

GLOBAL AIRPORTS FORUM— GLOBAL AVIATION ISSUES CONFERENCE



Nov 30 – Dec 1, 2026 ✈️ Riyadh, Saudi Arabia



DRAFT AGENDA

(Subject to change)

Monday, November 30

9-10 a.m. Networking Breakfast

10-10:15 a.m. Welcome and Overview

Speakers: Heba Gouda
Vice President, Global Operations
American Associations of Airport Executives

Jorge Hernandez, *IAAE Chair*
CEO, Aerostar Airports, Puerto Rico

Raed bin Hassan Al-Idrissi (TBC)
CEO of MATARAT

H.E. Abdulaziz Al-Duailej (TBI)
President, GACA (Saudi Arabia)

10:15-10:30 a.m. Keynote - Opening discussion - AI-Driven Transformation of Aviation Systems: Security, Resilience, and the Future of Seamless Operations

Speaker: Bob Kwik (invited)
Worldwide Head of Airports and Ground Transportation Amazon Web Services

10:30-11:15 a.m. SESSION 1- Strategic Transformation Aviation Through AI - *This session will explore how Artificial Intelligence is driving organizational transformation across the aviation industry, not just technology adoption. Panelists will discuss and deliver case-studies how AI is reshaping master planning, operational decision-making, and organizational strategy, while leveraging tools such as digital*

twins and autonomous systems. The session will also address governance risks, human oversight, and the balance between AI-driven automation and responsible management, highlighting how airports, airlines, and aviation stakeholders can transform their organizations to be more agile, efficient, and future-ready.

Moderator:

Susan Warner, A.A.E., I.A.P
SWD Strategic Advisory
Strategic Decision-Making, Business Planning & Managing
Uncertainty for Global Airports

Speakers:

Dr. Bader Al Aydi
Chairman, Aviation Department
Prince Sultan University

Swati Unikrishnan
Head of Marketing, Consultancy & Innovation
SITA

Majdi Alamri
Risk Management Director
General Authority of Civil Aviation

Abdullah Al Raimi
COO, Madina Airport

Héctor Pujadas
Airport Operations Executive | AOCC & Operations Transformation |
AAM & eVTOL Integration Specialist

11:15 a.m.-12 p.m. Session 2- Global Aviation at a Crossroads: Growth

collaboration and Leadership- *Global leaders set the context for aviation in 2027 based on what they experienced in 2026, discuss how they addressed known security risks and future threats, drone threats, facilitate smart borders, sustainability pressure, rapid Middle East growth, and Saudi Arabia's emerging global aviation leadership. IMO, you could fit your strategic transformation thought into this discussion, particularly as it relates to Saudia Arabia.*

Moderator: Jorge Hernandez
CEO
Aerostar Airports, Puerto Rico

Speakers: Gerardo del Caz
General Manager
Altitudes Professional Services
IATA & ACI Instructor

Yousef Al Jaouni Gonzalez
Managing Director Middle East, Aviation Division
AETEC

Mohamed Rahma
Director
The Air Transport Bureau at ICAO

Ivan Bassato
Chief Aviation Officer
Aeroporti di Roma

Ronald F. Mathieu C.M. *(invited)*
President & Chief Executive Officer
Birmingham Airport Authority

12-1 p.m. Networking Lunch & Exhibitors

1-2 p.m. Session 3- Aviation Cyber Threats - Protecting Critical Infrastructure - *As aviation becomes increasingly digital and interconnected, cyber threats pose a growing risk to airports, airlines, and air traffic systems. This session will explore the latest strategies for safeguarding critical aviation infrastructure, from threat detection and incident response to regulatory compliance and collaborative defense. Panelists will share insights on emerging cyber risks, resilience best practices, and real-world case studies to help the industry stay one step ahead in protecting passengers, operations, and reputation.*

Moderator: Jeanne Olivier, A.A.E., IACE's
Past Chair AAAE & Airport Management Advisor

Speakers:

Adnan Alghamdi
Vice President & Advisor of Security Service
GACA

Hany Bark
Senior Vice President Aviation & Maritime Security
MedAire

Eng. Naveed Yousuf
Cybersecurity GRC Expert
Saudi Data & AI Authority (SDAIA)

Captain Ahmed AlZuhairi
Vice President, Safety
Riyadh Air

Dr. Fatimah Alakeel
Cybersecurity and AI Expert & Assistant Professor
King Saud University

David Nieto
Vice President
Cyber threat intelligence in aviation
Aviation ISAC

2-3 p.m.

Session 4- Next-Generation Airport Ecosystems: AAM, Digital - Infrastructure, and Future Connectivity- *Airports are evolving into fully connected ecosystems designed to support the next era of aviation. This session will explore how advanced air mobility (AAM), immersive technologies such as the metaverse, smart digital infrastructure, and integrated connectivity are reshaping airport design, operations, and regional transportation networks. Experts will discuss how airports can prepare for emerging technologies, align infrastructure with future demand, and build flexible, future-ready environments that enhance capacity, efficiency, and passenger movement while supporting long-term growth.*
Sponsored by InterVistas

Moderator:

Adrien Robin
Business Development Manager, Aviation Logistics

Saudi Business Travel (SBT)

Speakers:

Steven Derengowski, CM, IACE
Director, Innovation, InterVISTAS Consulting

Rasha Alshami
CEO & Managing Director
LYNEports Inc.

Borja blond
Head of Innovative Air Mobility
Aloula Aviation, Saudi Arabia

Husam Al Zahrani
Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) Expert
Cluster 2 Airports

Ismael S. Koshy
Managing Director Aviation
Prince Sultan Aviation Academy (PSAA)

3-3:30 p.m.

Networking Coffee Break

3:30-4:15 p.m..

Session 5- Passenger and Baggage Screening - *This session explores how emerging screening technologies, automation, and risk-based security approaches are transforming passenger and baggage processing. Industry leaders will discuss advancements in imaging systems, AI-enabled screening, operational efficiency, and how airports can enhance security while improving passenger flow and the overall travel experience.*

Moderator:

Mohannad Abdul Ghani
COO
Mata Logistics

Speakers:

Navaid Ahsan
Head of Aviation Security Operations
Etihad Airways

Kashif Khalid
Regional Director Operations, Safety & Security - Africa &
Middle East, IATA

Heba Kurdi
Professor of Distributed Artificial Intelligence at
and a research fellow at MIT
King Saud University

Elena Savin (TBC)
IT Business Systems Analyst
Rapiscan

4:15-5:15 p.m. **Session 6- The Aviation Workforce of Tomorrow: Talent Strategy for a High-Growth Era** – *As the Middle East and global markets pursue aggressive expansion, the availability of skilled human capital remains the single greatest risk to execution. This session examines the "war for talent" across critical functions—from pilots and ATC to digital architects and sustainability experts. Panelists will explore strategies for attracting Gen Z, nationalizing workforces (localization) effectively, and re-skilling existing teams to thrive alongside the AI and automation technologies discussed earlier in the program.*

Moderator: Maxim Romanenko, ACI & ICAO, IAP
International Airport Professional
Aviation Management Executive

Speakers: Wahhaj H. Motawie
President
Saudi Academy of Civil Aviation (SACA)

Natalie J. Salinas
Founder & CEO
Nth Consulting Group

Dr. Bader Al Aydi
Chairman, Aviation Department
Prince Sultan University

Michelle Treanor
Director, Talent & Development
DAAI Dublin Airport

Dr. Pepina Miteva
Aviation HR Consultant
Aviation HR Excellence

Tariq Almuzini
Vice President, Human Capital
Matarat Holdings

Rajaa Abushahla
Head of Learning & Development
Serco Middle East

7-9 p.m.

VIP Official Conference Dinner

Hosted by MATARAT & the General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA)

Tuesday, December 1

9:30-10:30 a.m. Networking Breakfast

10:30-11:15 a.m. Session 7- Passenger Expectation and Trust, in the Digital Age -
As passengers increasingly rely on digital tools throughout their journeys, trust has become closely linked to data security, transparency, and reliable communication. This session will explore how airports can meet and exceed passenger expectations by delivering seamless, personalized, and accessible experiences, while maintaining operational resilience. Panelists will discuss strategies for leveraging real-time digital communication, social media, and technology-driven solutions to protect reputation, ensure data privacy, and build long-lasting passenger trust in both routine operations and during disruptions.

Moderator: Dr. Hazariah Mohd Noh
Aviation Professor, PSU

Speakers: Hesham A. Saeed

Vice President of Operations, Ports Projects Management and Development (PPMDC)

Sadaqat Ali
Vice President of Strategy and innovation
Qatar Airways

Alshaima Alshayeb
Corporate Environment & Sustainability Manager
Matarat Holding

Anna Briukova
Senior ORAT Consultant
Consultant supporting an IATA ORAT project in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia

11:15-11:30 a.m. Keynote: The Future of Air Traffic Management: Intelligent Airspace, Advanced Aerospace Systems, and Integrated Operations

Speaker: Mohammed A. Alshebani
Sector of Aviation Safety and Environment Sustainability
Director of Planning and Integration, Advanced Air Mobility Dep.
General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA)

11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Session 8- Strategic ATM- Transformation (Capacity, Airspace and Operational Planning for Future Aviation Growth). *This session will examine congestion, airspace complexity, slot reform, civil–military coordination, and collaborative decision-making as global and Middle East aviation expands. Panellists will explore how future traffic growth, including Advanced Air Mobility (AAM), can be integrated into operational planning, addressing efficient capacity management, throughput optimization, and coordination with ANSPs, regulators, and other aviation stakeholders to ensure safe, future-ready airspace.*

Moderator: Jaime Brea
Director, the Middle East

ITAérea

Speakers: Santi Cortés Burns
CEO
ENAIRE Global Services

Khurram Qureshi
Head of Portfolio & Stakeholder Management
Dubai Air Navigation Services (Dans)
Dubai International Airport

Marzouq Al Ghamdi
Senior Instructor of Air Traffic Control (ATM)
SACA

Brendan Ginn
Head of Safety
Sharjah ATC

12:30-1:30 p.m. Networking Lunch

1:30-2:15 p.m. Session 9- Intelligent Airspace: (AI, Agentic Systems and the Future of ATM - Focus: AI and advanced automation in ATM, future concepts.

Keynote: Khalid Atiya (TBC)
CEO
NERA

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

Speakers: Vincenzo Smorto
CTO, ENAV

Johnson Philips
Head of ANS Projects
GANS

Speaker (TBD)
Director New Airspace Users
NATS

2:15-3 p.m.

Session 10- Future Airspace Integration: Interoperability, Cross-Border Coordination & New Airspace Users- *This session explores how aviation stakeholders are advancing cross-border airspace coordination and interoperability while integrating drones, eVTOL, and advanced air mobility (AAM). Panelists will discuss key operational, regulatory, and collaboration strategies to enable a safe, efficient, and future-ready airspace ecosystem.*

Moderator:

Gerardo del Caz
General Manager
Altitudes Professional Services
IATA & ACI Instructor

Speakers:

Xavier Esparrich
Partner, Consulting, Aviation Lead, Transport & Logistics
Middle East
WPC

Khalid Al Harthi
Advisor to EVP Strategy
GACA

Borja blond
Head of Innovative Air Mobility
Aloula Aviation, Saudi Arabia

3 p.m.

Conference Adjournment & Closing Remarks