

Regional News	Industry News
<p>26 March 2012 - Edinburgh Airport loses two of the four potential bidders ahead of the April deadline for submitting second bid The withdrawal of indicative offers by the UK based investment consortia 3i and American firm Carlyle, has left a straight fight for Edinburgh between Gatwick owner Global Infrastructure Partners and US investment bank J P Morgan.</p> <p>28 March 2012 - Security gates to be installed at Edinburgh Airport to cut queues Five electronic security gates are to be introduced at Edinburgh airport in mid-April 2012 to help cut passport queues by half. It will be the first time the UK Border Agency will see the automatic equipment used at a Scottish airport to increase the speed with which passengers clear immigration.</p> <p>28 March 2012 - Manchester Airport relief road to open within five years Dates for the construction of the £290 million A6 to Manchester Airport relief road have been set. The construction work will be funded through the new £1.2 billion infrastructure fund agreed as part of the Greater Manchester City Deal with Government in the 2012 budget.</p> <p>29 March 2012 - Belfast City Airport in move to control noise 'problem' Environment Minister Alex Attwood is to launch a public consultation on a proposal by George Best Belfast City Airport to replace an existing passenger cap with one controlling noise. The announcement of the submission comes less than a week after the airport confirmed plans to drop a contentious application to extend its runway.</p>	<p>26 March 2012 - The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) calls for more aviation capacity The CBI is applying pressure on the Government to decide on a plan for the future of UK aviation as it claims that current capacity constraints means that the UK is losing out to European rivals on new routes to emerging markets, and risk becoming a less attractive place to do business and invest. In a CBI press release, the organisation calls for a firm plan within 18 months.</p> <p>28 March 2012 - Promptness improves at Heathrow Punctuality at Heathrow Airport has improved significantly, according to the latest Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) findings. On-time performance, calculated as a flight arriving or departing early to 15 minutes late, increased by 12 per cent to 77 per cent, between October and December, compared to last year.</p> <p>Among the five London airports' scheduled flights, Heathrow performed well delivering the third best results in on-time performance, trailing behind Stansted and Luton airports.</p> <p>30 March 2012 - International Airline Group (IAG) cleared in European Union to buy bmi British Airways owner IAG has secured EU regulatory approval to buy German group Lufthansa's British airline bmi after offering to give up 14 daily slots at London's Heathrow airport in a deal worth £172.5 million.</p> <p>30 March 2012 - easyJet to trial reserved seating on some flights Carolyn McCall, chief executive officer of easyJet has announced plans to offer passengers allocated seating in April 2012 in a trial that will take the carrier further away from its no-frills identity.</p>
<p>Media</p> <p>28 March 2012 - Chief Executive of Gatwick discusses South East expansion – Interview with The Standard Stewart Wingate, chief executive of Gatwick announced his interest in opening up new routes to the Far East and other emerging economies; the idea of a Heath-Wick 'virtual hub' airport and Gatwick expansion plans.</p>	<p>Events</p> <p>Consultation on Airports Workshop - 21 June 2012, 10.30am - £195 (Holiday Inn Kings Cross, 1 Kings Cross Road, London, WC1X 9HX)</p> <p>What Does the Future Hold for Gatwick? - 15 May 2012, 18:30 (for 19:00) - 21:00 – Free event (Harlequin Theatre, Warwick Crescent, Redhill, Surrey, RH1 1NN)</p>
<p>SASIG 2012/13 Meeting Dates</p> <p>Thursday 14 June 2012 The Aviation Minister, Theresa Villiers, shall be attending. Friday 9 November 2012 and Friday 1 March 2013.</p> <p>Meetings are held between 11am and 1pm, at Local Government House, Smith Square, SW1P 3HZ, with lunch provided afterwards; location map.</p>	