



## 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. FAA Reorganization Underway.**

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) announced a reorganization of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Under the new structure, the Policy and Legal Office will oversee strategic policy, legal, stakeholder engagement, and financial assistance functions, and will include the rulemaking and regulatory office. The Aviation Safety Management System (SMS) Organization will centralize activities previously conducted in five separate lines of business. An Airspace Modernization office will be responsible for planning, research and development, systems engineering, and portfolio management for the National Airspace System. An Advanced Aviation Technologies office will oversee integration of drones, eVTOLs and other advanced air mobility vehicles into the airspace. The restructuring will not result in reductions in force, said officials, but will shift key leadership posts to permanent positions and consolidate management of finance, IT and human resource divisions under the Administrator.

### **2. DOT to Refocus Airline Enforcement Toward Proactive Compliance.**

DOT issued a notice regarding changes to its investigatory and enforcement policies and procedures involving consumer protection, civil rights, and economic licensing compliance. Under the proposed changes, DOT's consumer protection enforcement office will undertake a "proactive compliance" model that prioritizes industry cooperation over immediate penalization. Under this shift, significant civil penalties would be reserved for widespread or intentional violations, while standard enforcement efforts will focus on ensuring consumers are "made whole" rather than simply collecting fines. The public comment period for these proposed changes ends February 5.

### **3. Permanent Helicopter Restrictions Formalized for DCA Airspace.**

FAA published an Interim Final Rule (IFR) that permanently restricts helicopter and powered-lift operations in certain areas near Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA), unless conducting essential operations. The restrictions were put in place following the January 29, 2025 midair collision of a PSA Airlines CRJ700 regional jet and a U.S. Army Sikorsky UH-60L Black Hawk helicopter over the Potomac River, which killed 67 people. The IFR took effect immediately; the final rule will follow a comment period.

**4. NTSB: Systemic Failures Led to Midair Collision Near DCA.**

Systemic failures in airspace design, safety oversight, and risk management by FAA and the U.S. Army contributed to the midair collision near DCA, said the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) in a hearing. Among investigative findings, neither aircraft was equipped with collision avoidance technology capable of providing effective alerts in the low-altitude environment; had the CRJ700 been equipped with a system that used Automatic Dependent Surveillance–Broadcast In, the crew would have had enhanced position information about the helicopter. FAA lacked effective strategies to identify, assess, and reduce recurring midair collision hazards around DCA and did not act on recommendations from air traffic control personnel and helicopter operators who raised concerns about known conflict areas. U.S. Army safety management processes failed to identify and address hazards associated with helicopter operations in congested and complicated civilian airspace, lacked a flight data monitoring program for helicopters operating near major airports, and had limited participation in safety reporting systems. The high workload during a period of elevated traffic reduced air traffic control’s ability to monitor developing conflicts and provide timely safety alerts. The use of separate radio frequencies for helicopters and airplanes further increased risk, as blocked transmissions prevented critical instructions from being fully received. NTSB voted to approve 74 findings and 50 recommendations including changes to helicopter route design, air traffic control procedures, safety management systems and data sharing. . . . One NTSB recommendation directs FAA to require all aircraft that operate where broadcasting ADS-B Out is required to also use ADS-B In. In December, the Senate unanimously passed the Rotorcraft Operations Transparency and Oversight Reform (ROTOR) Act, which requires all aircraft in controlled airspace to be equipped with ADS-B In. The bill also directs FAA to evaluate the safety of airspace around airports and improves safety information sharing between FAA and the military. An updated ROTOR Act strips a provision from the FY 2026 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which widens the loophole that allows military helicopters to operate in DC airspace without broadcasting their location. The ROTOR Act needs final House approval.

**5. NTSB Preliminary Report on UPS Flight 2976 Crash.**

NTSB issued a preliminary report on the United Parcel Service (UPS) flight 2976 investigation. The Boeing (McDonnell-Douglas) MD-11F took off from Louisville on November 4. Airport surveillance video shows the left engine and pylon separating from the wing. The airplane initially climbed to about 30 ft above ground level, cleared the blast fence beyond the end of the runway, then struck a warehouse at the southern edge of the airport, a storage yard and two additional buildings, including a petroleum recycling facility, and was mostly

consumed by fire. Fifteen were killed, including the three crewmembers and people on the ground. NTSB said fractures in the assembly holding the left engine in place may have contributed to the crash and had occurred at least four other times on three different planes, including an American Airlines McDonnell Douglas DC-10-10 which crashed in 1979 in an open field on takeoff from Chicago O'Hare killing 271 persons on board and two on the ground with two others seriously injured. In a 2011 service letter, Boeing determined that the flaw would not result in a safety-of-flight condition and called for routine inspections of the part. NTSB said UPS policy was to inspect the part every 72 months. The NTSB investigation is ongoing.

**6. FAA Announces Radar Contracts for ATC System.**

FAA awarded new contracts to RTX and Indra for replacement of up to 612 ground-based radars by June 2028 with modern, commercially available surveillance radars. Replacements are scheduled to begin this quarter and will proceed on a rolling basis, prioritizing high-traffic areas. . . . In related news, FAA Administrator Bryan Bedford discussed air traffic control modernization, among other things, at an Aero Club of Washington function, noting that the innovation cycle needs to be rapid, like that of Apple or Tesla, rather than 20 years when the product is already obsolete.

**7. FAA Adds Two New Designated Sites for UAS Testing.**

FAA announced that two new test sites for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) will be located in The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and Indiana Economic Development Corporation. The UAS Test Site program supports development, testing, and evaluation of public and civil unmanned aircraft and related technologies and helps advance the safe integration of drones into the National Airspace System.

## II. AIRPORTS

### 1. BWI Completes \$520 Million Improvement Project.

The Concourse A/B Connector and Baggage Handling System project has been completed at Baltimore/Washington International (BWI). The largest capital project in the airport's history, it includes five modernized, relocated airline gate areas and an in-line screening baggage handling system that can process 3,500 bags per hour, compared to the previous 2,100. Southwest is the largest airline at BWI, with 230 daily departures to 82 domestic and international destinations.

### 2. Austin Completes New 10-Year ULA; \$5 Billion Development Planned.

Austin-Bergstrom completed a 10-year use and land agreement (ULA) with airline partners, providing "the necessary financial foundation for airport-generated revenue" that will support ongoing operations and fund major expansion. Signatory airlines are Southwest, Delta, United, American, Alaska, FedEx and UPS. Projects supported include a new Concourse B with 26 gates. A new pre-engineered Concourse M will add six new gates and support construction phasing, accommodate new airline entrants, and provide operational flexibility for irregular operations. The existing concourse, departures hall, ticket counters, and baggage claim in the Barbara Jordan Terminal will be redeveloped to create a post-security Concourse A for international flights and non-signatory airlines. Delta, as Concourse A anchor tenant, will have 15 gates, American nine, and Alaska one. Eight common-use gates can be used for domestic and international flights. Budget is expected to increase from an estimated \$4 billion program to over \$5 billion as scope is refined, all funded through airport cash reserves, current and future airport revenues, future revenue bond proceeds, and FAA grants.

### 3. A4A Asks DOT to Intervene in Dublin Airport Dispute.

Members of the Air Transport Association of America (A4A) filed a complaint under the International Air Transportation Fair Competitive Practices Act against the Irish government and the European Union (EU). They contend that Ireland is in violation of EU regulations and the U.S.-EU Air Transport Agreement by seeking to impose a local infrastructure planning condition restricting the number of passengers at Dublin Airport (DUB) to 32 million per annum, "which will result in the withdrawing of U.S. carrier historic slots at DUB." The cap is being challenged in the Irish High Court; A4A and Irish carriers Aer Lingus and Ryanair obtained a stay on the cap while legal challenges continue. A4A asked DOT to take expedited action, including potentially curtailing Irish airlines' access to the U.S. market if Ireland does not move to lift or suspend the cap.

According to the Irish Times, legislation is being drafted that will remove the cap.

**4. Munich Airport CEO Named ACI World Chair.**

Jost Lammers, CEO of Munich Airport, is Chair of the Airports Council International (ACI) World Governing Board (WGB) for the 2026–2027 term. He succeeds ACI World’s first woman Chair, Candace McGraw, retired CEO of Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International. Lammers was President of ACI Europe in 2019 and earlier was CEO of Budapest Liszt Ferenc Airport. The WGB is composed of 28 airport CEOs nominated by ACI’s five regions.

**5. Heathrow To Begin Work on Planning Application for Third Runway.**

Heathrow approved new investment to begin work on a planning application for a third runway. The government has set the timetable to secure planning permission by 2029 and bring the runway into operation in a decade. “The project will proceed once necessary regulatory and policy frameworks are firmly in place,” said officials. In spring 2026, clarity is required from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) on how early costs can be recovered. In summer, the draft Airports National Policy Statement will be published and CAA will decide on the long-term regulatory model which will determine if private investment will be forthcoming. In autumn, Parliament will be asked to decide on the final ANPS, a decision that will set the planning framework for the project.

**6. Turkish Airlines Begins Construction of New Facilities at Istanbul.**

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held for eight new facilities primarily at Istanbul Airport. With the second phase of the air cargo terminal, SmartIST, cargo handling capacity, currently at 2.2 million tons, will rise to 4.5 million tons. A new catering facility and flight training center, maintenance hangars, and an additional crew terminal building are also planned.

**7. Bishoftu International Construction Begins.**

Construction of Bishoftu International, near Addis Ababa, began with officials from government and Ethiopian Airlines present at the groundbreaking ceremony. Phase One of the project, expected to be completed by 2030, will accommodate 60 million passengers annually; when fully completed it will have the capacity to handle 110 million passengers.

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

#### 1. **Court Rules TSA Must Honor Workers' Union Contract.**

A federal court again stopped the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) from canceling a collective bargaining agreement (CBA) between the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE). Despite an injunction prohibiting termination, DHS said in December that it intended to unilaterally terminate the CBA in January, and AFGE filed an emergency motion to enforce the injunction. Following a hearing, the judge ruled that the CBA remains applicable and binding, and currently pending grievances and arbitrations will continue to be processed. Plaintiffs include AFGE, Communications Workers of America, and Association of Flight Attendants-CWA. AFGE is the largest federal employee union, representing 820,000 workers in the federal government and the government of the District of Columbia.

#### 2. **TSA Expanding Facial Recognition to 65 Airports.**

TSA is expanding its Pre-Check Touchless ID program to 65 airports. Travelers enrolled with participating airlines can move through dedicated lanes with facial comparison technology. Images “are not used for law enforcement, surveillance, nor shared with other entities,” says TSA; photo and personal data are deleted within 24 hours of scheduled flight departure.

#### 3. **Heathrow Completes £1 Billion Security Upgrade.**

“Passengers travelling through all terminals at Heathrow no longer need to remove liquids or electronics from their hand luggage, or juggle plastic bags at security,” said CEO Thomas Woldbye, announcing a £1 billion investment in new scanning technology.

## **IV. TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT**

### **1. ICAO, Amadeus Collaborate on “No Country Left Behind.”**

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and Amadeus formalized a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in support of ICAO's “No Country Left Behind” goal (NCLB). The partnership will help ICAO Member States “advance in their digital transformation journeys,” with a focus on implementation of ICAO standards and specifications; interoperability of biometrics between countries; training in technical and regulatory aspects of digital identity and biometrics in travel; and incorporating best practice and leading examples of tech-enabled aviation and border control processes.

### **2. U.S. Travel Agency Air Ticket Sales Surpass \$100 Billion in 2025.**

Airlines Reporting Corp. (ARC) released data showing U.S.-based travel agency air ticket sales totaled \$100.4 billion in 2025. The annual sales total grew 1% from 2024 and represents the highest annual total recorded by ARC. Total passenger trips at 292.9 million were up 3%; U.S. domestic trips at 183.2 million were up 2%; and international trips at 109.7 million were up 4%.

### **3. Sabre, BizTrip AI to Deliver Solutions for Corporate Travel Market.**

Sabre and Biztrip AI will develop and bring to market a suite of AI-powered corporate travel assistants that utilize natural language processing to handle complex booking workflows, real-time itinerary management, and intelligent policy automation for Travel Management Companies (TMCs), airlines, hotels, and corporate clients worldwide. In addition, Sabre has made a minority investment in BizTrip AI.

### **4. Lufthansa, Amadeus Partner on Retail, Delivery Transformation.**

Lufthansa Group will adopt Amadeus Nevio's AI-native, modular solutions to enable a single order view and improved servicing throughout the journey.

### **5. Joby Adds Second Ohio Facility for eVTOL Manufacturing.**

Joby Aviation will acquire a manufacturing facility in the Dayton, Ohio area spanning more than 700,000 square feet, with plans to double production to four aircraft per month in 2027. The California-based company is developing an all-electric, vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) air taxi for commercial passenger service.

## **V. ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

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

The global average jet fuel price for week ending January 9 was \$86.63 per barrel, no change from prior month's average, and down 3.8% on prior year's average, according to the Jet Fuel Price Monitor, a joint IATA-Platts initiative.

### **2. UK Government Funds Four SAF Innovators.**

The UK Department for Transport awarded £181,000 in funding through the UK Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) Clearing House to Avioxx, Clean Planet Technologies, Green Lizard Technologies, and Zero Petroleum, to accelerate testing, certification and commercialization of next-generation SAF.

### **3. Neste Supplies SAF to Cathay Group.**

Neste and Cathay Group agreed on the supply of Neste MY Sustainable Aviation Fuel™ for the group's operations across Europe, the United States and Asia-Pacific. Neste has been delivering blended SAF for use on Cathay Pacific flights from Amsterdam Schiphol and Los Angeles International and has provided SAF to Singapore Changi for flights operated by Cathay's all-cargo Air Hong Kong. The SAF is supplied into fuel facilities of these airports blended with conventional jet fuel. Neste refines waste, residues and other renewable raw materials to high-quality renewable fuels at its refineries located on three continents. The company's annual renewable fuels production capacity will be increased to 6.8 million tons in 2027.

## VI. U.S. CONGRESS

### 1. THUD Funding Bill Includes \$22 Billion for FAA.

The House passed a final FY26 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) spending bill, which includes \$22.2 billion for FAA, a \$1.22 billion increase above last year's enacted level. This was part of a three-bill package, which then was combined into a broader spending package in the Senate, where it stalled. Current stopgap funding expires January 30, which would trigger another government shutdown.

### 2. Hearing: Oversight of DHS.

The House Committee on Homeland Security held an oversight hearing on DHS's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, TSA, and Science and Technology Directorate. Ha Nguyen McNeill, whose title is TSA Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Administrator, said the transportation sector remains a top target for malign actors and that attention is on the upcoming 2026 World Cup, America250 events and 2028 Summer Olympics. Among other remarks, she said TSA is working with Congress and industry partners to modernize the Screening Partnership Program to incentivize airports and industry to invest in innovative solutions faster. In response to Democrats' questions about TSA's role in the Administration's anti-immigration activities, McNeill said TSA allows agents from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to access passenger data; she could not cite a statute or policy granting that authority. Asked about TSA air marshals being reassigned from commercial flights to deportation flights, she said this was not a reassignment as it falls within their mission.

### 3. "FAA SMS Compliance Review Act" Introduced in Senate.

The "FAA SMS Compliance Review Act" was introduced by Senate Democrats. The bill directs FAA to establish an independent expert review panel to make recommendations for a comprehensive, integrated and effective FAA safety management system (SMS) to better predict, manage and mitigate safety risks across the agency. Years of weak oversight contributed to the DCA mid-air collision, the Alaska Airlines Flight 1282 door-plug incident, and the Ethiopian and Indonesian crashes, said Senators, as well as a spike in near misses and air traffic control equipment outages.

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

### **1. EU, India to Establish “Dialogue on Aviation.”**

As part of a sweeping free-trade agreement, the EU and India plan to establish a regular “Dialogue on Aviation” to explore ways to deepen market cooperation, expand direct connectivity, and strengthen sustainability cooperation in green aviation, with a view to a possible Comprehensive Air Transport Agreement. The Dialogue will include cooperation on safety and a possible Bilateral Aviation Safety Agreement.

## VIII. EUROPE AND AFRICA

### 1. Wizz Air UK Seeks DOT Approval to Operate U.S. Services.

Wizz Air UK applied to DOT for authorization to operate scheduled and charter services between the UK and U.S. In public comments following the filing, Wizz Air executives played down speculation about imminent scheduled transatlantic flying, characterizing the U.S. authority as primarily enabling opportunistic, ad hoc charters—notably potential movements tied to major events such as the 2026 FIFA World Cup and, longer term, the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. Wizz Air Holdings—the parent company for Wizz’s UK, Hungarian, and Maltese units—is led by Chairman Bill Franke, Founder and Managing Partner of Indigo Partners founder who also serves as Bord Chair for U.S. ULCC Frontier Airlines. CEO József Váradi was a founder of Wizz Air and a former CEO of now-defunct Malév Hungarian Airlines.

### 2. EU Parliament Committee: Passengers Should Keep Their Rights.

The European Parliament’s Transport and Tourism Committee voted to update EU air passenger rights rules, in force since 2004, to ensure sufficient protection in travel disruption. The existing three-hour flight delay threshold and compensation sum must stay, passengers should be allowed one personal item plus one small piece of hand luggage for free, choice of seating should be free for people accompanying children under 14 or persons with reduced mobility, and airlines should provide a pre-filled form for compensation and reimbursement, said Ministers. . . . Airlines for Europe (A4E), European Regions Airline Association (ERA) and International Air Transport Association (IATA) jointly expressed “deep concern” about the vote, which “comes despite evidence that consumers prefer to prioritize choice, value for money, and punctual air transport services over additional compensation and other elements that will add costs to their tickets,” adding that “further financial and operational burdens does not address the root causes of travel disruption - such as infrastructure and air traffic management (ATM) constraints, but it does threaten the affordability of air travel.” Air transport consumer protections (EU261) already cost airlines and passengers €8.1 billion per year, they said.

### 3. EAS Group Acquires Volga-Dnepr.

Evrav Avia Servis (EAS Group) is acquiring Volga-Dnepr Group, which has been weakened by international sanctions imposed since Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. EAS was established last year by Evgeny Solodilin, who formerly led Red Wings Airlines and Moscow Zhukovsky airport. Solodilin intends to operate Russia-built aircraft on domestic routes and to countries that belong to the

Eurasian Economic Union, including Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Belarus and Armenia; cargo flights to China are also planned.

## **IX. ASIA/PACIFIC AND MIDDLE EAST**

### **1. Boeing: South Asia Region's Fleet, Traffic to Quadruple by 2044.**

India and South Asia's passenger air traffic will rise an average of 7% annually over the next 20 years, projects Boeing in its Commercial Market Outlook. The demand for air travel means airlines will need nearly 3,300 new planes by 2044, nearly 90% of which will be single-aisle. Accounting for growth and replacement, the region's fleet will grow from 795 to 2,925 planes. To support expected fleet growth, investment in the region's industry will require more than \$195 billion in aviation services, including maintenance, repair and modifications, digital services and training. Boeing projects the India and South Asia aviation industry will need 141,000 new professionals, including 45,000 pilots, 45,000 technicians and 51,000 cabin crew.

### **2. China Cancels Japan Services.**

China issued travel advisories in mid-November discouraging trips to Japan after remarks by Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi regarding Taiwan, and Chinese airlines have recalibrated capacity on Japan routes. For February, all scheduled flights on 49 China-Japan routes were cancelled, reports China Daily. Air China, China Eastern and China Southern extended special handling measures for tickets on Japan routes to October 24.

### **3. AirAsia X Completes Group Consolidation.**

AirAsia X completed its acquisition of AirAsia and AirAsia Aviation Group from Capital A. All AirAsia-branded airlines are consolidated under a single airline platform (AirAsia Group). Bo Lingam is Group CEO, Farouk Kamal is Deputy Group CEO, and Benyamin Ismail is General Manager. AirAsia X is evaluating a possible name change.

### **4. Malaysia Aviation Group Names New Executives.**

Malaysia Aviation Group (MAG) announced the appointment of Bryan Foong Chee Yeong as CEO of Airline Business, responsible for Malaysia Airlines, Firefly, and Amal. Low Wen Long was named Group Chief Strategy Officer. They will report directly to President and Group CEO Nasaruddin Bakar. Mohd Nadziruddin Mohd Basri remains CEO of Aviation Services, and Philip See remains CEO of Loyalty & Travel Services.

**5. Emirates, Nigeria's Air Peace Activate Bilateral Interline Agreement.**

Emirates and Air Peace activated a bilateral interline agreement, offering passengers single-ticket travel with through-checked baggage on select routes between Africa, the UAE and London. Air Peace is West Africa's largest airline.

## X. AMERICAS

### 1. Allegiant To Acquire Sun Country.

Allegiant plans to acquire Sun Country in a cash and stock transaction that has been approved by both Boards and is expected to close in second half 2026, subject to antitrust clearance and other approvals. Following the close, Allegiant will continue to be the publicly held parent company and the combined company will continue under the Allegiant name. The two leisure carriers will operate separately until a single operating certificate is obtained. Allegiant CEO Gregory Anderson will serve as CEO of the combined company, and Robert Neal as President and CFO. Sun Country President and CEO Jude Bricker will join the Board, with two additional Sun Country Board members, expanding the size of the Allegiant board to 11. Allegiant Chairman Maury Gallagher will serve as Chairman of the combined company. Jude Bricker will serve as an advisor to Anderson “to help ensure a smooth and successful integration.” The company will be headquartered in Las Vegas and maintain a significant presence in Minneapolis-St. Paul where Sun Country is based. The transaction values Sun Country at approximately \$1.5 billion. Upon closing, Allegiant and Sun Country shareholders will own approximately 67% and 33%, respectively, of the combined company.

### 2. Southwest Ends Open Seating.

Southwest ended its open-seating policy with the introduction of assigned and premium seating, including extra legroom, preferred and standard options, “the culmination of an 18-month transformational journey.” The airline also initiated a group-based boarding process.

### 3. Delta Places New Orders for Boeing, Airbus Long-Haul Aircraft.

Delta purchased 30 Boeing 787-10 Dreamliners, with options for up to 30 more, to enable expansion and modernization plans on high-demand transatlantic and South American routes. Delta also ordered 31 additional widebody Airbus aircraft, 16 A330-900s and 15 A350-900s, with deliveries to begin in 2029. The A350 enables Delta’s continued growth into markets in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and the South Pacific.

### 4. Alaska Announces Largest Fleet Order In Its History.

Alaska ordered 105 new 737-10s and five new 787s, exercising all previous 787 options held with Boeing, and secured rights for an additional 35 737-10s. The order, the largest in the airline’s history, secures critical delivery slots and extends the delivery stream through 2035. The 787s will enable the airline to fly to at least 12 long-haul international destinations from Seattle by 2030, said

CEO Ben Minicucci. . . . Alaska will begin serving Europe in spring 2026, with daily, summer seasonal flights from Seattle to Rome on April 28 and Reykjavik on May 28; and daily, year-round to London Heathrow on May 21. Asia operations currently include daily, year-round to Tokyo Narita, and five-times-weekly, year-round to Seoul Incheon.

**5. Hawaiian Announces \$600 Million Investment Plan.**

Hawaiian Airlines announced a five-year \$600 million investment plan for airport renovations at Honolulu, Līhu‘e, Kahului, Kona and Hilo, upgrading technology and retrofitting aircraft interiors. The Kahu‘ewai Hawai‘i Investment Plan will also help the Alaska Air subsidiary “advance lower emission technologies and programs promoting regenerative tourism, culture and conservation.”

**6. James Dempsey Named Frontier President, CEO.**

Frontier Group Holdings named James Dempsey President, CEO and a member of the Board, effective immediately. He had been interim CEO since mid-December, replacing Barry Biffle.

**7. PSA Moves Headquarters to Charlotte.**

PSA Airlines relocated its headquarters from Dayton to Charlotte, five miles from Charlotte Douglas International Airport. The wholly owned subsidiary of American Airlines Group said the move did not include any state or local incentives. PSA will maintain a significant presence in Dayton. The regional operates an all-jet fleet and operates 730 daily flights to 100 destinations.

**8. Breeze Pilots Sue Airline.**

Breeze Airways pilots filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Utah charging the airline, led by CEO David Neeleman, “has engaged in bad faith bargaining and interfered with pilots’ rights to effective union representation.” They have been negotiating for a first collective bargaining agreement since early 2023, said Air Line Pilots Association, Int’l (ALPA), but “after three years of frustrating negotiations, only 15 of 31 sections have tentative agreements, only two of which were reached during all of 2025.” ALPA is calling for “an industry-standard contract that gives Breeze pilots the stability and respect they deserve while supporting the airline’s growth.” Breeze began service in 2021 and its pilots joined ALPA in 2022.

**9. Avelo Modifies Network, Fleet.**

Avelo Airlines said it “has been recapitalized, and its cash position is now one of the strongest in the U.S. airline industry relative to its size.” The airline will close some bases and open a base at McKinney National Airport near Dallas. The fleet will be modified by removal of six Boeing Next-Generation 737-700s.

Avelo will continue to operate 737-800s and has up to 100 Embraer 195-E2 aircraft on order. CEO Andrew Levy told employees Avelo would no longer fly deportation charters for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), saying the program “promised more financial stability but placed us in the center of a political controversy.”

**10. Wizz Air UK Seeks DOT Approval to Operate U.S. Services.**

See Section VIII, item 1.