Background

NEXTT (New Experience Travel Technologies), is a joint initiative by IATA and Airports Council International (ACI) that creates a common vision for the future of air transport that is able to sustainably accommodate growth while providing a seamless end-to-end journey for our passengers and cargo shippers. The vision of NEXTT is to improve and streamline travel journey elements at the airport and beyond by means of coordinating the adoption of new and emerging technologies. This shared vision examines the elements that will likely transform the complete end-to-end journey over the next 20 years.

NEXTT intended to leverage the latest technology developments to address the predicted capacity constraints that airports were facing. Although short-term growth projections have dramatically changed as a result of Covid-19 mitigation measures, the emerging themes of NEXTT remain highly relevant. COVID-19 crisis has put greater focus on the need for a flexible approach and resilience. In turn, this brings an urgency to put available technology to use, to provide this flexibility and unlock the full benefits which are achieved with global coordination rather than isolated approaches.

NEXTT Objectives

1. Create industry level consensus of the concepts for future airports
2. Determine R&D, standardization or regulatory developments needs
3. Roll-out work streams to facilitate making the concepts a reality

NEXTT provides a vision rather than a project and will not create a single product to be deployed at airports. It is, however, an initiative that allows us to challenge the ways in which the industry operates today and to create a new framework to meet the demands of tomorrow.

Status

Integrated industry endorsed visions are published, see NEXTT.iata.org.

These outline end-to-end journey visions for all elements that move through an airport (i.e. passengers, baggage, cargo and aircraft turnaround)

The NEXTT conversation focuses on three emerging themes – off-airport activities, advanced processing and interactive decision making.

NEXTT Innovation Bootcamps bring together diverse teams to tackle industry challenges and promote solution development.
Benefits

Technologies and processes in the NEXTT vision create an opportunity for a significant change in operational performance and systemic optimization that will likely be the main economic differentiator for the global aviation sector. Additionally, NEXTT will also create a disruptive ‘technology economy’ that may lead to the evolution of new business models and aviation-sector companies.

The industry needs to consider how it might exploit these opportunities. Without a central, coordinated vision, the benefits will not be realized at scale and may be fragmented. The delivery of coordinated technology systems at a global scale will unlock benefits significantly in excess of an isolated approach.

More information at: www.iata.org/nextt