

IATA WORLD DATA SYMPOSIUM

Singapore, Singapore
08 – 09 April 2026

PROGRAM



IATA WORLD DATA SYMPOSIUM

Tuesday, 07 April

18h30 – 20h30 **WELCOME RECEPTION**

Wednesday, 08 April

Opening Plenary

09h00 – 09h05	Welcome Address • Kim Macaulay, SVP Information and Data; CIDO, IATA
09h05 – 09h15	Welcome Address – Host Airline
09h15 – 09h30	Sustainability & Economic Outlook • Dr. Marie Owens Thomsen, SVP Sustainability and Chief Economist, IATA
09h30 – 10h00	Keynote Session
10h00 – 10h30	CEO Panel: Digital Transformation in Aviation The aviation sector is undergoing a profound digital shift . From the way airlines operate and engage with customers to how data, AI, and cybersecurity shape business models and industry collaboration. In this panel, leading CEOs will share their strategic vision for digital transformation, exploring how they are positioning their organizations to thrive in a rapidly evolving environment. They will reflect on the opportunities, challenges, and bold decisions required to drive change at scale while maintaining resilience and trust.
10h30 – 11h15	NETWORKING BREAK Exhibition Hall
11h15 – 12h00	Panel session: Automation and Robotics: Moving from the ordinary into the extraordinary Explores how automation is scaling from basic tasks to high-impact roles across airport and cargo operations.
12h00 – 12h30	Impact of drones on data collection: How drones are capturing untapped data Looks at how drones are enabling access to real-time, high-value data across inspection, mapping, and monitoring use cases.
12h30 – 14h00	LUNCH BREAK Exhibition Hall

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IATA WORLD DATA SYMPOSIUM

Wednesday, 08 April

Runway 1 – Data & Technology

- 14h00 – 14h30** **Parallel runways: AI in ground, air and water – how are various cargo industries moving toward optimization**
This session explores how AI is being used to optimize cargo operations across different transport modes from autonomous ground handling to smart routing in aviation and shipping.
- 14h30 – 15h00** **Winning with Data: Lessons from Global Sports Events**
This session explores how data management strategies and analytical approaches developed for major sports competitions can be applied in aviation. It will discuss how insights from the sports world, from optimizing operations to enhancing customer engagement, can inspire data-driven innovation across the aviation sector.
- 15h00 – 15h30** **How Generative AI is Reshaping Aviation's Desk Jobs**
Desk jobs have long been the backbone of aviation. From schedule planning to safety reviews, customer service to finance. Now, Generative AI is transforming every corner of this landscape, augmenting decision-making, streamlining repetitive tasks, and unlocking new efficiencies at scale. In this session, you will hear about the historical evolution of aviation's desk roles, the disruptive potential of Generative AI, and how the industry can harness it responsibly to redefine the future of work across the sector.
- 15h30 – 16h00** **NETWORKING BREAK**
Exhibition Hall
- 16h00 – 16h40** **Smarter Skies: How AI is Transforming Pilot Training**
Pilot training is entering a new era powered by AI. From real-time feedback to data-driven performance insights, intelligent tools are redefining how pilots prepare for the cockpit. This session explore how these technologies are improving safety, effectiveness, and confidence in the air.
- 16h40 – 17h10** **Digital Twins in Aviation and Airports**
Digital twins are transforming how airlines, airports, and OEMs simulate operations, predict disruptions, and optimize performance. This panel brings together industry leaders who are leveraging digital replicas of assets, systems, and processes to improve efficiency, resilience, and decision-making in real time.

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Wednesday, 08 April

Runway 1 – Data & Technology

- 17h10 – 17h40** **AI Agents in Action: Driving Multilateral Interoperability Through PoC**
This panel explores how LLM-based AI agents can collaborate across organizational boundaries to automate complex tasks. Use cases like automated rebooking due to disruption and cargo coordination show the potential for cross-industry AI integration at scale.
- 17h40 – 18h10** **The Global Data Bus: Enabling Seamless Industry-Wide Data Exchange**
This panel explores a real-time, open-standard data bus to connect stakeholders across aviation.
It aims to securely publish and subscribe to industry messages like flight or cargo updates at global scale.
- 18h30** **NETWORKING DINNER**

IATA WORLD DATA SYMPOSIUM

Wednesday, 08 April

Runway 2 - Cybersecurity

14h00– 14h25

Cleared for Takeoff

As we taxi into runway, this keynote will chart our flight path—covering the sessions, speakers, and themes that will take us from runway to cruising altitude. From policy turbulence to tech tailwinds, we'll explore what's ahead and how each session connects to our shared mission of securing the skies.

14h25 – 15h00

Breaking In to Lock Down

With cyber threats evolving rapidly, this session doesn't just demonstrate how attackers think—it challenges the audience to rethink their defensive posture. You'll gain actionable insights and a renewed appreciation for testing your own security before someone else does.

15h00 – 15h30

From Cybersecurity to Aviation Resilience

As aviation becomes increasingly digital, safety, aviation security, and cybersecurity are converging. This presentation introduces the concept of a security continuum an integrated perspective where these disciplines act as mutually reinforcing components of aviation resilience, ensuring safe, secure, and reliable operations across digital, physical, and human dimensions.

15h30 – 16h00

NETWORKING BREAK Exhibition Hall

16h00 – 16h25

Eyes in the Sky

Aircraft are increasingly interconnected, expanding the attack surface for cyber threats. This session equips stakeholders with the tools to make cybersecurity visibility a reality at 35,000 feet.

16h25 – 17h00

Cyber Defense Across Aviation's Operational Backbone

As aviation evolves into a hyper-connected ecosystem, the fusion of Operational Technology (OT) and Information Technology (IT) is both a catalyst for innovation and a magnet for cyber threats. This session explores how connected devices and legacy systems are reshaping risk profiles across the aviation landscape and brings together aviation experts to express their cybersecurity operational technology experience.

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Wednesday, 08 April

Runway 2 - Cybersecurity

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| 17h00 – 17h30 | <p>Evolving Threats in Aviation</p> <p>Explore the evolution of aircraft connectivity, the growing interdependence between cockpit and cloud, and the vulnerabilities that emerge when innovation outpaces protection. In an era where every flight is part of a vast digital network, defending the aircraft means defending the ecosystem it inhabits.</p> |
| 17h30– 18h00 | <p>Beyond the Runway: Cyber Threats Shaping Aviation's Future</p> <p>As aviation becomes increasingly connected, the attack surface spans far beyond airlines and airports. From air navigation service providers (ANSPs) and OEMs to MROs, ground handlers, and cargo operators, every segment of the industry faces unique cyber risks. This panel bring together leaders from across the aviation spectrum to examine today's threats, anticipate what's coming next, and discuss how the industry can stay resilient.</p> |
| 18h00 – 18h10 | <p>Runway Rendezvous</p> <p>Recap of today's highlights and achievements, while offering a brief preview of tomorrow's key sessions and themes to keep our momentum going.</p> |
| 18h30 | <p>NETWORKING DINNER</p> |

IATA WORLD DATA SYMPOSIUM

Thursday, 09 April

Runway 1 – Data & Technology

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| 09h00 – 09h30 | <p>Digital Identity - Verifying Seller Identity in NDC Distribution</p> <p>As NDC adoption grows, airlines need greater control over who accesses their content, especially when sellers connect through aggregators, whether via APIs or agent desktop platforms. This panel will share key findings from a recent proof-of-concept demonstrating how digital identity and verification can help airlines authenticate agencies and agents, ensuring the right offers reach the right partners while preventing unauthorized access.</p> |
| 09h30 – 10h00 | <p>Contactless Travel at Scale</p> <p>This panel explores the future of seamless travel through the lens of interoperability. Industry leaders will share insights from a recent proof-of-concept that tested the end-to-end passenger journey across multiple value chain actors using digital credentials.</p> |
| 10h00 – 10h30 | <p>Why is My Passport not yet on my Phone?</p> <p>This session will explore the technical challenges to replace an electronic passport by a fully mobile based ICAO Digital Travel Credential. Participants will give insights on current requirements, capabilities and potential roadmaps to overcome roadblock.</p> |
| 10h30 – 11h00 | <p>NETWORKING BREAK
Exhibition Hall</p> |
| 11h00 – 11h45 | <p>From Arenas to Airports: How Smart Stadium Tech Can Inspire Aviation</p> <p>This session explores how innovations first developed for sports arenas can inspire the aviation industry to reimagine the passenger journey. The discussion will highlight how lessons from entertainment venues can help airports and airlines create seamless, efficient, and engaging travel experiences.</p> |
| 11h45 – 12h30 | <p>Leveraging LLMs for Aviation</p> <p>This session explores how domain-specific pretraining and fine-tuning can unlock superior performance for industry tasks such as schedule planning, safety analysis, and document processing</p> |
| 12h30 – 14h00 | <p>LUNCH BREAK
Exhibition Hall</p> |

IATA WORLD DATA SYMPOSIUM

Thursday, 09 April

Runway 2 - Cybersecurity

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| 09h00 – 09h30 | <p>Cleared for Sharing: Cyber Collaboration at Cruising Altitude</p> <p>In an era of increasingly sophisticated cyberattacks targeting aviation infrastructure, no airline can afford to face threats alone. This session is designed to empower transparency, cooperation, and agility—ensuring that every airline becomes both a defender and a contributor in the shared mission of securing global skies.</p> |
| 09h30 – 10h30 | <p>Cybersecurity Beyond the Walls</p> <p>As organizations rely more on cloud platforms, outsourced services, and supply chain partners, one weak link can unravel years of security investments. In this session, we will reveal proactive ways to minimize supply chain exposure.</p> |
| 10h00 – 10h30 | <p>The Rise and Fall of Fraudsters in Aviation</p> <p>This session explores the evolving tactics of fraudsters targeting the aviation industry. Attendees will gain insights into how these schemes are uncovered and dismantled, and what proactive measures can help prevent future threats.</p> |
| 10h30 – 11h00 | <p>NETWORKING BREAK
Exhibition Hall</p> |
| 11h00 – 11h25 | <p>Navigating Aviation Cyber Incidents</p> <p>Cyber incidents are increasingly shaping the aviation ecosystem, affecting operations across airlines, airports, and service providers. This panel brings together industry leaders to examine recent incidents and their implications for the industry.</p> |
| 11h25 – 12h00 | <p>Securing Aviation Through Cross-Sector Cyber Resilience</p> <p>Horizontal cybersecurity regulations establish a foundational layer of resilience that directly supports aviation safety and security. Horizontal regulations complement aviation-specific rules by creating a consistent security baseline across sectors. This reduces fragmentation and ensures that aviation benefits from best practices developed for other critical industries like energy or finance.</p> |
| 12h00 – 12h30 | <p>Toward Unified Airspace Cybersecurity</p> <p>With focus on resiliency of critical infrastructure, regulators have responded with new mandates, guidelines, and oversight regimes. This session brings together aviation experts to convey their experience facing complex mosaic of cybersecurity regulations.</p> |
| 12h30 – 14h00 | <p>LUNCH BREAK</p> |

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Runway 1 – Data & Technology

- 14h00 – 14h20** **Data for Everyone: No-Code Analytics in Aviation**
Data shouldn't be limited to specialists. In this session, we'll show how aviation professionals can unlock the power of analytics without writing a single line of code. Through AI-driven natural-language queries and MCP connectors, we'll demonstrate how anyone can retrieve and analyze data on the spot. Expect practical, on-screen examples with tools like Postman and Power BI, proving that complex insights can be made accessible across all levels of the organization.
- 14h20 – 15h00** **Data in Action: Collaborative Innovation Across Air Transport**
Leaders from the airline and airport sectors are joining forces to drive data and AI innovation. With several use cases already in production and joint innovation hubs driving the next wave of transformation, discover practical applications and strategic insights that are shaping the future of aviation.
- 15h00 – 15h30** **From Zero to One: Transforming Loyalty at Airline Group**
A look at how an Airline Group reduced insight turnaround from weeks to hours by moving to a headless BI setup, integrating modern architecture with analytics, MLOps, and EU AI Act readiness.
- 15h30 – 16h00** **NETWORKING BREAK**
Exhibition Hall
- 16h00 – 16h30** **Fueling the Future: Data and Analytics for the Sustainable Aviation Transition**
As airlines chart their path toward net zero, data and analytics are playing an essential role in guiding the transition to Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF). This session explores how advanced modelling, machine learning, and operational insights can support decision-making across the SAF value chain. We will discuss how to build trust in data, align analytics with strategic sustainability goals, and turn information into actionable pathways toward decarbonization.
- 16h30 - 17h00** **Perfect timing: Leveraging Data and Technology for smoother operations**
Airlines and airports are leveraging data, optimization, and AI to redefine operational excellence. This session explores how intelligent technologies are improving on-time performance, streamlining turnarounds, and strengthening the resilience of aviation networks through smarter, faster decision-making.

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Runway 1 – Data & Technology

17h00 - 17h30

AI Above and Beyond: A Vision for the Future of Air Transport

From drone-integrated airspace to neuromorphic flight systems and intelligent ground-handling robots, AI is driving radical change across the aviation ecosystem. This session explores the frontier of AI-enabled autonomy — including innovations emerging from aerospace and robotics — and how they could redefine the way we move people and goods by air in the decades ahead.

17h30 – 18h00

NETWORKING BREAK
Exhibition Hall

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Thursday, 09 April

Runway 2 - Cybersecurity

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| 14h00 – 14h25 | <p>Closing the Gap: Building Aviation Cybersecurity Expertise</p> <p>Aviation industry is undergoing rapid digital transformation, from modernized air traffic systems to e-enabled aircraft and data-driven operations. Yet, while technology is advancing at an unprecedented pace, the industry faces a critical shortage of aviation-specific cybersecurity expertise. Explore the strategic importance of developing cybersecurity capacity tailored to aviation ecosystem.</p> |
| 14h25 – 14h50 | <p>Leveling Up: A Guide to Cybersecurity Skill Development</p> <p>In today's rapidly evolving threat landscape, cybersecurity is a commitment to continuous learning and adaptability. Attendees will walk away energized, informed, and ready to expand their potential.</p> |
| 14h50 – 15h30 | <p>Beyond the Terminal</p> <p>Airports are miniature cities, housing operational tech, passenger data, air traffic communications, retail networks, and legacy systems. This session will take you on a journey through the unseen layers of cybersecurity required to keep airport operations, passengers, and infrastructure safe from increasingly complex and coordinated threats.</p> |
| 15h30 – 16h00 | <p>NETWORKING BREAK
Exhibition Hall</p> |
| 16h00 – 16h25 | <p>The Rise of the Machines</p> <p>In an age where automation powers innovation, it also fuels deception. Join us for a deep dive into the evolving threat landscape of malicious bots.</p> |
| 16h25 – 17h00 | <p>Navigating Today's Turbulence, Securing Tomorrow's Skies</p> <p>As digital transformation accelerates across the aviation industry, cybersecurity has emerged as both a strategic priority and a potential vulnerability. This session tackles the most pressing issues on the minds of aviation leaders today—bridging the gap between technical complexity and executive action.</p> |
| 17h00 – 17h30 | <p>Charting the Future of Cyber Aviation</p> <p>This closing session offers a high-altitude perspective to connect insights to a broader imperative: shaping aviation industry that connects and enriches our world through safe, secure and sustainable transport.</p> |
| 17h30 – 18h00 | <p>NETWORKING BREAK
Exhibition Hall</p> |

IATA WORLD DATA SYMPOSIUM

Thursday, 09 April

Closing Plenary

18h00– 18h30 [Closing Remarks](#)