

## **for inter airport Europe from Momberger Airport Information #1225 / September 2, 2024**

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**Aurrigo has introduced autonomous vehicles at Inverness Airport in Scotland as part of a pilot project which ran until 30 August 2024.** The trial includes two types of automated people movers, the smaller Auto-Pod and the larger Auto-Shuttle, which will transport passengers between the new rail station and the airport terminal, as well as at the University of the Highlands and Islands Inverness Campus.

The project aims to improve transportation accessibility, reduce travel times, and lower CO2 emissions in the region, contributing to Scotland's NetZero goals. The trial will assess public perception and the feasibility of implementing a connected and autonomous vehicle (CAV) service in the Highlands and Islands. Partners in the project include HITRANS, the University of Glasgow, Stagecoach North Scotland, and others, with funding from Innovate UK and the Centre for Connected and Autonomous Vehicles (CCAV).

**Worldwide Flight Services (WFS) has become the first cargo handler at Amsterdam Airport Schiphol (The Netherlands) to introduce electric cargo towing vehicles.** This move aligns with SATS Group's environmental, social, and governance (ESG) priorities. The Goldhofer Sherpa E6 electric towing trucks, supplied by TCR, are now supporting WFS's cargo and ramp handling services for over 50 airlines at one of Europe's busiest air cargo hubs.

These vehicles produce zero emissions, have lower energy costs, and operate more quietly than traditional diesel trucks. WFS plans to transition to a fully electric fleet at AMS by Q2 2025. This initiative is part of broader efforts to meet Schiphol's "Roadmap Zero Emission Airside Operation in 2030," with other sustainability measures including the use of renewable energy, LED lighting, and eco-friendly packaging.

**Brussels Airport Company (Belgium) has partnered with the new startup consortium Hubs4Growth, which was established in early August 2024 and includes five leading innovation hubs in Flanders: Hangar K, The Beacon, Leuven MindGate, WinterCircus Ghent, and Limburg Startup.** Brussels Airport is the sixth partner in this consortium, aiming to enhance the growth and innovation of Flemish startups.

As part of the partnership, Brussels Airport will host a six-month program called "Pitch your seat," starting in November 2024, where 30 selected startups will receive workspace at the airport's Aviation Talent Hub. The program offers in-depth coaching sessions, individual follow-up support, and access to a broader network of expertise. Startups interested in participating can apply until September 15, 2024. The collaboration is seen as a way to strengthen the competitive edge of startups and foster innovation in the region.

**Switzerland's Federal Council says biometrics use should be built into a revision of the country's Aviation Act (LFG) to set up the implementation of the technology for checks on both passengers and airport staff.** SWI writes that facial recognition could be used to replace

physical tickets and electronic boarding passes in the future. Biometrics could also be used for baggage drops, check-ins and flight boarding.

The document states: "For security checks at airports, airport operators and airlines may, for the purpose of verifying identity: a) compare the facial image of passengers with previously collected biometric data; b) compare the facial image and fingerprints of their own staff with previously collected biometric data. 2 The express consent of the person concerned is required for checks pursuant to paragraph 1. They may revoke this consent at any time; in this case, the biometric data collected will be destroyed."

The latter clause means that employees would have to be offered an alternative method of access control. The Federal Council made the proposal among more than 20 others for aviation law.

The European Data Protection Board issued an opinion on the use of passengers' biometrics in airports in May, ruling that facial recognition programs in air travel only comply with GDPR if the biometric data is user controlled.

**Nashville International Airport (Tennessee, United States) has implemented Saab's Aerobahn Runway Safety Service, enhancing air traffic control operations with improved situational awareness and safety alerts.** Deployed under the FAA's Surface Awareness Initiative (SAI), the system provides real-time tracking of aircraft and ground vehicles, helping prevent runway collisions. This cost-effective technology addresses safety needs at airports where traditional surveillance systems, like surface movement radars, are financially prohibitive. Since its 2003 launch, Aerobahn has been used at over 30 airports globally, offering a scalable solution for improving runway safety without the high costs of full-scale surveillance systems.

**Los Angeles International Airport (California, United States) has received the final four cars for its Automated People Mover (APM) train, completing the fleet of 44 vehicles.** These INNOVIA 300 APM cars, which feature sustainable technologies, will now undergo extensive testing on the APM's elevated guideway. The project, managed by LAX Integrated Express Solutions (LINXS), is set for completion by 8 December 2025, with full 24/7 service expected to begin in January 2026. The APM is a key part of LAX's modernisation efforts, aiming to enhance the travel experience and promote sustainability.

**Aeropuertos del Perú (AdP) invested USD 1.2 million in July 2024 to acquire self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) for several airports, including Anta, Cajamarca, Chachapoyas, Iquitos, and others.** Additionally, AdP purchased flight information display systems (FIDS) for the Piura and Chiclayo airports.

This investment is part of a broader surge in infrastructure spending by airport, road, port, and metro concessionaires in Peru, which saw a 122% increase compared to the same period in 2023, reaching USD 31.5 million. Overall, infrastructure investments between January and July 2024 totalled USD 629.3 million, with significant contributions from airports and the Lima and Callao Metro Line 2.

**Al Khor Holding, a Qatari investment firm, has invested in EMMA Systems, an aviation technology company focused on improving operational efficiency and predictability for airports and airlines through its AI-driven platform.** EMMA Systems, which initially deployed its platform at Hamad International Airport, has expanded across Europe and the Middle East, securing significant contracts with major airport groups.

This investment will help EMMA Systems accelerate global expansion, scale up its teams, and enhance commercial operations. EMMA Systems offers solutions like Airport Collaborative Decision Making (A-CDM) and a Unified Data Platform to enhance airport operations. Al Khor Holding's investment supports Qatar's start-up ecosystem and aims to make EMMA Systems a global leader in airport management technology.

**Abu Dhabi Airports is launching a biometric "Smart Travel" program at Zayed International Airport in partnership with the Federal Authority for Identity, Citizenship, Customs, and Port**

**Security (ICP).** This innovative system uses biometrics for automated traveller registration, self-service bag drops, and passport-free identity verification at e-gates and boarding gates.

The project, implemented by local AI integrator Next 50 and biometrics provider Idemia, is being rolled out in three phases. The first phase launched at the new terminal with Etihad Airways flights, and the next phase will include five more airlines. Future phases will extend the system to Etihad Airways' lounge and duty-free stores. The program significantly reduces passenger processing times from 25 seconds to just 7 seconds.

**Vaisala, a global leader in measurement technology, has signed a contract valued at approximately EUR 25 million (USD 27.3 million) with Indonesia's Agency for Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysics (BMKG) to modernise weather systems at 14 airports across Indonesia.** This project, the largest aviation weather initiative for Vaisala to date, will be funded through the Finnish Public Sector Investment Facility (PIF), which supports projects aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals in developing countries.

The contract includes the deployment of Vaisala's AviMet Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS) at eight airports and wind shear alert systems, integrating X-band weather radars and wind lidars, at four airports. Additionally, the Finnish Meteorological Institute's SILAM model will be implemented to track ash clouds from volcanic eruptions, enhancing safety in a region with around 80 active volcanoes.

Indonesia, the second-fastest growing aviation market globally after China, requires significant investment in airport infrastructure to support its rapid aviation industry growth. The modernisation project, expected to commence in 2025 and span three years, aims to improve flight safety in Indonesia's challenging tropical climate, characterised by frequent thunderstorms and other severe weather conditions.

**Publisher's note:** The articles in this special report, compiled for **inter airport Europe**, are a few select samples from the biweekly **Momberger Airport Information** newsletter, published since 1973. The newsletter is an advertising-free, global airport news service that consists of 9 modules and allows subscribers to customize their own newsletter package. The modules that make up the biweekly newsletter are: Airport Development (DEV), Calendar of Events (CAL), and the subscriber-selectable modules Airport Operations (OPS), Management, Ownership & Finance (MGT), Ground Support Equipment (GSE), Air Traffic Services (ATC), Consultant & Contractor / Sustainable Aviation (CON), Airport Information Technology (AIT), and Maintenance Base & FBO (MRO). For more information, a sample of a complete newsletter issue, and to order an annual subscription, please visit [www.mombergerairport.info](http://www.mombergerairport.info)