

SECTORUPDATE

RVLNEWS

NOVEMBER | ISSUE 09



AIR FREIGHT DEMAND CONTRASTS WITH LOW PASSENGER TRAFFIC

Improving demand for air freight is compensating for still-declining passenger airline traffic, according to statistics for September published by the International Air Transport Association (IATA). The group's chief economist, Brian Pearce, warned that in regions such as Europe, where a second wave of Covid infections is escalating, more challenging business conditions have been seen throughout October and into early November.

During September, global air freight demand measured in cargo tonne-kilometres was eight per cent below levels recorded in September 2019, representing a positive trend compared with revenue passenger kilometres, which saw a decline of almost 73 percent. IATA's figures showed significant geographic variations with North Pacific air freight routes now seeing little adverse impact from the Covid crisis, while links between Europe and Asia and across the North Atlantic are not doing as well. ([Link: AIN Online](#))

PARIS CDG OVERTAKES LONDON HEATHROW AS EUROPE'S BUSIEST AIRPORT

The head of London Heathrow (LHR) has blamed the UK government's quarantine rules and its reluctance to adopt Covid-19 passenger testing for the airport's decline in Europe's ranking of busiest gateways and its ceding of the lead position to Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport (CDG). LHR handled 18.97 million passengers in the first nine months, compared with 19.27 million at CDG.

"Britain is falling behind because we've been too slow to embrace passenger

testing," said Heathrow CEO John Holland-Kaye. "European leaders acted quicker and now their economies are reaping the benefits. Paris has overtaken Heathrow as Europe's largest airport for the first time ever, and Frankfurt and Amsterdam are quickly gaining ground."

Heathrow now expects to process 22.6 million passengers in 2020 and 37.1 million in 2021, compared with its June forecast of 29.2 million in 2020 and 62.8 million in 2021. ([Link: AIN Online](#))

AIR CARGO SUCCESS AT THE LOGISTICS UK AWARDS

Two air cargo companies picked up awards at this month's Logistics UK Awards. Most innovative product of the year, sponsored by ITT Hub, was won by digital air cargo broker CharterSync, while the air business of the year title, sponsored by Multimodal, was claimed by Kerry Logistics.

The annual awards event is organised by UK-based industry representative group Logistics UK to support and celebrate businesses and developments in supply chain logistics. They were presented at Logistics UK's virtual Future Logistics Conference & Expo.

"Logistics UK is the only business group representing all of the logistics industry, so we are ideally placed to recognise the achievements of our sector's leaders," said chief executive David Wells.

"These awards have been the ideal opportunity to recognise the outstanding work of the individuals and businesses committed to keeping Britain trading under increasingly challenging circumstances." ([Link: Air Cargo News](#))

BERLIN TEGEL CLOSES AFTER FINAL FLIGHT DEPARTS FOR PARIS

Berlin Tegel has ceased commercial operations following the departure of the last flight from the German capital airport, an Air France service to Paris Charles de Gaulle.

Tegel is closing as a result of the new Berlin Brandenburg airport's opening on 31 October, enabling the concentration of all air traffic at a single hub. Tegel will be kept in operating condition for six months although no flights will use it. At the end of this period the airport will start undergoing redevelopment into a new urban district. ([Link: Flight Global](#))

AIR TAXI FIRM PLANS FIRST US HUB



Flying taxi start-up Lilium is to set up its first US hub near Orlando, Florida, putting more than 20 million Floridians within range of the winged electric aircraft that can take off vertically and cover 300km in a single one-hour hop.

The hub at Lake Nona, a futuristic smart city being built near Orlando International Airport, is due to start operations in 2025. It would be Lilium's second base after a similar 'vertiport' planned for Duesseldorf.

Lilium's five-seater Jet has undergone flight tests and, if approved for service, would offer travellers a way to skip traffic and quickly reach their destinations for around the cost of an Uber, said Chief Operating Officer Remo Gerber. The fixed-wing aircraft is powered by 36 electric engines which point down for take-off and tilt to the rear for horizontal flight.

(Link: Aviation News)

AERION COMPLETES WIND TUNNEL TESTING OF SUPERSONIC BUSINESS JET

The supersonic jet maker Aerion announced it completed high and low-speed wind tunnel testing of its AS2 business jet. The experiment was carried out with the assistance of French aerospace testing and research expert ONERA in Modane, France.

In total, the AS2 testing accumulated the equivalent of 145,000km flown, representing hundreds of simulated flight hours. The experiment allowed engineers to assess more than 200,000 data points. The airframe was tested during several phases of a flight, from take-off and landing to subsonic and supersonic cruise. The aerodynamic impact of specific operational conditions, such as the deployment of landing gear, or the icing of the wings, were also assessed.



"This testing is an important validation step in the development of the AS2, allowing us to collect a high volume of data in a short time through the full operational envelope of the aircraft to ensure our design exceeds performance expectations," commented Robert Lewis, Aerion's Director, System Test & Evaluation.

(Link: AeroTime Hub)

AMAZON LAUNCHES FIRST AIR HUB IN EUROPE

Online retailer Amazon has confirmed the launch of air cargo operations in Europe, the company's first such expansion outside the US. Its first European air hub is at Leipzig/Halle Airport, Germany, chosen for its central location and airfreight expertise.

"The 20,000 sq m cargo facility at Leipzig/Halle Airport will create an additional connection within Amazon's fulfilment network in Europe, bringing greater selection and more flexible delivery options at a lower price to Prime members," said Amazon.

The company will operate two Boeing 737-800 freighters flown by ASL Airlines on behalf of Amazon Air in Europe. *(Link: AeroTime Hub)*

AVIATION WILL NEED 27,000 NEW PILOTS IN 2021 AS SHORTAGE CONTINUES DESPITE DOWNTURN

Despite an industry slump that has seen mass pilot lay-offs, the global civil aviation industry will still require an estimated 27,000 new pilots by the end of 2021, or 264,000 over the coming decade.

That forecast comes from Canadian training and simulator provider CAE, which has released its latest prediction covering the demand and availability of pilots through 2029.

This year, the number of active pilots has declined year on year by around 87,000 to about 300,000, but will bump up to an estimated 374,000 by the end of 2021, says CAE. Though still less than 2019 levels, by the end of next year "age-based retirements and attrition" will leave the industry short 27,000 flight crew, says the study. That figure will balloon over 10 years to a requirement for more than 264,000 new pilots.

(Link: Flight Global)

BRITISH AIRWAYS BOEING 747 TO BECOME FILM AND TV SET



A British Airways 747 has begun a new life as a film and TV set at Dunsfold Aerodrome in Surrey. The aircraft, registration G-CIVW, is one of BA's now grounded fleet of 747s, victims of the Covid pandemic.

Dunsfold's 747 will keep its 'Chatham Dockyard' livery and will be stored in public view on the airfield. In time the aircraft will be opened up as an exhibition for visitors to experience up close the size and scale of the Queen of the Skies.

Jim McAllister, Chief Executive, Dunsfold Aerodrome, said: "The 747 is a unique and important piece of aviation history and we are excited to be taking delivery of this retired aircraft. Whilst G-CIVW will no longer fly, the aircraft will be preserved and given a new lease of life in the world of TV and film, training and special events."

After entering the British Airways fleet on 15 May, 1998, G-CIVW operated 11,424 flights and flew 90,617 hours over 45 million miles. ([Link: Aviation Voice](#))

AIRLINES HAVE AMPLE CAPACITY FOR VACCINE TRANSPORT SAYS CARGOLUX CHIEF

Concerns about a lack of air cargo capacity for the global distribution of Covid-19 vaccines – even those requiring the maintenance of extremely low temperatures during transit – are unfounded, in the view of Cargolux chief executive Richard Forson.

The biggest logistical challenge will instead be around the "final mile" distribution of vaccines that require sub-zero storage – something that is out of the hands of airlines' hands, says Forson. "The blockage is not going to be the number of aircraft that is required, because I can tell you all of the passenger aircraft in the world will then be mobilised in order to transport these vaccines," alongside services offered by dedicated freight operators such as Cargolux.

Of new-generation vaccines such as Pfizer-BioNTech's – which may need to

be stored at around -70°C to -80°C until they are within hours of use – Forson notes that transport boxes proposed by the manufacturers will ensure that temperatures are not compromised, while also protecting the aircraft from the effects of ultra-low temperatures.

In addition to new-generation vaccines, "there are also other drug companies that work on the older generation where you don't have to get to these extreme temperatures, but you get to something like -20°C, which we do on a regular basis. So there's no issue about how we're going to transport it."

European carrier Cargolux is one of the largest dedicated freight operators in the world, with 30 Boeing 747 aircraft in its fleet. ([Link: Flight Global](#))

SPANISH 'GHOST AIRPORT' REINVENTS ITSELF AS PARK FOR IDLE JETS

Spain's Ciudad Real airport had become almost obsolete before the Covid-19 outbreak, operating mainly as a drop-off point for hunting enthusiasts keen to visit the region's renowned country estates.

But rather than face the prospect of collapse, the airport's owners have reinvented the hub as a home for grounded planes, with capacity to store as many as 300. The main taxiway has already been converted, and accommodates about half of the almost 80 jets parked at the hub. Three more reconstructions are underway to allow for more arrivals.

Ciudad Real's pivot comes as more than 8100 planes sit idle around the world, or 31 per cent of the global fleet, according to aviation database Cirium. ([Link: AJOT](#))

FLYING CAR TAKES TO THE SKIES

The AirCar, a flying car from Slovak company Klein Vision, successfully completed its maiden flights this month, achieving two full airport patterns including two take-offs and landings. The AirCar can switch from road to air in less than three minutes at the push of a button. It weighs 1100kg and can carry a 200kg payload, with a range of 1000km.

"The key flight parameters confirmed all theoretical concepts and calculations," said Stefan Klein, Klein Vision's CTO and test pilot. "Following the completion of all required flight tests in compliance with EASA regulations, we will deliver a model with a certified ADEPT, 300HP engine within the next six months." ([Link: AeroTime Hub](#))