

Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum endorses \$32bn expansion of Dubai World Central



His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai has endorsed the AED120bn (US\$32bn) expansion of Al Maktoum International at Dubai World Central (DWC) which will ultimately accommodate more than 200m passengers a year.

Dubai Airports owns and operates both of Dubai's airports - Dubai International and Al Maktoum International at Dubai World Central. DWC currently has cargo facilities with a capacity of about 1m tonnes a year and a passenger terminal building able to accommodate up to seven million passengers, annually. The existing facilities are separate from the future development of the airport.

The new development is anticipated to be the biggest airport project in the world and will be built in two phases. The first phase includes two satellite buildings with a collective capacity of 120m passengers annually; it will be able to accommodate 100 A380 aircraft at any one time and will take between six and eight years to complete. The entire development will cover an area of 56sq km.



“More than its size, the new airport’s uniqueness lies in a radical new approach to ensure that the latest technology and efficient processes will cut the time spent completing travel formalities and reduce walking distances, enabling passengers to make fast and efficient connections between hundreds of destinations worldwide,” says the operator.

VITAL STEP

The decision follows months of planning by the ‘key stakeholders’ in the aviation sector, including Dubai Airports, Dubai Airports Engineering Projects, Emirates airline and dnata.

With passenger traffic expected to reach almost 100m at Dubai International by the end of 2020, the further development of DWC will be a vital step towards providing the necessary facilities to accommodate passenger and cargo growth in the decades ahead and pave the way for Emirates to relocate their intercontinental hub operations to DWC by the mid-2020s.



Paul Griffiths, CEO of Dubai Airports, thanked Sheikh Mohammed for his visionary support of the project, and described the new airport as a vital investment in the future of Dubai. He confirmed that the aviation sector was projected to remain a cornerstone of Dubai’s economy, and was expected to support more than 322,000 jobs and contribute 28 per cent of Dubai’s GDP by 2020.

“Our future lies at DWC. The announcement of this AED120bn development of DWC is both timely and a strong endorsement of Dubai’s aviation industry. With limited options for further growth at Dubai International, we are taking that next step to securing our future by building a brand new airport that will not only create the capacity we will need in the coming decades but also provide state of the art facilities

Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum endorses \$32bn expansion of Dubai World Central that revolutionise the airport experience on an unprecedented scale,” said Griffiths.

