MEX.

PASSUR's mission is to grow global aviation capacity to meet current and future demand for air travel while minimizing the need for costly infrastructure investments. We can achieve these objectives by providing a digital, collaborative platform where airlines, airports, and Air Navigation Service Providers work together to optimize their internal operations while also solving problems that can only be solved by sharing data and information on a common platform with all key stakeholders. PASSUR analytics extract meaningful information from data to predict, manage, and remove constraints on the surface and in the air.

With the addition of Aeromexico, PASSUR now provides its platform to three of the major partners in the SkyTeam alliance – Delta Air Lines, Air France, and Aeromexico – creating new opportunities for cross-alliance efficiencies, growth, and operational excellence.

About PASSUR® Aerospace, Inc.

PASSUR Aerospace (OTC: PSSR) a global leader in digital operational excellence, provides predictive analytics and decision support technology for the aviation industry, primarily to improve the operational performance and cash flow of airlines and the airports where they operate. PASSUR Aerospace's information solutions are used at the five largest North American airlines; by major airlines in Europe; by more than 60 airport customers (and used at the top 30 North American airports); by over one hundred business aviation customers; and by the U.S. government. PASSUR owns and operates the largest commercial passive radar network in the world that provides aircraft position updates every 1 to 4.6 seconds, powering a proprietary database that is accessible in real-time and delivers timely and accurate information and solutions via PASSUR's industry leading algorithms and business logic included in its products. PASSUR, Airwayz, NextGen2, and NextGen3 are trademarks or registered trademarks of PASSUR Aerospace, Inc. in the U.S. All other companies and product names of those companies contained herein may be trademarks of their respective holders. Visit PASSUR Aerospace's website at www.passur.com for updated products, solutions, and news.

About Aeromexico

Grupo Aeromexico, S.A.B. de C.V. is a holding company whose subsidiaries are engaged in commercial aviation in Mexico and the promotion of passenger loyalty programs. Aeromexico, Mexico´s global airline, operates more than 600 daily flights and its main hub is in Terminal 2 at the Mexico City International Airport. Its destinations network features 93 cities on three continents; including 43 destinations in Mexico, 18 in the United States, 20 in Latin America, 5 in Europe, 4 in Canada and 3 in Asia.

The Group's operating fleet of 130 aircraft is comprised of Boeing 787 and 737 jet airliners and next generation Embraer 170 and 190 models. In 2012, the airline announced the most significant investment strategy in aviation history in Mexico, to purchase 100 Boeing aircraft including 90 MAX B737 jet airliners and 10 B787-9 Dreamliners.

As a founding member of the SkyTeam airline alliance, Aeromexico offers customers more than 1,150 destinations in 177 countries served by the 19 SkyTeam airline partners rewarding passengers with benefits including access to over 750 premium airport lounges around the world. Aeromexico also offers travel on its codeshare partner flights with Delta Air Lines, Avianca, Copa Airlines, EL AL, GOL Linhas Aéreas, Japan Airlines, Jet Airways and WestJet, with extensive connectivity in countries like the United States, Brazil, Canada, Central America, Colombia, India, Israel or Peru. www.aeromexico.com

India approves $704m bridge over Brahmaputra to connect Assam with Meghalaya

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved a plan to construct a Rs49.97bn ($704.31m) bridge over river Brahmaputra.

The bridge will be built under loan assistance with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) at the civil construction cost of Rs35.48bn ($499.96m) and total capital cost of Rs49.97bn ($704.31m) including the cost of Rs556.8m ($7.85m) for land acquisition, rehabilitation and resettlement as well as other works.

The 19.282km-long bridge with four-lane will help to connect two Indian states including Assam with Meghalaya.

The scope of the project also includes construction of approaches over Brahmaputra between Dhubri in Assam and Phulbari in Meghalaya on National Highway 127-B.

The bridge will be constructed under the scheme of North-East Road Network Connectivity Project Phase-03.

An official release was cited by PTI as saying: “This alignment will further augment the transport network for the region by providing the shortest link between the western regions of Meghalaya, as well as Barak Valley region of Assam and southern states in the northeast.”

Construction of the bridge is expected to complete over the next six years.

Up on becoming operational, it will cut travel distance from 205.3km to only 19.282km while also reducing travel time from five hours to 20 minutes between Dhubri and Phulbari.

At present, those who travel across Assam and Meghalaya will have to either take the Naranarayan bridge that causes inconvenience as it is located 60 km upstream or, use small boats to complete their journey.

The Dhubri District Administration has already started land acquisition for construction of roads to accommodate the bridge over the Brahmaputra, which is said to be India’s longest river bridge.

***India to construct $704m bridge over Brahmaputra river. Credit: Dhola Sadiya River Bridge.***

Image source:

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:SMOOTHEST_CURVE_IN_VIADUCTS_MADE_THROUGH_SEGMENTS.JPG>

Third party source:

<https://www.timesnownews.com/business-economy/industry/article/boost-for-north-east-road-connectivity-4-lane-bridge-to-connect-assam-with-meghalaya-check-details/374822>

Other sources:

<https://www.guwahatiplus.com/daily-news/centre-approves-4-lane-bridge-over-brahmaputra>

<https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/ccea-approves-construction-of-four-lane-bridge-over-brahmaputra-119030100027_1.html>

<https://www.theweek.in/wire-updates/business/2019/02/28/dcm78-biz-ccea-bridge-brahmaputra.html>

Boost for north east road connectivity! 4-lane bridge to connect Assam with Meghalaya. Check details

The bridge will be built under the scheme of North-East Road Network Connectivity Project Phase-03’ under loan assistance with JICA at the total capital cost of Rs 4,997.04 crore

New Delhi: North-East road connectivity to get another boost! The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by PM Modi, on Thursday approved construction of four-lane bridge including approaches over river Brahmaputra between Dhubri on the north bank and Phulbari on south bank on NH-127 B in the Assam/Meghalaya. The total length of the bridge will be 19.282 Km.

As per the official release, the bridge will be built under the scheme of North-East Road Network Connectivity Project Phase-03’ under loan assistance with JICA at the civil construction cost of Rs 3,548 crore and total capital cost of Rs 4,997.04 crore including the cost of Rs 55.68 crore towards the cost of land acquisition, resettlement and rehabilitation and other pre-construction activities. The project is expected to be complete in approximately six years.

Aside from boosting road connectivity, the project will also have strategic and socio-economic importance. The construction of this bridge over river Brahmaputra will cut down travel distance from 205.3 Km to only 19.282 Km. The bridge will also cut down travel time from five hours to 20 minutes between Dhubri in Assam and Phulbari in Meghalaya.

Worth mentioning here is that the project will be an instrument for the development of the most economically backward districts in the states of North East. It will further augment the transport network for the region by providing the shortest link between the western regions of Meghalaya as well as Barak valley region of Assam and southern states in NE namely Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura and the rest of the country, including the ports of Kolkata.

Norwegian marine insurer Skuld quits Lloyd’s platform

Norwegian marine insurer Skuld has decided to quit underwriting business from its Lloyd's syndicate 1897 from 1 July 2019, as the company looks to improve its profitability.

Instead, the company will underwrite all its hull and offshore energy business on the A-rated corporate paper of Skuld Assuranceforeningen, through Skuld UK in London and SMA in Oslo.

Skuld said that the relocation of business from Lloyd’s to corporate paper is part of a strategy to boost its non-protection and indemnity (P&I) business and to augment all of its insurance offerings.

Upon leaving Lloyd’s platform, Skuld will continue to manage all outstanding policies in-house, to ensure a full continuity of Skuld service to members and clients

As a result of quitting Lloyd’s platform, some roles at the syndicate will cease, and some employee will leave Skuld over the coming months.

Skuld president and CEO Ståle Hansen said: “Our overriding focus at Skuld is to provide the best service and competence to our members and clients. This requires us to be firm on our strategy of innovation, diversification and sustainable growth.

“With the establishment last year of Skuld UK, operating as a fully authorised branch of Skuld/SMA, we are now able to reorganise Skuld to better deliver our highly-regarded insurance services through an even more streamlined structure and improve operational synergies.

“This adjustment to our marine and energy insurance underwriting will reduce Skuld’s overall expense ratio, and therefore enhance our proposition and improve our profit potential. That underpins our goal of providing relevant products to members and customers, and at the same time ensuring we deliver the market-leading Skuld service to all.”

<https://www.skuld.com/about/-/press-releases/2019/skuld-moves-non-pi-business-to-corporate-paper/>

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/skuld-to-cease-lloyd-s-syndicate-1897-as-profits-slip-expects-job-cuts-17794>

<https://www.skuld.com/about/>

Cincinnati Financial wraps up takeover of Munich Re’s MSP Underwriting

Cincinnati Financial has concluded the acquisition of MSP Underwriting from German reinsurer major Munich Re in a cash transaction valued at approximately £102m.

The transaction, which was [originally announced in October, last year,](https://www.verdict.co.uk/life-insurance-international/news/munich-re-cincinnati-financial-acquisition/) concluded after securing regulatory approvals and satisfying other conditions.

MSP, which is based in London, was operating as a specialty underwriter through Beaufort Underwriting Agency, which underwrites for Lloyd’s Syndicate 318. In 2018 annual, the Syndicate wrote about £182m in gross premiums.

Now, the acquired entity will become a wholly-owned subsidiary of Cincinnati Financial. However, MSP will continue to operate with its existing leadership team.

Cincinnati Financial president and CEO Steven Johnston said: “The team at Beaufort are respected Lloyd's underwriters, and we are pleased to have them join the Cincinnati family.

“Their underwriting philosophy and business culture mirror our own. I look forward to working with them to build plans for a future that will benefit our associates, agents, clients and shareholders over the long term."

MSP Underwriting director Derek Eales stated: “We are delighted to be joining Cincinnati Financial at this time. We look forward to making our contribution to the continued success of the group and all its stakeholders.”

Cincinnati Financial provides business, home and auto insurance, through The Cincinnati Insurance Company and its two standard market property casualty companies.

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/cincinnati-financial-corporation-announces-completion-of-msp-underwriting-limited-acquisition-300804063.html>

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/cincinnati-financial-completes-acquisition-of-munich-re-subsidiary/>

ARAG Group to acquire Ergo Group’s DAS insurance business in Ireland

Germany-based ARAG Group has signed an agreement to acquire DAS Legal Expenses Insurance Company in Ireland as part of its global expansion strategy.

The acquired business, which is part of the Ergo Group, will help ARAG Group to capture more than 60% market share in Ireland. In 2018, DAS insurance’s gross premium income stood at about €6m.

As per terms of the agreement, DAS UK Group will transfer its business to ARAG in February 2019 and the acquirer will retain the present staff.

Upon completion of the transaction, the existing management will continue to manage business in Dublin.

DAS Legal Expenses Insurance Company offers motor and family legal insurance along with commercial legal insurance and assistance services in Ireland.

Commenting on the deal, ARAG Group CEO Dr. Dr. h. c. Paul-Otto Faßbender said: “The Republic of Ireland now becomes the 18th country served by the ARAG Group. We look forward to expanding our reach in Europe and securing promising growth options which is of major strategic interest to us.”

ERGO International COO Alexander Ankel said: “We’re continuously reassessing our international business activities in terms of strategic relevance, market attractiveness and positioning.

“This agreement is just another logical step to further driving our international portfolio optimization focusing on strategic important regions and markets with sustainable profitable growth.”

The acquisition is subject to regulatory approvals. Financial terms of the deal were not disclosed.

<https://www.arag.com/en/press/pressreleases/group/00503/>

<https://www.ergo.com/en/Media-Relations/Pressemeldungen/PM-2019/20190227-ERGO-DAS-Irland-ARAG>

LIC signs insurance distribution pact with IDBI Bank

India-based largest insurer Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has signed a bancassurance pact with IDBI Bank, pursuant to which the lender will offer LIC’s insurance plans at its 1,800 branches.

The bank, acting as the LIC’s corporate agent, will offer its entire assortment of insurance products to 1.80-crore customer base.

Additionally, the lender will become the preferred bank for LIC premium payments and also work as premium point to increase sale of LIC products, thereby earning from fees and float income.

LIC chairman Hemant Bhargava said: “IDBI Bank is fundamentally strong, having a young, energetic and talented work-force which will help in selling LIC products.

“This will enable the Bank to add to its revenue growth and simultaneously help LIC in increasing its bancassurance business.”

IDBI Bank managing director and CEO Rakesh Sharma said: “Since client centricity shapes the core mission of both the organisations, it will be a mutually beneficial association and we are looking forward to working closely with LIC.”

IDBI believes that its strong presence in the rural and semi-urban areas will help to penetrate LIC’s product offerings further.

IDBI Bank already own stake in IDBI Federal Life Insurance Company.

<https://www.idbi.com/press/PR1364.pdf>

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/idbi-bank-lic-ink-bancassurance-pact/article26390137.ece>

Indonesia’s Bali Airport closure on 7 March to affect 468 flights

I Gusti Ngurah Rai International Airport in Denpasar, Bali, will halt all international and domestic flights for 24 hours on 7 March to coincide with Nyepi (Day of Silence).

As a result, approximately 900 flights including 261 domestic flights and 207 international flights will not be able to land or take off from 6am on 7 March to 6am on 8 March at the airport.

Ngurah Rai airport general manager Yanus Suprayogi told The Jakarta Post: “During Nyepi, the airport will halt all flight operations to respect Hindus in Bali, so they can observe Nyepi solemnly.”

Ngurah Rai airport is the sole commercial airport in the Hindu province of Bali.

Garuda Indonesia will be the worst hit with 94 flights, trailed by Lion Air with 67 flights and AirAsia with 52 flights.

With 52 flights, domestic routes to Jakarta's Soekarno-Hatta International Airport will be the most affected. It will be followed by Surabaya airport with 16 flights and Lombok airport with 10 flights.

The one day closure will also badly affect international routes to Singapore with 18 flights. Kuala Lumpur with 16 flights and Perth with nine flights will also suffer due to Bali Airport closure.

"Announcements on the airport closure have been distributed to all airlines and airports around the world," Yanus told the publication.

Operations of both commercial and charter aircraft will be halted; however, the airport and other stakeholders will still deploy their staff to deal with emergencies.

“During Nyepi, we will have 369 personnel on standby at the airport. Besides this, 30 police officers and 35 military personnel will be deployed to guard the airport,” Yanus told the news agency.

Third party source:

<https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/bali-airport-to-shut-on-march-7-for-day-of-silence>

Other source:

<https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2019/02/28/denpasar-airport-to-close-24-hours-for-nyepi.html>

Bali airport to suspend all flights on March 7 for Day of Silence

The shutdown will affect 468 flights, comprising 261 domestic flights and 207 international flights.

The main airport in the Indonesian tourist island of Bali will suspend all international and domestic flights for 24 hours on March 7 to coincide with the Day of Silence, which is a public holiday.

The airport management for I Gusti Ngurah Rai International Airport in Denpasar said on Thursday (Feb 28) that all flights will be halted from 6am on March 7 to 6am on March 8 for Nyepi or the Day of Silence.

"During Nyepi, the airport will halt all flight operations to respect Hindus in Bali, so they can observe Nyepi solemnly," Ngurah Rai airport general manager Yanus Suprayogi said.

Ngurah Rai airport is the only commercial airport in the predominantly Hindu province of Bali.

Balinese Hindus typically observe the religious holiday with fasting and meditation. They also refrain from using electricity, electronics or fire, travelling outside the home and all forms of entertainment on the day.

Foreign visitors to the island are generally expected to respect the religious observance.

The closure will affect 468 flights, comprising 261 domestic flights and 207 international flights. Garuda Indonesia will be the most affected with 94 flights, followed by Lion Air with 67 flights and AirAsia with 52 flights.

Domestic routes to Jakarta's Soekarno-Hatta International Airport will be the most affected with 52 flights, followed by Surabaya airport with 16 flights and Lombok airport with 10 flights.

Meanwhile, international routes to Singapore will be the most affected with 18 flights, followed by Kuala Lumpur with 16 flights and Perth with nine flights.

"Announcements on the airport closure have been distributed to all airlines and airports around the world," Mr Yanus said, adding that all airlines had adjusted their operations by not selling tickets for March 7.

While flight operations will be halted for both commercial and charter planes, the airport and other stakeholders will still have staff on call for emergencies, such as medical evacuations.

"During Nyepi, we will have 369 personnel on standby at the airport. Besides this, 30 police officers and 35 military personnel will be deployed to guard the airport," Mr Yanus said.

Lendlease scores lucrative Gold Coast Airport expansion contract

<https://www.businessnewsaus.com.au/articles/lendlease-scores-lucrative-gold-coast-airport-expansion-contract.html>

<https://theurbandeveloper.com/articles/beyond-capacity-gold-coast-airport-expansion-moves-ahead>

Seattle’s Paine Field Airport Opens Today

<https://simpleflying.com/paine-field-airport-opens/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/03/business/airport-projects-private-investment.html>

Bringing ADS-B surveillance trials to airfields

<https://www.caa.co.uk/Blog-Posts/Bringing-ADS-B-surveillance-trials-to-airfields/?catid=4294967430>

Allianz appoints Hans-Joerg Mauthe as new AGCS Central & Eastern Europe CEO

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/allianz-appoints-hans-joerg-mauthe-as-new-agcs-central-eastern-europe-ceo-17805>

Allianz hires AIG's Claudia Salem as new CEO of property/casualty in Asia

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/allianz-hires-aig-s-claudia-salem-as-new-ceo-of-property-casualty-in-asia-17803>

Generali completes sale of Worldwide & Link units to LCCG

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/generali-completes-sale-of-worldwide-link-units-to-lccg/>

Lime Launches Tailor Made and Affordable Insurance Solution

<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20190301005207/en/Lime-Launches-Tailor-Affordable-Insurance-Solution>

Munich Re leads Pool Re's £2.3bn terrorism retrocession placement

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/munich-re-leads-pool-re-s-2-3bn-terrorism-retrocession-placement-17808>

Carlyle Group buys 9 percent stake in India's SBI Life Insurance

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/carlyle-group-buys-9-stake-in-sbi-life-insurance/articleshow/68217044.cms>

<https://www.businesstoday.in/markets/company-stock/sbi-life-insurance-share-carlyle-group-buys-9-percent-stake/story/323620.html>

South Africa: R172 Million Road Upgrade Project Launched

<https://allafrica.com/stories/201903010740.html>

Heavy Construction on I-440 to Begin this Weekend

<https://www.tn.gov/tdot/news/2019/3/1/heavy-construction-on-i-440-to-begin-this-weekend.html>

Alun Griffiths go-ahead for £62m Worcester link road

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-road-to-cut-worcester-congestion>

<http://www.constructionenquirer.com/2019/03/01/alun-griffiths-go-ahead-for-62m-worcester-link-road/>

Eurovia wins maintenance contract for the main urban motorway in Calgary, Canada

<http://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2019/02/28/1744596/0/en/Eurovia-wins-maintenance-contract-for-the-main-urban-motorway-in-Calgary-Canada.html>

UK government sanctions £55m for the Southern Link Road

The Government of UK has sanctioned £55m funding for the construction of fourth phase of the Worcester Southern Link Road.

Once completed, the overall £62m project is expected to reduce journey times by half along the A4440 while also supporting construction of up to 5,600 new homes.

As part of the project, Alun Griffiths – the contractor – will build a new dual carriageway alongside the existing Carrington Bridge.

The bridge will help decongest the route while strengthening jobs and economic growth in areas such as Great Malvern by transforming access to the M5.

Besides improving access to Birmingham International Airport and Worcestershire Parkway Station, the new road will facilitate better journeys for commuters and support the creation of over 6,000 jobs.

Roads Minister Jesse Norman said: “The government is investing record amounts to improve journeys in our towns and cities, boosting local economies.

“This new road will help improve everyday journeys in and around Worcester, easing traffic for local people in Worcestershire and Herefordshire, as well as supporting thousands of new homes and jobs.”

The dual carriageway will link the M5 to the west of Worcestershire and Herefordshire, and offer a bypass to Worcester city centre. The bypass is expected to help improve the quality of air.

The scope of the contract also includes construction of two new bridges and new cycle and pedestrian routes as well as improvements to junctions.

Worcestershire County Council cabinet member Councillor Ken Pollock said: “This is great news for Worcestershire! We welcome this announcement of funding approval which paves the way for the final phase of the scheme to fully dual the Southern Link Road from the M5 to the Powick Roundabout.

“Works on this important and much needed final phase will see Carrington Bridge extended and 1.5km of viaduct being built between the Ketch and Powick roundabouts.”

Of £62m, Worcestershire County Council will provide £7.5m while the government funding of £55m will come from the Large Local Majors Fund.

***UK government grants £55m for the construction of fourth phase of the Worcester Southern Link Road. Credit: © Crown copyright.***

Press release / Image source:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-road-to-cut-worcester-congestion>

New road to cut Worcester congestion

A new dual carriageway is predicted to halve peak journey times along the A4440 and pave the way for up to 5,600 new homes.

From:

Department for Transport and Jesse Norman MP

Roads Minister Jesse Norman today (1 March 2019) approved almost £55 million of government funding for the Southern Link Road.

The major project, alongside the existing Carrington Bridge, will provide much needed congestion relief for residents and businesses, while boosting jobs and economic growth in areas like Great Malvern by transforming access to the M5.

This will also improve access to Birmingham International Airport and Worcestershire Parkway Station, creating better journeys for commuters and supporting the creation of more than 6,000 jobs.

Roads Minister Jesse Norman said:

The government is investing record amounts to improve journeys in our towns and cities, boosting local economies.

This new road will help improve everyday journeys in and around Worcester, easing traffic for local people in Worcestershire and Herefordshire, as well as supporting thousands of new homes and jobs.

The dual carriageway will connect the M5 to the west of Worcestershire and Herefordshire, and provide a congestion-busting bypass to Worcester city centre, set to cut average journey times along the A4440 in both directions during peak hours in the opening year.

The bypass will also help improve air quality, and will also see 2 new bridges, new cycle and pedestrian routes as well as junction improvements.

Worcestershire County Council’s Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Economy and Infrastructure, Councillor Ken Pollock, said:

This is great news for Worcestershire! We welcome this announcement of funding approval which paves the way for the final phase of the scheme to fully dual the Southern Link Road from the M5 to the Powick Roundabout.

Works on this important and much needed final phase will see Carrington Bridge extended and 1.5km of viaduct being built between the Ketch and Powick roundabouts. We look forward to sharing further details about this final phase which also includes an improved Ketch Viewpoint and underpass in addition to a footbridge over Hams Way in the next couple of weeks.

Worcestershire County Council is contributing £7.5 million to the £62 million scheme.

The government funding comes from the Large Local Majors Fund, providing vital infrastructure for economic growth.

Lendlease bags Gold Coast Airport’s southern terminal expansion contract

Lendlease, a property and infrastructure group, has won a contract to complete Gold Coast Airport’s southern terminal expansion project.

As per terms of the contract, Lendlease will deliver the next phase of the airport’s A$370m ($m) redevelopment, known as Project LIFT.

The scope of the contract includes construction of a three-level terminal, including aerobridges, built to the south of the current facility.

The new terminal is expected to increase the floor area of the existing terminal by two fold while providing more flexibility to serve domestic and international services, as per the demand.

During construction, the terminal project is likely to create up to 1500 jobs.

The new terminal will double the floor area of the existing terminal and offer more flexibility to service domestic and international services, depending on demand.

The project will generate up to 1500 jobs during construction.

Queensland Airports CEO Chris Mills said Lendlease’s appointment represented a significant step forward for the Gold Coast Airport project, which would address capacity issues and pave the way for future passenger growth.

“Gold Coast Airport looks after 6.6 million passengers a year, and this will more than double by 2037,” Mills added.

“The existing terminal is currently operating beyond capacity. This expansion will not only help us meet demand, it will create an entry point to the city, befitting the nation’s leading tourism region.”

The announcement follows after the airport completed the first phase of Project LIFT in 2018, which helped the airport to develop 20,000m² of apron space to park more aircraft ahead of the Commonwealth Games.

The terminal expansion project, which will be carried out by Lendlease, is scheduled to be concluded by the middle of 2021..

***Rendering of new terminal at Australia’s Gold Coast Airport. Credit: Gold Coast Airport.***

Press release / Image source:

<https://www.goldcoastairport.com.au/latest-news/lendlease-appointd-to-deliver-airport-terminal-expansion>

Lendlease appointed to deliver airport terminal expansion

March 4, 2019

International property and infrastructure group Lendlease has been appointed to deliver Gold Coast Airport’s southern terminal expansion – the next phase of the $370 million airport redevelopment, Project LIFT.

The agreement will see the development – a three-level terminal, including aerobridges, built to the south of the current facility – move forward in coming months. The project will generate up to 1500 jobs during construction.

Queensland Airports Limited CEO Chris Mills said Lendlease’s appointment represented a significant step forward for the Gold Coast Airport project, which would address capacity issues and pave the way for future passenger growth.

“Gold Coast Airport looks after 6.6 million passengers a year, and this will more than double by 2037,” he said.

“The existing terminal is currently operating beyond capacity. This expansion will not only help us meet demand, it will create an entry point to the city, befitting the nation’s leading tourism region.

“Last year we completed the first phase of Project LIFT, the 20,000 square metre expansion of our apron to create more aircraft parking space leading into the Commonwealth Games.”

Mr Mills said Lendlease was an ideal partner for the important project, with extensive experience in property and construction, including work in the aviation sector.

“We look forward to working with Lendlease on the terminal expansion, which will commence soon and is expected to be completed in mid-2021,” he said.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development Michael McCormack welcomed news of the major airport project proceeding.

“This is good news for the Gold Coast and Northern NSW, where the population is forecast to grow significantly in the next 20 years,” he said.

“This will continue to open the region to connections for tourists and locals, with a modern and efficient airport to keep pace with the increase in demand over time.”

Tourism Industry Development Minister Kate Jones said the project would support growth of the tourism sector on the Gold Coast, which was Australia’s premier holiday destination.

“First impressions are everything. That’s why this project is so important when it comes to giving tourists a great experience on the Gold Coast,” she said.

“We also know that ensuring tourists have easy access to the Coast is crucial when it comes to growing the local tourism industry. We’ll continue to work with the Gold Coast Airport to secure more flights direct to the city in the future.”

Lendlease Building Chief Executive Officer Dale Connor said the announcement reflected the strong relationship between Lendlease and Queensland Airports, and signaled an exciting opportunity for both the construction phase and Gold Coast Airport passengers.

“We look forward to working with Queensland Airports to expand the Gold Coast Airport in preparation for future domestic and international growth,” he said.

“Over the life of the project, we’ll be employing upwards of 1500 subcontractors and suppliers – many of whom will be local to the Gold Coast.

“During peak construction times, approximately 250 workers will be required onsite at any one time.”

The new terminal will double the floor area of the existing terminal and offer more flexibility to service domestic and international services, depending on demand.

The announcement comes after ground was broken on the Gold Coast Airport hotel site in early February. A 192-room Rydges-branded hotel is being built adjacent to the southern terminal footprint.

Gold Coast Airport is on the move. By 2037 the airport will contribute $818 million annually to the region and support an estimated 20,000 full time jobs.

FAA allows Paine Field Airport to start commercial operations

The US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has granted permission to Paine Field in Seattle, to launch commercial operations after completion of a new $40m terminal.

The new terminal building, known as Paine Field Passenger Terminal, was constructed by Propeller Airports, a Seattle-based company.

Featuring two gates, the new passenger terminal covers an area of approximately 30,000ft². The new terminal is expected to manage nearly 1.4 million passengers per annum.

Due to the large size of the terminal, the airport believes that the travellers will be able to get to their gate from the curb in just 10 minutes.

Passengers are expected to enjoy new armchairs and charge the gadgets easily as every seat features an outlet. Additionally, high-speed internet throughout the terminal is available for passengers.

Alaska Airlines will start its operations form early this month whereas United Airlines plans to launch operations later in March.

From the new terminal, Alaska Airlines will provide service to eight destinations including Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Orange County, San Diego, Phoenix, San Jose, San Francisco, and Portland with 18 daily nonstop flights.

United Airlines, on the other hand, will provide service to San Francisco and Denver.

However, both Alaska Airlines and United Airlines will deploy Embraer 175 airplane for their flights from Paine Field airport.

Paine Field is home to the Boeing production facility for 747, 767, 777, and 787 aircraft and supported the initial flight tests and first deliveries of the new 787 Dreamliners and 747-8 Intercontinental and Freighters.

The airport's economic impact is projected at 65,000 jobs (34,000 direct) and an output of $20bn per annum.

Third party source:

Other sources:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/03/03/business/airport-projects-private-investment.html>

<https://www.seattlepi.com/local/transportation/article/Paine-Field-commercial-flights-Alaska-United-13659536.php>

<https://www.painefield.com/27/About-Our-Airport>

Seattle’s Paine Field Airport Opens Today – Here’s What To Expect 0

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March 4, 2019 1:52 am

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The new passenger terminal at “Seattle’s second airport” Paine Field (PAE) in Everett, Washington opens today. Paine Field is located about 25 miles north of Seattle and 40 miles north of Seattle’s first airport, Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. Paine Field is well-known among aviation enthusiasts because it is the home of Boeing‘s Everett assembly plant.

Paine Field Ticketing Hall

Here is a look inside the ticketing hall of Paine Field’s Passenger Terminal. Photo: Paine Field Passenger Terminal.

What can we expect from Paine Field?

Alaska Airlines and United Airlines will offer commercial flights to and from Paine Field.

According to Alaska Airlines’ website, the airline will provide service to 8 destinations with 18 daily nonstop flights. The destinations are:

Las Vegas,

Los Angeles,

Orange County,

San Diego,

Phoenix,

San Jose,

San Francisco, and

Portland.

United Airlines, on the other hand, will provide service to San Francisco and Denver. The United Airlines flights will commence on March 31st.

Alaska Airlines and United Airlines will both use Embraer 175 aircraft for their flights from Paine Field.

The new passenger terminal features two gates and is about 30,000 square feet in size. As many as 1.4 million passengers are expected to pass through it annually.

Paine Field Passenger Waiting Area

The terminal offers a cozy passenger waiting area next to a fireplace. Photo: Paine Field Passenger Terminal.

According to Paine Field Passenger Terminal’s website, the terminal is supposed to offer “a world-class experience.” The terminal was designed to get passengers “from curb to gate in ten minutes or less.” While waiting at the gate, passengers are offered comfortable seating in an area that feels like a lounge. There are two fireplaces as well as floor-to-ceiling windows with views of the Olympic Mountains.

Beecher’s Handmade Cheese and the Upper Case Bar provide a variety of food and beverage choices. Obviously, Wi-Fi is available throughout the terminal.

What else do we know about Paine Field?

The passenger terminal at Paine Field cost about $40 million. It is operated by Propeller Airports under a lease agreement with Snohomish County. Based on information provided by Paine Field Passenger Terminal, “Propeller Airports is a leader in the privatization and development of airports in the United States, focused on transforming airports and their operations through public-private partnerships.”

Paine Field Waiting Area

The central passenger waiting lounge features comfortable seating with a view outside. Photo: Paine Field Passenger Terminal.

The new passenger terminal has not just received praise though. As a matter of fact, some residents have shown concern about an increase in traffic and pollution. Nonetheless, the FAA issued a “finding of no significant impact” based on its environmental assessment of the airport.

Overall

The passenger terminal at Paine Field has the look and feel of an FBO (fixed base operator). Additionally, the airport is in a convenient location outside of Seattle. Accordingly, Paine Field appears to be a great choice for some passengers trying to avoid the traffic to and from, as well as the hustle and bustle of, Sea-Tac.

Are you going to take advantage of “Seattle’s second airport” Paine Field when flying in and out of Seattle?

German car industry to invest €60bn over next 3 years in electric and self-driving cars

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/technology/2019/03/03/german-car-industry-invest-60bn-next-3-years-electric-self-driving/>

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-03-02/german-car-industry-to-invest-45-billion-in-electric-vehicles>

BHEL installs first solar EV charging station on Delhi-Chandigarh highway

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/power/bhel-installs-first-solar-ev-charging-station-on-delhi-chandigarh-highway/68251129>

<https://auto.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/industry/bhel-installs-first-ev-charging-station-on-delhi-chandigarh-highway/68251196>

AVLogix to advise Western Sydney Airport on baggage handling system

<https://www.wsaco.com.au/the-project/business-opportunities-and-procurement/2-pages>

<https://www.passengerterminaltoday.com/news/baggage/avlogix-to-advise-western-sydney-airport-on-baggage-handling-system.html>

Airports are Terminally Challenged with $128 Billion in Infrastructure Needs

<https://airportscouncil.org/press_release/airports-are-terminally-challenged-with-128-billion-in-infrastructure-needs/>

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Generali completes sale of Guernsey and Irish insurance operations to LCCG

Italian insurer Generali has wrapped up the divestiture of Generali Worldwide Insurance Company and Generali Link to Life Company Consolidation Group (LCCG).

As per the terms of the deal, which was [originally signed in July last year](https://www.verdict.co.uk/life-insurance-international/news/generali-divest-insurance-operations-guernsey-ireland/), Generali agreed to accept about €409m in base consideration, along with up to €10m of contingent consideration, for the sale of its stakes in the two companies.

The Italian insurer said that the transactions are part of a strategy to boost its operational efficiency, improve capital allocation and optimise global footprint.

Generali Worldwide is headquartered in Guernsey, and offers life-insurance-based wealth management and employee benefit solutions to multi-national organisations, expatriates and locals.

Domiciled in Ireland, Generali Link focuses on fund and policy administration. It provides services to Generali Worldwide as well as Generali PanEurope dac which was acquired by LCCG in 2017 and re-branded as Utmost PanEurope dac.

Pursuant to the terms of the deal, Generali Worldwide will remain active and will work as the partner of the Generali employee benefits network for its existing and future clients.

The Italian insurer will also retain the health portfolio of Generali Worldwide in the Caribbean, which will be managed by the global health division of Generali.

In January 2019, [Generali offloaded its Belgian insurance business to Athora Holding,](https://www.verdict.co.uk/life-insurance-international/news/athora-concludes-buyout-of-generali-insurance-business-in-belgium/) a portfolio company of Apollo Global Management, for about €540m ($616m).

<https://www.generali.com/media/press-releases/all/2019/Generali-completes-sale-of-Generali-Worldwide-Insurance-Company-Limited-and-Generali-Link>

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/generali-completes-sale-of-worldwide-link-units-to-lccg/>

**Lime forays into UK to offer customised and affordable insurance to Brits**

London-based digital insurer Lime has officially launched in the UK as part of its paln to offer tailored guidance and personalised insurance to Brits.

It is estimated that nearly 16 million Britosn are under- or un-insured, 11 million of whom have a mortgage to pay and/or a family to support. By offering its affordable insurance plans, Lime wants to close this protection gap.

**Lime in LimeLight**

With its advent in the UK, Lime has rolled out its first insurance – an Accidental Death cover – that offers coverage from £5,000 to £500,000.

In case of untimely demise of the insured in an accident, the Accidental Death cover will pay a lump sum to nominated beneficiaries.

After its first Accidental Death insurance product, the company is palnning to launch a number of new products over the next one year.

Lime CEO Shaun Williams said: “The UK has a significant protection gap, a forgotten majority that have little or no insurance. We think that’s a big problem.

“Now is the time to do something about it and we are working with some of the most innovative businesses in the industry and beyond to drive that change.

“We’re providing simple, flexible insurance at a low cost so people can have the cover they need to protect the people they want. Customers need only answer a few short questions for the right products and level of cover to be identified.”

Lime has joined hands with insurers and workplace partners such as Vibe Syndicate Management Limited, TES, Fizz and Capita to offer more customised insurance solutions.

Vibe Syndicate Management underwrites Lime’s Accidental Death Cover.

<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20190301005207/en/Lime-Launches-Tailor-Affordable-Insurance-Solution>

<https://www.limeinsurance.ie/about-us/>

Carlyle buys 9% stake in SBI Life from BNP Paribas Cardif

BNP Paribas Cardif S.A. cut its stake in the insurer by 9.23 percent to 12.77 percent, the company said.

New Delhi: SBI Life Insurance Friday said global investment firm Carlyle Group has acquired nine per cent stake in the life insurer from BNP ParibasNSE 2.13 % Cardif.

At the current market price, Carlyle would have paid Rs 5,445 crore for the nine crore shares picked up from the open market.

Following the transaction, Cardif's stake in SBI Life has come down to 12.8 per cent from 22 per cent while Carlyle's holding through CA Emerald Investments is at nine per cent.

SBI remains the majority shareholder with 62.1 per cent stake in the company.

SBI Managing Director (global banking & subsidiaries) Dinesh Kumar Khara said SBI Life appreciates the support given by Cardif in this journey and look forward to Carlyle's support to the company.

The life insurance industry in India has a strong growth potential thanks to favourable demographics and an increasing focus on financial savings, said Sunil Kaul, MD of the Carlyle Asia Buyout advisory team.

"Separately, our company has also been informed by BNP Paribas Cardif S A (Cardif), that it has successfully sold 9,22,52,908 equity shares of our company, cumulatively representing 9.2 per cent of the total issued and paid-up equity share capital of our company, as on March 1, 2019," SBI Life said in a regulatory filing.

Carlyle's equity for this investment came from CA Emerald Investments, an affiliated entity of Carlyle Asia Partners V, Carlyle's flagship USD 6.55 billion fund focused on buyout and strategic investments across a range of sectors in Asia Pacific, a joint press statement said.

Carlyle has invested in the financial services industry in Asia Pacific for 20 years, deploying more than USD 4 billion of equity in more than 15 private equity investments as of December 31, 2018.

In India, Carlyle's recent investments in financial services include PNB Housing Finance and SBI Card.

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/carlyle-group-buys-9-stake-in-sbi-life-insurance/articleshow/68217044.cms>

Pool Re completes $3.1bn Terrorism retrocession deal

The British government-backed terrorism reinsurer Pool Re has secured a £2.3bn ($3.1bn) retrocession programme with over 50 international reinsurers, led by Munich Re.

Vaild for a period of there years, the programmed is said to be the largest reinsurance deals across the world, and the largest terrorism risk placement so far.

Structured as an aggregate excess of loss treaty, the retrocession will attach in case Pool Re’s losses, surpass £500m ($664.4m) individually or in aggregate in any year, after member insurers’ combined retention of £250m ($332.2m) per event or £410m ($544.8m) in aggregate is fulfilled.

The retrocession provides coverages for property damage against nuclear, biological, chemical and radiological attacks; from cyber-triggered terrorist losses; as well as conventional terrorist activities.

Pool Re said the £2.3bn includes £75m of coverage provided under its recent terrorism catastrophe bond. The retrocession concludes almost the bond to form a notional layer of £200m in excess of £500m.

The risk was modelled using Pool Re’s own model, which the company developed in partnership with Cranfield University and Guy Carpenter.

Pool Re CEO Julian Enoizi said: “We are delighted with the ongoing support we have received from our continuing reinsurers, and pleased to welcome new carriers to the risk.

“I thank Guy Carpenter for their efforts in completing this record-breaking placement. It provides resilience for UK businesses, while moving the taxpayer even further away from their implicit coverage of extreme commercial losses from terrorism.”

Pool Re chief underwriting officer Steve Coates said: “As our modelling technology has improved, we have been able to increase appetite for a share of Pool Re’s assumed risk.

“We will continue to look for increased retrocession and capital markets capacity to shift even more of that risk to the private sector, provided of course the capacity is of acceptable security and can be written on a long-term basis.”

<https://www.poolre.co.uk/pool-re-completes-2-3-billion-terrorism-retrocession-placement/>

<https://www.businessinsurance.com/article/20190301/NEWS06/912327018/Pool-Re-strikes-$3-billion-retrocession-agreement-led-by-Munich-Re>

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/munich-re-leads-pool-re-s-2-3bn-terrorism-retrocession-placement-17808>

AVLogix to advise Western Sydney Airport on baggage handling system

Western Sydney Airport has selected aviation logistics firm AVLogix to offer baggage handling consultancy services.

As per terms of the contract, AVLogix will suggest Western Sydney Airport about the design of a modern and IATA-compliant baggage system after vetting various systems across the leading airports worldwide.

Western Sydney Airport CEO Graham Millett said: “We want to ensure that it’s not just passengers who enjoy a safe, smooth and reliable journey through Western Sydney Airport, but their bags as well.

“We’ve asked AVLogix to explore what leading airports around the world are doing in this space to ensure that when it opens in 2026, Western Sydney Airport will offer an optimal customer experience.

“We’ll be exploring options such as giving passengers the ability to track the location of their luggage throughout their journey.

“Our commitment is to design a convenient baggage handling service that gives passengers the confidence that their luggage is in safe hands and will arrive at the right place at the right time.”

Western Sydney Airport will have a combination of international and domestic terminal, which will be designed to grow in stages without disrupting passengers. Once the first stage of terminal opens in 2026, it would be able to handle up to 10 million travellers per annum.

By 2060s, Western Sydney Airport is expected to manage more than 80 million passengers per year to become the largest gateway to Australia.

In January, [Western Sydney Airport launched a two-stage competitive process](https://www.airport-technology.com/news/western-sydney-airport-terminal-designer/) to shortlist the architect for designing the new terminal building.

***Western Sydney Airport selects AVLogix to give advice on baggage handling system. Credit: Keith Chan on Unsplash.***

Image source:

<https://unsplash.com/photos/rTv2jBfQoWk>

Press release:

<https://www.wsaco.com.au/the-project/business-opportunities-and-procurement/2-pages>

Other source:

<https://www.passengerterminaltoday.com/news/baggage/avlogix-to-advise-western-sydney-airport-on-baggage-handling-system.html>

Baggage Handling Contract Awarded

Western Sydney Airport has appointed consultants to look to leading airports around the world for inspiration as it designs its baggage handling system.

Western Sydney Airport Chief Executive Officer Graham Millett today announced aviation logistics firm AVLogix has been awarded the contract for baggage handling consultancy services.

“We want to ensure that it’s not just passengers who enjoy a safe, smooth and reliable journey through Western Sydney Airport, but their bags as well,” Mr Millett said.

“We’ve asked AVLogix to explore what leading airports around the world are doing in this space to ensure that when it opens in 2026, Western Sydney Airport will offer an optimal customer experience.

“Too many of us know the stress of having a bag go missing in transit and our goal is to make sure that using the latest technology at Australia’s airport of the future, missing baggage becomes a thing of the past.

“We’ll be exploring options such as giving passengers the ability to track the location of their luggage throughout their journey.

“Our commitment is to design a convenient baggage handling service that gives passengers the confidence that their luggage is in safe hands and will arrive at the right place at the right time.”

Western Sydney Airport will have a combined international and domestic terminal, with the first stage to open in 2026, designed to cater for up to 10 million passengers a year.

The terminal will be designed to grow in stages without disrupting passengers, becoming the largest gateway to Australia in the 2060s, catering for more than 80 million passengers a year.

Mr Millett said Western Sydney Airport’s baggage handling services are also being planned and designed for this future growth in passengers.

German car makers to spend $68bn in electric and self-driving cars

Car markers in Germany will invest more than €60bn ($68bn) in electric and self-driving technologies over the next three years, aimed at increasing the launch of new models by three fold amid intensifying competation.

The revelation was made by head of VDA – an industry body for the automotive sector in Germany – ahead of the Geneva motor show starting this week.

VDA president Bernhard Mattes told The Telegraph: “We will invest over €40bn in electric mobility during the next three years, and another €18bn will be invested in digitisation and connected and automated driving.”

Mattes further said that “the ramp up of electric mobility” is coming to Europe as regulatory pressure and new competition is forcing the country’s dominant car industry to change.

Additionally, new challenges such as people desire not to buy cars after ride-hailing firms such as Uber and Lyft started offering easy and affordable modes of transporation.

The sales of cars across the globe have stalled and the situation is expected to worsen further as the popularity of electric scooters among city travellers grow.

Ggrowing evidences against carbon emissions from petrol and diesel fuelled-vehicles on climate changes have also dented the deamand of conventional cars.

Mattes stated that “the EU’s CO2 targets cannot be achieved by 2030” unless car industry significantly invests into cleaner energy vehicles. To support this, suitable regulatory regime across the EU is also required.

Mattes pointed towards the higher prices of electric cars, limited driving ranges and sporadic charging infrastructure as the stumbling blocks in the way of mass adoption of electric cars.

With the number of electric models from Volkswagen, Daimler and BMW are expected to hit approximately 100 over the next three years, Mattes has urged the industry to give more incentives to car buyers.

Third party source:

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/technology/2019/03/03/german-car-industry-invest-60bn-next-3-years-electric-self-driving/>

Other sources:

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-03-02/german-car-industry-to-invest-45-billion-in-electric-vehicles>

German car industry to invest €60bn over next 3 years in electric and self-driving cars

Germany’s automotive industry is gearing up for the future of mobility as it plans to invest close to 60bn euros (£51.5bn) on electric vehicles and driverless technologies over the next three years.

Ahead of the Geneva motor show starting this week, the boss of VDA, an industry body for the automotive sector in Germany, said “the ramp up of electric mobility” is coming to Europe as regulatory pressure and new competition is forcing change to the country’s dominant car industry.

In a statement, VDA’s president Bernhard Mattes said: “We will invest over 40bn euros in electric mobility during the next three years, and another 18bn euros will be invested in digitisation and connected and automated driving.”

Germany’s ambitions to shift to electric vehicles and autonomous driving come as the sector at large reckons with new challenges.

Concerns are mounting that the industry has reached “peak car” as the ride-hailing industry, dominated by the likes of Uber and Lyft, are seeing people forego vehicle purchases, while new modes of transport such as electric scooters could earn favour in cities.

Vehicle sales have stalled worldwide and are yet to hit 100m vehicle sales annually, despite analysts previously predicting the milestone would be reached by 2019.

There is also a growing body of evidence that points to the impact carbon emissions from petrol and diesel fuelled-vehicles have had on climate change.

Mr Mattes added that “the EU’s CO2 targets cannot be achieved by 2030” unless car businesses plough significant investment into cleaner energy vehicles and appropriate regulatory conditions are established across the bloc.

In the UK, there are signs of consumer demand starting to lean towards newer energy vehicles. Figures from trade association SMMT show that registrations of diesel cars in the country are down year-on-year to 46,823 from 58,703 in January 2018. Registrations for alternative fuel vehicles in January were up 26.3pc year-on-year to 11,014.

Support for a new electric vehicle industry will require the expansion of battery manufacturing operations in order to meet demand for lithium-ion batteries - the technology at the heart of electric-powered vehicles.

Last year, German chemicals giant BASF announced a 418m euro venture that would see the development of battery plants in Europe. A facility to be built in Finland by BASF is expected to supply batteries to 300,000 vehicles per year from 2020 onwards.

A study published by the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre in December predicts that upto eight gigafactories would have to be built globally every year between 2030 and 2040 as demand for batteries is forecast to rise.

UK Aviation Minister calls on industry to address gender imbalance

<https://www.internationalairportreview.com/news/82014/industry-address-gender-imbalance/>

New billion-dollar terminal at Orlando airport set to finish in 2021

<https://www.clickorlando.com/news/new-billion-dollar-terminal-at-orlando-airport-set-to-finish-in-2021>

<https://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/transportation/os-ne-orlando-airport-construction-ranking-20190304-story.html>

<http://www.fox35orlando.com/home/oia-south-terminal-on-target-for-2021-completion>

Munich tops all European airports in CDP climate protection rankings (from UK)

<https://www.munich-airport.com/successful-reduction-in-co2-emissions-6055327>

Testing commences at Abu Dhabi's new Dh10 billion airport terminal

<https://gulfnews.com/business/aviation/testing-commences-at-abu-dhabis-new-dh10-billion-airport-terminal-1.62451031>

Aboitiz advances in bid for Laguindingan Airport

<https://business.inquirer.net/266068/aboitiz-advances-in-bid-for-laguindingan-airport?utm_expid=.XqNwTug2W6nwDVUSgFJXed.1>

Ryan Specialty completes Myron Steves acquisition

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/ryan-specialty-completes-myron-steves-acquisition/>

Aviva promotes Maurice Tulloch to CEO role

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/aviva-promotes-maurice-tulloch-to-ceo-role/>

FedNat signs FHCF reinsurance deal

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/fednat-signs-fhcf-reinsurance-deal/>

AXA expands into mobile phone insurance market with Pier

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/axa-expands-into-mobile-phone-insurance-market-with-pier-17819>

JLT sells global aerospace operations to Gallagher ahead of Marsh takeover

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/jlt-sells-global-aerospace-operations-to-gallagher-ahead-of-marsh-takeover-17816>

Chubb partners with Aon to build Manhattan terrorism risk model

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/chubb-partners-with-aon-to-build-manhattan-terrorism-risk-model-17814>

China paves way for Chubb to acquire majority of local venture

<https://www.ft.com/content/a553078e-3e89-11e9-9bee-efab61506f44>

Short-Term Health Insurance Proves Especially Attractive to Older Consumers, According to eHealth Survey

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/short-term-health-insurance-proves-especially-attractive-to-older-consumers-according-to-ehealth-survey-300805418.html>

Nationwide announces powerful new guaranteed income rider

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/nationwide-announces-powerful-new-guaranteed-income-rider-300805821.html>

1,062 people killed or seriously injured in London bus collisions since 2014 (from UK team)

It was approved yesterday… (want to cover it as today’s second story)

City And Autonomous Vehicle Companies Agree To Testing Guidelines

<https://www.wesa.fm/post/city-and-autonomous-vehicle-companies-agree-testing-guidelines>

<http://apps.pittsburghpa.gov/redtail/images/5056_AV_Testing_EO.pdf>

<https://www.wtae.com/article/pittsburgh-mayor-peduto-major-announcement-autonomous-vehicles/26622512>

More Lanes Open On New Chandler Highway Bridge

<https://www.premier.vic.gov.au/more-lanes-open-on-new-chandler-highway-bridge/>

Orlando Airport’s $2.8bn terminal set to become operational by 2021

Construction of a new $2.8bn terminal at Orlando International Airport in Florida in the US is in the full swing and transportation officials believe that the facility will be ready by 2021.

The new terminal building, which is nearly 20% complete, is being constructed one mile south of the original A and B terminals of Orlando Airport, reported orlandosentinel.com.

It will help the airport to cope with the growing number of passengers.

Currentlly, the airport is managing almost 48 million passengers per year, more than the combined capacity of terminal A and B which has with a design capacity of 40 million travellers per annum.

The new Terminal C, which will host JetBlue and other airlines, will enable the airport to easily manage additional 11 million passgerns annually.

It will add 19 gates, which will accommodate up to 27 aircraft, including narrow body, jumbo and super-jumbo airplanes.

The terminal will feature automated screening lanes in TSA checkpoint, a new energy efficient baggage claim system for arriving international passengers.

Additionally, the terminal will also use feature facial recognition technology for arriving and departuring passengers to and from their global destinations.

The project is expected to create almost 2,500 construction jobs as well as approximately 250 permanent jobs in the initial phase.

The expansion of the airport terminal is being funded with bonds. It will be repaid with revenues from airline and passenger fees, charges collected from parking space, rental car and restaurant leases.

***Orlando Airport new Terminal C will be ready by 2021. Credit: Dough4872.***

Image source:

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Orlando_International_Airport_terminal_from_arriving_airplane.jpg>

Third party source:

<https://www.clickorlando.com/news/new-billion-dollar-terminal-at-orlando-airport-set-to-finish-in-2021>

Other sources:

<https://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/transportation/os-ne-orlando-airport-construction-ranking-20190304-story.html>

<http://www.fox35orlando.com/home/oia-south-terminal-on-target-for-2021-completion>

New billion-dollar terminal at Orlando airport set to finish in 2021

Project to bring in 11 million travelers

ORLANDO, Fla. - A $2.8 billion project to build the South Terminal Complex is underway at Orlando International Airport.

Phase 1 of the project will add 19 gates, which will accommodate up to 27 aircraft, including narrow body, jumbo and super-jumbo jets.

Other highlights will include automated screening lanes in TSA checkpoint, a new baggage claim system where arriving international passengers can get their "Bags First," which will be energy efficient and feature facial recognition software for international arrival and departure passengers.

"There are about 2,500 construction jobs generated over this, about 250 permanent jobs that's just the airport side, there will many more as airlines start to grow. Jet Blue is targeted to have most of the gates in the south," said Phil Brown, with the Greater Orlando Aviation Authority.

Officials say OIA receives about 40 million travelers and they expect the new South Terminal project will bring in another 11 million. It's expected to open in 2021.

Bus collisions injured 1,062 people in London since 2014, says report

Transport for London (TfL) bus collisions have claimed 45 lives and seriously injured 1,017 people in London city since 2014, says a report released by the British trade union GMB London.

Overall, nearly 4,736 people have been injured in accidents by TfL buses over this period. This translates into 2.7 people per day since the beginning of 2014.

Of those injured, an average of 4.3 people have been killed or seriously injured every week during the past five years, according the report.

The accidents were mainly caused by TfL outsourced London buses.

To establish a mechanism for the safer operation of TfL outsourced buses, a LondonBusWatch meeting has been held in which London Mayor Sadiq Khan was urged to ensure the safe operation of buses by the outsourced private for-profit operators.

GMB Regional secretary Warren Kenny said: “GMB London are calling for decisive action from the top to change the inherited culture at Transport for London and to ensure the safe operation of buses by the outsourced private for-profit operators.

“The safe operation of buses by the outsourced operators must be made TfL's top priority. We have to see an end to the current position on the endless toll of people killed and injured due to bus collisions.

“Safe operations of buses require drivers rested and with a safe system of work and well-maintained vehicles, all items clearly spelled out in the London Bus Drivers’ ‘Bill of Rights’ which was presented to his representative by protesting TfL Bus Drivers on 14 September 2017.”

The report highlights that the City of Westminster in London tops the league for injuries caused by bus collisions with 350 total injuries from January 2014 to September 2018.

With a total of 260 injuries, Lambeth stood second in the list. Simimlary, Southwark reported a total of 226 injuries, Croydon registered 224 injuries, Lewisham recorded 218 injuries, Barnet showed 192 total injuries, while Greenwich registed 176 cases of accidents.

GMB London Region is campaigning for the safe operation of TfL buses in London after a resolution was passed on bus safety and the public at the GMB Congress in 2018.

1,062 people killed or seriously injured in London bus collisions since 2014. Credit: GMB London.

Press relelease / Image source:

**From:** Daniel Garrun [<mailto:DanielGarrun@nridigital.com>]   
**Sent:** Monday, March 4, 2019 2:41 PM  
**To:** [newsleads\_asia@progressivemediagroup.in](mailto:newsleads_asia@progressivemediagroup.in)  
**Subject:** [Verdictnews\_Asia] FW: 1,062 people killed or seriously injured in London bus collisions since 2014

<https://www.gmblondon.org.uk/news/people-killed-or-seriously-injured-in-london-bus-collisions-since-2014>

1,062 people killed or seriously injured in London bus collisions since 2014

New GMB analysis shows that 1,062 people were killed or seriously injured in TfL bus collisions since 2014 as Sadiq Khan faces calls at london Labour Party conference to make safety top priority for outsourced bus operators

We are calling for decisive action from the top to change the inherited culture at Transport for London and to ensure the safe operation of buses by the outsourced private for-profit operators, says GMB London

A new study by GMB London of official figures published quarterly by Transport for London has found that since 2014, 45 people were killed and 1,017 seriously injured in collisions by TfL outsourced London buses.

Overall, over this period, 4,736 people have been injured in collisions by TfL buses. This is 2.7 people per day every day since the beginning of 2014. Of those injured an average of 4.3 people have been killed or seriously injured every week over nearly five years.

A LondonBusWatch meeting to step up the campaign for the safe operation of TfL outsourced buses is being held at the London Labour Party Conference on Saturday. The meeting will call on London Mayor Sadiq Khan to make the safe operation of buses by the outsourced private for-profit operators the top priority.

Details of the meeting are as follows:

Saturday 2nd March

1:00 PM to 2:30 PM

London Labour Party Conference

Harringay West Indian Culture centre

9 Clarendon Rd,

Hornsey,

London

N8 0DD

Speakers include:

Tom Kearney - Survivor of a bus collision and organizer for the LondonBusWatch campaign

Christian Wolmar - Labour Party campaigner on Transport

The meeting will be chaired by Mohshin Ahmed from Unite and Abellio Walworth Bus Garage.

In London, the City of Westminster tops the London league for injuries caused by bus collisions since 2014 with 350 total injuries arising from collisions including 5 fatal injuries, 69 serious injuries and 65 minor injuries requiring hospital attention. These cases involved people being killed and injured by buses operated by outsourced operators for TfL in the 4 years from January 2014 to September 2018.

Next in the league was Lambeth, which had a total of 260 injuries arising from collisions including 69 serious injuries and 31 minor injuries; Southwark had a total of 226 injuries arising from collisions including 1 fatal injury, 50 serious injuries and 44 minor; Croydon had 224 injuries arising from collisions including 2 fatal injuries, 65 serious injuries and 27 minor injuries; Lewisham had 218 injuries arising from collisions, including 1 fatal injury, 32 serious and 28 minor; Barnet had 192 total injuries, 4 fatal, 32 serious and 28 minor; and Greenwich had 176 cases, 3 fatal, 38 serious and 37 minor.

Since January 2014, 51 have been killed, 4,139 have sustained injuries requiring hospitalisation (including 2,950 for minor injuries or 71%) and 18,507 have sustained injuries treated on scene for all reasons over the 19 quarters for the TFL buses. Collisions are the third cause of KSI and minor injuries, accounting for 18%, after 'slip, trip and fall' and 'personal injury'.

See the table below for the figures for all London boroughs.

GMB London Region is campaigning for the safe operation of TfL buses in London. This follows a resolution on bus safety and the public carried at the GMB Congress last year.

Aboitiz gains original proponent status to upgrade Laguindingan Airport

Aboitiz Group’s infrastructure business unit Aboitiz InfraCapital (AIC) has been awarded original proponent status (OPS) by the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) in relation to upgrade Laguindingan Airport.

The status of OPS by the CAAP will enable the company to proceed with its undisclosed proposal to upgrade, expansion, operations, and maintenance of the Laguindingan Airport in Misamis Oriental.

AIC chief operating officer Cosette Canilao said: “The granting of the OPS for the Laguindingan Airport opens up an opportunity for us to play a major role in improving our country’s vital gateways.

“We look forward to progressing beyond project development, and into project execution and operations in 2019.”

The PHP42.7bn project includes capacity increase through expansion or construction of new passenger terminals, installation of equipments, as well as improvement and development of airside facilities.

Aboitiz has teamed up design and engineering company Arup to advice on the technical studies and master plan for the proposed development of the airport.

The modernisation of the airport is expected to promote investments and development of a number of industries in the region, with a particularl focus on tourism.

Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industries Region 10 Governor Ghaye Alegrio said: “The airport is a very important factor. We are excited to know that Aboitiz got the OPS. It took us 20 years before this airport was built. We don’t want to wait another 20 years for its expansion.”

The CAAP figures indicate that approximately two million travellers passed through the Laguindingan Airport in 2018. Its passenger handling capacity is excedding more than 1.6 million passengers per year since it started operations in 2013.

Alegrio noted that passenger traffic is expected to increase within the next few years with more investments coming in.

Aboitiz InfraCapital is also part of the NAIA Consortium which secured original proponent status from the DOTr and Manila International Airport Authority on its proposal to rehabilitate and expand facilities at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

In March last year, [Aboitiz InfraCapital submitted a PHP148bn ($2.84bn) unsolicited proposal to rehabilitate, expand, modernise and operate four regional airports](https://www.airport-technology.com/news/aboitiz-submits-2-84bn-proposal-upgrade-four-airports-philippines/) in the Philippines.

The company sought a concession period of 35 years to operate the Iloilo International Airport, Bacolod-Silay Airport, Laguindingan Airport, and New Bohol International Airport in Panglao.

***The Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) grants original proponent status to Aboitiz InfraCapital to upgrade Laguindingan Airport. Credit: Renzoy16.***

Image source:

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Laguindingan_International_Airport_main_building.JPG>

Press release:

<http://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1063531>

Other sources:

<https://www.rappler.com/business/224919-caap-grants-original-proponent-status-aboitiz-laguindingan-airport-upgrade>

Aboitiz gets original proponent status for Laguindingan Airport

MANILA -- The Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) has given Aboitiz InfraCapital Inc. (AIC) the green light on its proposal for the operations and maintenance of Laguindingan Airport in Misamis Oriental.

In a statement on Monday, the AIC said its unsolicited proposal was granted original proponent status (OPS) by the CAAP last February 26.

“The granting of the OPS for the Laguindingan Airport opens up an opportunity for us to play a major role in improving our country’s vital gateways. We look forward to progressing beyond project development, and into project execution and operations in 2019,” AIC Chief Operating Officer Cosette Canilao said.

The PHP42.7-billion project involves capacity augmentation through expansion or construction of new passenger terminals, installation of required equipment, and enhancement and development of airside facilities.

The company has selected multinational design and engineering firm Arup as consultant on the technical studies and master plan for its proposal on the development of the airport.

For its part, the business sector in Northern Mindanao expects that the upgrade and rehabilitation of the Laguindingan Airport will help promote the growth of investments and development of various industries in the region, particularly tourism.

“The airport is a very important factor. We are excited to know that Aboitiz got the OPS. It took us 20 years before this airport was built. We don’t want to wait another 20 years for its expansion,” Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industries Region 10 Governor Ghaye Alegrio said.

Data from the CAAP show that around two million passengers have passed through the Laguindingan Airport last year which exceeded its passenger capacity of 1.6 million passengers per year since it started operations in 2013.

Alegrio noted that passenger traffic is expected to increase within the next few years with more investments coming in.

The airport is also seen to have the opportunity to cater to international flights according to her.

The AIC was earlier granted the OPS by the DOTr on its proposal for the operations and maintenance of the New Bohol International Airport in Panglao Island last September.

AIC, which is the infrastructure business unit of the Aboitiz Group, is also part of the NAIA Consortium which was granted original proponent status by the DOTr and Manila International Airport Authority on its proposal to rehabilitate and expand facilities at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. (PNA)

Space Florida seeking to replace bridge to Cape Canaveral

<https://floridapolitics.com/archives/289899-space-florida-seeking-to-replace-bridge-to-cape-canaveral>

<https://www.floridatoday.com/story/tech/science/space/2019/03/04/space-florida-seeking-federal-grant-replace-aging-ksc-bridge/3053845002/>

ADB loan signed to improve connectivity in northwestern mountain provinces

<http://sggpnews.org.vn/national/adb-loan-signed-to-improve-connectivity-in-northwestern-mountain-provinces-80648.html>

<http://dtinews.vn/en/news/017/61067/adb-loan-signed-to-improve-connectivity-in-northwestern-provinces.html>

<https://en.vietnamplus.vn/adb-loan-funds-transport-connectivity-project-in-mountainous-provinces/147725.vnp>

ADB sanctions $188m loan to upgrade roads in Vietnam’s northwestern provinces

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a $188.36m loan to the Government of Vietnam to improve the road connectivity between the Noi Bai-Lao Cai Expressway and northwestern provinces.

To support the overall $236.673m project cost, the Australian Government is offering a grant of $4.481m, and $43.829m from Vietnam’s central budget besides $188.36m loan from ADB.

The fund will be invested to construct and upgrade 198km of roads that connect several towns and districts in the provinces of Lai Chau, Lao Cai and Yen Bai to the Noi Bai-Lao Cai Expressway.

Part of the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Kunming—Hai Phong Transport Corridor, the road will help to connect the Hanoi region to the north of Vietnam and to Yunnan Province in China.

Additionally, the grant will support programmes for axle load control and awareness campaigns for road safety so that they can deal with increased speed and vechicluar traffic on the expressway.

ADB Vietnam country director Eric Sidgwick said: “The project aims to expand the benefits of the GMS corridors to the northwestern provinces.

“The improved connectivity will not only boost border trade, private investment and job creation in the region, but also provide better access to basic social services, such as education, health care, job training and emergency disaster relief for the people of the northwestern provinces, especially the poor ethnic minorities.”

The ADB-financed Noi Bai-Lao Cai Expressway will further improve connectivity and increase the benefits of the existing expressway to the people living in the northwestern region.

Third party source:

<http://sggpnews.org.vn/national/adb-loan-signed-to-improve-connectivity-in-northwestern-mountain-provinces-80648.html>

Other sources:

<https://en.vietnamplus.vn/adb-loan-funds-transport-connectivity-project-in-mountainous-provinces/147725.vnp>

ADB loan signed to improve connectivity in northwestern mountain provinces

Tuesday, March 05, 2019 15:24

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Vietnamese Government today signed a $188 million loan for the Northern Mountain Provinces Transport Connectivity Project which will improve the road connectivity between Noi Bai-Lao Cai Expressway and northwestern provinces of Vietnam , enhancing economic opportunities for some of the poorest people in the project area.

ADB loan signed to improve connectivity in northwestern mountain provinces

The loan will finance the improvement and upgrade of 198 kilometers of roads that connect several towns and districts in the provinces of Lai Chau, Lao Cai and Yen Bai to the Noi Bai-Lao Cai Expressway, a part of the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Kunming—Hai Phong Transport Corridor that connects the Hanoi region to the north of Vietnam and to Yunnan Province in the People’s Republic of China.

The Australian Government will provide a grant of $4.481 million to finance the detailed engineering design of the project roads. The grant will also support programs for axle load control, HIV/AIDS and human trafficking, and awareness campaigns for road safety to help local people in these disadvantaged areas deal with increased traffic speed and volume on the expressway.

“The project aims to expand the benefits of the GMS corridors to the northwestern provinces,” said Mr. Eric Sidgwick, ADB Country Director for Vietnam. “The improved connectivity will not only boost border trade, private investment and job creation in the region, but also provide better access to basic social services, such as education, health care, job training and emergency disaster relief for the people of the northwestern provinces, especially the poor ethnic minorities.”

Vietnam’s northwest region, a high mountainous region comprising the provinces of Dien Bien, Hoa Binh, Lai Chau, Lao Cai, Son La and Yen Bai, lags behind the rest of the country, with the poverty rate ranging from 18 percent to 45 percent in 2016. The region relies on small-scale industrial companies, such as stone, metal ore exploitation and processing.

The improved network connectivity with the ADB-financed Noi Bai-Lao Cai Expressway, considered the backbone of the Northwest region’s road network, will further spread the benefits of the existing expressway to the people living in the northwestern region. The project will ensure high standards for road construction and addressing the risks posed by climate change, including climate resilience features such as slope protection measures in areas prone to landslides and rockfalls.

Chubb collaborates with Impact Forecasting to develop new terrorism risk model

Chubb has teamed up with Impact Forecasting to develop a new terrorism risk model for Manhattan in New York City and other dense urban environments.

Risk modelling specialists from Chubb and Impact Forecasting are leveraging a new approach to model terrorism exposures to enable more realistic quantifications of property and casualty losses.

Based on blast engineering, the new model will offer more accurate insights into terrorism risk to enhance resilience for businesses and communities.

Chubb chief digital officer and chief risk officer said: “Despite tremendous advances in the underlying science over the past few decades, the catastrophe models available to insurers remain outdated.

“That's why we are so excited about our partnership with Impact Forecasting. By using the latest science and most sophisticated risk management tools, we gain unique insights into the risk profile in Manhattan. This will help us better assess and manage this critical exposure in our business."

**How new terrorism risk model will work**

Using advanced computational fluid dynamics modelling techniques, the new model will simulate thousands of blast interactions with the surrounding three-dimensional building environment.

These simulations are then combined with a detailed engineering approach which considers the buildings' structural resistance and performance from the viewpoint of anti-terrorism standards and progressive collapse design guidelines.

This approach allows the model to differentiate facade and structural damage, while determining the likelihood that a building will collapse.

Chubb said that the model can more accurately estimatef property and workers' compensation losses by recognising the type of damage to be sustained by each building and the injuries and fatalities associated with it.

Aon Impact Forecasting team catastrophe risk consultant Cristina Arango said: “The new terrorism risk model for Manhattan provides an enhanced view of the terrorism risk.

“We have developed an approach that can be applied to any city across the world, quantifying the effect of modelling uncertainties to highlight the variation of the possible impacts.

“Our goal is to provide insurers with the insight and analytical tools to help them manage terrorism risk more strategically.”

Impact Forecasting operates as the Aon's catastrophe model development center of excellence.

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/chubb-partners-with-impact-forecasting-to-develop-new-terrorism-risk-model-for-new-york-city-300805115.html>

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/chubb-partners-with-aon-to-build-manhattan-terrorism-risk-model-17814>

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/chubb-impact-forecasting-team-up-on-new-terrorism-risk-model/>

British life insurer Aviva appoints new CEO

British life insurer Aviva has named Maurice Tulloch as it new CEO, four months after revealing the departure of Mark Wilson from the position.

Tulloch appointement is effective from 4 March this year.

Prior to accepting the new role, Tulloch has served as the firm’s International CEO since 2017. He will take the reigns from Sir Adrian Montague, who had been serving in an executive capacity.

Montague will now revert back to his role as non-executive chairman of Aviva.

As international CEO, Tulloch oversaw the responsibility for Aviva’s life insurance and general insurance operations in France, Canada, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Turkey and India.

Before that, he served as CEO of Aviva UK and Ireland General Insurance, one of the largest businesses in the Aviva group. He joined Aviva in 1992.

Commenting on the appoitnemtn, Montague said: “Maurice will be an outstanding Chief Executive of Aviva. He knows the business inside out. He has led our businesses in the UK and internationally and built strong teams across life insurance and general insurance.

“Maurice knows our strengths, knows where we need to improve and has a deep understanding of insurance and customers’ needs. He is exceptionally well qualified to re-energise Aviva and deliver long-term growth.

Tulloch said: “I am honoured to lead Aviva, a business I’ve been part of for 26 years. There is a clear opportunity to realise Aviva’s significant but untapped potential. Aviva is financially strong, we have a well-known brand and excellent businesses. But there is more to do to improve returns for shareholders.”

<https://www.aviva.com/newsroom/news-releases/2019/03/aviva-appoints-maurice-tulloch-as-chief-executive-officer/>

Arthur J. Gallagher to buy JLT’s global aerospace businesses

American insurance brokerage firm Arthur J. Gallagher & Co has agreed to acquire the global aerospace operations of Jardine Lloyd Thompson Group plc (JLT).

The disposal of global aerospace businesses is necessary for [JLT to complete the regulatory requirements of the European Commission related to the acquisition of Marsh & McLennan Companies](https://www.verdict.co.uk/life-insurance-international/news/marsh-mclennan-buy-uk-insurer-jlt-5-6bn/).

Subject to European Commission approval, the transaction is expected to close during this spring.

Pursuant to the terms of the agreement, Arthur J. Gallagher will acquire all assets within JLT’s global aerospace retail and wholesale insurance broking division, which includes operations in the UK, US, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, and 10 other countries in Europe, Latin America and Asia.

The deal also includes acqusitioin of the assets of Hayward Aviation, a UK insurance broker which offers aviation coverage to high-net worth individuals and smaller airlines.

Gallagher will absorb nearly 250 staff from JLT's global aerospace division, including nearly 100 employees within JLT's London Market operations, thereby becoming part of Gallagher's existing aviation division.

Arthur J. Gallagher & Co chairman, president and CEO J. Patrick Gallagher, Jr., said: :The addition of JLT's global aerospace broking operations will firmly position Gallagher as a leading broker in the extremely attractive and dynamic aviation and aerospace sector.

“The business portfolio is a highly complementary geographic fit with Gallagher's existing footprint and will provide significant growth opportunities for our international businesses. We look forward to welcoming the team to Gallagher later this spring."

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/arthur-j-gallagher--co-signs-agreement-to-acquire-jardine-lloyd-thompson-groups-global-aerospace-operations-300805726.html>

<https://www.businessinsurance.com/article/20190304/NEWS06/912327051/JLT-to-sell-aerospace-division-to-Gallagher-to-help-close-Marsh-&-McLennan-acqui>

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/jlt-sells-global-aerospace-operations-to-gallagher-ahead-of-marsh-takeover-17816>

Older Consumers prefers affordable short-term health insurance, says eHealth

Compared to younger ones, older enrollees are more likely to consider short-term insurance as an affordable alternative to Affordable Care Act (ACA) plans, according to a report published by eHealth.

eHealth operates a private online health insurance exchange and allows users to compare health insurance products from a number of providers.

The new survey, in which nearly more than 800 short-term health insurance enrolees participated, revealed that affordability is an important aspect while buying short-term coverage.

**Affordability is key for short-term coverage**

Almost 70% of respondents aged between 55 and 64 said that affordability as their primary reason for choosing short-term coverage, compared to 53% of young adults aged between 18 and 24.

About 88% of the respondents between 55 and 64 years of age said they consider low premiums more important than comprehensive benefits, compared to 78% of those aged between 18 and 24.

According to the survery, some 64% of the older people would like to retain short-term coverage for seven months or longer; against 56% of those between the ages of 18 and 24 who said they will not continue their short-term coverage for no more than 6 months

eHealth CEO Scott Flanders said: “At eHealth we believe comprehensive coverage is always best, but the fact is that many middle-class Americans don't qualify for subsidies and cannot afford comprehensive ACA plans.

“As demonstrated by our survey results, affordability may be a greater concern for older Americans who face significantly higher monthly premiums than younger adults when buying ACA coverage. Short-term plans may offer many their only alternative to going uninsured."

Over 9 in 10 enrollees said they are very satisfied (41%) or somewhat satisfied (51%) with their short-term plan. Almost 86% of those who received medical care under their short-term plan are very or somewhat satisfied.

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/short-term-health-insurance-proves-especially-attractive-to-older-consumers-according-to-ehealth-survey-300805418.html>

ADAC launches testing of facilities at AUH's new $2.72bn terminal in Abu Dhabi

Airport operator Abu Dhabi Airports Company (ADAC) has started operational readiness and testing of various facilities at its newly constructed Midfield Terminal building at the Abu Dhabi International Airport (AUH).

As part of the operational readiness plan, a baggage handling system has been commissioned at the new terminal, which is being constructred with an investment of AED10bn ($2.72bn).

Abu Dhabi Airports CEO Bryan Thompson told gulfnews.com: “When MTB [midfield terminal building] opens we will have excess capacity which will allow us to attract demand and grow the UAE’s aviation sector more broadly and very rapidly.

“We can confirm that operational readiness and testing has commenced in various parts of the building to make sure that we are gearing up and creating confidence both within Adac [Abu Dhabi Airports Company] but also within the airlines that are going to operate.”

He expressed hope that the new terminal, which will have an annual passenger handling capacity of 45 million, will become operational in the fourth quarter of 2019.

“We are working towards a date to have that operational but for now we are keeping that under wraps,” Thompson told the publication.

Once completed, [the Midfield Terminal will cover an area of 742,000m².](https://www.airport-technology.com/news/newsabu-dhabi-airports-completes-majority-of-midfield-terminal-building-5961982/) The new terminal facility, in addition to the existing terminals at the airport, will be capable of handling the increasing number of passengers flying to and from the airport each year.

Abu Dhabi Airports is also looking to increase point-to-point (origin and destination) traffic by additional 1.4 million passengers by 2021 from the existing 7.7 million travellers.

The new terminal, which was originally scheduled to open in 2017, will provide 35,000m² of duty free shopping, dining and entertainment space. It will be able to process 11,000 passengers and 19,200 pieces of luggage per hour.

As part of its next phase of development, the airport is also working to strengthen its free zone and property development portfolio besides focusing on new terminal.

“We have reduced our fees by 66% over the past year. It allows us to have a tax free environment with 0% charges on imports and exports. There are no currency restrictions and no real restrictions on what type of businesses can trade within it,” Thompson told the news agency.

***Rendering of Midfield terminal complex at Abu Dhabi International Airport. Credit: Abu Dhabi Airports.***

Image source:

<http://www.adac.ae/english/mtp/MTP/latest-news/2011-02-2-abu-dhabi-airports-company-releases-the-general-contractor-tender-for-the-midfield-terminal-building>

Third party source:

<https://gulfnews.com/business/aviation/testing-commences-at-abu-dhabis-new-dh10-billion-airport-terminal-1.62451031>

Other sources:

<https://gulfnews.com/business/aviation/inside-the-new--abu-dhabi-airport-terminal-mega-facility-set-to-open-in-2019-1.2119942>

<https://www.arabianbusiness.com/transport/414676-no-rush-with-abu-dhabis-midfield-terminal-opening-says-ceo>

Testing commences at Abu Dhabi's new Dh10 billion airport terminal

Dh10 billion facility getting ready for grand opening

The Midfield Terminal building under construction in Abu Dhabi. When complete, the Midfield Terminal will span 742,000 square metres. Image Credit: WAM

Abu Dhabi: Abu Dhabi’s new Midfield Terminal will boost the aviation sector in the UAE rapidly, the CEO of Abu Dhabi Airports said on Monday. He, however, did not give a specific timeline when the new Dh10 billion terminal would be opened.

“When MTB [midfield terminal building] opens we will have excess capacity which will allow us to attract demand and grow the UAE’s aviation sector more broadly and very rapidly,” Bryan Thompson told reporters in Abu Dhabi.

Giving an update on the new terminal, he said the operational readiness and testing has commenced in various parts of Abu Dhabi’s Midfield Terminal and baggage handling system has been commissioned.

“We can confirm that operational readiness and testing has commenced in various parts of the building to make sure that we are gearing up and creating confidence both within Adac [Abu Dhabi Airports Company] but also within the airlines that are going to operate.”

When MTB [midfield terminal building] opens we will have excess capacity which will allow us to attract demand and grow the UAE’s aviation sector more broadly and very rapidly

When asked whether the new terminal will be ready in the fourth quarter of 2019 as announced previously, he said they are trying to make sure that they are 100 per cent ready at the time of opening.

“We are working towards a date to have that operational but for now we are keeping that under wraps.”

Abu Dhabi Airports previously announced that Midfield Terminal would open in the fourth quarter of 2019. When complete, the Midfield Terminal will span 742,000 square metres, and along with the existing terminals at Abu Dhabi International Airport will serve the increasing number of passengers flying through Abu Dhabi.

Abu Dhabi Airports is also targeting to grow point-to-point (origin and destination) traffic by additional 1.4 million visits by 2021 from the current figure of 7.7 million passengers.

“The market has been slightly different for the past two years because of the changes predominantly the home carriers both Etihad and its partner airlines have gone through a time where they have to structurally reset. So our growth as an industry within Abu Dhabi has been fairly challenged because of the structural reset within the industry.”

“Looking forward, for the next 12 months we don’t see huge growth coming into Abu Dhabi but we do see once the airline has reset itself, that its new strategy has come into place with the new fleet, we will see that Abu Dhabi will return to growth.”

Abu Dhabi Airports is also trying to boost its free zone and property development portfolio as part of its next phase of development.

“Abu Dhabi fee zone is a key next development. We have reduced our fees by 66 per cent over the past year. It allows us to have a tax free environment with zero per cent charges on imports and exports. There is no currency restrictions and no real restrictions on what type of businesses can trade within it.”

Aon confirms Willis Towers Watson buyout plans

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/aon-confirms-willis-towers-watson-buyout-plans-17829>

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-03-05/aon-is-said-to-consider-offer-for-rival-willis-towers-watson>

AU Small Finance Bank partners with insurtech firm Acko General Insurance

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/small-biz/sme-sector/au-small-finance-bank-partners-with-insurtech-firm-acko-general-insurance/articleshow/68269212.cms>

Pie Insurance Raises $45 Million in Series B Funding Round

<https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20190305005098/en/Pie-Insurance-Raises-45-Million-Series-Funding>

Aon partners with marine insurtech Skytek on satellite tracking

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/aon-partners-with-marine-insurtech-skytek-on-satellite-tracking-17826>

Insurer Chubb ups stake in Huatai creating ‘first Sino-foreign equity joint venture’

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/insurer-chubb-ups-stake-in-huatai-creating-first-sino-foreign-equity-joint-venture-17821>

Pay-as-you-go insurtech Zego launches mobility cover in Spain

<https://www.intelligentinsurer.com/news/pay-as-you-go-insurtech-zego-launches-mobility-cover-in-spain-17820>

ChainThat to launch blockchain-powered risk, capital exchange

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/chainthat-to-launch-blockchain-powered-risk-capital-exchange/>

Lloyd’s Brussels given nod for Monaco licence

<https://www.reinsurancene.ws/lloyds-brussels-given-nod-for-monaco-licence/>

Reliance Infrastructure bags contract for new greenfield airport in Rajkot. Check details

<https://www.timesnownews.com/business-economy/companies/article/reliance-infrastructure-bags-contract-for-new-greenfield-airport-in-rajkot-check-details/376990>

Cardiff Airport opens new passport e-gates

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-47459780>

YVR’s Innovative Travel Solutions First to Update Border Control Solution to Canadian Government Biometric Requirements

<http://www.yvr.ca/en/media/news-releases/2019/yvrs-innovative-travel-solutions-first-to-update-border-control-solution>

Consultation launched to better hold companies to account for poor road repairs and potholes

<https://www.midweekherald.co.uk/news/consultation-launched-to-better-hold-companies-to-account-for-poor-road-repairs-and-potholes-1-5919471>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-47456004>

Lockerbie plastic roads firm MacRebur opens first factory

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-south-scotland-47454719>

<https://www.expressandstar.com/news/uk-news/2019/03/05/new-factory-opens-to-turn-plastic-waste-into-road-surfacing/>

New master plan to shape a more sustainable transport sector in Uganda

<https://www.cowi.com/about/news-and-press/new-master-plan-to-shape-a-more-sustainable-transport-sector-in-uganda#>!

<https://www.theconstructionindex.co.uk/news/view/cowi-to-develop-ugandan-transport-plan>

Volvo and Singapore University NTU Unveil World's First Full Size Autonomous Electric Bus

<https://www.cnbc.com/2019/03/05/volvos-first-driverless-electric-bus-begins-trial-in-singapore.html>

<https://www.prnewswire.com/in/news-releases/volvo-and-singapore-university-ntu-unveil-world-s-first-full-size-autonomous-electric-bus-862412182.html>