



WASHINGTON AVIATION SUMMARY

APRIL 2026 EDITION

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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. Two Pilots Killed in LaGuardia Runway Collision.

On March 22, Air Canada Express Flight 8646 collided with an Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting vehicle after landing on Runway 4 at New York LaGuardia. The nose of the CRJ900 was crushed, killing the pilot and first officer. Airplane passengers and crew were injured, as were persons in the fire truck. The flight, operated by Jazz Aviation, was arriving from Montreal. . . . “We rarely, if ever, investigate a major accident where it was one failure,” said National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) Chair Jennifer Homendy, responding to press reports about airport technologies and distracted controllers.

2. President Orders Compensation for TSA Employees.

Unpaid Transportation Security Administration (TSA) employees called in sick or resigned, as the Congressional stalemate to fully fund the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) continued. Hours-long wait times at some airport security checkpoints disrupted travel plans, and with Easter vacations approaching, President Trump ordered the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, to provide TSA employees with compensation and benefits due them. The DHS shutdown continued as Congress left for a two-week recess without passing funding legislation. (See also Section III, item 2.)

3. Middle East War Disrupts Commercial Air Travel.

War between Iran and the U.S. and Israel has affected commercial air travel. “Four weeks into the disruption,” reported OAG on March 24, “approx. 1.7 million scheduled seats have been removed—equating to around one-third of the capacity that had been due to operate in the last week of February”; 44 airlines that had planned to operate from the Middle East “have removed all capacity through to the end of April, collectively accounting for some 245,000 seats a week. Looking forward to the end of May several airlines have dropped significant capacity from the Middle East.” . . . Delta suspended Tel Aviv service from New York Kennedy and Atlanta through September 5; launch of Boston service, planned for late October, was delayed until further notice. United suspended Tel Aviv and Dubai service.

4. FAA Orders Use of Radar for Airplane, Helicopter Separation.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issued a general notice (GENOT) that suspends use of visual separation between airplanes and helicopters in Class B and Class C airspace, and Terminal Radar Service Areas (TRSA).

Where helicopters cross airport arrival or departure paths, air traffic controllers will use radar to keep the aircraft at specific lateral or vertical distances apart. Following the January 2025 mid-air collision near Reagan Washington National, “we looked at similar operations across the national airspace,” said FAA Administrator Bryan Bedford, and “identified an overreliance on pilot ‘see and avoid’ operations that contribute to safety events involving helicopters and airplanes.” . . . FAA is investigating whether the new measure was applied on March 24, when a Sikorsky Black Hawk helicopter nearly collided with a United Airlines jet on approach to John Wayne Airport in Santa Ana, California.

5. Air Travel Demand Will More Than Double by 2050.

Global air passenger demand is expected to more than double by 2050, according to the International Air Transport Association (IATA). Under the mid-range scenario, demand is forecast to reach 20.8 trillion revenue passenger kilometers (RPKs), based on a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 3.1% (2024-2050) from the 9 trillion RPKs seen in 2024. A higher growth scenario would see a 3.3% CAGR with passenger demand reaching 21.9 trillion RPKs in 2050. A lower growth scenario would see 2.9% CAGR with passenger demand reaching 19.5 trillion RPKs by 2050. The different scenarios are driven by alternative modeling of long-term economic growth, populations, aviation fuel price trends, the global energy transition, and air transport supply-side capacity development.

II. AIRPORTS

1. FAA Proposes Flight Limits at Chicago O'Hare.

FAA proposed a 2,800 daily limit for Chicago O'Hare summer flights, less than the 3,080 announced and more than last summer's 2,680. FAA proposed the limits "to prevent large-scale operational disruption while also allowing air carriers to operate within the airport's demonstrated manageable capacity," and is holding discussions with air carriers and the Chicago Department of Aviation on this proposal.

2. Southwest Discontinuing Chicago O'Hare, Washington Dulles Flights.

Southwest will discontinue service to Chicago O'Hare and Washington Dulles, effective June 4, but will continue serving Chicago Midway, Baltimore Washington International, and Washington Reagan National.

3. American Plans 12,000 Sq. Ft. Lounge at Austin.

American Airlines plans to open a new, 12,000 sq. ft. Admirals Club® lounge at Austin-Bergstrom featuring an outdoor terrace with views of downtown and the airfield. Construction will begin this year. American currently offers 50 daily flights to 11 destinations from the central Texas airport.

4. Miami Offers Wait n' Rest Sleep Rooms.

Miami International is the first U.S. airport to feature Wait n' Rest sleep rooms. Rates for the 15 spaces, located in Concourse D, begin at \$40 for 60 minutes for one guest; an eight-hour overnight package starts at \$200. A second MIA location is scheduled to open this summer in Concourse H. Other locations are at El Dorado in Colombia, and Toronto Pearson in Canada.

5. FAA Replaces Tower in Northwest Arkansas.

FAA installed a 140-foot-tall air traffic control tower at Northwest Arkansas National (XNA), the first to implement a provision of the 2024 FAA Reauthorization Act requiring two controllers per shift for small- to medium-hub airports. Allegiant, American, Breeze, Delta, Frontier and United serve XNA, which operates under the FAA Contract Tower (FCT) Program, with CI² Aviation providing ATC services. XNA has the highest number of commercial passengers in the state.

6. Avelo Is Launch Carrier at Dallas McKinney.

Avelo is the first carrier to sign an Airline Use and Lease Agreement (ULA) at McKinney National (TKI), which is transitioning from general aviation to

commercial service. Located 30 miles north of Dallas, the airport is building a new taxiway, passenger terminal and support facilities, scheduled for completion late this year.

7. **Dutch Court Annuls Decision on Schiphol Flight Limits.**

The Dutch Supreme Court annulled a 2024 government decision to limit the number of flights at Amsterdam Schiphol to 478,000 per year, saying it failed to consider aircraft noise differences and lacked certainty that the cap would lead to noise reduction. Airlines appealed the annual flight limit, but not restrictions on nighttime flights, which the court upheld.

8. **Lufthansa, Munich Airport Plan Expansion of Terminal 2.**

Lufthansa Group and Munich Airport extended their joint venture through 2056. They plan to increase Terminal 2's handling capacity by 10 million passengers per year with the addition of the "T-Pier," scheduled to open in 2035. Terminal 2 served more than 32 million passengers last year. Munich Airport holds a 60% stake in the Terminal 2 operating company, while Lufthansa Group holds 40%.

9. **Shannon Begins Terminal Upgrade.**

Construction is underway on a €15 million upgrade of the Shannon Airport terminal building which replaces a 1970s section "with a modern, curved architectural façade, designed to dramatically improve energy performance." The project is part of a €40 million investment for 2026 that includes upgrading taxiways and immigration and baggage halls.

III. **SECURITY AND DATA PRIVACY**

1. **Markwayne Mullin Confirmed as Secretary of Homeland Security.**

Markwayne Mullin was confirmed by the Senate to replace Kristi Noem as Secretary of Homeland Security. The Oklahoma Republican served in the House from 2013 to 2023, and in the Senate from 2023 to 2026.

2. **TSA Wait Times At Some Major Airports Exceed Four Hours.**

With Republicans and Democrats failing to resolve DHS funding, TSA officers were not paid and many chose to stay home, resulting in hours-long wait times at some airport checkpoints. At a hearing of the House Homeland Security Committee, TSA official Ha Nguyen McNeill said 40% to 50% are calling in sick and more than 480 have resigned. She also noted a 500% increase in assaults against TSA officers. . . . Delta suspended flight assistance service for members of Congress, with CEO Ed Bastian saying “It’s inexcusable that our security agents, our frontline agents, that are essential to what we do, are not being paid, and it’s ridiculous to see them being used as political chips” Delta hub Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta, the world’s busiest airport, has had checkpoint wait times exceeding four hours. . . . DHS deployed Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents to assist at some airports, but, said the American Federation of Government Employees, the union representing TSA workers, “ICE agents are not trained or certified in aviation security. TSA officers spend months learning to detect explosives, weapons, and threats specifically designed to evade detection at checkpoints, skills that require specialized instruction, hands-on practice, and ongoing recertification.” . . . DHS decisions to halt Global Entry and TSA PreCheck were reversed. “Global Entry is a force multiplier for Customs and Border Protection (CBP) that saves the government tens of millions of dollars annually,” said U.S. Travel Association, “and is primarily funded by the \$120 fee that members pay.” . . . Airports participating in TSA’s Screening Partnership Program, which allows airports to outsource screening to certified private contractors, are not affected by the shutdown. San Francisco International is the largest participant.

3. **U.S. CBP Preclearance Opens at Toronto’s Downtown Airport.**

Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport opened a CBP Preclearance facility, enabling U.S.-bound passengers to complete Customs, Immigration and Agriculture inspections in Canada before takeoff, eliminating the need to clear CBP at their U.S. destination. “Preclearance has been foundational to recent airline announcements by Air Canada and Porter Airlines relating to new U.S. routes coming soon to the airport,” said officials.

4. **CLEAR Launches Biometric eGates at San José Mineta.**

CLEAR launched biometric eGates at San José Mineta International, located at the TSA PreCheck lane in Terminal B. CLEAR's biometric eGates are available at nearly 40 U.S. airports.

IV. TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT

1. Amadeus Acquires SkyLink.

Amadeus has acquired SkyLink “to enable travelers to smoothly book and service flights and hotels conversationally in a matter of seconds.” SkyLink’s proprietary AI architecture and multilayer orchestration engine integrate seamlessly into chat platforms.

2. American Airlines App Tracks Flight Schedule Disruptions.

American introduced a mobile app that gives customers clear explanations when flights are delayed or canceled. Customers also receive tailored push notifications, emails and text messages, and can rebook onto another flight, track checked bags, access eligible hotel, meal or transportation vouchers, and view updated departure times for other flights. The app’s home screen highlights real-time trip details and provides direct access to boarding passes, flight status updates and disruption support.

3. Agentic Travel News.

Sabre, PayPal and MindTrip are building the travel industry’s first end-to-end agentic AI booking pipeline, reports “OAG Airline Tech Innovation Radar.” Trip planning, real-time airline and hotel inventory, and integrated payment are combined into a single chat-based experience, “potentially redefining how travel is discovered, booked, and paid for when it launches in Q2 2026.” . . . Malaysia Airlines launched “Mavis,” an AI customer service agent that autonomously handles travel queries and booking tasks across web, app, and email. . . . Skyscanner launched a ChatGPT app that lets users search for flights through natural language, signaling a shift from traditional form-based metasearch to conversational travel discovery.

V. **ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

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

The global average jet fuel price for week ending March 20 was \$197 per barrel, up 105.8% from prior month's average, and up 118.8% on prior year's average, according to the Jet Fuel Price Monitor, a joint IATA-Platts initiative.

2. **IATA: EU Must Review EU ETS to Support Competitiveness.**

IATA called for review of the European Union's Emissions Trading System (EU ETS). "European aviation policy must bolster competitiveness as it advances decarbonization," said Willie Walsh, IATA Director General. "The priority must be the full implementation of CORSIA [Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation], the reinvestment of EU ETS revenues into SAF and other credible decarbonization solutions, and the elimination of overlapping measures that add cost and complexity without environmental gain." IATA's call follows "growing skepticism among EU leaders regarding effectiveness of the EU ETS and its negative impact on European competitiveness."

3. **European Airlines Challenge 2030 e-SAF Deadline.**

Airlines for Europe (A4E) asked the EU to postpone rules requiring fuel suppliers to include at least 1.2% green hydrogen-based synthetic aviation fuel (e-SAF) in their fuel mixes by 2030, until e-SAF is sufficiently available and affordable and the regulatory framework is redesigned to support diverse, affordable production pathways. "eSAF remains a very nascent technology and the eSAF production sites that have reached final investment decisions are currently expected to produce a mere 0.71% of the volumes mandated under the 2030 EU eSAF sub-mandate (600kt)," said A4E; "that's a whopping 99.3% of e-SAF missing." . . . The European Commission said it will not fine fuel suppliers if they do not comply with the mandate.

4. **American Airlines, Google AI Significantly Reduce Contrails.**

American Airlines and Google demonstrated substantial climate impact reduction by using AI forecasting to prevent contrails, reports Associated Press. In a trial involving 2,400 flights from the U.S. to Europe, flights using the tool produced 62% fewer contrails, reducing climate change by 69%. The trial, conducted with Contrails.org and Flightkeys, showed no significant increase in fuel usage. American Airlines is not yet routinely using contrail avoidance but plans further studies.

VI. U.S. CONGRESS

1. Senate Passes “End Special Treatment for Congress at Airports Act.”

The Senate passed the “End Special Treatment for Congress at Airports Act,” which would require members of Congress to undergo the same TSA screening procedures as all other airline passengers, and prohibit use of federal funds to provide Senators and House members with expedited or preferential access at airport security checkpoints. “The ongoing partial shutdown of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has brought to light the fundamental issue of fairness between Americans—who have been forced to wait in hours-long security screening lines, endure travel disruptions, and face grueling flight delays—and the Members of Congress who represent them,” said John Cornyn (R-TX), who introduced the bill. “Members of Congress are getting an unfair perk.”

2. Airline CEOs Seek Stable Pay for Federal Aviation Workers.

An open letter to Congress from 10 aviation CEOs, published in the Washington Post, stressed the importance of paying federal aviation workers during government shutdowns. “Congress should pass the ‘Aviation Funding Solvency Act’ and the ‘Aviation Funding Stability Act,’ which would guarantee air traffic controllers are paid regardless of the government’s funding status,” they wrote, “as well as the ‘Keep America Flying Act,’ which would provide the same protections to TSA officers who are tasked every day with keeping Americans secure in the skies.” . . . In related news, a campaign to urge Congress to pass bills to ensure air traffic controllers and TSA officers are paid, regardless of future funding disruptions, was launched by U.S. Travel Association, Airlines for America, American Association of Airport Executives, and American Hotel & Lodging Association.

3. “True Shutdown Fairness Act” Introduced in House, Senate.

The “True Shutdown Fairness Act” was introduced by House and Senate Democrats to ensure “federal workers get paid during any FY2026 shutdown, contractors can keep paying their staff, and the Trump administration would be blocked from using a shutdown as a smokescreen to purge the federal workforce through reductions in force.”

4. Senators Urge Federal Agency Anti-Drone Coordination.

During a March 4 classified briefing, leadership of the Department of Defense (DoD), Department of Homeland Security and FAA “acknowledged that serious interagency failures and missteps” contributed to February incidents related to

use or potential use of counter-drone high energy laser systems near El Paso and Fort Hancock, Texas, and Santa Teresa, New Mexico, said Maria Cantwell, Ranking Member of the Senate Commerce Committee. “Each federal agency granted counter-drone authorities to detect, identify, mitigate, or neutralize drone threats is required under federal law to coordinate with FAA so FAA can ensure that the use of counter-drone technologies or systems do not adversely impact or interfere with the safe and efficient operation of the national airspace system,” Cantwell wrote in a follow-up letter to DOD Secretary Pete Hegseth, Attorney General Pam Bondi, Department of Transportation (DOT) Secretary Sean Duffy, former DHS Secretary Kristi Noem and FAA Administrator Bryan Bedford. “With the 2026 FIFA World Cup events, including six matches that will be hosted in Seattle this June and July, and the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics fast approaching, each agency with counter-drone responsibilities needs to be prepared now to act swiftly in the face of any such threat without jeopardizing aviation safety.” . . . Senate Aviation Subcommittee Ranking Member Tammy Duckworth asked the Inspectors General of DOT, DOD and DHS to investigate interagency coordination, policymaking and management related to operation of high-energy laser weapons that acquire, track and defeat Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) within the United States. “Counter-UAS (C-UAS) systems are critical assets to the defense of our nation when used to address legitimate security threats, but rushing C-UAS systems into operation domestically without appropriate interagency planning and coordination, or appreciation of aviation security concerns, adds to the complexity of the national airspace system and jeopardizes the ability of the FAA to carry out its mission to provide the safest, most efficient aerospace system in the world,” she wrote. “We cannot afford to risk the safety of the traveling public.”

5. “Air Traffic Situational Awareness Enhancement Act” Introduced.

The bipartisan “Air Traffic Situational Awareness Enhancement Act” was introduced in the Senate. The bill would require FAA to acquire and install Airborne Position Reference Tools (APRTs) at federal contract towers that do not currently have advanced situational awareness technology such as Standard Terminal Automation Replacement Systems (STARS); direct FAA to establish a training program for these towers to ensure that controllers can effectively integrate and use APRTs; and provide authority for FAA to fund acquisition, installation, and operating expenses of APRTs at contract towers and to reimburse contract tower airports that have independently acquired and installed APRTs prior to FAA action.

6. House Advances Aviation Bills.

The House advanced bipartisan aviation and airport infrastructure bills, including the “Supersonic Aviation Modernization Act” (H.R. 3410), which

directs FAA to update regulations to allow civil aircraft to fly at supersonic speeds in U.S. airspace, provided the flights do not produce a sonic boom that reaches the ground. . . . The “Aviation Supply Chain Safety and Security Digitization Act of 2025” (H.R. 6267) directs the Comptroller General to study barriers to implementing digital documentation and verification across the aviation supply chain. . . . The “Airport Regulatory Relief Act of 2025” (H.R. 6427) allows nonprimary airports to use state highway construction standards for airfield pavement projects instead of federal aviation standards while preserving the requirement that the Secretary must determine that use of such standards will not compromise safety. . . . The “Recreational Drone Empowerment Act” (H.R. 6460) clarifies federal law governing limited recreational small unmanned aircraft systems (sUAS) operations by specifying where such aircraft can operate within certain classes of airspace. . . . The “Airmen Certificate Accessibility Act” (H.R. 2247) allows pilots and other airmen to present digital copies of required certificates on an electronic device or cloud platform instead of only physical copies when requested by authorized officials. . . . The “ACPAC Modernization Act” (H.R. 5663) expands the membership on the existing Aviation Consumer Protection Advisory Committee to include a ticket representative. The bill aims to ensure that DOT receives broader industry and consumer input when developing recommendations to improve airline customer service.

7. “Alert Act of 2026” Advanced to House.

The “Airspace Location and Enhanced Risk Transparency (Alert) Act of 2026” was advanced by the House Transportation and House Armed Services Committees. The bill would require ADS-B (Automatic Dependent Surveillance–Broadcast) and a corresponding collision prevention technology be installed on aircraft by December 31, 2031, and addresses other recommendations issued by NTSB after its investigation of the January 2025 mid-air collision between American Airlines Flight 5342 and a UH-60 Army Black Hawk helicopter at Reagan Washington National.

VII. BILATERAL AND STATE DEPARTMENT NEWS

1. State Department Partners with El Al to Return Americans to U.S.

The U.S. State Department partnered with El Al Airlines to arrange non-stop flights exclusively for American citizens, from Tel Aviv to the United States, as war with Iran intensified. El Al also reserves a percentage of seats on all regular U.S.-bound flights for Americans wishing to depart Israel. From February 28 to mid-March, the U.S. government arranged over 60 evacuation flights from the Middle East, and more than 70,000 Americans had departed.

2. Visa Bond Program Expanded to 50 Countries.

The State Department is expanding its visa bond program to apply to 50 countries. The program requires foreign nationals from these countries to post a bond of \$15,000 before receiving B1 or B2 visas for business and tourism in the United States.

VIII. EUROPE AND AFRICA

1. British Airways Adds U.S. Service.

British Airways will increase service to New Orleans to four times weekly, Baltimore becomes daily and Houston moves to 12 per week, as part of 9% long-haul growth from London planned for winter 2026 schedule, vs winter 2025. As a result of the situation in the Middle East, British Airways is offering alternative routes from popular destinations and “will continue to monitor customer demand and add flights to our schedule if we’re able to do so.” Flights to Amman, Bahrain, Dubai and Tel Aviv are cancelled through May 31, and to Doha until April 30.

2. Air France Adds Las Vegas Service.

Air France will operate three weekly Airbus A350-900 flights between Paris Charles de Gaulle and Las Vegas from April 15; and will add a second daily flight to New York Newark in June. By summer 2026, Air France will offer up to 11 daily flights between Charles de Gaulle and New York Kennedy and Newark, in cooperation with Delta.

3. Lufthansa Operates Most Flights Despite Strike Action.

Lufthansa operated more than 50% of its total flight schedule on two Vereinigung Cockpit union strike days, with many flights to and from Frankfurt and Munich handled by other airlines in the Lufthansa Group and by partner airlines and use of larger aircraft. . . . Lufthansa Group's frequent flyer program, Miles & More, will be the official loyalty program of ITA Airways, effective April 1. Passengers of the Italian airline who join the program will have access to 35 airline partners.

4. CEO Pieter Elbers Leaves IndiGo.

See Section IX, item 7.

IX. ASIA/PACIFIC AND MIDDLE EAST

1. Southwest Partners with All Nippon Airways.

All Nippon Airways (ANA) is the latest airline to partner with Southwest. The interline agreement includes connections from Honolulu, Seattle, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

2. Cathay Pacific Returns to Seattle.

Cathay Pacific resumed Hong Kong-Seattle service. The Airbus A350-900 flights will operate five times weekly. Cathay Pacific's North America 2026 summer schedule includes Boston, Chicago, Dallas-Fort Worth, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, Seattle, Toronto and Vancouver.

3. Qantas to Operate Non-Stop Las Vegas Route.

Qantas will be the first airline to operate a non-stop route between Australia and Las Vegas. Seasonal Boeing 787 Dreamliner service from Sydney will begin December 29 and run through March 12, 2027, three times per week. Las Vegas officials said more than 250,000 Australians visit each year.

4. Etihad Begins Service to Charlotte.

Etihad began four weekly Airbus A350-1000 flights to Charlotte Douglas. This is the longest flight operated from Charlotte, at more than 14 hours. . . . Etihad is operating a limited commercial flight schedule between Abu Dhabi and around 80 destinations, due to military activity in the region, and has advised passengers not to travel to the airport unless they have been contacted directly by Etihad or hold a confirmed booking on a new flight. "The decision to operate a limited flight schedule has been taken in coordination with relevant authorities following extensive safety and security assessments. Etihad continues to monitor the situation closely and will only operate flights once all safety criteria are met."

5. EgyptAir Launches Los Angeles, Chicago Service.

EgyptAir will operate three weekly Airbus A350-900 flights from Cairo to Los Angeles, starting May 23, and Chicago O'Hare, from June 21. The airline has suspended service to several Middle East destinations until further notice, due to military actions in the region.

6. Singapore, ANA Joint Venture Proposed.

Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia (CAAM) is reviewing an application by Singapore Airlines and ANA for a proposed joint venture, under which they

would coordinate fares, sales, marketing, networks, scheduling, capacity, inventory and management strategies. Revenue sharing is proposed for flights flown direct and non-stop to and from, or within the joint venture markets. The proposed arrangement covers scheduled passenger services between Japan, Singapore, Australia, India, Indonesia and Malaysia, and is subject to approvals from all relevant authorities.

7. CEO Pieter Elbers Leaves IndiGo.

Pieter Elbers stepped down as IndiGo CEO. He joined the company in 2022, after 30 years with KLM where he rose to President and CEO. Managing Director Rahul Bhatia assumed management of IndiGo while the search for a new CEO takes place. Alope Singh was named Chief Strategy Officer. He most recently was Managing Director and CEO of Air India Express, and previously held senior positions at Air India and Oman Air. IndiGo flew 124 million customers last year to domestic and international destinations with a fleet of 400 aircraft. . . . IndiGo announced it is the first airline in India with over 1,000 women pilots. Beyond the cockpit, women make up over 30% of airport operations staff, almost 25% of its Operations Control Centre workforce, over 20% in finance, more than 15% in digital, with more than 23% women representation in leadership positions.

X. AMERICAS

1. American To Operate U.S.-Venezuela Service.

American Airlines unit Envoy Air was granted temporary authority to operate scheduled passenger flights between the U.S. and Venezuela. The regional will fly between Miami and Caracas and Maracaibo on behalf of American.

2. Peter Carter Named Delta President.

Peter Carter succeeded Delta President Glen Hauenstein, who has retired; Carter was Chief External Affairs Officer. John Laughter will retire as E.V.P., Chief of Operations and President of Delta TechOps, effective April 30. Chief Financial Officer Dan Janki was named COO. Alain Bellemare, E.V.P and President of International, is assuming additional responsibilities as Chairman of Delta TechOps. Erik Snell will be Chief Financial Officer. Ranjan Goswami will be Chief Marketing and Product Officer, succeeding Alicia Tillman who left the company.

3. United, Flight Attendants Reach New Agreement.

United and Association of Flight Attendants-CWA announced a new tentative agreement that would provide immediate raises upon ratification and wage rates that reach \$100 per hour by end of agreement, as well as boarding pay, new pay for long gaps between flights, and a signing bonus. . . . United expects to take delivery of more than 250 new aircraft between now and April 2028, including 47 Boeing 787-9 Dreamliners, 40 Airbus A321neo Coastliners out of 50 on order, 28 Airbus A321XLR out of 50 on order, 119 Boeing 737 MAX, and 18 Airbus A321neos. By 2028, United expects to have more than 50 CRJ450s and nearly 120 CRJ550s in service. The 41-seat CRJ450, a redesigned version of the CRJ200, will be operated by SkyWest and connect smaller cities to Denver and Chicago starting this fall. . . . United will introduce “Relax Row,” a dedicated row of three seats that becomes a lie-flat mattress-like space. Up to 12 Relax Row sections on each plane will be located between Economy and Premium Plus. The feature launches in 2027 and will be available on more than 200 Boeing 787 and 777 widebody aircraft by 2030.

4. Alaska, Hawaiian Launch Largest Spring Break Operation.

Alaska and Hawaiian are operating more than 12 million seats over March and April, with 25 new or recently launched routes. More than 200,000 passengers are expected to connect onward to flights operated by global partners during the spring break period.

5. **Spirit Files Restructuring Support Agreement, Reorganization Plan.**

Spirit Aviation Holdings filed a Restructuring Support Agreement and Plan of Reorganization with U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York, and expects to emerge from Chapter 11 by early summer. Spirit intends to further adjust its fleet to 76-80 planes by third quarter 2026; will increase aircraft utilization on peak days, reduce off-peak flying and adjust to seasonal demand across markets; and focus on its strongest markets, including Fort Lauderdale, Orlando, Detroit, Newark and New York LaGuardia. The company will further reduce its cost structure. Debt and lease obligations are expected to be reduced from \$7.4 billion pre-filing to approximately \$2 billion post-emergence.

6. **Frontier Fleet Optimization Transaction with AerCap.**

Frontier announced an agreement with AerCap for the early return of 24 A320neo aircraft currently in operation, all of which have lease agreements scheduled to expire within the next two to eight years. The 24 returns are expected to be completed during second quarter 2026. In turn, AerCap will agree to 10 future sale-leaseback transactions for deliveries scheduled for years 2028 and 2029. These changes and other fleet initiatives will strengthen Frontier's competitive position through increased fleet productivity, said CEO Jimmy Dempsey.

7. **Allegiant's Acquisition of Sun Country Wins Antitrust Clearance.**

The U.S. Department of Justice granted antitrust clearance to Allegiant's acquisition of Sun Country. The transaction remains subject to other customary closing conditions, including DOT and shareholder approvals, with close expected in second or third quarter 2026.

8. **Avelo Expands Network.**

Avelo is adding Indianapolis and Cleveland Hopkins to its network in June, with service to Tweed-New Haven and Charlotte/Concord, the only airline offering nonstop flights on these routes. One-way fares start at \$39. Avelo serves 32 destinations in 12 states and Puerto Rico with a fleet of Boeing Next Generation 737 aircraft; up to 100 Embraer 195-E2s are on order. Founder and CEO is Andrew Levy.

9. **Breeze Adds Costa Rica, Dominican Republic Service from Tampa.**

Breeze Airways will begin nonstops from Tampa to San Jose, Costa Rica, in October and to Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, in July. David Neeleman's Utah-based airline operates 300 routes to 87 cities in the United States, Mexico and the Caribbean.

10. Atlas Air Worldwide Orders 20 Airbus A350F Aircraft.

Atlas Air Worldwide announced a firm order for 20 Airbus A350F freighters, with options for an additional 20. As the largest customer for the A350F, Atlas secured early delivery positions; deliveries are expected to begin in 2029 and be completed in 2034. The New York-based company is the parent of Atlas Air, Titan Aviation Holdings and Polar Air Cargo Worldwide.

11. GOL Prepares for International Expansion.

GOL will gradually integrate up to five Airbus A330-900s into the fleet between 2026 and 2027. With capacity for 300 seats and up to 15 hours of range, the aircraft will enable the company to offer new fare categories and more flight options from Brazil to Europe and North America.

12. British Airways Adds U.S. Service.

See Section VIII, item 1.

13. Air France Adds Las Vegas Service.

See Section VIII, item 2.

14. Southwest Partners with All Nippon Airways.

See Section IX, item 1.

15. Cathay Pacific Returns to Seattle.

See Section IX, item 2.

16. Qantas to Operate Non-Stop Las Vegas Route.

See Section IX, item 3.

17. Etihad Begins Service to Charlotte.

See Section IX, item 4.

18. EgyptAir Launches Los Angeles, Chicago Service.

See Section IX, item 5.