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# Growth & Sustainable Innovation Challenges in the Asia-Pacific Aviation Sector



# Outline

- Introduction to IATA
- The Asia Pacific Era – Asia Pacific as a Key Engine of Growth
- Policy Framework & Industry Leadership
  - Capacity
  - Sustainability
- Creating the Future – Innovation & Standards
  - A Seamless Future
  - Data in Aviation
- Conclusion



# Introduction to IATA

- » Global trade association for the world's airlines
- » Some 350 passenger and cargo member airlines, representing 80% of global air traffic. 100+ member airlines operate different business models
- » Founded in Havana, Cuba in April 1945
- » Head Office: Montreal, Canada
- » Executive Office: Geneva, Switzerland
- » Regional Offices: Madrid, Singapore, Beijing, Amman, Miami

## Mission

- » To represent, lead and serve the airline industry

## Vision

- » Working together to shape the future growth of a safe, secure and sustainable air transport industry that connects and enriches our world

## Core Activities

- » Advocacy
- » Standard Setting
- » Products & Services



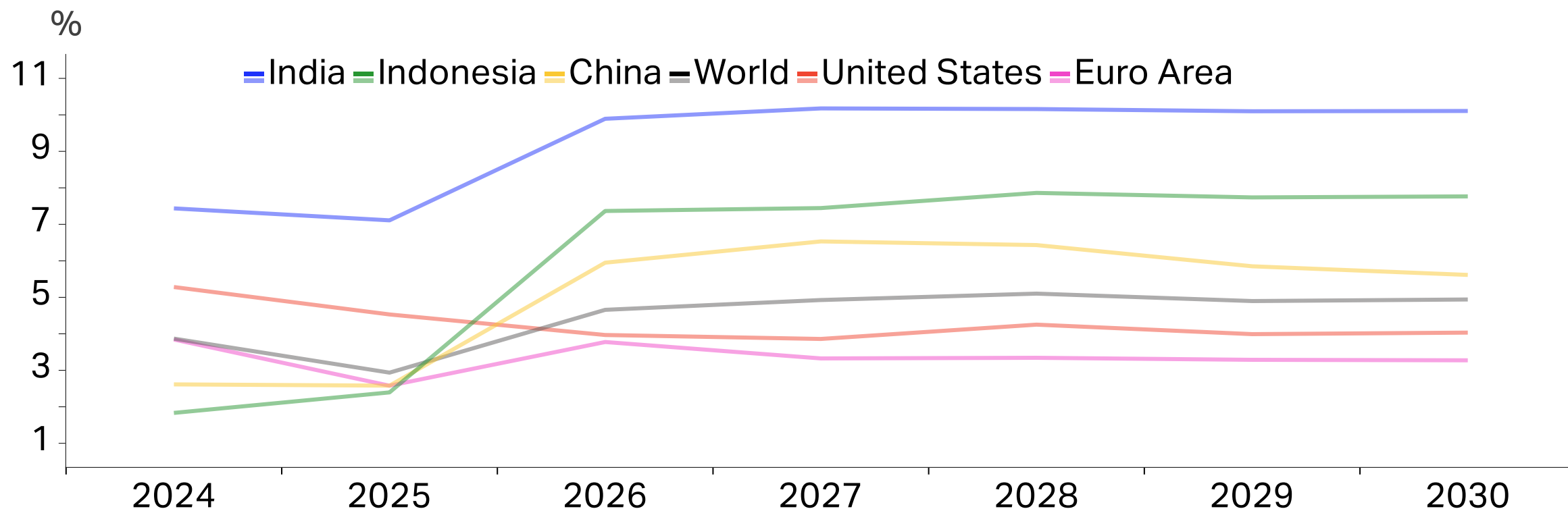
# THE ASIA PACIFIC ERA

Asia Pacific as a Key  
Engine of Growth



# Higher GDP growth of Asia Pacific economies point to increased demand for air travel

## GDP growth of major economies

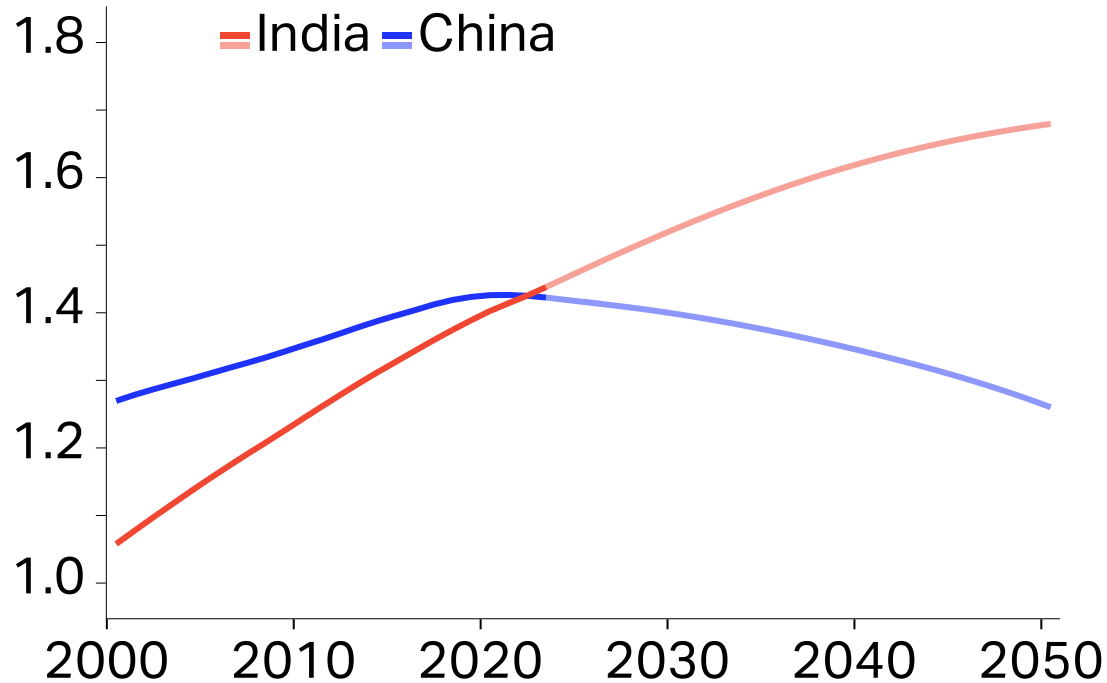


Source: IATA Sustainability and Economics, Macrobond using data from IMF

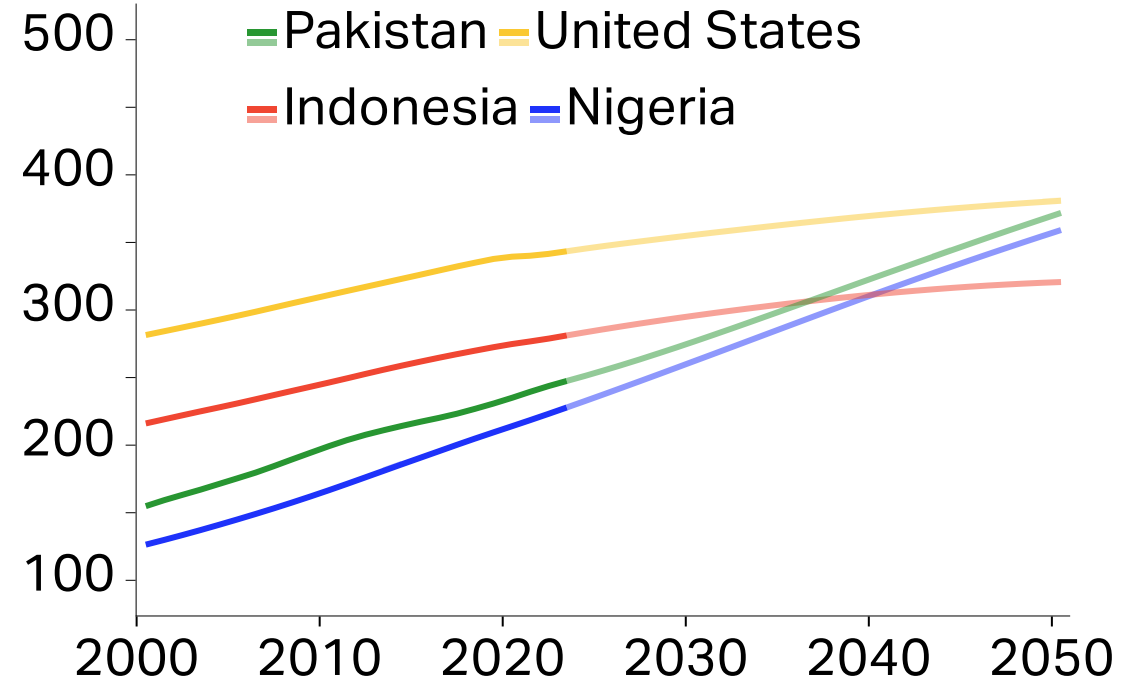
# Asia Pacific accounts for four out of top six most populous countries

## Population growth of top six countries in 2050

Billions



Millions

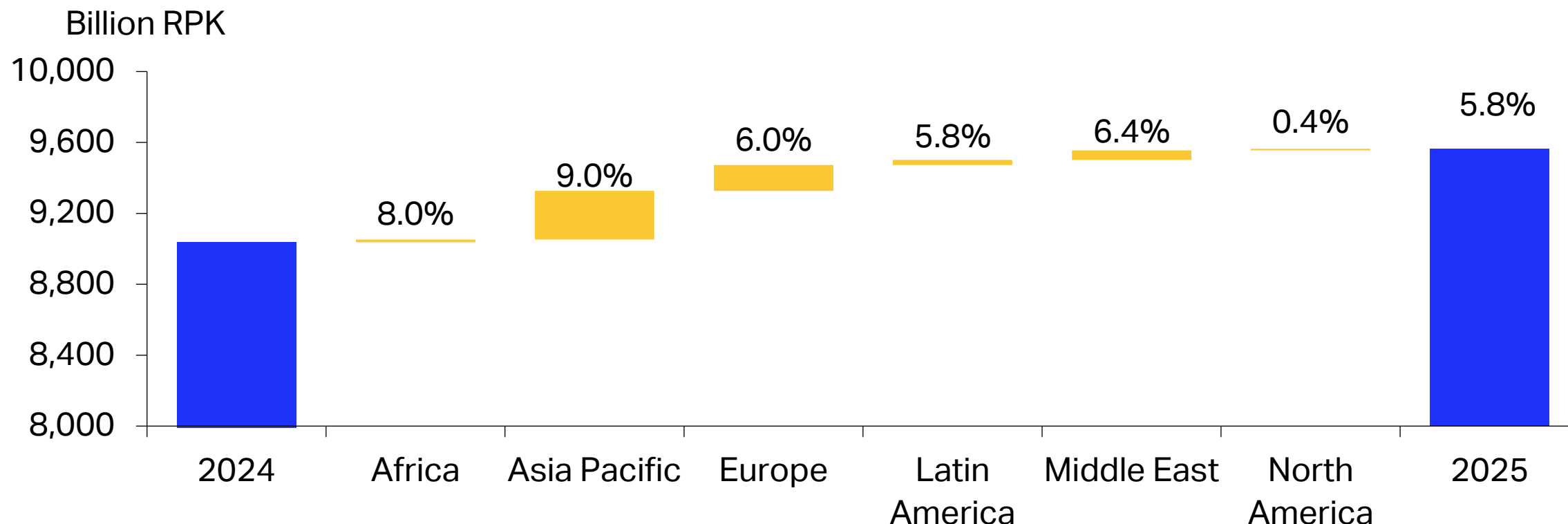


Source: IATA Sustainability and Economics, Macrobond using data from UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs

# Global passenger traffic to grow by 5.8% in 2025

## Asia Pacific to account for 52% of the industry's growth

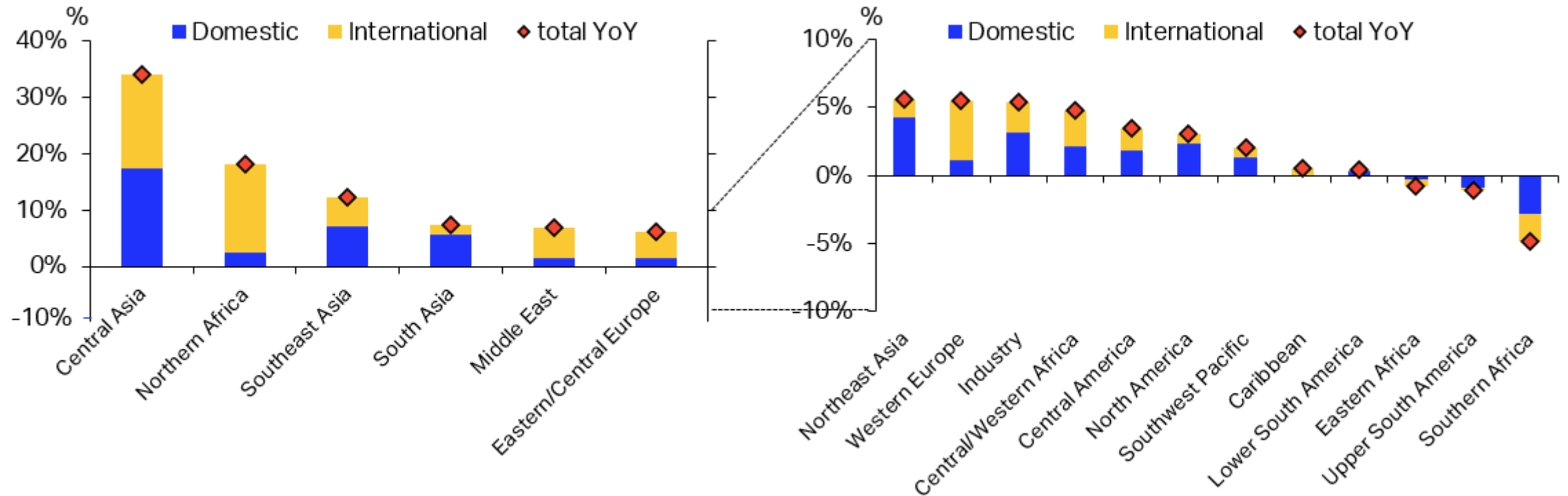
**Contribution to passenger traffic growth by region, billion RPK, annual growth, %**



Source: IATA Sustainability and Economics, IATA Information and Data – Monthly Statistics

# Asian markets lead growth in passenger traffic in Q1

**Total passengers by sub-region of traffic origin, Q1 2025, %**



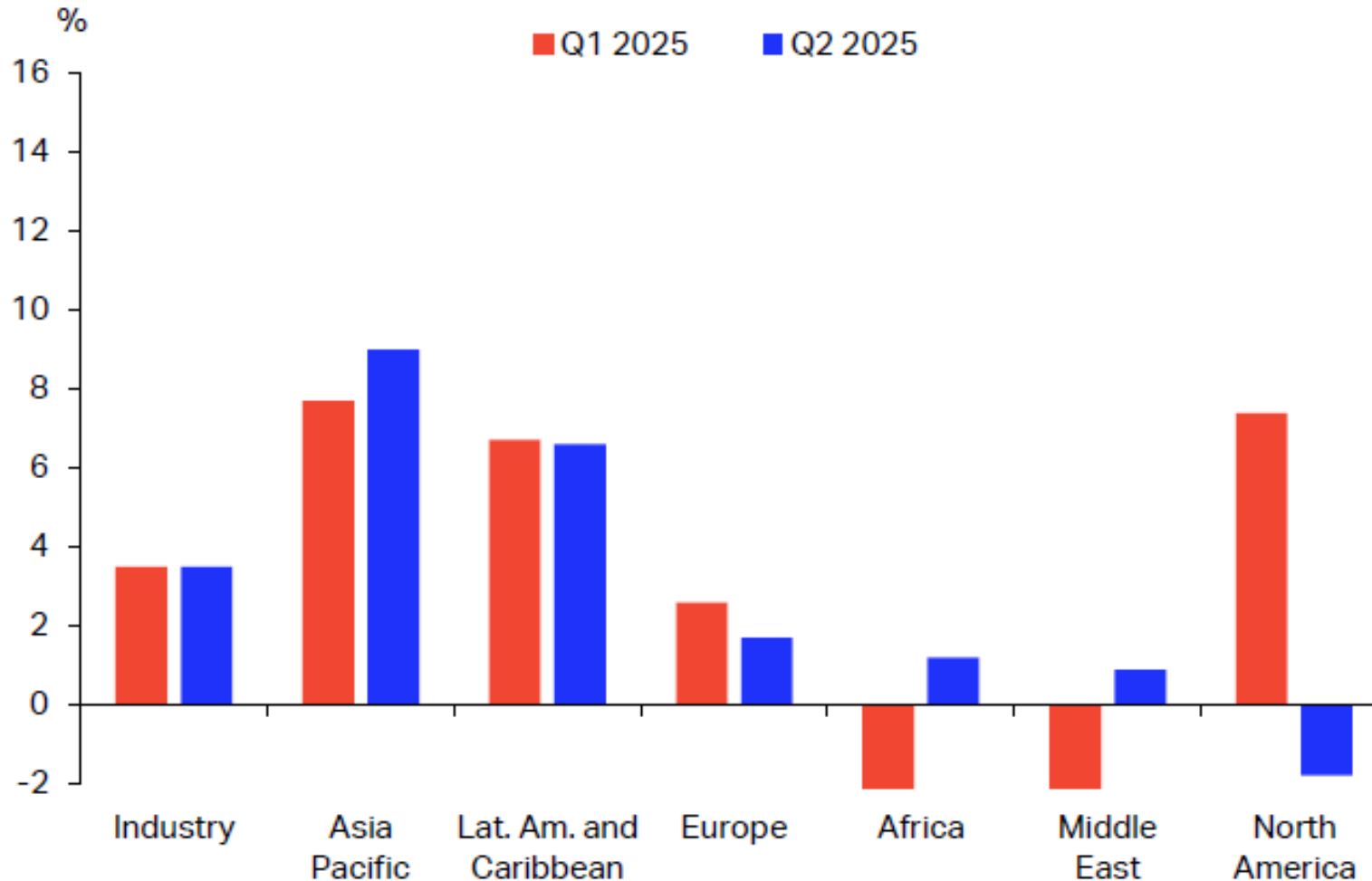
Note: The bar segments represent the contribution of international and domestic traffic to the sub-regional total growth.

Source: IATA Sustainability and Economics, DDS



# Asia Pacific carriers led growth across regions

International CTK by airline region of registration, YoY, %



Source: IATA Sustainability and Economics using data from IATA Information & Data, Monthly Statistics

# CHALLENGES

## Policy Framework & Industry Leadership

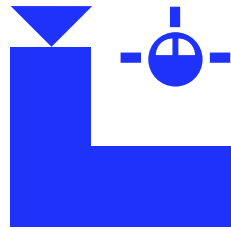


# Key Issues and Topics

## Capacity Building

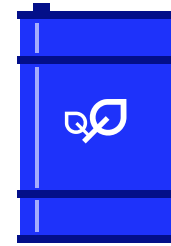


**Supply Chain**



**Airport &  
Airspace**

## Transitioning to Sustainable Aviation



**Sustainable  
Aviation Fuels  
(SAF)**



**CORSIA Eligible  
Emissions Units  
(EEUs)**

# CAPACITY

Airspace, Airport  
and Supply Chain



# Airspace Capacity improvements needed

## Bay of Bengal airspace capacity

- Old 10-minute separation rules caused delays, especially for SIN-Europe night flights.
- One country switched to 50NM separation earlier; the second followed in July 2024.
- A 30NM trial for aircraft with advanced systems starts 12 Aug 2025.
- Planning is underway for more flexible routing options.

## South China Sea airspace constraint

- Outdated route structures and large separation standards limit capacity.
- ICAO-compliant reductions and Performance-based Navigation (PBN) adoption could improve flow.
- Air Traffic Flow Management (ATFM) used to manage congestion, but new routes face frequent rejections.

# Regional trends on **Airport Development** present challenges and opportunities



Industry forecasts predict over US\$2.4 trillion of airport capex forecast by 2040, over half in ASPAC to address capacity constraints and congestion



Lack of effective economic regulation to incentivize efficiency, service quality and consumer focus is a growing issue

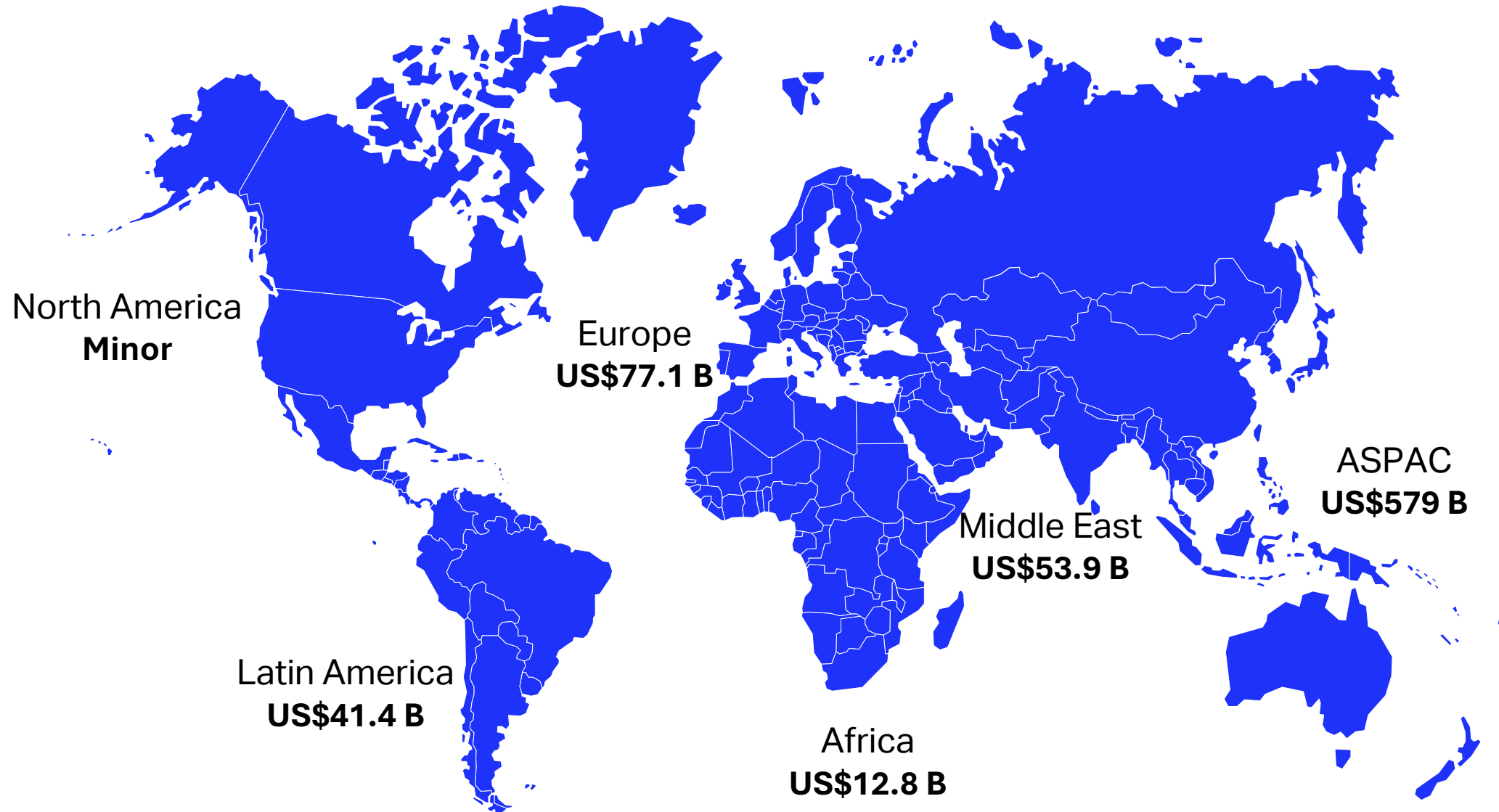


Privatization resulting in long terms airport Concessions and expansion projects focused without sufficient user involvement in the planning stages



Focus on sustainability – “green investments” and enhanced resiliency

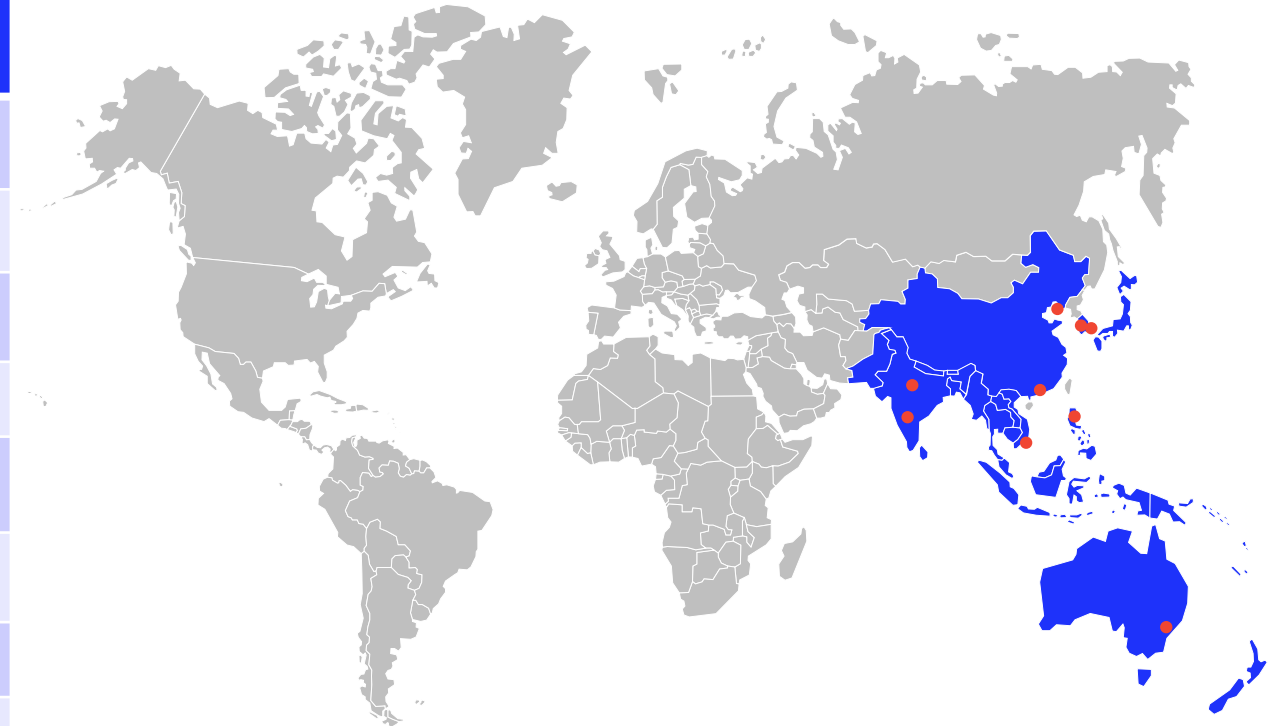
# Greenfield airports CAPEX – ASPAC leads the way



# Location of new airport projects in ASPAC

**90 new airports under construction or planned  
(including the world's most expensive greenfield airport)**

Airport	Costs (USD billion)	Country/ Territory	Expected Completion date
Long Thanh International Airport	16.79	Vietnam	Sept 2026
New Manila International Airport	14.0	Philippines	Delayed to 2028
Beijing Daxing International Airport (Expansion)	13,80	China	31-Dec-2025
Gadeok Island Airport	10.10	South Korea	31-Dec-2029
Western Sydney International Airport	8.40	Australia	Early 2026
Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport (Expansion)	7.56	China	31-Dec-2035
New Daegu Airport	7.10	South Korea	31-Dec-2030
Shanghai Pudong International Airport (Expansion)	5.2	China	31-Dec-2027
Kunming Changshui International Airport (Expansion)	9.1	China	31-Dec-2030





# Airport Development Opportunities and Learnings



Airport capex has a major impact on users – airport charges, operations and passenger experience. Aligning with airline on their needs from an early stage in the design and development process improves efficiency and customer experience



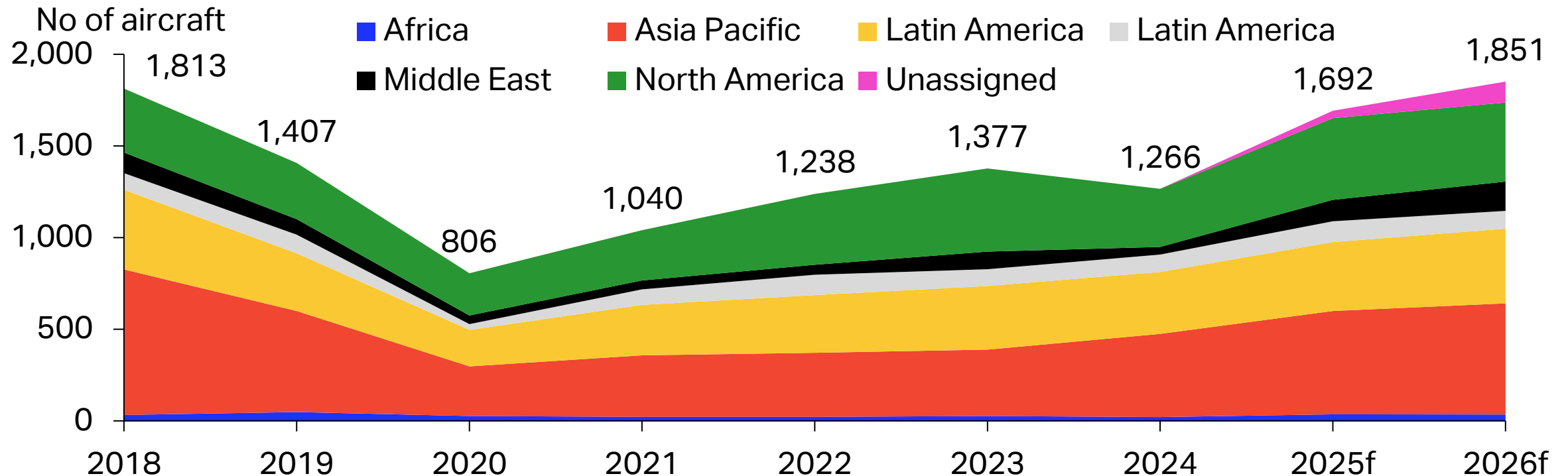
Robust, independent economic regulation developed to protect consumers and users from airports with significant market power is important to create the right incentives and behaviors



Applying industry best practice standards and guidelines to drive innovation and efficiency e.g. IATA Airport Development Reference Manual, OneID

# Aircraft capacity constraints will persist in 2025 and beyond

## Aircraft deliveries by region



Source: IATA Sustainability and Economics, Cirium Fleets Analyzer

\* May 2025 update

# Grounded Aircraft, Missing Engines

- About 15% of the global fleet is in storage — above long-term average of 12%.
- Of these ~1,100 aircraft are younger than 10 years, and most of these jets are parked due to engine issues.
- 69% of young fleet in storage linked to PW1000G engine problems.
- Utilization is near 2019 peaks—airlines are flying everything that can fly
- The demand is ready, the passengers are ready — but the aircraft and engines are still catching up



# Supply Chain Pressures on Maintenance

- Airlines are grappling with a perfect storm of supply chain bottlenecks
- What's driving the problem:
  - Skilled labor shortage
  - Parts delays and raw material constraints
  - Clogged MRO shops and poor forecasting
  - Spike in maintenance demand post-COVID recovery
- The result?
  - Rising costs
  - Lower technical reliability
  - Delays in network recovery and growth



**We call on OEMs to step up in collaborating with airlines, resolve supply chain bottlenecks, and deliver on commitments to get fuel-efficient aircraft into service.**



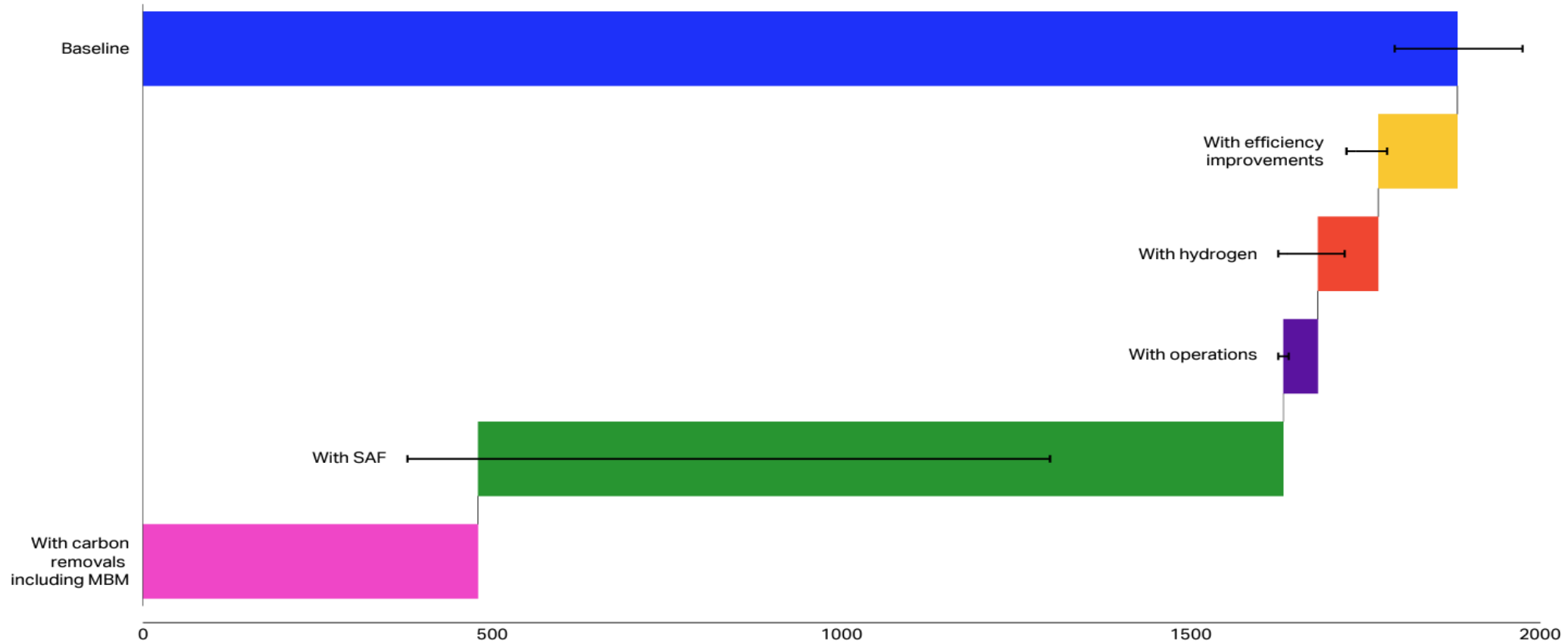
# Sustainability



# SAF is key driver to achieve Aviation Net Zero CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2050

- SAF is expected to have the largest contribution to aviation CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reductions
- Absence of effective policies would severely limit the contribution to LTAG from SAF

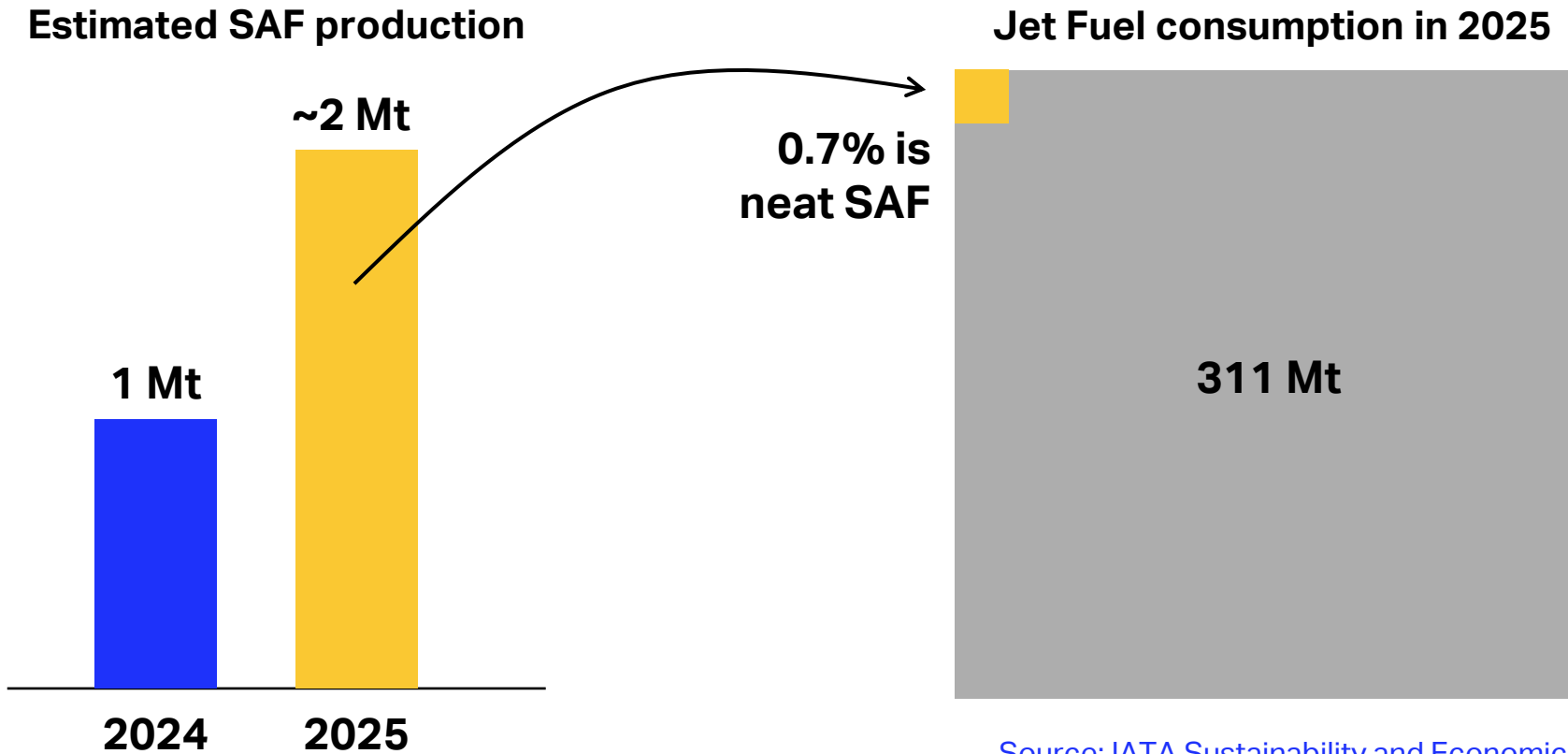
## Reductions in aviation CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in 2050, by source, Mt



Source: [IATA Net Zero Roadmaps](#)

Reductions in aviation CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in 2050, Mt

# SAF production status

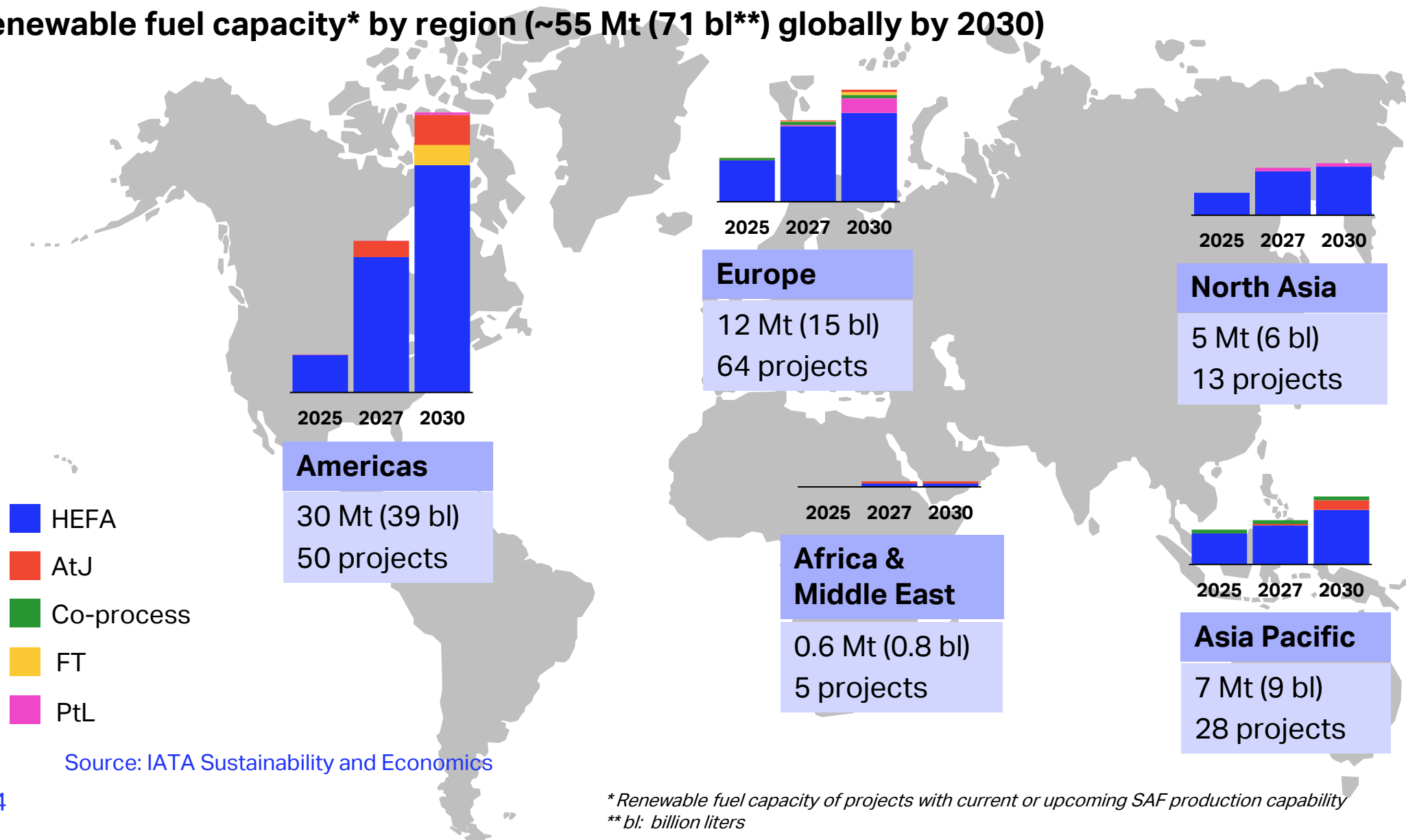


- **SAF production is expected to double** in 2025, but the share remains very small in the jet fuel pool.
- Around **1.2 Mt** of SAF is required to cover the **EU and UK mandates in 2025**.



# Projects and SAF Pathways to 2030

Renewable fuel capacity\* by region (~55 Mt (71 bl\*\*) globally by 2030)



Source: IATA Sustainability and Economics

\* Renewable fuel capacity of projects with current or upcoming SAF production capability  
\*\* bl: billion liters





# All parties have a part to play

## Supporting pathway to Net Zero

- Governments and other stakeholders need to step up to support SAF production within Asia Pacific and to create a successful SAF market

## Abatement of existing emissions

- CORSIA has been adopted as the single, consistent and global carbon offsetting scheme.
- Industry expected to abate 140m metric tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> for period from 2024-2026

**A successful transition is only possible if governments, OEMs, airlines, airports and other stakeholders take tangible steps to support SAF and CORSIA, while expediting renewal of fleets with fuel efficient technology**

# CREATING THE FUTURE

## Innovation and Standards



# A Seamless Future

**One ID**  
**ONE Record**



# One ID

Transforming the Passenger Travel  
Experience with Digital Identity and  
Biometrics



One ID



# Future passenger journey



Travel Documents

Approval to travel  
notification

Approval to travel  
notification

Confirmation of  
readiness to travel

Digitalization of  
admissibility



Airline

Contactless  
travel

2. Get Approval

3. Ready to fly



1. Preparation for trip



- Live Biometric Face Image
- Journey Details Information

Contactless  
process prepared

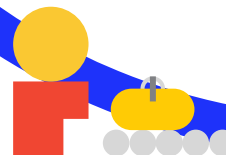


Airline/Airport

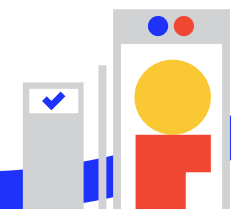
4. Share face image



5. Bag drop



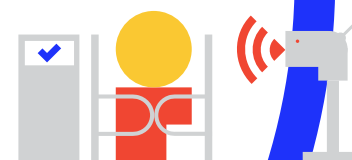
6. Security check



7. Border control\*



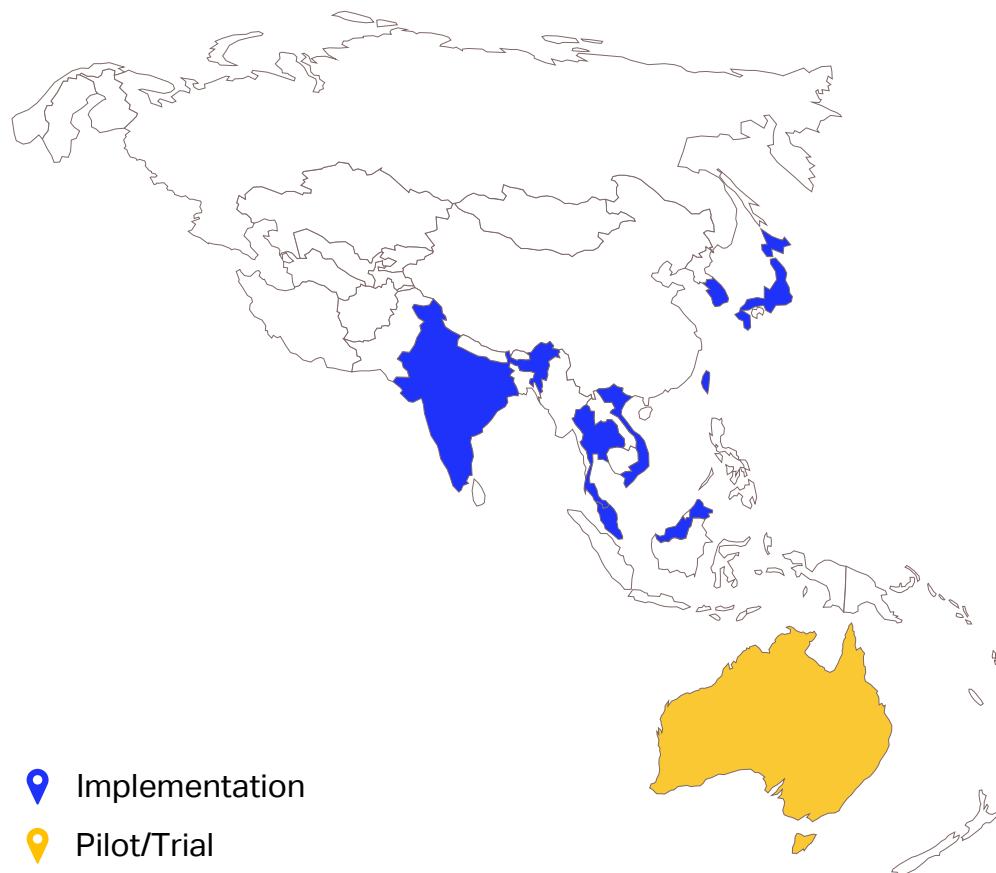
8. Boarding



\*Border control is out of One ID standards scope and passengers may be required to show their physical passport by the authority



# Snapshot – Contactless Travel



Hong Kong – International (Flight Token)

India – Domestic (Digi Yatra)

Japan – International (Face Express)

Malaysia – Domestic, International (EZPaz, FACES)

Singapore – International (FAST)

South Korea – Domestic, International (SmartPass)

Thailand – Domestic, International (Automated Biometric Identification System)

Vietnam – Domestic (VNeID)

Australia – International

Philippines - Domestic

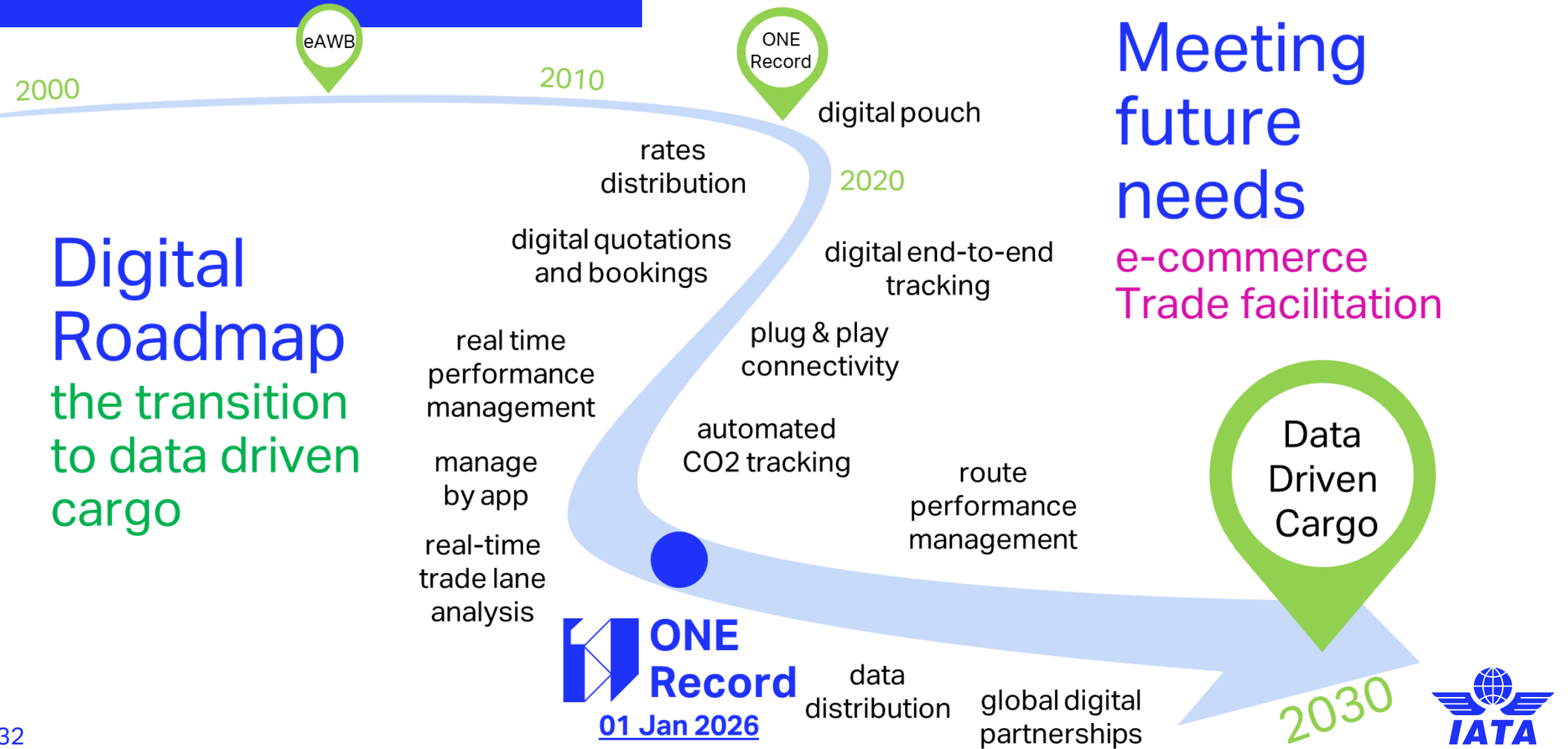
Many airports in Asia-Pacific have adopted biometric technologies to streamline passenger processing. Currently, there is no interoperability between different locations i.e. localized implementations.

IATA is introducing a **cargo messaging exchange standard** and **not a platform.**

The **ONE Record standard** establishes a unified **data model** for information shared through standardized **web APIs.**

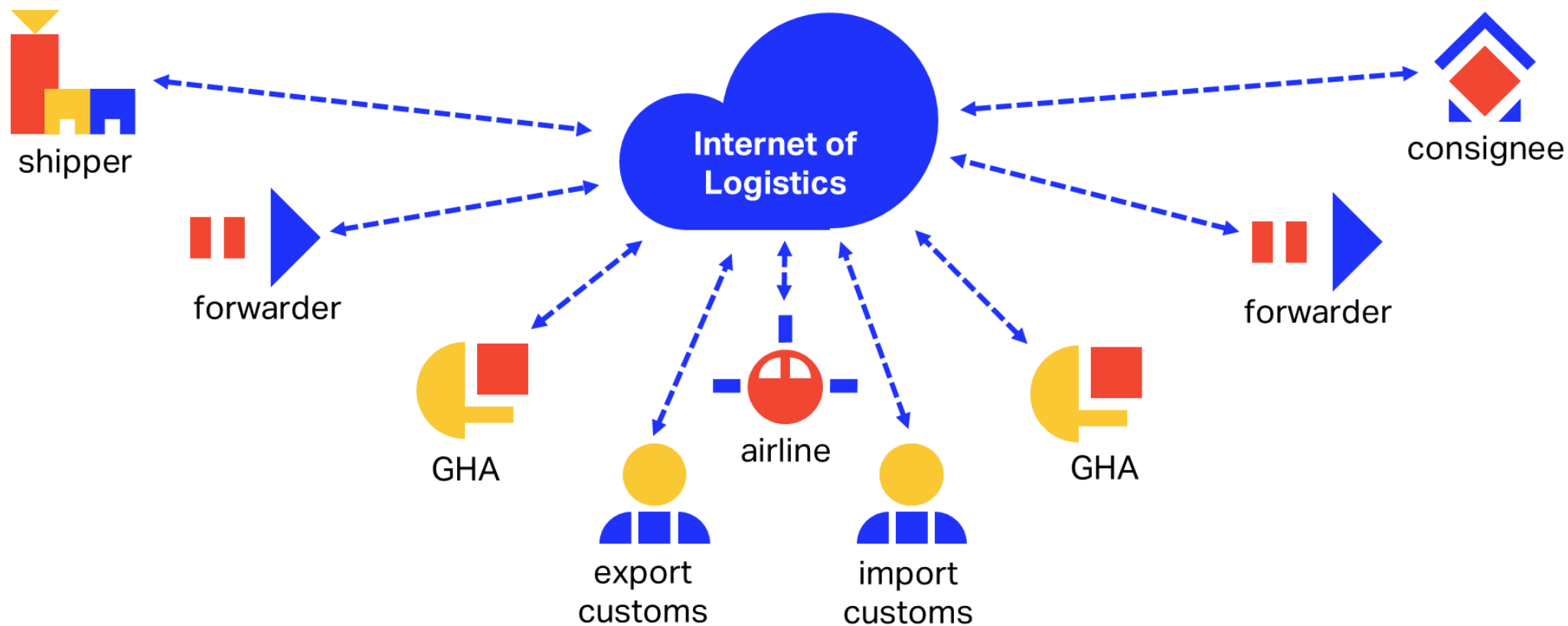


# Cargo Operations





# ONE Record: Internet of Logistics



**Internet of Logistics** – exchange logistics data over the internet, using ONE Record protocols

# Data in Aviation



# Opportunities Enabled by Data in Aviation

- Predictive maintenance and operational efficiency
- Enhanced passenger experience through personalization
- Air traffic management and route optimization
- Sustainability gains via fuel efficiency and emissions tracking
- New technologies: AI, machine learning, IoT in aviation, Data visualization

## In Asia Pacific:

- Rapid digitalization in emerging markets (data collection increase)
- Smart airport initiatives (e.g., Singapore Changi, Incheon Airport) (Tech Environment)
- Regional innovation hubs and startups (Tech environment)

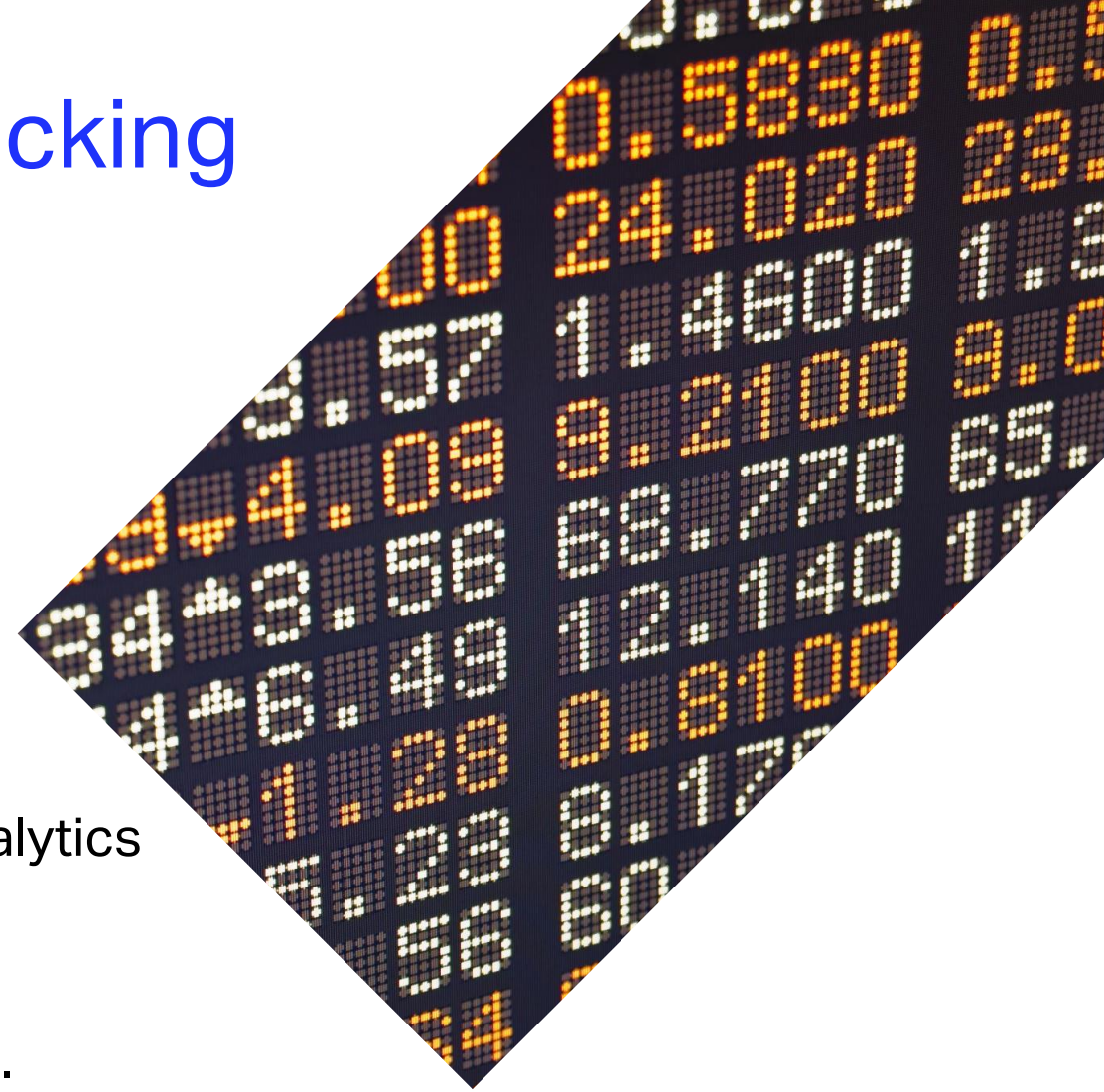


# Challenges and Barriers to Unlocking Data Value

- Data fragmentation/Silos and lack of interoperability
- Regulatory complexity and cross-border data sharing
- Cybersecurity and data privacy concerns
- Legacy systems and infrastructure gaps (e.g. operations/distribution/logistics)
- Difficulty in operationalization and scaling
- Skills and talent shortages in ML/data science and analytics

## In Asia Pacific:

- Diverse regulatory environments across countries (i.e. Difficult access to data)
- Infrastructure disparities between mature and emerging markets





# AI in the Aviation Industry

AI is changing the Aviation Industry on the full value chain. Some examples:



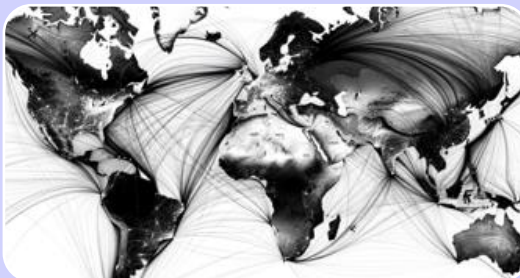
## Customer Satisfaction

- Personalization, PAX segmentation
- Baggage handling
- Cabin baggage prediction
- Gen AI (chatbots)



## Ground Operations

- Ops optimization
- Baggage profiling, offload prediction
- Air Traffic Management optimization



## Flight Operations

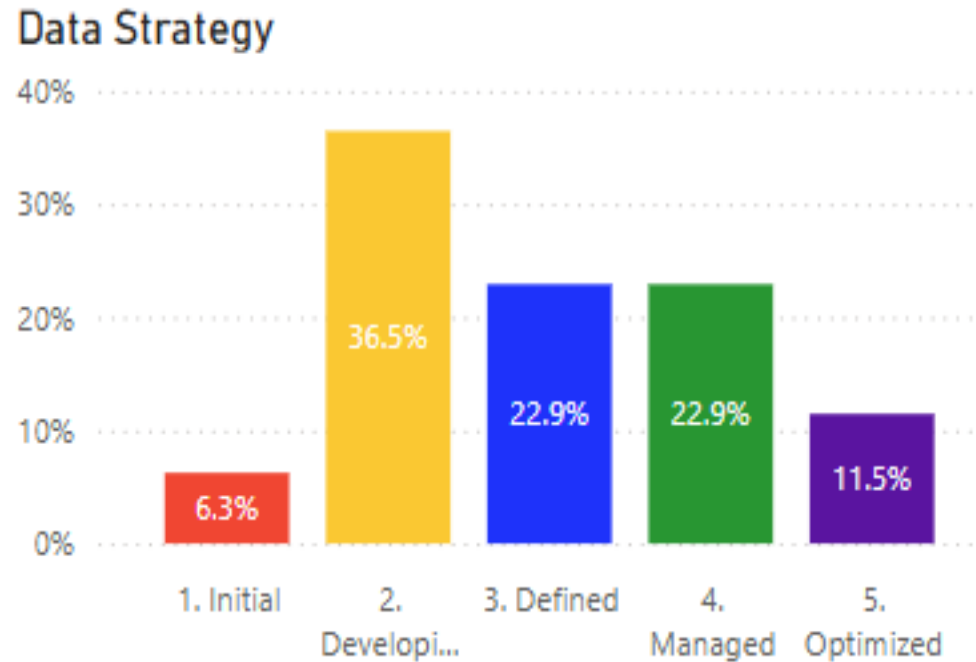
- Route optimization
- ATM optimization
- Crew management
- Flight Safety management



## Sustainability

- Environmental impact cases
- Contrail prevention
- Fuel burn optimization

# Data Maturity in Aviation



Data Strategy maturity distribution. Most of airlines consider themselves in early stages in their journey.\*

\*[2025 Data Maturity Survey, IATA](#)

Regulating the internet giants

## The world's most valuable resource is no longer oil, but data

*The data economy demands a new approach to antitrust rules*



David Parkins

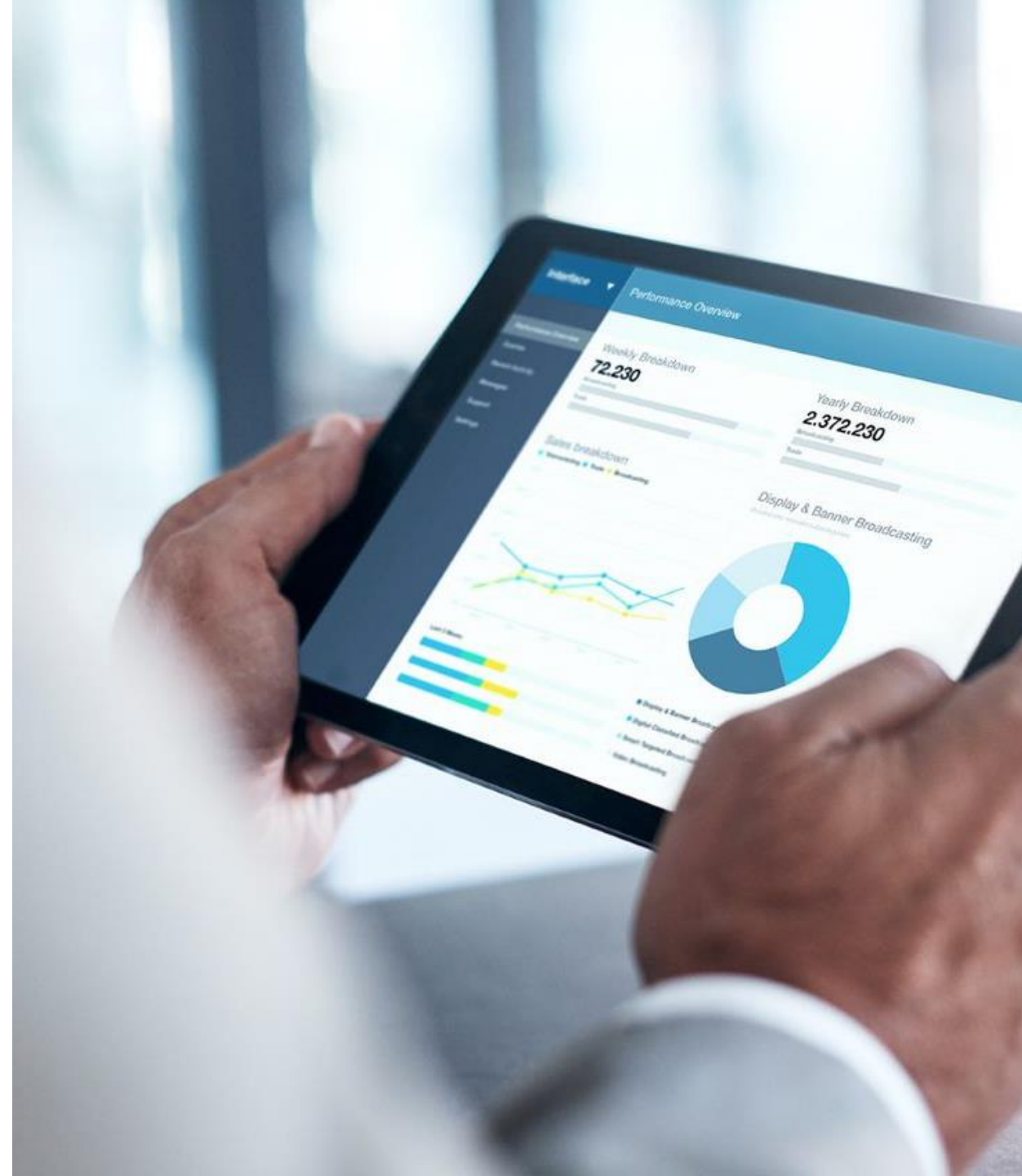
# IATA Data Solutions



Global Aviation Data  
Management (GADM)



Schedule Data Exchange  
Program (SDEP)







- **Collaboration across stakeholders is key to unlocking value.**
- **Investing in data governance, talent, and infrastructure is non-negotiable.**
- **We must move from data collection to data activation.**





# Thank you

