Definition

NEXTT, a joint initiative by IATA and Airports Council International creates a common vision for the future of air transport. 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.

Global passenger and cargo volumes are both expected to double in the next 20 years. If the industry approach remains fundamentally the same as today, capacity will not match the predicted pace of growth highlighting the need for a unified approach to airport infrastructure and operational efficiency improvements.

Ensuring that all who need and wish to travel can do so, and that goods are delivered faster and with greater predictability, requires industry transformation which makes best use of New Experience Travel Technologies (NEXTT). Providing an integrated strategy through our NEXTT vision, we are investigating how to accommodate growth while providing a seamless end-to-end journey for our passengers and cargo shippers.

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)

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The NEXTT conversation has started to form around three emerging themes – off-airport activities, advanced processing and interactive decision making.

**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.**