

visions

INDUSTRY INSIGHTS > visualizing the future of air transportation

30 YEARS AGO...only yesterday in some respects...the commercial airline industry was forever changed as the federal government deregulated the airlines.

At the same time, in 1978, the professional association called the Airports Consultants Council (ACC) was established. Consultants and ACC have been uniquely involved with the evolution of the industry ever since.

For three decades, the member firms of ACC have provided services and products to see airlines and airports through times of airline prosperity, price wars, security concerns, consolidations and bankruptcies; airport renovations, reconfigurations and expansions; and ever-changing regulations and federal funding uncertainties.

These professionals—specializing in architecture, construction, engineering, technology, planning, operations, security and management—will continue to faithfully serve the commercial aviation industry, providing quality leadership and vision, well into the future, consistent with the past 30 years.

That's why ACC marks its 30th anniversary with this compilation of visionary insights from its members, looking 30 years ahead.

It's obvious from our past: ACC's members will be helping to shape the future of aviation.



FUTURE

ACC members see several overarching FACTORS and CONSEQUENCES concerning our industry when looking into the future.

FACTORS

ECONOMICS

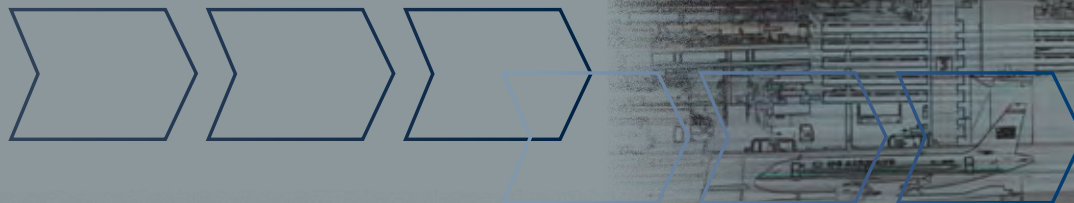
Continued changes in the global economy, volatility in fuel prices, a finite supply of aviation real estate, and increasing competition for scarce resources from emerging economies will present unique challenges to maintaining the accessibility and affordability of air transportation.

ENVIRONMENT

Heightened interest in global climate change, carbon reduction, stewardship, sustainability and adaptation will permeate future development, operations and funding decisions and potentially lead to non-aviation substitutes in short-haul markets.

SAFETY & SECURITY

The need to increase safety, balance privacy concerns, respond to public health issues and adapt to new security threats will drive decision-making as the impact of these challenges add complexity to accommodating increased passenger and cargo activity.



CONSEQUENCES

AIRLINES

Business models will change to achieve profitability. The U.S. domestic hub and spoke system will shift while certain international economies continue to grow, redefining trade and travel patterns. R&D for alternative fuels and cost-effective technologies will increase.

GENERAL AVIATION

Private business jet charter and aircraft management company growth will reflect fluctuating economic conditions, but in the long run will expand. Fuel efficiencies of aircraft models will dictate their relative use.

AIRPORTS

Large- and medium-sized airports will become commercial and intermodal transportation centers and vital economic community partners. Landside and terminal configuration changes will be made due to increased off-site passenger and baggage processing and mass transit improvements.

CONSULTANTS & SUPPLIERS

Increased demand for safety, sustainability, finance, security and adaptation expertise will prompt current consultants to diversify their professional skill sets and create increased opportunities for specialists in these disciplines.

Airlines and airports will meet future challenges by relying on airport consultants to help chart the way.

“The best and brightest will continue to be drawn to the airport consulting profession because of its inherent complexities and challenges. The innovators who also possess strong technical and communication skills will be the most successful.”

— PAULA HOCHSTETLER, ACC PRESIDENT