



## WASHINGTON AVIATION SUMMARY

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The Kirstein & Young law firm specializes in representing U.S. and foreign airlines, airports, leasing companies, financial institutions and aviation-related companies before U.S. Government agencies, Congress, the courts and in commercial and financing matters.

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## I. **REGULATORY NEWS**

### 1. **IATA Releases 2024 World Air Transport Statistics Report.**

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) released its annual World Air Transport Statistics for 2024. Among highlights, international premium class travel—business and first class—grew by 11.8%. Total number of international premium-class travelers in 2024 was 116.9 million (6% of total international passengers). Asia Pacific led the regions with year-on-year growth of 22.8% with 21 million premium passengers; economy class passenger numbers were up 28.6% to 500.8 million. Europe remained the largest market for international premium travel, with 39.3 million premium passengers. Busiest airport pair was Jeju-Seoul; of the top 10, only Jeddah-Riyadh was not in Asia Pacific. New York Kennedy-Los Angeles was the busiest route in North America. The U.S. remains the world's largest aviation market with 876 million passengers, followed by China (741 million), the UK (261 million), Spain (241 million), India (211 million), and Japan (205 million).

### 2. **ICAO Report Shows Commercial Flight Accidents Rose in 2024.**

The “State of Global Aviation Safety,” published by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), reports 95 accidents involving scheduled commercial flights last year, compared to 66 in 2023. Ten were fatal, with 296 dead, up from 72 previous year. The global rate rose to 2.56 accidents per million departures, compared to 1.87 in 2023. The figures remain lower than pre-pandemic levels and occur alongside record-breaking traffic volumes, with over 37 million departures worldwide. Four high-risk categories accounted for 25% of fatalities and 40% of fatal accidents. They were: controlled flight into terrain, loss of control in flight, mid-air collision and runway incursion. Turbulence accounted for nearly three-quarters of serious injuries, pointing to impact of weather-related hazards. The Asia-Pacific and Europe/North Atlantic regions each recorded three fatal accidents, while one event in South America resulted in 62 fatalities. The Asia-Pacific region saw the highest overall fatality count, followed by South America and Europe/North Atlantic.

### 3. **NTSB Holds Hearing on January Midair Collision.**

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) held a three-day investigative hearing on the January 29 mid-air collision of a PSA Airlines CRJ700 and a U.S. Army Sikorsky UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter over the Potomac River near Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA). The two pilots, two flight attendants and 60 passengers aboard the airplane, operated as American Airlines Flight 5342, were killed, along with the helicopter's three crew members. During the

hearing, officials from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) stressed the need to increase air traffic controller staffing, reduce flights at DCA, move the implicated helicopter route, and improve use of collision-warning and other technologies (the helicopter's Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) Out was turned off). Maria Cantwell, Ranking Member of the Senate Commerce Committee, asked why FAA had "ignored over 15,000 dangerous helicopter incidents and allowed military aircraft to fly without critical safety equipment in DCA's congested airspace." . . . The DOT Office of Inspector General (OIG) opened an audit into FAA oversight of the airspace design and management and flight routes around DCA, and the exemption process for ADS-B Out technology.

**4. DOT Modernizes Consumer Complaint System.**

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) launched a new web-based system for submitting and handling air travel service complaints as part of the Aviation Complaint, Enforcement, and Reporting System (ACERS). When a complaint, comment or compliment is submitted, the airline or ticket agent receives it in real time in the ACERS Aviation Industry Portal and by email. With the former system, developed in the 1990s, it took over a month for these submissions to be received. (airconsumer.dot.gov)

**5. FAA Updates Controller, Safety Inspector Hiring Plans.**

FAA updated plans for how it will hire, train and develop air traffic controllers and aviation safety personnel, accounting for aircraft with electric and hybrid systems, increased drone presence, growth in commercial space travel, and artificial intelligence (AI). Under the latest Air Traffic Controller Workforce Plan, FAA anticipates hiring at least 8,900 new air traffic controllers through 2028, including 2,000 in 2025. The Aviation Safety Workforce Plan calls for hiring 4,600 safety inspectors and engineers through 2034. . . . Nashua Community College, in New Hampshire, joined the Enhanced Air Traffic-Collegiate Training Initiative (E-CTI). Nine programs at eight schools have been authorized to provide the curriculum and advanced training technology offered at FAA's Air Traffic Controller Academy in Oklahoma City.

**6. Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) Rule for Drones Proposed.**

FAA and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) proposed regulations to enable operation of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) at low altitudes beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) and for third-party services, including UAS Traffic Management (UTM), that support these operations. The FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024 directs development of this rule, which "is intended to provide a predictable and clear pathway for safe, routine, and scalable UAS operations that include package delivery, agriculture, aerial surveying, civic interest,

operations training, demonstration, recreation, and flight testing. TSA proposes to make complementary changes to its regulations to ensure it can continue to impose security measures on these operations.” Comments due October 6, 2025.

**7. Delta-Aeromexico Joint Venture Update.**

The Department of Justice (DOJ) supported a DOT tentative decision to revoke antitrust immunity for the Delta-Aeromexico joint venture, because Mexico had violated bilateral air transport commitments by cutting U.S. carriers’ slots at Mexico City International. Meanwhile, Mexican authorities reportedly have notified U.S. airlines that the slots will be reinstated.

**8. DOT OIG Audits Transfer of Newark TRACON Responsibilities.**

The DOT OIG is conducting an audit of FAA’s July 2024 transfer of Newark TRACON operations from New York to Philadelphia. On April 28, 2025, air traffic controllers overseeing Newark’s airspace experienced an approximately 90-second blackout of radar and radio contact with air traffic due to a burnt copper wire. And a 90-second outage occurred on May 9, 2025, due to failures of primary and redundant communication infrastructure. Audit aims to assess the planning and risk assessment process, and response to operational impact on flight delays, cancellations and safety incidents.

**9. DOT OIG Audits FAA Oversight of SkyWest Maintenance Practices.**

An audit conducted by the DOT OIG found that FAA’s oversight of SkyWest maintenance practices does not fully comply with agency guidance. The OIG made several recommendations to FAA, among them: Provide training or formal instruction to managers and inspectors on how to identify and resolve systemic hazards. Establish clear procedures on how Certificate Management Offices should address significant delays in obtaining air carrier data, including defining an escalation process. Provide formal guidance to certificate management offices to aid in consistent internal communication and compliance action processing during periods of key personnel turnover.

## II. AIRPORTS

### 1. FAA Extends Order Limiting Operations at Newark.

FAA plans to continue limiting arrivals and departures at Newark during airport construction on weekends from September 1 through December 31, 2025, to 28 each per hour. As of October 26, 2025, outside of the construction period, arrivals and departures should not exceed 36 each per hour through October 24, 2026.

### 2. DFW Completes Construction Milestone for New Terminal F.

Dallas Fort Worth (DFW) finished moving six prefabricated module structures that create the framework for the first phase of the new \$4 billion Terminal F. The modules, some nearly as large as a football field, were moved overnight during a two-week period, then placed on foundations constructed at the Terminal F site for the next stage of construction. The first phase is anticipated to open with 15 gates in 2027.

### 3. MSP Runway Temporarily Closed.

The 10,000-foot, east-west Runway 12R-30L at Minneapolis-St. Paul, located on the south side of Terminal 1, is closed from August 18 to September 26 for the second and final phase of safety improvements and other airfield projects.

### 4. Proposals Submitted for London Heathrow Development.

Heathrow Airport Limited and Arora Group responded to a request for proposals from the UK Department of Transport for future development of London Heathrow. . . . Heathrow proposed a privately financed £21 billion 3,500-meter third runway within a decade, new satellite terminals and an expanded Terminal 2. Also proposed are a new road tunnel, two dedicated parkways and “improvements to the country’s busiest bus and coach station.” Heathrow requested government feedback by September, and would consult with airlines and local community, authorities and businesses from next year. A planning application is expected to be submitted in 2028. . . . Arora Group created a wholly owned company, Heathrow West Limited, that would work with Bechtel to deliver a fully operational 2,800-meter runway by 2035, and a new Terminal 6, which would open in two phases. . . . “Airlines look forward to reviewing both proposals in detail to be able to assess their merits, particularly their costs and consumer benefits,” said IATA Director General Willie Walsh. “The government’s decision on the way forward must be well-informed by the airlines who will ultimately be charged to use whatever is built.”

**5. Mega Financing Promised for New Ethiopian Airport.**

Officials from Ethiopian Airlines and African Development Bank (AfDB) signed a letter designating the Bank “as the initial mandated lead arranger, global coordinator and book runner to mobilize nearly \$8 billion of the \$10 billion” for the development of Bishoftu International. AfDB will provide a loan of \$500 million. Located 40 kilometers south of Addis Ababa in Abusera, the new airport will have initial capacity for 60 million passengers annually, with future expansion to 110 million, and 3.73 million tons of cargo. Groundworks are expected to begin late 2025, with Phase I completed in 2029. The project will include an airport city with shopping, hotels and recreation areas, and direct rail and expressway links to Addis Ababa. Bishoftu will serve international passenger and cargo traffic, while Bole International will retain Ethiopian’s domestic operations.

### III. **SECURITY AND DATA PRIVACY**

#### 1. **eGates Piloted at Select Checkpoints.**

Electronic gates are being piloted at checkpoints in select airports, allowing TSA, in partnership with CLEAR, to automatically compare traveler biometrics with their identity document and boarding pass without need for a human operator. CLEAR eGates are at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta, Reagan National and Seattle.

#### 2. **TSA Facial Recognition Program Expanding.**

TSA PreCheck Touchless ID is now available at 15 airports, and 11 new airports are expected soon, reports the Washington Post. With the voluntary facial recognition program, TSA PreCheck members pause for a camera shot and their facial image is matched against photos in the system, such as passport or visa. Participants must be current TSA PreCheck members and have an active airline profile with an uploaded passport. . . . Senator Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.), who cosponsored the bipartisan Traveler Privacy Protection Act introduced in May, said a recent study found that most travelers did not receive verbal notice of their right to opt out of facial recognition technology and did not see signage. “No one should be required to have their face scanned to travel, and no government should have the power of a national surveillance system at its fingertips,” said Merkley. His bill “would preserve the passenger’s right to use an approved document, like a driver’s license, to travel by air [and] would require signage to inform passengers of that right and protect the data collected from abuse.” The bill is opposed by airlines, airports and other industry groups, who claim, in a letter to Senate Commerce Committee leaders, that the technology will “ensure security effectiveness and operational efficiency as daily travel volume continues to rise.” TSA plans to expand facial recognition technology to more than 430 U.S. airports and eventually make it mandatory for all travelers, said Merkley.

#### 3. **Korean, Delta Offer Remote Baggage Screening.**

Joint venture partners Korean Air and Delta introduced International Remote Baggage Screening (IRBS) on their Seoul Incheon–Atlanta service. Checked baggage is screened at Incheon and images are transmitted to U.S. Customs and Border Protection for remote inspection before departure. Passengers no longer have to collect and recheck their bags upon arrival in Atlanta and can proceed to connecting flights or exit the airport.

## **IV. TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT**

### **1. Southwest Fares Now Available on Priceline, Booking, Agoda.**

Southwest's inventory is now available on Priceline and the Booking Holdings portfolio of brands, including Booking.com and Agoda. In February, Expedia Group became the first major online travel agency to offer Southwest flights. Expedia brands include Travelocity, Hotwire, Orbitz and CheapTickets.

### **2. Malaysia Airlines Uses Amadeus Travel Ready.**

Malaysia Airlines signed on for Amadeus Travel Ready, which "digitalizes and verifies travel documents, such as passports, visas and health documents, at every stage of the journey." Passengers can upload and verify their travel documents ahead of time during the online check-in process, and do not have to present them repeatedly, at check-in, baggage drop, security and boarding. Amadeus Travel Ready is aligned with the IATA One ID initiative, which promotes advanced sharing of information, contactless technologies, and biometric options.

### **3. ANA Implements AI-Based Turbulence Prediction Technology.**

All Nippon Airways (ANA) is the first airline to implement an AI-based turbulence prediction service developed by BlueWX with several years of testing and validation. The technology has an 86% accuracy rate. Tokyo-based BlueWX, founded in 2023 through a collaboration between ANA and Keio University, plans to expand distribution of its turbulence prediction service to other airlines and distributors worldwide. The company was selected for Japan's Deep-Tech Startups Support Program implemented by the New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO), and will begin developing a wind prediction model with global coverage.

### **4. Emirates Restricts Use of Power Banks Aboard Aircraft.**

Emirates joined other airlines that have restricted use of power banks on flights. Effective October 1, customers may carry one power bank that is under 100-watt hours. Power banks may not be used to charge personal devices. Charging a power bank using the aircraft's power supply is not permitted. Power banks accepted for transport must have capacity rating information available. They may not be placed in the overhead bin; they must be placed in the seat pocket or in a bag under the seat in front of you. Currently, power banks are not permitted in checked luggage. "There has been a significant growth in customers using power banks in recent years, resulting in an increasing number of lithium battery-related incidents onboard flights across the wider aviation industry," said Emirates. Incidents leading to a rapid and uncontrollable

temperature increase can result in fire, explosions and the release of toxic gases.

**5. Joby Flies Between Public Airports, Acquires Blade Unit.**

Joby Aviation successfully operated a piloted electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) air taxi with other aircraft in FAA-controlled airspace. The first flight, between Marina and Monterey airports, in California, was approximately 12 minutes over 10 nautical miles, including 5 minutes in a hold pattern for air traffic spacing. Joby's aircraft lifts off like a helicopter then transitions to fly forward like a plane, with minimal acoustic impact and zero operating emissions. Joby intends to operate air taxi service in cities around the world and sell its aircraft, which is designed to carry a pilot and up to four passengers at speeds of up to 200 mph. . . . Joby will acquire Blade's urban air mobility passenger business for up to \$125 million. The sale includes operations in the U.S. and Europe, lounges, terminals and the Blade brand. Operations will continue with the business functioning as a standalone entity within Joby upon closing. Blade's Medical division will remain public and rebrand as Strata, focusing entirely on contractual medical services and logistics. . . . Joby and ANA Holdings intend to establish a joint venture to deploy Joby aircraft across Japan, with phased rollout starting in Tokyo. Vertiports, pilot training and maintenance services will be developed in collaboration with national and local governments and companies such as Toyota, an investor in Joby. Joby will showcase its eVTOL aircraft in ANA livery at EXPO 2025 Osaka, in October, with demonstration flights and operations including vertical takeoffs and full transition to wingborne flight.

**6. Archer's Midnight Aircraft Completes Longest Piloted Flight.**

Archer Aviation's Midnight eVTOL aircraft completed its longest piloted flight to date, 55 miles in 31 minutes, at speeds exceeding 126 mph. The conventional takeoff and landing mission was conducted at Archer's flight test facility in Salinas, California. Earlier flights reached speeds of 150 mph over a variety of patterns. A United Airlines official was present for the flight. United is a major investor, with orders for the aircraft and plans to launch air taxi service in Chicago. Commercialization in United Arab Emirates is planned.

## V. ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

### 1. Fuel Bill for Global Airline Industry.

The global average jet fuel price for week ending August 15 was \$86.35 per barrel, down 6.6% on prior month's average, and down 12.8% on prior year's average, according to the Jet Fuel Price Monitor, a joint IATA-Platts initiative.

### 2. IATA World Sustainability Symposium To Take Place in Hong Kong.

IATA will hold the third World Sustainability Symposium in Hong Kong on October 21-22, hosted by Cathay Pacific. Discussions will cover hurdles in expanding sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) production, financing the \$4.7 trillion cost of decarbonization, integrating emerging technology developments by existing players and start-ups, and increasing collaboration across the value chain. "We are at a crucial point," said Willie Walsh, IATA's Director General. "Airlines are fully committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050. But we have not seen sufficient, timely action by policymakers, aerospace manufacturers, oil companies, or fuel producers to support this commitment. This event is an essential rallying call." . . . In other IATA news, a new agreement with software company Chooose expands market access to IATA CO2 Connect emissions data, which is based on operational input from 70 airlines. Chooose's 30 airline partners will have the option of incorporating IATA CO2 Connect emissions data into their emissions calculations.

### 3. DHL Express, Cathay Group Form SAF Partnership.

Under a new SAF partnership, Cathay Group will supply DHL Express with 2,400 metric tons for international flights departing Seoul Incheon, Tokyo Narita and Singapore Changi. The flights are operated by Cathay Group subsidiary Air Hong Kong, which principally operates for DHL Express. Cathay launched its Corporate SAF Program in 2022 and in 2024 the program enabled use of over 6,000 metric tons with a record 16 partners. This year the Group entered into an agreement with Sinopec to uplift SAF produced in the Chinese Mainland at Hong Kong International, and partnered with SK Energy to secure SAF supply in South Korea. DHL Express has secured SAF agreements with Neste, bp, World Energy and Cosmo Oil Marketing.

## VI. U.S. CONGRESS

### 1. Senator Drills FAA on Runway Fires, Emergency Evacuations.

Senator Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Ranking Member of the Commerce Subcommittee on Aviation, asked FAA Administrator Brian Bedford for detailed answers regarding age and abilities of passengers on board recently evacuated airliners, whether they had carry-ons while exiting the aircraft and how long each evacuation took. She also inquired about status of an updated emergency evacuation standard, which was due in May, under the EVAC Act, a provision in the FAA Reauthorization Law. The recent incidents included a July 26 emergency evacuation when a fire required 173 passengers and 6 crew members to exit an American Airlines 737 MAX 8 on a Denver runway using slides. Video showed passengers exiting with carry-on bags and, according to at least one passenger, the process took 10 to 15 minutes, “exceeding FAA’s 90 second evacuation standard by 10 times.” Other incidents were an evacuation of a Delta A330 on an Orlando tarmac on April 21, due to an engine fire, and a March 13 evacuation of an American Airlines 737-800 in Denver, where passengers were forced to stand on a wing, enveloped in hazardous smoke, to escape a fire. A DOT IG report from 2020 determined that FAA “has not conducted sufficient research on passenger behaviors” since last updating its evacuation standards, and earlier this year, a peer review by the National Academies found that FAA used an unrealistic simulation to assess aircraft evacuation safety. The EVAC Act requires FAA to conduct a comprehensive study on aircraft evacuation and empanel a committee of experts and stakeholders—including representatives of the disability community, senior citizens and pediatricians—to evaluate gaps in current evacuations standards and operating procedures and make recommendations.

### 2. Coalition Responds to Subcommittee Request for NAS Proposals.

The Modern Skies Coalition responded to a request from the House Aviation Subcommittee for legislative policy priorities and proposals to improve the National Airspace System (NAS), aside from funding a new ATC system. The coalition of more than 50 U.S. aviation groups submitted four key objectives: (1) Require DOT and FAA to deliver detailed plans for prioritizing spending of the recent allocation of \$12.5 billion. (2) Establish transparent congressional oversight and formal mechanisms for stakeholder engagement, with monthly performance reports. (3) Streamline acquisitions and foster performance-driven partnerships. (4) Ensure financial resources and flexibility for FAA to implement the plan for the \$12.5 billion, and budget reforms that enable multi-year system transformation efforts. Regarding remarks by DOT Secretary Sean Duffy that an additional \$19 billion is needed to achieve key objectives of a state-of-the-

art ATC system, the coalition said, “Our nation cannot afford a half-effort that doesn’t accomplish the mission.”

**3. Delta Responds to Senators’ Questions About Use of AI in Pricing.**

A Delta official responded to questions in a July letter from Senators Ruben Gallego, Richard Blumenthal and Mark Warner about use of AI in Delta’s dynamic pricing model. The airline does not intend to use AI for “individualized” or “surveillance” pricing, he wrote. Delta’s ticket prices “are dictated by market dynamics and vigorous competition. . . . Fares are publicly filed through ATPCO multiple times daily and contain objective, publicly available fare rules. . . . [C]ustomers can view and compare prices without providing Delta any personal information. . . . Delta is evaluating the AI pricing recommendation functionality developed by Fetcherr in domestic and international test markets, to assist analysts with pricing by reducing manual processes, accelerating analysis and improving time to market for pricing adjustments.”

## VII. **BILATERAL AND STATE DEPARTMENT NEWS**

### 1. **Korean Air Commits to Purchase of 103 Boeing Jets.**

During South Korean President Lee Jae Myung's state visit to Washington, Korean Air ordered 103 Boeing aircraft, including 777-9s, 787-10s, 737-10s and 777-8 Freighters. The agreement was signed at the Korea-U.S. Business Roundtable "Partnership for a Manufacturing Renaissance," presided over by Howard Lutnick, U.S. Secretary of Commerce, and Kim Jung-kwan, South Korea's Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy. "Acquiring these next-generation aircraft is the core of our fleet modernization strategy," said Korean Air Chairman and CEO Walter Cho, and "a critical enabler for our future as a merged airline with Asiana, to ensure that our combined carrier is one of the most competitive airlines in the industry."

### 2. **Syria Signs \$4 Billion Foreign Investment Agreement.**

Syria signed a memorandum of understanding worth more than \$4 billion in foreign investment with a consortium led by Qatar's UCC Holding to redevelop and expand Damascus International Airport. The project will be executed in five phases, increasing capacity to 6 million passengers in first year, 16 million upon completion of second phase, and 31 million at full capacity. Features will include up to 32 gates, a fully integrated air navigation service system, and a duty-free area. The project also includes development of the main access road to the airport, and \$250 million in financing to purchase up to 10 Airbus A320s for Syrian Airlines. Members of the consortium are UCC Concessions Investments (Qatar); Assets Investments USA (United States); and Cengiz İnşaat, Kalyon İnşaat and TAV Tepe Akfen (Turkey).

## VIII. EUROPE AND AFRICA

### 1. American Announces New Seasonal International Routes.

American announced new routes to Europe for summer 2026, including Prague, Athens, Greece, Milan, Zurich and the only nonstop service from the U.S. to Budapest. American will also expand summer service to Buenos Aires and increase premium seating capacity to Tokyo Haneda from Dallas Fort Worth and Los Angeles International.

### 2. Alaska Will Fly Nonstops to London, Reykjavik from Seattle.

Alaska Airlines will launch daily nonstops to London Heathrow and Reykjavik from Seattle in spring 2026.

### 3. ITA Airways Set for Star Alliance Integration.

ITA Airways expects full integration into Star Alliance from early 2026, “along with pending approval of joint ventures for flights between Europe and North America and Europe and Japan.” The Italian carrier is 59% government-owned; Lufthansa holds the remaining 41% share. Lufthansa Group airlines and ITA have harmonized benefits, such as mutual lounge access and priority boarding. Lufthansa, Swiss, Austrian and Brussels flights can be combined with ITA flights in a single booking. Starting in September, ITA customers will be able to store their travel profile electronically in the Lufthansa Group Travel ID and benefit from associated digital customer services of Lufthansa Group.

### 4. Turkish Offers €300 Million for Minority Stake in Air Europa.

Turkish Airlines made a binding offer of €300 million for a minority stake in Air Europa, and the Spanish operator has accepted. Closing is expected to be within six to 12 months, subject to regulatory approvals. International Airlines Group (IAG) holds a 20% stake in Air Europa, which is owned by Globalia, and was prevented from taking a controlling stake due to antitrust objections from the European Commission.

### 5. Erno Hilden Named CEO of airBaltic.

Former SAS executive Erno Hilden was named CEO of Latvian airline airBaltic, effective December 1, 2025. Hilden, a Finnish national, has also held senior roles at Saudi Arabian Airlines Group and Finnair. Hilden will replace Interim CEO Pauls Calitis, who had stepped in for Martin Gauss. Calitis will continue in his role as COO and a member of the Executive Board.

## IX. ASIA/PACIFIC AND MIDDLE EAST

### 1. Spirit AeroSystems To Sell Subang Facility to CTRM.

Spirit AeroSystems Holdings announced an agreement to sell its facility and businesses in Subang, Malaysia to Composites Technology Research Malaysia (CTRM) for \$95.2 million. This followed agreements with Boeing and Airbus. The Subang engineering and manufacturing operation offers aerostructures assembly and services, and an integrated supply chain with access to advantaged, in-region material sourcing. CTRM will be a supplier to Airbus for the A220, A320 and A350 programs, and Boeing on the 737 and 787 programs.

### 2. Cathay Group Orders Additional 14 Boeing 777-9s.

Cathay Group announced the exercise of purchase rights for an additional 14 Boeing 777-9 aircraft, bringing total commitment to 35. The Group reported a profit of HK\$3.7 billion in first half 2025, “attributable to increased passenger capacity and volumes albeit at lower yields, a resilient cargo business and lower fuel price.” Fleet renewal and expansion plans include orders for over 100 new narrowbody, regional and long-haul widebody and large freighter aircraft, said Group Chair Patrick Healy.

### 3. Qantas Assessed A\$90 Million for Labor Violations.

An Australian court ordered Qantas to pay fines of A\$90 million for illegally outsourcing ground handling jobs in 2020, during the COVID pandemic. A\$50 million will be paid to Transport Workers Union, with the remainder to be decided. Our actions “caused real harm to our employees,” said current CEO Vanessa Hudson, apologizing to “the 1,820 ground handling employees and to their families.” Hudson succeeded Alan Joyce in 2023.

### 4. Air India To Suspend Washington, D.C. Services.

Air India will suspend service between Delhi and Washington, D.C., effective September 1, as an extensive Boeing 787-8 retrofit program, underway until at least the end of 2026, has resulted in a shortage of aircraft. In addition, the closure of airspace over Pakistan affects long-haul operations due to longer routings and increased operational complexity. Air India will offer one-stop flights to Washington via New York Kennedy, Newark, Chicago and San Francisco, with interline partners Alaska, United and Delta.

## X. AMERICAS

### 1. Chris Sununu Named A4A President, CEO.

Former New Hampshire Governor Chris Sununu will become President and CEO of Airlines for America (A4A) on September 9. He succeeds Nick Calio who joined A4A in 2011 and will remain as CEO Emeritus through the end of the year.

### 2. United Flight Attendants Reject Tentative Agreement.

United flight attendants rejected a tentative agreement “that didn’t go far enough to address the years of sacrifice and hard work to make the airline the success it is today,” said Association of Flight Attendants-CWA (AFA). The union will survey members to identify key issues they “are ready to fight to achieve in an agreement they want to ratify.” . . . Flight attendants at GoJet, which operates 53 CRJ-550s exclusively for United, ratified a contract with double digit pay increases, increased per diem, minimum pay protections, greater schedule flexibility and a trigger for the first contractual boarding pay at a regional. The Missouri-based carrier has flight attendant bases in Newark, Chicago, Washington, D.C. and St. Louis.

### 3. Gangwal Steps Down as Southwest Chair.

Rakesh Gangwal stepped down as Southwest Chair and was replaced by Doug Brooks, who has served as a Director of the company since 2010. Gangwal will Chair a newly formed Fleet Oversight Committee and continue to serve on the Finance and Nominating & Corporate Governance committees. . . . Southwest and Evergreen subsidiary EVA Air will jointly operate itineraries between North America and Asia connecting through shared gateways in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle-Tacoma and Chicago. . . . Southwest will begin its new seating and boarding process on January 27 and customers can now select a seat at booking, including those connecting from transoceanic journeys with partners Icelandair, China Airlines and EVA. . . . Southwest will begin service to St. Maarten in April from Orlando and Baltimore/Washington, subject to requisite approvals. . . . Southwest launched Getaways by Southwest, bundled packages that include air, hotel, car and ground transportation options.

### 4. Hawaiian Suspends Underperforming Routes.

Hawaiian Airlines will suspend service in November on three underperforming routes: Honolulu to Incheon (5x weekly), Fukuoka (3x weekly) and Boston (4x weekly). Aircraft will be redeployed to add service from Honolulu to Sydney, to daily from five weekly, from December 18 through January 31; to Papeete, to twice weekly from once, from March; to Los Angeles, to five daily from four in

peak seasons, November 21 to December 1, and December 19 to January 6; and to Seattle, from three daily to four, from late November to mid-April. Hawaiian will also launch five weekly nonstops between Seattle and Incheon on September 12. Next spring, the combined Hawaiian Airlines and Alaska Airlines will launch nonstop service between Seattle and Rome, London and Iceland, with one-stop connections via Hawaii.

**5. JetBlue Adds Florida, Latin America, Caribbean Flights.**

JetBlue is adding Florida service in December, including Vero Beach and a return to Daytona Beach, from Boston and New York Kennedy; to the Dominican Republic, with new routes from Tampa to Punta Cana and Fort Lauderdale to Santiago de los Caballeros. The airline will increase Caribbean service from Boston, with daily flights to St. Thomas, Costa Rica, St. Maarten and Nassau, and will add a second Saturday flight to Grand Cayman and Barbados. . . . Members of JetBlue's TrueBlue loyalty program can earn and redeem points on flights operated by German leisure airline Condor, in an expansion of their partnership.

**6. Spirit Announces Retirement of John Kirby.**

Industry veteran John Kirby retired from Spirit Airlines after a six-year tenure as Vice President of Network Planning. During his 40-year aviation career, he held leadership roles at several airlines, including Alaska, Southwest and AirTran. . . . Spirit will offer three weekly nonstops from Fort Lauderdale to Belize and Grand Cayman this winter. . . . In other news, Spirit successfully completed renewal of the IATA Operational Safety Audit (IOSA); reportedly Spirit is exploring another restructuring, having emerged from Chapter 11 bankruptcy in March; and the airline extended its credit card processing agreement to improve liquidity.

**7. Lawsuits Target "Windowless" Window Seat Fees at Delta, United.**

Separate Class action lawsuits were filed against Delta in the Eastern District of New York and United in the Northern District of California, alleging the carriers deceptively charge premium fees for seats labeled as "window" seats that lack actual windows due to aircraft design. The Delta suit involves Boeing 737s, 757s, and Airbus A321s, while the United suit alleges misrepresentations on 737s and Airbus A321s. Both complaints contrast the Delta and United misrepresentations with competitors' disclosures that flag "no window view."

**8. Frontier Adding 20 New Routes.**

Frontier is adding 20 new routes from Fort Lauderdale, Detroit, Baltimore, Houston, Charlotte and Dallas, with fares starting at \$29. First Class seating debuts in late 2025.

**9. Mesa Completes E175 Transition.**

Mesa Air Group is now a single fleet operator of Embraer E175s, and CRJ crews were to complete training to fly the E-Jets in August. United had requested the transition; Mesa operates its flights as United Express. Referencing the planned merger with Republic Airways Holdings, Mesa CEO Jonathan Ornstein said the combined companies will have a single unified fleet of more than 300 E170/E175 jets. The proposed merger is expected to close by year-end. Pilot groups from each airline formed a unity agreement that will remain in place until a joint collective bargaining agreement is ratified by both groups.

**10. Air Canada, Flight Attendants Reach Tentative Agreement After Strike.**

Air Canada and its flight attendants reached a tentative agreement, ending a three-day strike that caused cancellation of thousands of flights. The agreement, said Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), addresses wage increases and compensation for work during ground time. A return to full, regular service for Air Canada and Air Canada Rouge would take seven to ten days, said Air Canada, which suspended guidance for third quarter and full-year 2025 operating results.

**11. American Announces New Seasonal International Routes.**

See Section VIII, item 1.

**12. Alaska Will Fly Nonstops to London, Reykjavik from Seattle.**

See Section VIII, item 2.

**13. Air India To Suspend Washington, D.C. Services.**

See Section IX, item 4.