



# AVIATION RESILIENCE REPORT

MAY 2020

**How airlines and airport operators are  
responding to the COVID-19 crisis  
and preparing to bounce back**

At MA Business, we have a unique, detailed overview of the aviation sector through our titles *Ground Handling International*, *Aircraft Interiors International*, *Business Airport International*, *Air Logistics International*, *Ramp Equipment News* and *Business Jet Interiors International*. At this challenging time for the industry we have seen a great deal of innovation and resilience right across the sector, as operators navigate a path through the coronavirus crisis. As a service to all our loyal readers, across our brands, we have compiled this cross-sector report, compiling some of the most important stories from the past month, in order to provide inspiration and ideas that will enable all parts of the aviation industry to bounce back stronger than ever in the weeks and months to come.

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## CHINESE AVIATION A 'BEACON OF HOPE' FOR GLOBAL RECOVERY

Domestic airline capacity in China is beginning to recover, with over 30% of its domestic capacity returning in the last two months, according to new analysis from Cirium.

Data from the travel and analytics company shows that domestic capacity has recovered from a peak year-on-year drop of 71% on 24 February 2020, to down just 33% on April 22, 2020...



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## NACA PROPOSES PROTOCOLS FOR RESUMPTION OF COMMERCIAL AIR TRAVEL

The National Air Carrier Association (NACA) in the USA has issued an initial set of principles that it recommends for the resumption of regular commercial flight operations in the wake of COVID-19. Named 'SAFETY', the plan outlines actions that NACA believes must be taken to ensure that the US airline industry can restore public confidence and be a safe catalyst for economic recovery...

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## HAECO launches a range of certifiable cabin cargo devices

HAECO Cabin Solutions has launched a range of certifiable devices that allow package stowage in the main passenger cabin of aircraft.

As the COVID-19 environment developed, the company noted that airlines were beginning to use passenger flights strictly for cargo. At the same time, social distancing directives were being instituted nationwide. HAECO saw an opportunity and quickly developed solutions that enable airlines to carry cargo and passengers at the same time, optimising passenger and cargo yield. The key to the solution is using packages to distance passengers, while maintaining proper weight and balance requirements...

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## CORONAVIRUS: IATA OFFERING FREE ACCESS TO ONLINE TRAINING COURSES

The International Air Transport Association is offering free access to online training courses for up to 5,000 aviation workers as part of its efforts to help the industry through the COVID-19 crisis.

Current employees, or those who wish to become a part of the aviation or related industries, can select one from eight of International Air Transport Association's (IATA) most popular e-learning courses to strengthen their industry knowledge and skills...

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## ASIA-PACIFIC AVIATION SECTOR PREPARES TO RESUME OPERATIONS

Airports Council International (ACI) Asia-Pacific has released preliminary traffic data from 18 airports in major aviation markets across the Asia-Pacific and the Middle East regions, which show that year-over-year passenger traffic decline hit -95% by the middle of April. However, it is not all bad news, as ACI says initial signals of recovery were reported from China, with a gradual resumption of its domestic traffic, as well as from South Korea, to a lesser extent...



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## Boeing rallies 737-700 from corporate fleet to deliver PPE

Boeing completed its first COVID-19 transport mission on Saturday, April 18, using a 737-700 aircraft from its corporate fleet to bring personal protective equipment (PPE) from China to the USA. Working in partnership with First Robotics founder, Dean Kamen, the company transported 540,000 medical-grade face masks that will be delivered to healthcare professionals battling the virus in New Hampshire...

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## The aviation industry, during and after COVID-19

One of the drawbacks of living in leafy southwest London is that it is on the flight path approaching Heathrow, one of the World's busiest airports. In normal times, there's a plane roaring overhead every 60 seconds. Today, the sun is shining but the sky is empty; the unusual quiet underlining the impact that COVID-19 is having on society and the aviation industry...

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## AIRLINES NEED TO ADAPT TO SURVIVE — AND THRIVE

Convincing people to travel again in a post-COVID-19 world will likely require cleaner, less dense, and more 'contactless' cabins. The coronavirus is going to change the world as we know it. The lockdown in place in many countries is going to provoke a change in consumer habits, and a fundamental shift in values...



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## RICHARD BRANSON PENS OPEN LETTER TO VIRGIN EMPLOYEES

Sir Richard Branson has today published an open letter to the 70,000 Virgin employees across 35 countries globally. In this letter he details the significant challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact it has had on so many people's lives and businesses around the world, including Virgin companies. He also seeks to clarify some claims he has seen in recent weeks and explains how Virgin has invested a quarter of a billion dollars to help its businesses and protect jobs during the pandemic...

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## Hactl takes COVID-19 initiatives

Hong Kong Air Cargo Terminals (Hactl) has stepped up its war on COVID-19, with the installation of thermal cameras in its staff canteen and throughout SuperTerminal 1.

The cameras will help to identify any individual with an abnormally high body temperature, which is a key indicator of potential infection with the coronavirus...



## *Survival instinct reigns but operators braced for depleted volumes for up to two years, GHI survey reveals*

Operators batten down the hatches, boost cargo remits and hope for government aid in the form of Furlough schemes for staff and low interest loans...

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## WFS ON THE BALL AT LIÈGE

Worldwide Flight Services took just 72 hours to launch a new "emergency response" cargo handling operation at Liege airport.

This was following a request from the airport to help increase its capacity to accept more freighter flights carrying urgent medical equipment into Europe to tackle the coronavirus crisis across the continent....

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## ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES GAINS CARGO ADVANTAGE

It is understood that the Kenyan government has approved Ethiopian Airlines operating with passenger aircraft to carry cargo to and from Jomo Kenyatta International in Nairobi...

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## *SAA Cargo takes passenger flight*

For the first time in its history, the Cargo division of South African Airways, SAA Cargo, recently operated a passenger aircraft for a pure cargo uplift.

In response to the increased demand for cargo flights to distribute critical and essential goods during the lockdown, the first week of April saw SAA Cargo operate an Airbus A340-600 as a cargo only flight, transporting essential goods between Johannesburg and Frankfurt...

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## HOW UK BUSINESS AVIATION DELIVERED VITAL SUPPORT IN A CRISIS

During this unprecedented pandemic, the UK is rightly recognising front-line staff in the NHS and beginning to grasp the critical importance of supply chains. A key success factor is distribution, where aviation in general and business aviation in particular makes a vital but often overlooked contribution. Marc Bailey, CEO of the British Business General Aviation Association considers its role...

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## *Social distancing makeover heads for ground handling before the end of 2020*

Eight in ten operators plan distancing restrictions to be implemented into business processes in 2020 with divided opinions on who will foot the bill, GHI survey discovers...

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## AIRBUS INTRODUCES VIRTUAL AIRCRAFT HAND-OVER PROCESS

Airbus has introduced a virtual aircraft hand-over and 'e-Delivery' process to ensure continuation of its delivery stream while integrating the health & safety factors required during the COVID-19 situation. The first customer to adopt this remote end-to-end process is Turkish low-cost airline, Pegasus Airlines, which has received three 'e-delivered' A320neo Family aircraft via this method. According to Airbus, more airlines will follow likewise in the coming days and weeks...

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## Virgin Atlantic to fly over 90 cargo-only flights a week in May

Virgin Atlantic has announced that it will operate more than 90 cargo-only flights per week in May as it helps customers reopen vital trade lanes connecting the UK with prime freight markets in the USA, Hong Kong and China, India, Israel and South Africa...

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