

IATA WORLD DATA SYMPOSIUM

Doha, Qatar
8-9 April 2026

PROGRAM



IATA WORLD DATA SYMPOSIUM

Tuesday, 07 April

18h30 – 20h30 WELCOME RECEPTION

Wednesday, 08 April

Opening Plenary

09h00 – 09h05	Welcome Address <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kim Macaulay, SVP Information and Data; CIDO, IATA
09h05 – 09h15	Welcome Address – Host Airline
09h15 – 09h30	Sustainability & Economic Outlook <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Marie Owens Thomsen, SVP Sustainability and Chief Economist, IATA
09h30 – 10h00	Keynote Session
10h00 – 10h30	Keynote Session
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

IATA WORLD DATA SYMPOSIUM

Day 1 - 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** **Runway clearance: AI Governance protocols**
How aviation and logistics actors are developing internal protocols to ensure AI systems are safe, explainable, and compliant.
- 15h00 – 15h30** **Multiple runways: Multi-agent AI**
Multiple AI agents can collaborate to solve complex problems across airlines, airports, and airspace. This session explores how coordination among AI systems drives efficiency and resilience.
- 15h30 – 16h00** **NETWORKING BREAK**
Exhibition Hall
- 16h00 – 16h45** **Augmented Reality for Pilot Training: More than just gaming?**
AR isn't just for gaming or classrooms anymore. Pilots are now training with it mid-flight, seeing virtual aircraft, reacting in real time. Let's look at how this is changing the way pilots learn, fly, and stay sharp.
- 16h45 – 17h10** **Digital Runways: 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.
- 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
#IATAWDS

NETWORKING DINNER



IATA WORLD DATA SYMPOSIUM

Day 1 - Wednesday, 08 April

Runway 2 - Cybersecurity

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 14h00– 14h50 | <p>Breaking In to Lock Down</p> <p>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.</p> |
| 14h50 – 15h30 | <p>Preventing Sensitive Data from Walking Out the Door</p> <p>In today's hyperconnected workplace, your data's biggest threat might not come from outside. This session dives into the human risk factors that often go unnoticed in cybersecurity strategies. From accidental leaks to malicious insiders, we'll gain insights into balancing trust and control to preempt breaches before they happen.</p> |
| 15h30 – 16h00 | <p>NETWORKING BREAK
Exhibition Hall</p> |
| 16h00 – 16h45 | <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> |
| 16h45 – 17h30 | <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> |
| 17h30 – 18h10 | <p>Navigating Threats Against Aviation's Decision Makers</p> <p>As aviation continues to adopt cutting-edge digital systems and expand global reach, the personal cybersecurity of executives, pilots, and key personnel becomes a strategic priority. This sessions reveals why individuals have become prime targets and how their digital lives can serve as a gateway to corporate compromise.</p> |
| 18h30 | <p>NETWORKING DINNER</p> |

IATA WORLD DATA SYMPOSIUM

Day 2 - Thursday, 09 April

Runway 1 – Data & Technology

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 09h00 – 09h30 | Digital Identity - Verifying Seller Identity in NDC Distribution
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. |
| 09h30 – 10h00 | Contactless Travel at Scale
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. |
| 10h00 – 10h30 | 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. |
| 10h30 – 11h00 | NETWORKING BREAK
Exhibition Hall |
| 11h00 – 11h45 | Data in Action: Real-World Airline Use Case Demonstration
Explore how airlines are turning data into tangible outcomes. This session features a live demonstration of a real-world use case, showcasing how advanced analytics, AI, or data platforms are being applied to solve operational or customer experience challenges. |
| 11h45 – 12h30 | Leveraging LLMs for Aviation
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 |
| 12h30 – 14h00 | LUNCH BREAK
Exhibition Hall |

IATA WORLD DATA SYMPOSIUM

Day 2 - Thursday, 09 April

Runway 2 - Cybersecurity

- 09h00 – 09h30** **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.
- 09h30 – 10h30** **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.
Part one of this session explores how connected devices and legacy systems are reshaping risk profiles across the aviation landscape.
Part two of this session brings together aviation experts to express their cybersecurity operational technology experience.
- 10h30 – 11h00** **NETWORKING BREAK**
Exhibition Hall
- 11h00 – 12h00** **Toward Unified Airspace Cybersecurity**
With focus on resiliency of critical infrastructure, regulators have responded with new mandates, guidelines, and oversight regimes.
Part one of this session unpacks the growing wave of cybersecurity regulation in the aviation sector, highlighting core directives and explores actionable strategies for achieving regulatory harmonization.
Part two of this session brings together aviation experts to convey their experience facing complex mosaic of cybersecurity regulations.
- 12h00 – 12h30** **Cleared for Sharing: Cyber Collaboration at Cruising Altitude**
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.
- 12h30 – 14h00** **LUNCH BREAK**

IATA WORLD DATA SYMPOSIUM

Day 2 - Thursday, 09 April

Runway 1 – Data & Technology

- 14h00 – 14h30** **Building a Modern Airline System from Scratch**
Journey of building an IT system landscape with no links to legacy system and lesson learnt so far.
Discover how a newcomer airline is designing its IT landscape with legacy systems. This session explores the journey of building a modern, modular architecture from the ground up, and shares key lessons learned along the way.
- 14h30 – 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** **Real-Time AI: Deploying Low-Latency Models for Aviation Use-Cases**
A deep dive into the deployment of real-time AI models in aviation contexts where latency matters, like turnaround monitoring, predictive maintenance, and passenger flow. The session highlights architectures, deployment challenges, and performance benchmarks.
- 15h30 – 16h00** **NETWORKING BREAK**
Exhibition Hall
- 16h00 – 16h30** **Data From Stadium to Cockpit: Real-Time AI Lessons from Sports**
Sports teams are mastering real-time AI to track players, predict outcomes, and make split-second decisions. This session explores how those same techniques — from sensor fusion to predictive analytics — can be applied to aviation for faster, smarter operations.
- 16h30 - 17h00** **Cleared for Takeoff? Lessons from AI in Medicine for Safe Skies and Secure Data**
AI is reshaping medicine in life-critical settings, from diagnosing diseases, guiding surgery to predicting patient risk, all while navigating the twin challenges of safety and data privacy. These are the same challenges facing aviation as AI moves into pilot support, air traffic management, and maintenance. This talk distils lessons from healthcare AI on bias, explainability, and privacy, and shows how they can inform safer, more trustworthy AI in aviation.

IATA WORLD DATA SYMPOSIUM

Day 2 - Thursday, 09 April

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

IATA WORLD DATA SYMPOSIUM

Day 2 - Thursday, 09 April

Runway 2 - Cybersecurity

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 14h00 – 14h30 | From Curiosity to Cyber Sentinel
Hear the story of a personal transformation—from a spark of curiosity to defending critical systems. This session traces the speaker’s journey through unexpected career pivots and breakthrough moments that led to a thriving role in cybersecurity |
| 14h30 – 15h00 | Leveling Up: A Guide to Cybersecurity Skill Development
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. |
| 15h00 – 15h30 | Beyond the Terminal
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. |
| 15h30 – 16h00 | NETWORKING BREAK
Exhibition Hall |
| 16h00 – 16h30 | The Rise of the Machines
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. |
| 16h30 – 17h00 | Navigating Today’s Turbulence, Securing Tomorrow’s Skies
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. |
| 17h00 – 17h30 | Charting the Future of Cyber Aviation
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. |
| 17h30 – 18h00 | NETWORKING BREAK
Exhibition Hall |

IATA WORLD DATA SYMPOSIUM

Thursday , 09 April

Closing Plenary

18h00– 18h30 [Closing Remarks](#)