



OCTOBER 4-6, 2026 PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

HOTEL (TBD)

DRAFT AGENDA (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

Delegate conference bags - Sponsored by San Francisco (Calif.) International Airport

8 a.m.-2 p.m. **Conference Registration**

9:30-11 a.m. **IAAE Board Meeting** (closed)

12:30-3:30 p.m. **City Tour**
Discover Prague's historic landmarks and vibrant culture on this guided city tour.
Sponsored by Rhode Island Airport Corporation, co-sponsored by Jacobs

5-6 p.m. **Welcome Reception**
Join us to mix, mingle and make lasting connections at our evening of networking
Sponsored by Jacobs

6:30-8:30 p.m. **Board Dinner** (closed)
Sponsored by Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5

Theme: *Where aviation stands today + immediate strategic pressures*

8 a.m.-4 p.m. **Registration**

8:30-9:30a.m **Networking Breakfast**
Sponsored by Northeast Chapter, AAAE

9:30-10 a.m. **Welcome Remarks and Conference Overview**

Heba Gouda
Vice President, Global Operations
American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE)

Jorge Hernández, CPA., IAAE Chair
President & Chief Executive Officer
Aerostar/Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport, Puerto Rico

Jiri Pos
Chairman of the Board of Directors
Prague Airport

Mr. Zdeněk Jelínek (TBC)
Director of the Civil Aviation Department
Ministry of Transport

His Excellency Nicholas Merrick (TBI)
U.S Ambassador to the Czech Republic.

10-10:10 a.m.

Keynote Address

The Transatlantic Aviation Outlook: Growth, Risk, and Strategic Opportunity

A high-level strategic outlook on the future of transatlantic aviation, examining how geopolitical dynamics, economic uncertainty, and evolving airline strategies are reshaping connectivity between Europe and North America. The keynote will explore the implications for hub competitiveness, infrastructure investment, and long-term growth.

Speaker:

Mr. Zdeněk Jelínek (TBC)
Director of the Civil Aviation Department
Ministry of Transport

10:10-10:55 a.m.

SESSION 1 — Opening Leadership Dialogue & Vision 2035: Strategic

Leadership for Airports – *A forward-looking session for airport CEOs, examining how leaders can navigate disruption and shape the future of aviation. Panelists will discuss strategic decision-making, long-term airport planning, investment priorities, and organizational transformation. The dialogue will also touch on Europe–North America connectivity, airline partnerships, workforce development, and emerging technologies such as AI and digital transformation — providing actionable takeaways for guiding airports through uncertainty and positioning them for sustainable growth.*

Moderator:

Balram “B” Bheodari, A.A.E, IAP (TBC)
Senior Vice President & National Practice Lead – Aviation Services
Michael Baker International
Former General Manger of Hartsfield–Jackson Atlanta International Airport

Speakers:

Jiří Pos

Chairman of the Board, Area of Corporate Management
Prague Airport

Mark VanLoh
CEO
Jacksonville (Fla.) Aviation Authority

Jorge Hernández, CPA., IAAE Chair
President & Chief Executive Officer
Aerostar/Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport, Puerto Rico

Lance Lyttle
Chief Executive Officer
Greater Orlando Aviation Authority

Ronald F. Mathieu, C.M.
President & CEO
Birmingham-Shuttlesworth International Airport

Scott Kirby *(invited)*
CEO
United Airlines

David Ciceo *(invited)*
CEO
Cluj International Airport, Romania

józsef Váradi (TBI)
CEO
Wizz Air

10:55-11:30 a.m. **Networking Break**
Sponsored by Orlando International Airport (GOAA)

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. **SESSION 2 — Hybrid Threats & Aviation Security: Protecting Airports in a New Risk Environment** - *This session will explore how airports in Europe and North America are adapting their security strategies to address evolving threats. Experts will discuss cyber-physical risk convergence, drone and UAS threats, supply chain vulnerabilities, insider risk management, and the role of international cooperation in protecting aviation infrastructure*

Moderator: Jeanne Olivier, A.A.E., ACE, IACE
Past Chair, AAAE & Airport Advisor

Speakers: Philip van Noort *(invited)*
Director Security
Schiphol

Byron Amos *(invited)*
Atlanta Council Member
Former Atlanta Board of Education member
Founder of End All Threat Security

Aksam Aboasali *(TBC)*
Global Subject Matter Expert - Aviation
Genetec

TSA (TBD)

ICAO (TBD)

12:30-1:15 p.m.

SESSION 3 — Passenger Experience & Borders: AI, Digital & Technology-Driven Seamless Travel- *Digital identity, biometrics, and AI-powered border management systems are revolutionizing the end-to-end passenger experience. This session explores how airports in Europe and North America are leveraging AI and advanced analytics to optimize passenger flow, automate identity verification, and enhance operational decision-making—delivering secure, efficient, and seamless journeys. Panelists will share real-world lessons from leading AI-enabled deployments, highlighting measurable improvements in efficiency, passenger satisfaction, and security. This session also provides an opportunity for technology partners and solution providers to showcase innovations shaping the future of airport operations.*

Moderator: **TBD**

Speakers: Marcel Stroop
Director of Go-To-Market & Partnership Aviation Solution
Royal Schiphol Group

Ilias Maragkakis
Associate Partner and Head of Solution Group Infrastructure and Operations
Lufthansa Consulting

Ralph Cutié *(invited)*
Director and Chief Executive Officer
Miami International Airport / Miami-Dade Aviation

Jim Moses (TBI)
American Airline Executive
Dallas Fort Worth International Airport (DFW)

1:15-2:30p.m.

Networking Lunch

Sponsored by Birmingham (Ala.) Airport Authority

2:30-3:15 p.m.

SESSION 4 — Geopolitics, Airspace & Network Realignment

This session explores how global geopolitical developments are impacting airspace management, airline networks, and airport operations. Topics include the Ukraine war, Middle East route shifts, NATO corridor effects, transatlantic joint ventures, and strategies for risk diversification across European and North American hubs. Panelists will focus on the operational and network implications for airlines and airports, including airspace efficiency, connectivity planning, and collaboration between carriers and airport operators. The discussion will remain professional and industry-focused, highlighting strategies to maintain resilience, optimize networks, and ensure safe and efficient aviation operations.

Moderator: **TBD**

Speakers:

Anca Apahidean
Area Manager Eastern Europe
IATA

Matija Bračić
Assistant Professor
Head of Laboratory for Modelling and Simulation in Aviation / Air Traffic
Management
University of Zagreb

Wendy L. O'Connor (invited)
Executive Senior Technical Advisor
ATO/FAA
U.S. Department of Transportation

Grzegorz Bykowski (invited)
Chief Executive Officer
Poznań Airport

Mohamed Khalifa Rahma *(TBI)*
Director, Air Transport Bureau
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

3:15-3:45 p.m.

Afternoon Networking Break
Sponsored by Aerostar Airport Holdings LLC

3:45-4:30 p.m.

SESSION 5 — Winning Transatlantic Growth: The New Playbook for Air Service Development - *This session explores how airports in North America and Europe are adapting their air service development strategies in a more constrained and competitive transatlantic market. Discussion will focus on the role of data-driven route analysis, closer alignment with airline network planning, and collaboration with regional partners to support sustainable route growth. How AI is reshaping route planning and demand forecasting. Including how AI and advanced analytics are reshaping demand forecasting, route planning, and airline-airport collaboration*

Moderator:

Kurt Hofmann
Aviation Journalist and Senior Editor
Air Transport World (ATW)

Speakers:

Kevin R. Bumen, A.A.E., C.A.E.
Chief Commercial Officer | Commercial
San Francisco International Airport

Jiri Marek
CEO
Air Serbia

Kenneth Romer
Deputy Director General of Tourism / Director of Aviation
Office of the Deputy Director General / Aviation
The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism, Investments & Aviation

Ian Malin *(TBI)*
Chief Commercial Officer
WIZZ Air, Budapest, Hungary

Sean Doyle *(invited)*
Chairman & CEO
British Airways

7-9 p.m.

Official Conference Gala Dinner

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6 — THE FUTURE OPERATING MODEL

Theme: *How airports will operate tomorrow*

8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Registration

8-9 a.m.

Networking Breakfast

Sponsored by Baker International

9-10a.m.

SESSION 6—The Intelligent Airport Ecosystem: AI, Automation and Smart Infrastructure- / AI-Driven Airport Operations: From Data to Decisions -

Airports are evolving rapidly through AI-driven operations, automation, smart terminals, IoT-enabled infrastructure, and predictive maintenance. This session explores how these technologies enable smarter, faster, and more efficient decision-making across the airport ecosystem. Panelists will share lessons from real-world implementations, highlighting how airports can improve efficiency, enhance infrastructure resilience, optimize passenger experience, and build intelligent, future-ready operations. Strategic considerations will include digital transformation, investment priorities, public-private partnerships, and scaling innovation — providing a comprehensive view of how airports are preparing for the future.

Moderator:

TBD

Speakers:

Martin Kučera

Board member, Aviation Operations and Safety
Prague Airport

Perry J. Miller, Ph.D., A.A.E., I.A.P.

President and CEO
Richmond International Airport

Darren S. Large, A.A.E, ACE

Director, Facilities & Operations
DM AIRPORTS, LTD. | Operators of Morristown Airport
Morristown Airport

Mateusz Noga-Kossowski *(invited)*

Chief Commercial Officer
Baggage Handling Systems | Airport Automation & Infrastructure
Dimark, Europe

Franco Cesarini *(invited)*

General Manager
Aviopei Airport Equipment, Italy

10 -10:30 a.m.

Morning Networking Break

Sponsored by Morristown (N.J.) Airport

10:20-11:10 a.m.

SESSION 7- Advanced Air Mobility & Vertiports: Defining the Airport Role-

Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) is moving rapidly from concept to reality, creating exciting opportunities and challenges for airports. This session examines how eVTOL aircraft, vertiports, and new airspace management systems can integrate into the existing aviation ecosystem. Panelists—including emerging operators and infrastructure leaders—will share real-world insights on early deployments, operational challenges, and collaboration with airports. The discussion will also explore infrastructure requirements, regulatory frameworks in Europe and North America, and the commercial realities of scaling AAM, while assessing its potential impact on airport capacity, connectivity, and the passenger journey.

Keynote Speaker:

David Bausek
Chief Technology Officer (CTO)
Volocopter

An OEM Perspective on Sustainable, Emission-Free, and Silent eVTOL Solutions for Last-Mile Transportation

Moderator:

TBD

Speakers:

Jessica Jones *(TBC)*
Executive Director, Office of Advanced Aviation Technologies
FAA

Sarah J. Demory, A.A.E, ACE
Assistant Aviation Director/Chief Operating Officer
City of Phoenix Aviation Department

Bryan Bernhard *(invited)*
Head of International Infrastructure.
Archer Aviation

Adrienne Schweer *(invited)*
Government Affairs Lead
Joby Aviation

Robert Bassey *(invited)*
Chairman, Aviation Sky | Chief Strategy Officer - Advanced Air Mobility
Engineering and Information Technologies inc. (EIT)

11:10 a.m.-12 p.m. **SESSION 8 — Workforce 2035, Talent, Leadership and Operational Reliability** - *Labor shortages, evolving skill needs, and leadership transitions are reshaping the airport workforce. This session examines how airports are building resilient teams, adapting to automation, and developing the next generation of leaders. The impact of AI and automation on workforce transformation, decision-making, and leadership roles. Panelists will discuss talent development, organizational transformation, and strategies to attract, retain, and empower the next generation of aviation professionals.*

Moderator: Lance Lyttle
Chief Executive Officer
Greater Orlando Aviation Authority

Speakers: Igor Štimac, PhD, IAP, EMBA, FRAeS
VP of Infrastructure, Technology, and Operations for Concession Supervision,
Business Consulting, and Education
Zagreb Airport

Bader Al Aydi
Chairman, Aviation Department
Prince Sultan University (PSU), Saudi Arabia

Claire Young, MPA
Senior Learning & Organizational Culture Leader; Safety-Critical Training & Systems
Thinking Expert

12-1:30 p.m. **Networking Lunch**
Sponsored by Jacksonville (Fla.) Aviation Authority

1:30-2:15 p.m. **SESSION 9— Financing the Future: Airport Investment, Capital Strategy & Infrastructure Delivery**- *As airports face growing demand alongside significant infrastructure constraints, the ability to finance and deliver expansion has become a defining competitive advantage. This session examines how airports are accessing capital, structuring investment, and delivering large-scale infrastructure programs in an increasingly complex financial environment. Panelists will explore evolving funding models, including public-private partnerships, privatization trends, and institutional investment, as well as the role of capital markets in supporting long-term growth. The discussion will focus on how airports can align financial strategy*

with capacity development to remain competitive in a capital-intensive industry

Moderator: Kevin R. Bumen, A.A.E., C.A.E.
Chief Commercial Officer | Commercial
San Francisco International Airport

Speakers: Steve Morries (*invited*)
Senior Vice President Aviation
Hill International

Eugenio Perissé (*TBC*)
Head of Business Development
Corporación América Airports, Luxembourg

Nicolas Notebaert (*invited*)
CEO
VINCI Airports

2:15-2:45 p.m. **Afternoon Networking Break**

2:45-3:30 p.m. **SESSION 10 —Sustainability Pathways – From Commitments to Implementation** - *A practical discussion on how airports are translating sustainability commitments into measurable action. Topics include net-zero roadmaps, airport-led decarbonization initiatives, and collaboration with airlines, regulators, and industry partners.*

Moderator: **TBD**

Speakers: Soňa Hykešová
Director of Environment,
Sustainability, and ESG
Prague Airport

David Full, AICP
Vice President, Aviation Environmental Service Group
RS&H

Jonathon Counsell (*invited*)
Group Head of Sustainability
International Airlines Group (IAG)

3:30 -4:30 p.m. **Closing Networking & Social Gathering**
Opportunity for final networking, reflection on conference insights, and discussion of Europe–North America strategic priorities

4:30 p.m. **Conference Adjournment**

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7 — PRAGUE AIRPORT STRATEGIC TOUR

10 a.m.-12 p.m. **Prague Airport Strategic Tour**
Detailed briefing on runway development, terminal expansion, and infrastructure upgrades, with insights relevant for both European and North American operational strategies.