

A photograph of an airplane at an airport gate. The aircraft is white with a blue tail. Ground service equipment, including a mobile staircases and a truck, is visible around the plane. The scene is set against a clear blue sky with a bright light source on the horizon, creating a lens flare effect.

WHY **CABLE MANAGEMENT** SHOULD BE A TOP PRIORITY FOR AIRPORTS TODAY

Aviation is a massive industry, contributing \$2.7 trillion to the global economy. But industry size and growth projections do not necessarily translate into business success for airports. Many struggle with infrastructure challenges, both physical and technological in nature. This paper examines the critical infrastructure changes airports need to consider, explores why they are important, and offers recommendations for how to perform upgrades with minimal disruption.

A High-Growth Industry at a Crossroads

The aviation industry plays an important role in today's global marketplace. In part because of its sheer size: it contributes 3.5% to the world's GDP and supports 63 million jobs. But even more significantly, we live in a connected, mobile world and airports help make it possible for the world's population to move within it. The already sizable number of air travelers is expected to surge even higher in the next couple of decades. IATA expects 7.2 billion passengers to travel by air in 2035, almost doubling today's 3.8 billion.

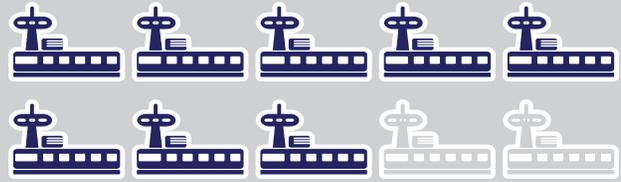
While this tremendous growth bodes well for the industry as a whole, there is no guarantee any individual airport will prosper. That is because most airports are not equipped to capitalize on the growth that will accompany the spike in demand. The biggest barrier to success is infrastructure – both physical and technological. Many airports fall short of meeting modern day demands on both fronts, and these deficiencies will prevent them from fully capitalizing on the growth expected to accompany rising passenger levels.

Most airports are lagging behind industry growth and cannot support the volume of travelers passing through. Physical infrastructure is aging and needs to be updated. Inadequacies such as degradation of runways, roadways and buildings are becoming more pronounced. Facilities need a much-needed facelift and to be expanded.

IT infrastructure also needs updating to support the growing demands placed upon it. It is the backbone for supplying the services that keep an airport functioning, so sufficient bandwidth must be available to accommodate the growing number of users of new mobile services, and network capacity must keep up with the growing amount of data being transmitted. The only way to accomplish this is to upgrade legacy systems to modern standards. Otherwise, the airport is at risk of not being able to deliver the quality services needed to operate the airport and support the new digital services their customers expect.

Airports must ensure their infrastructures are optimized for maximum throughput at all levels to provide uninterrupted service delivery to all its customers: travelers, vendors and airlines. Doing so requires airports change the way they operate, and these changes will impact IT and cable network capacity and complexity.

Both types of infrastructure upgrades are equally important. The airports that will win a share of the expected market growth will be those that make the investment.



8 of the 10 largest airports in Germany use FNT Command to manage their IT, cable network and telecommunications infrastructure, including Frankfurt Airport, the third largest airport in Europe.

Cable Management is the Common Denominator Across All Airport Projects

Most airports were designed and built decades ago to accommodate standards of the time. Since then, development of airport infrastructure has lagged behind travel growth, rendering the seamless travel experience passengers expect impossible to deliver.

Renovating, expanding and modernizing physical structures such as airport interiors, parking structures and terminals is needed. Airside infrastructure also needs attention, such as expanding aprons and runways, paving airfields, and modernizing airport lighting, markings, signs, and other visual aids. Hangars, too, need to be expanded and upgraded. The necessity for these types of updates is self-evident, as it's easy to see deteriorating buildings, roads and gates.

What's not readily visible is the technology running behind the scenes, but aging technology is noticeable in the digital services that are offered – and those that are not. It's apparent in the personalization of the passenger journey – and in its absence. Today's digitally-savvy customers expect a level of service on par with that of other industries. Delivering the travel experience customers want – self-service solutions and tailored, real-time information – requires updating IT, particularly the cabling (copper, fiber and coax) that supports communication services.

Do you want to read the full white paper? Download it here:

TOP PRIORITY FOR AIRPORTS TODAY: CABLE MANAGEMENT