

Air Taxi Era Begins

Dubai moves ahead with first air taxi station in major transport milestone

● It is the world's first eVTOL air taxi hub.

● The network will connect key areas across Dubai.

● The service is expected to launch this year.

● It serves around 170,000 passengers annually.



Transport Shift

Dubai has taken a significant step towards future urban mobility with the completion of its first air taxi station, a project described by Shaikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum as a defining moment in the emirate's transport evolution.

During an inspection visit to the electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) station, Shaikh Hamdan said the development reflects Dubai's ongoing push to lead globally in integrated and sustainable mobility solutions.

Marking World Public Transport Day on April 17, he said Dubai continues to build a transport system driven by innovation, linking traditional and next-generation modes of travel to improve efficiency and quality of life.

He added that the new air taxi infrastructure strengthens Dubai's vision of a fully integrated mobility network that includes metros, buses, and advanced air transport, offering residents and visitors faster and more flexible travel options.

Shaikh Hamdan also em-

phasized that Dubai is actively translating future-focused ideas into real-world systems, positioning the city as a global centre for testing and deploying advanced transport technologies.



Future Flight

The first air taxi station, located near Dubai International Airport, is the first of its kind globally and will serve as the central operations hub for the service. It is being developed by Skyports Infrastructure, which specialises in advanced air mobility facilities.

Officials said the station is expected to handle around 170,000 passengers annually once operations begin. Additional stations are planned across key areas including Downtown Dubai, Palm Jumeirah, and Dubai Marina, with the network expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Mobility Leap

Shaikh Hamdan was joined during the visit by Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum and senior officials from Dubai's aviation and transport sectors.

He directed that the air taxi service be made available to the public within this year, ensuring it meets the highest international standards. He said the project will help cut travel times and further enhance connectivity across the city.

The initiative reflects Dubai's broader strategy to turn innovation into practical solutions that support sustainable growth and future-ready infrastructure.

GCC States Push New UN Draft

During a United Nations General Assembly session held under the veto initiative mechanism, Kuwait presented a joint statement on behalf of Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Jordan, and itself.

The statement was delivered by His Excellency Ambassador Tariq Al-Banai, Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, following the use of vetoes by Russia and China on a draft resolution related to ensuring the security of maritime navigation in the Strait of Hormuz during a Security Council vote on April 7, 2026.

The group of countries firmly opposed any actions or threats that could undermine freedom of navigation in international waters. The statement warned that such risks could disrupt global energy flows and destabilize supply chains worldwide.

It further highlighted the importance of upholding interna-



Ambassador Tariq Al-Banai, Kuwait's Permanent Representative to the United Nations

tional law and protecting key maritime corridors, stressing that maritime security remains essential for global stability.

The participating states also confirmed that coordination efforts will continue, with plans to introduce a revised draft resolution to the United Nations Security Council aimed at reinforcing maritime security frameworks and supporting international peace efforts through the United Nations system.

Kimberley Process must "catch up," UAE warns at UN

At the United Nations General Assembly debate on the role of diamonds in fueling conflict, the United Arab Emirates highlighted progress made under its chairmanship of the Kimberley Process while acknowledging the failure to reach consensus on updating the definition of "conflict diamonds."

Speaking on behalf of the Kimberley Process, Ahmed Bin Sulayem noted that the UAE's 2025 custodial chairmanship—under the theme "Year of Best Practice"—focused on strengthening governance, improving compliance, and reinforcing leadership continuity within the global diamond certification scheme.

He recalled that the Kim-



berley Process, established to prevent the trade of conflict diamonds from financing armed groups, has continued to serve as a key international framework promoting transparency

and accountability in the diamond trade for over two decades.

The UAE official said that while significant progress was made through reforms, tech-

nical assistance measures, and structural reviews aimed at supporting artisanal and small-scale miners, member states were ultimately unable to agree on an updated definition of conflict diamonds after three years of negotiations.

He described the outcome as "regrettable," noting disappointment among African producers and other stakeholders, but stressed that dialogue must continue in good faith.

UAE-led initiatives such as "Verifiko," a digital certification platform aimed at improving traceability and integrity in diamond trading, which is currently in the pilot phase and will be donated to the Kimberley Process framework.

Riyadh Praises Lebanon Leaders

The Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs has expressed the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's welcome of the announcement made by the President of the United States, Donald Trump, regarding a ceasefire in the Lebanon.

In its statement, the Foreign Ministry praised the significant and constructive roles played by Lebanese leaders in reaching this development, including the President of Lebanon, Jo-



seph Aoun, the Prime Minister, Nawaf Salam, and the Speaker of Parliament, Nabih Berri.

The Kingdom highlighted that these coordinated efforts reflect an important step toward stabilizing the situation in Lebanon and supporting regional security and peace.

Oman-Qatar talks focus on maritime security

His Majesty Sultan Haitham bin Tariq of Oman and His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of Qatar, held a fraternal meeting at Al Barakah Palace. They discussed the latest regional developments and their implications for security, stability, and economic interests across the region.

The two leaders reviewed ongoing regional tensions and stressed the importance of safeguard-

ing the security of states and the well-being of their peoples amid evolving geopolitical challenges.

Both sides underscored the need to reach a comprehensive and lasting agreement that addresses the root causes of current crises. They also called for intensified international efforts to ensure freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz, alongside the uninterrupted flow of maritime transport and energy supplies vital to global markets.

