



The Rivalry Between Heathrow and Gatwick Airports

By being the small island in a large ocean it is crucial for the United Kingdom to be well connected. It has had the world's largest port and airports on its shores for the last 350 years. The trading connections have literally put it at the center of the map. However, Britain's status as a global aviation hub is uncertain. Other major airports like Paris, Frankfurt, Amsterdam and Dubai are all poised to overtake Heathrow (currently the biggest airport) as the most important hub for international passengers in the nearest future. The question which arises is how to maintain this status?

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Airlines & Airports



Ryanair To Launch New Private Jet For Hire

Low-cost airline Ryanair has announced that it is set to launch its own private jet charter. The Boeing 737-700 plane will be available for corporate and group hire.

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India's IndiGo Receives Asia's First Airbus A320neo

Airbus has delivered its second revamped Airbus A320neo to Indian budget carrier IndiGo, gaining a new operator two months after it went into service with Germany's Lufthansa, the European planemaker said on Friday.

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United Airlines Launches Flights Using Sustainable Biofuel

United Airlines made history by becoming the first U.S. airline to begin use of commercial-scale volumes of sustainable aviation biofuel for regularly scheduled flights with the departure of United Flight 708.

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Oman Names Its First Budget Airline

Muscat National Development and Investment Company has announced that the country's first budget airline will fly under the brand name Salam Air. The name, which is derived from the Arabic greeting, is a result of a nationwide public poll.

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Qatar Airways Announces 14 New Global Destinations

Qatar Airways' Group Chief Executive, His Excellency Mr. Akbar Al Baker announced a significant network expansion of 14 new destinations at a capacity-crowd press conference on the opening day of ITB Berlin - the world's largest international travel fair.

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Manufacturers



Pratt & Whitney PurePower Engines Complete First A321neo Flight

Pratt & Whitney's PurePower Geared Turbofan™ engines successfully completed its first test flight on the Airbus A321neo. The PW1135G-JM engine, a 35,000 thrust class engine, for the Airbus A321neo aircraft, is the most powerful engine on the A321neo. Pratt & Whitney is a United Technologies Corp. company.

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Iran Invites Boeing To Talk About Plane Purchases

Iran has invited U.S. planemaker Boeing Co (BA.N) to Tehran to discuss purchasing jetliners aimed at revamping its aging fleet hit by decades of sanctions imposed on the Islamic Republic, state TV reported on Friday.

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Bombardier C Series Aircraft Near Completion

The first C Series CS300 for launch operator airBaltic is on the final assembly line at Bombardier Commercial Aircraft's plant in Mirabel, near Montreal. The first aircraft for CS100 launch operator Swiss International Air Lines.

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Regulations & Safety



EU Negotiations With China and Japan For New Safety Agreements

Just three months after its adoption by the European Commission, the Aviation Strategy is starting to deliver its first results. The 28 EU Member States have authorised the European Commission to open negotiations with China and Japan in view of concluding Bilateral Air Safety Agreements.

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ICAO Adopts New Distress Aircraft Tracking Requirements

ICAO has adopted new aircraft tracking provisions, including a requirement that aircraft carry a device that can autonomously transmit its location every minute during emergency circumstances.

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FAA Proposes Rule to Overhaul Safety Certification Standards

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) today proposed a rule that overhauls the airworthiness standards for small general aviation airplanes.

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Accidents



Iron Maiden's Ed Force One Plane Badly Damaged on the Runway

Iron Maiden's Ed Force One plane has been badly damaged in an airport collision while still on the ground – just weeks after leaving Cardiff to carry the band on their world tour.

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Helicopters



First Flight of AW109 Trekker Helicopter

Finmeccanica announced the maiden flight of the new AgustaWestland AW109 Trekker light twin engine helicopter. A prototype aircraft took to the air for the first time today at the Helicopter Division's Cascina Costa facility (Italy), flown by pilots Giuseppe Afruni and Giuseppe Segreto.

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CAMTS Calls for Crash Resistant Fuel Systems

The US-based Commission on Accreditation of Medical Transport Systems has announced that the 11th edition of its standards will 'encourage' all helicopters users to adopt crash resistant fuel systems



Bell 505 Jet Ranger X Moves Forward with Velocity

Ethiopian Airlines has signed a three-year contract with Ameco Beijing for engine repair and overhaul services on the Pratt & Whitney PW4000 engines powering its fleet of seven 767-300 aircraft.

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MRO



SprintAir Signs Up For ATR 72 Component Support

Polish regional airline SprintAir has signed a ten-year component maintenance contract with Rotable Repairs and wheel and brake OEM Messier-Bugatti-Dowty for its fleet of two ATR 72-600s.

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Ethiopian Selects Ameco For PW4000 MRO Services

Ethiopian Airlines has signed a three-year contract with Ameco Beijing for engine repair and overhaul services on the Pratt & Whitney PW4000 engines powering its fleet of seven 767-300 aircraft.

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Aviation Training



JetBlue Launches 'Gateway Select' Pilot Training Program

JetBlue announced the launch of its seventh pilot recruiting pathway, Gateway Select, the airline's new competency-based training program for aspiring pilots.



Ryanair Have Commenced Works on a New Flight Simulator Project

New Flight Simulator will allow Ryanair to assess Cadets and provide an industry leading opportunity for Pilots to practice their manual handling skills in a

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relaxed environment.

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