

MIA and American Airlines unveil plans for \$1 billion “monumental” Concourse D expansion

Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava and American Airlines CEO Robert Isom have unveiled plans to expand Miami International Airport’s Concourse D with a “monumental” new \$1 billion investment. The new Gate D60 expansion will create 17 new aircraft gates and adjoining passenger boarding areas, additional dining and shopping options, boost baggage handling and streamline customs access.

Scheduled to break ground in 2027 and be completed by 2030, the three-level extension will convert the existing gate D60 area - which currently has one common boarding space and 17 ground-level gates for smaller regional jets - into 17 traditional contact gates for larger regional and narrow-body aircraft, each with individual, spacious passenger hold rooms. All 17 gate areas will provide convenient third-level connections to Concourse D’s U.S. Customs and Border Protection facility for international arrivals.

“The D60 expansion is one of the most monumental customer service improvements within our unprecedented airport-wide modernization plan, which will transform the passenger experience at MIA from the cabin to the curb over the next five years,” commented Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava during the presentation on February 25.

“MIA ranks among the fastest-growing global hubs since the pandemic, and the North Terminal expansion, coupled with South Terminal’s future Concourse K and the Central Terminal redevelopment, will create a new future-ready gateway fully enabled to serve our millions of visitors for decades to come,” she added.

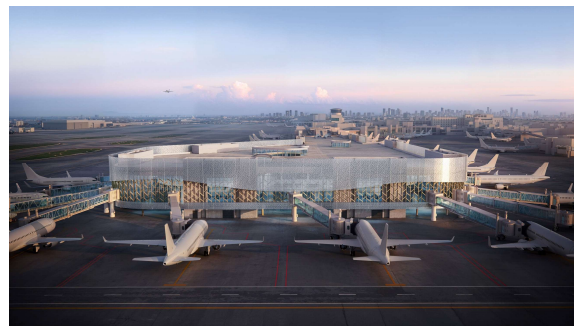
The new Gate D60 extension also includes several sustainable building features designed to earn the facility LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver and Envision Verified certifications – the highest ratings for resilient structures by the U.S. Green Building Council and the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure.

“Miami is an important hub and gateway for American, and it’s an essential part of our history and our future. The brand new, reimagined D60 is a transformational project

that will provide a much-improved experience for our customers and our team,” added American Airline’s CEO Robert Isom. “This investment — alongside new premium lounges and new routes — reflects our shared commitment with Miami-Dade County and the airport to deliver a consistent, elevated customer experience.”

The Gate D60 expansion is one of more than 200 projects within the Miami’s sweeping \$9 billion M.I.A. Plan. Other major projects include a new garage that opened in December; the new Concourse K expansion scheduled to open in 2029; and the \$745-million Central Terminal redevelopment project, which will modernize MIA’s oldest terminal area by 2031, plus major renovation and maintenance projects.

Miami International Airport, America’s busiest airport for international freight and the second busiest for international passengers, recorded more than 55 million domestic and international passengers in 2025.



Renderings of new \$1 billion expansion at MIA’s D Concourse.



Avolta’s Hudson and HMSHost secure 12-year retail and F&B contract extensions at Miami International Airport

Avolta’s HMSHost and Hudson divisions have been awarded 12-year extensions covering travel retail and food and beverage operations at Miami International Airport (MIA). The concessions cover MIA’s North, Central and South terminals.

Avolta says that the contract extensions reinforce its long-term partnership at one of the United States’ busiest international gateways and sets the stage for renovations and new concepts across more than 60 restaurants, bars, grab-and-go outlets and retail stores.

HMSHost will continue to operate and progressively transform more than 20 restaurants, bars and grab-and-go outlets.

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MIA extends Hudson and HMSHost retail and dining contracts amid \$9 billion overhaul *Continued from page 1.*

HMSHost will introduce a balanced mix of local concepts, global brands and proprietary formats supported by digital tools to enhance speed, convenience and operational efficiency.

“Hudson and HMSHost have built a longstanding, successful partnership with MIA, and we appreciate the confidence Miami-Dade County and the Miami-Dade Aviation Department have placed in us,” said Steve Johnson, President and CEO, North America, Avolta.

“This extension enables us to modernize MIA’s offering across more than 60 retail and F&B spaces. Supporting the airport’s long-term vision for a more seamless, efficient and locally

inspired passenger experience, we are ready to meet the evolving needs and wants of passengers now and in the future.”

Hudson’s and HMSHost’s renewed investment is part of MIA’s sweeping \$9-billion Modernization in Action (M.I.A.) capital improvement and maintenance program, as the airport prepares to welcome more than 77 million travelers by 2040.

Hudson says that it will play a strategic role in the transformation, introducing next-generation retail concepts and digital innovation that support MIA’s growth and evolution.

At the same time, HMSHost will play a strategic role in transforming MIA’s culinary scene, with plans to offer a mix of local

restaurants, global brands, and exclusive HMSHost concepts — all powered by digital innovation to deliver a seamless, modern dining experience, says the company.

Hudson operates its MIA travel retail stores with five small business partners: Corliss Stone-Littles, LLC (Corliss Stone-Littles), Premier Travel Solutions Inc. (Aime Alberni and Patricia Amaro), SF Airport Retail, LLC (Ray Kayal and Chris Korge), Tarra Enterprises, Inc. (Tarra L. Pressy), and Tinsley Family Concessions, Inc. (George Tinsley).

HMSHost operates its MIA dining venues with two small business partners: Master ConcessionAir, LLC (Jose Alberni) and Tinsley Family Concessions, Inc. (George Tinsley).

Eat Well. Travel Further: Avolta says snack smarter at the airport with health-conscious Grab & Go

Avolta has announced that its award-winning *Eat Well. Travel Further.* collection of grab & go options are now available at select HMSHost dining venues at O’Hare International Airport (ORD), and coming soon to Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) and Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (PHX).

Eat Well. Travel Further. offers fresh ingredients and bold flavors in a convenient grab & go format, expanding travelers’ options for foods that energize and support a healthy lifestyle, says the company.

Shaped by extensive consumer research, the new *Eat Well. Travel Further.* program is a chef-curated collection that spans three categories — high-protein, plant-based, and macro-balanced — and is free of artificial flavors and sweeteners, synthetic colors, high fructose corn syrup and hydrogenated fats. These balanced meals, sandwiches and wraps, salads, snack cups, parfaits, and more are tasty and nutrient-rich, providing travelers with premium options that

incorporate quality ingredients, products, and flavors, for every preference and taste.

“Our *Eat Well. Travel Further.* offering is a purposeful evolution of a bold idea that began almost a decade ago to empower travelers to eat healthier in airports,” said Steve Johnson, President & CEO, North America, Avolta. “The travel food & beverage scene has undergone a major transformation, driven by new consumer expectations and emerging needs, and so we’ve responded by raising the bar for what airport grab & go can and should be.

“We’ve designed a contemporary program that puts today’s travelers at the center by leaning into their lifestyle preferences.”

“The initial *Eat Well. Travel Further.* launch at O’Hare, LAX, and Phoenix Sky Harbor is just the beginning,” Johnson added. “Our goal is to expand this unique program across our convenience and food & beverage operations in North America’s airports and continue to evolve it based on customer feedback and insights, so, no matter where their journey takes them, travelers know they can rely on us for real, good food.”



Avolta nabs major dining contract at Toronto Pearson

In more news from Avolta, the airport concessionaire has also secured a new 12-year contract with Toronto Pearson International (YYZ), Canada’s busiest airport. Expanding on its longstanding partnership with Avolta’s HMSHost division, the new agreement will cover dining outlets across more than 5,300 sq meters in Terminals 1 and 3 and introduce a lineup of favorite Canadian brands.

Beginning in early 2026, the company will introduce local favorites including Mary Brown’s Chicken, OEB Kitchen + Bar, and Libretto Slice Shop. HMSHost is also expanding its collaboration with award-winning Canadian chef Roger Mooking to launch a new F&B concept, following the success of his restaurant Twist by Roger Mooking in Terminal 1.

“This is an exciting evolution of a partnership between HMSHost and Toronto Pearson that began nearly 25 years ago,” said Steve Johnson, President and CEO, North America, Avolta. “Over the years of collaboration, we have created a world-class traveler experience at Toronto Pearson and now, together, we are raising the bar to usher in the future.”

“Airports are evolving into vibrant culinary destinations,” said Deborah Flint, President and CEO of Toronto Pearson. “From full-service dining to convenient grab-and-go options, we’re excited to partner with HMSHost to bring fresh and diverse food experiences to our passengers as they travel through Toronto Pearson.”

The concessions refresh will also include revamped menus and enhanced digital engagement at longtime dining favorites at Toronto Pearson. HMSHost will introduce more seamless dining experience through technology like digital waitlists and self-order kiosks.

Travelers will also be able to access the benefits of the Club Avolta loyalty program, gaining exclusive offers, rewards, and cross-promotions.

Travelers are searching for more exclusives reports DFWC Full Year 2025 KPI Monitor

The latest Duty Free World Council (DFWC) Global Shopping Monitor reveals a travel retail landscape defined by surging passenger traffic, a rise in impulsive shopping behavior, and strong demand for travel retail exclusives.

This year marks the 10th anniversary that the KPI monitor has been produced for the DFWC by Swiss research agency m1nd-set with data from m1nd-set's Business Intelligence Service (BIS) tracking survey. The full-year monitor drew on a sample of more than 24,500 international travelers, and is published in addition to quarterly reports capturing seasonal variations.

Reporting on the full year 2025, the DFWC monitor reports that value and convenience are the key appeal drivers in the duty free channel. 'Good value for money' was the main driver for 27% of shoppers, up from 25% in 2024; while convenience and the desire for a self-treat rose to 21% and 18% respectively.

The DF/TR sector continues to

face challenges around price perception however, which remains a barrier to purchase: 16% of travelers cited 'higher prices compared to home' as a reason not to buy, while 'no motivating discounts' increased moderately as a purchase barrier from 15% to 16%.

Most notably, the barrier of 'buying elsewhere' jumped from 10% in 2024 to 14% in 2025, implying stiffer competition from both the high street and online markets.

Self-consumption was the top purchase purpose at 55%, a three-point rise on the previous year. Gifting declined by 2% compared to the previous year, from 25% to 23%.

The rise of the impulse buyer and demand for travel retail exclusives are two key trends that emerged in 2025. The full-year analysis implies that a shift in shopper psychology is underway, with impulse buying rising to 31%, up from 28% in 2024, with both specific and undecided purchase

planning on the decline.

In addition to increased shopper spontaneity, the monitor also reveals a stronger quest for the unique among global shoppers. 64% of shoppers tended to actively seek out travel retail exclusives or unique products in 2025, a sharp increase from 57% in 2024.

Dr. Peter Mohn, CEO and owner at m1nd-set, commented: "Our latest monitor highlights a significant shift toward more spontaneous behavior, with impulse purchases now accounting for nearly a third of all duty free purchases.

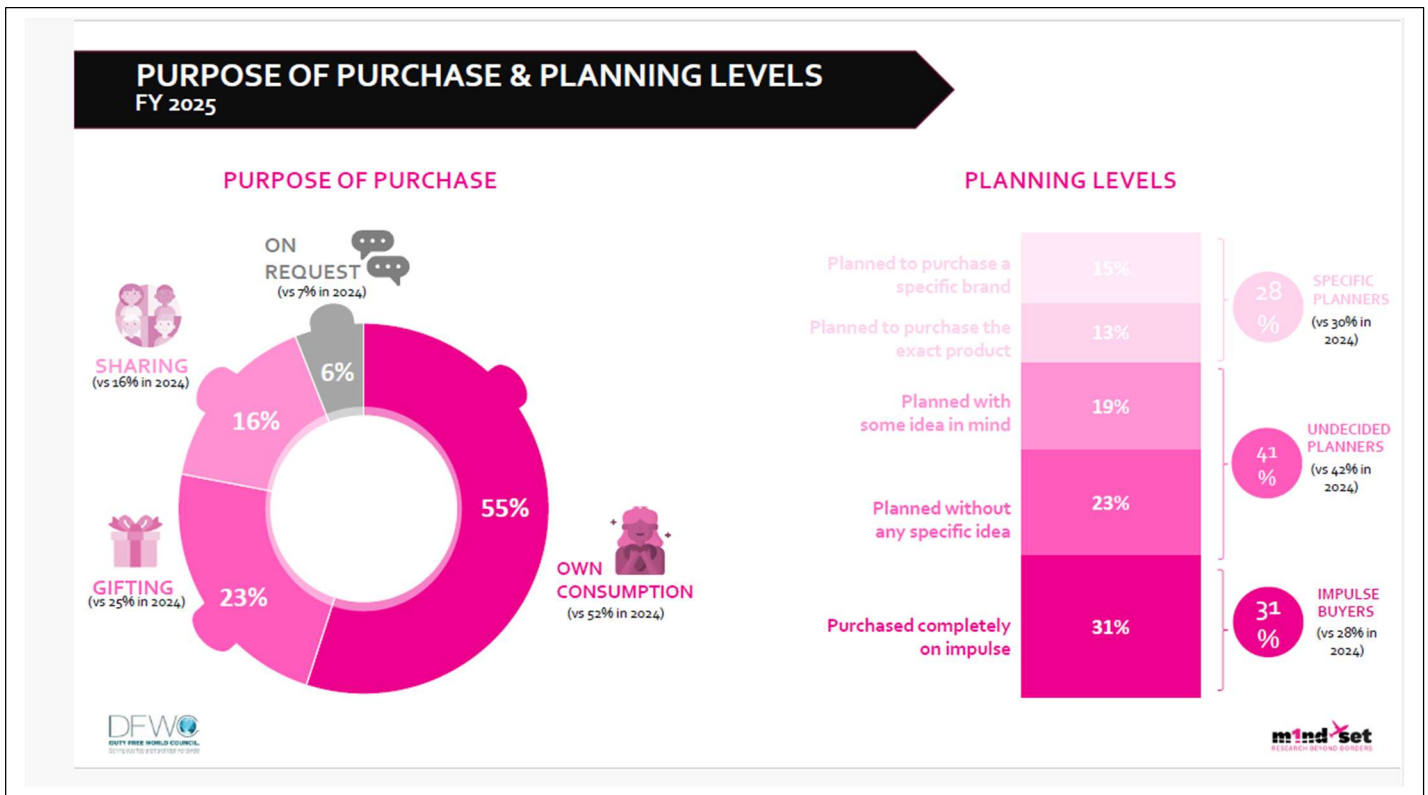
"We are seeing a marked hunger for the unique, with nearly two thirds of shoppers specifically seeking exclusives. This emphasizes that retailers must not only provide value but also a sense of discovery that cannot be found on the high street."

Mohn also notes that the human touch is increasingly important within shopper engagement. While shopper engagement before entering the store held steady, with

32% of shoppers exposed to pre-store touchpoints in 2025 and in 2024, general internet searches were the most common touch point, but social media influence is on the rise in 2025, increasing to 13%.

DFWC President Sarah Branquinho underlined the importance of the sales staff for conversion in duty free: "The human element remains an important catalyst for conversion. The interaction rate between travelers and sales staff rose four points to 53% in 2025, from 49% in 2024.

"It is crucial to acknowledge and act on the fact that the influence of these interactions is significant: 74% of shoppers stated they were positively influenced by staff advice, a figure that is aligned with the 2024 level, and which underlines the huge importance our people play in converting browsers into buyers and highlights the positive impact a well-trained and highly skilled sales force can add," she concluded.



London Supply debuts "London Accesible" program with new sensory room at Trelew Airport



London Supply Group Director Maria Taratuty (second from left) cuts the ribbon inaugurating the sensory room at Trelew Airport in Argentina.

London Supply Group has officially launched its first sensory room at Almirante Marcos A. Zar International Airport in Trelew, Argentina.

This opening marks the debut of *London Accesible*, a comprehensive corporate program designed to standardize and elevate accessibility standards across the group's entire portfolio, including international airports, Duty Free Shops, and other retail operations throughout Argentina.

The sensory room represents a

significant move to enhance the passenger experience and promote inclusivity within the travel industry, says London Supply.

Elevating the Travel Retail experience

The new facility, strategically located in the check-in area, provides a controlled environment with dimmed lighting and specialized equipment designed to mitigate the sensory overload often associated with airport terminals. By reducing anxiety for neuro-

divergent travelers—including those with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) or sensory processing sensitivities—London Supply Group aims to create a more seamless and welcoming journey from the moment of arrival.

"We are committed to transforming our facilities into increasingly inclusive spaces, ensuring a travel experience that prioritizes the well-being and comfort of every passenger," stated **María Taratuty**, Director of Sustainability and Strategic Communications at London Supply Group.

The project was developed in collaboration with **Fundación Ángeles de Cristal**, a local NGO that provided expert consultancy and specialized training for airport and retail staff. This partnership ensures that the 'human element' of the service matches the high standards of the physical infrastructure.

London Supply Group confirmed that this inclusive model is set for a regional rollout. The *London Accesible* program will

soon be implemented at the group's other key Patagonian hubs: Ushuaia and El Calafate International Airports.

Seamless integration & Passenger flow

To ensure an efficient operational flow, the group has implemented a specialized assistance protocol:

Sunflower Lanyard Scheme:

In line with international standards, passengers are provided with hidden disability sunflower lanyards to ensure priority service and recognition by staff throughout the terminal.

Priority Processing: Users of the sensory room benefit from expedited access through security checkpoints (PSA), minimizing wait times before entering the departures lounge.

Holistic Approach: This initiative complements recent upgrades at the Trelew terminal, such as the opening of a **new nursing room** in the departures area, further reinforcing the group's commitment to family-friendly travel.

Shilla sells back stake in 3Sixty Duty Free; explains stance *Special Report by Luke Barras-Hill*

In early February the Asian press reported that Hotel Shilla, parent company of Shilla Duty Free, sold its entire 44% stake in Miami-based 3Sixty Duty Free, fully exiting a U.S. investment that once anchored its North American expansion strategy. The stake was repurchased by 3Sixty through a buyback, bringing to close a partnership formed in 2019. (*Guru Today*, Feb. 8, 2026)

The sell-back of the 44% shareholding in 3Sixty Duty Free was a 'tactical decision' to prioritize 'core businesses' amid ongoing recovery efforts, according to The Shilla Duty Free, writes **Luke Barras-Hill** in a special report for *Travel Markets Insider (TMI)*.

Reports surfaced last month indicating the Miami-based omni-

channel retailer had moved to buy back its stake from Hotel Shilla, the parent of travel retailer The Shilla Duty Free.

As reported, Hotel Shilla inked an agreement to purchase a 44% share in the inflight and airport duty free specialist (formerly known as the DFASS Group) in 2019.

In a statement confirming the transaction obtained by *TMI*, The Shilla Duty Free said: "This decision was made as part of a strategic choice to focus and prioritize our core businesses amid an uncertain business environment and a slow industry recovery.

"Through continued management efficiency efforts, we plan to enhance our financial structure and profitability while strengthening

our overall competitiveness."

3Sixty Duty Free declined to comment on the transaction when approached by *TMI*.

At press time, no regulatory filing of the buyback appears on South Korea's official Data Analysis, Retrieval and Transfer (DART) portal, which lists disclosures made by publicly traded companies in South Korea.

Equity research analysts at several major Korean investment banks and stock brokerages were unavailable for comment.

In a note to shareholders posted on the DART portal last month, Shilla said it is undertaking restructuring and cost reductions amid a turbulent duty free operating environment in South Korea.

At the same time, it is reviewing measures to improve profitability at domestic and international locations.

Commenting on its broader strategic priorities for this year, a Shilla Duty Free spokesperson said the company "aims to respond swiftly to changes in the market environment while focusing on strengthening its fundamentals.

"Although the travel retail business continues to face challenging market conditions, we are making multifaceted efforts to enhance management efficiency," they added.

According to Hotel Shilla's latest Q4 2025 results, travel retail revenue increased by 10.5% year-on-year to total KRW 854.9 billion/\$589.8 million.

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Floral Street and *Bridgerton* unveil Enchanted Masquerade



Floral Street, the award-winning British fragrance brand, together with Shondaland and Netflix's hit show *Bridgerton*, have unveiled Enchanted Masquerade. The Eau de Parfum, inspired by the latest season of the hit show, is billed as the first-of-its-kind vegan and cruelty free fragrance to bring the "cult-favorite modern fairytale to life."

The show's fourth season, which premiered at the end of January on Netflix, with part 2 of the season returning last week, opens at a masquerade ball, hence the name of Enchanted Masquerade.

Described as "an alluring floral gourmand," Enchanted Masquerade opens with notes of fresh pear, hazelnut and gardenia, with a heart of centifolia rose and dry down of skin musks and sweet cedarwood.

Created by Floral Street founder **Michelle Feeney** and Robertet master perfumer **Jérôme Epinette**, the fragrance collaboration encompasses a "spellbinding love affair and playful British flair" that defines this season of *Bridgerton*.

"We're honored to have partnered with Shondaland and Netflix to bring this story of two worlds colliding and true love blooming to the dressing tables of *Bridgerton* fans around the world," commented Michelle Feeney.

"While creating this scent, we were inspired by this season's storyline and the idea of unmasking your true self... It also deeply connects with our brand motto—'Who will you be today?' All Floral Street fragrances are created to match our moods and enable us to embrace self-expression," continued Feeney.

"We're so happy to be sharing our expertise in creating mood-boosting, vegan and cruelty-free fragrance with a show as beloved as *Bridgerton*. We know that both new and established fans will adore Enchanted Masquerade," she concluded.

Floral Street Enchanted Masquerade Eau de Parfum is available on FloralStreet.com and exclusively at Beautyspace at Bloomingdale's in the U.S. and select travel retail partners. For travel retail information, contact katherine@internationalbrandbuilders.com

APTRA Indian Conference to take place March 25-27, Avolta joins conference line-up

APTRA announces that the APTRA India Conference, taking place in Bangalore between March 25-27, 2026, is currently 75% sold out. Held in partnership with Platinum Host, Bangalore International Airport Limited, the event organizers expect 300 representatives from across the industry to attend, including global and Indian brands, airports from India to Singapore and international retailers.

Gold Partner Avolta is supporting the conference, with Freda Cheung, President & CEO, Asia Pacific, Avolta and Vijay Talwar, Chief Digital, Data and Technology Officer both joining panel discussions on key influences shaping the India market's future development.

"Asia Pacific is central to Avolta's growth strategy and our participation as a Gold Partner at the APTRA India Conference reflects how seriously we take collaboration across the region," comments Cheung.

"Progress in this market happens when airports, brand partners and industry peers share perspectives and focus on what works in practice. APTRA provides exactly that setting, a platform for open, solutions-driven dialogue that turns partnership into tangible results. We look forward to contributing to the conversations in Bangalore and to advancing ideas that support execution, long-term value creation, and sustainable growth for the whole industry."

Shilla/3Sixty share buyback

Continued from page 4.

While quarter-on-quarter revenue (Q3-Q4) lifted marginally (+0.6%), operating profit margin declined from KRW -10.4 billion to KRW -20.6 billion.

Airport and downtown revenues lifted by 11.8% and 8.7%, respectively, year-on-year.

Shilla added that the focus in Q1 is on "profitability recovery in response to changes in the in/external and travel retail market."

The company will exit its perfumes & cosmetics and liquor & tobacco (DF1) concession at Incheon International Airport on March 17, 2026.

Sunil Tuli, President of APTRA and Group Chief Executive King Power Group (Hong Kong) added, 'We're delighted to welcome Avolta back as Gold partners for the third consecutive year of the APTRA India Conference. The program is also boosted by the participation of Freda Cheung and Vijay Talwar as speakers, joined by several members of the Avolta team as delegates.'

Additional speakers include Erin Lillis of Lacoste, Veiane Cador of Coty, Rajshree Dugar of Heinemann, Pravat Paikray and Avishek Das of Bangalore International Airport Limited, Shah Navaz Khan of Osprey, Clarisse Daniels of Whyte & Mackay, Suchit Bansal of Adani Airports, Clara Susset of m1ndset with several more to be announced week commencing 9 March.

Avolta joins a growing list of conference partners including Duty Free News International, Bommidala Heinemann Retail Services, King Power Thailand, Lacoste, Pernod Ricard Travel Retail, Suntory Global Spirits, Changi Airport Group, Aspri Spirits, Jura, Gulf Beverages and Rampur Whisky.

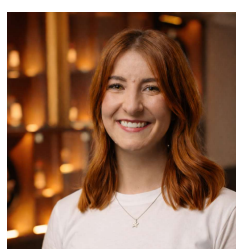
Delegate registration is priced at US\$600 and places can be booked at <https://spot.eventx.io/events/b29a3df6-dfd7-4f5a-a9f7-5fe05cca76cb>

In related news, India has announced that it is increasing the arrivals duty free allowance for international passengers, who are residents or tourists of Indian origin, by 50%, from 50000 to 75000 INR (approx. US\$820).

For foreign tourists the arrivals duty free allowance has increased by 66.6% from 15000 to 25000 INR (approx. US\$270), both increases made under the revised Baggage Rules 2026 and effective February 2, 2026.

APTRA President Sunil Tuli welcomed the announcement, saying that duty free operators in India have made the case to the federal government for several years to review allowances and APTRA has actively supported them in these efforts.

DFG strengthens global team with key strategic appointments for U.S., LATAM, Europe and marketing



Kathleen Anaya, Violaine Creuzé and Fiona Parker have joined Duty Free Global.

Duty Free Global (DFG) has appointed three new team members, reinforcing the company's continued investment in people, partnerships and long-term growth across key global markets.

Kathleen Anaya has joined DFG as Key Account Manager & Trade Marketing, based in Miami, with responsibility for USA accounts. Anaya brings strong experience across commercial account management and trade marketing execution and will play a key role in strengthening DFG's presence and performance across the U.S. travel retail and duty free channel.

Violaine Creuzé joins DFG as Key Account Manager, based in Barcelona, further strengthening DFG's European team. Creuzé will focus specifically on supporting strategic customers across Southern Europe and LATAM regions and driving continued development of the company's commercial side and wine segment within global travel retail.

In addition, **Fiona Parker** will join DFG as Key Global Trade Marketing Manager. Based in Scotland, Parker has a masters degree in Marketing and Brand Management, and began her career in Travel Retail with Dufry (Avolta) before moving to the brand side and support the continued scaling of the business as DFG expands internationally.

All three roles will report into **John Kilmartin**, reinforcing.



Nathalie Roelands

DFG's structured, agile approach to regional and category-led growth

Commenting on the appointments, **Nathalie Roelands**, Vice-President Operations, Duty Free Global, said:

"As DFG continues to grow, investing in the right people is absolutely critical. Kathleen, Violaine and Fiona each bring a unique skill set that strengthens our commercial capabilities, supports our partners more effectively and positions us for the next phase of growth.

"These appointments reflect our commitment to being a hands-on, agile partner to both brand owners and customers. Whether it's deepening our presence in the U.S., accelerating our (wine) strategy in Europe, or strengthening our strategic foundations, this is about building a team that can deliver long-term value across global travel retail."

JP-GTR to showcase emerging American spirits at Summit of the Americas



CHICKEN COCK
EST. 1856 WHISKEY

JP-GTR will introduce global travel retail partners to two fast-growing U.S. spirits portfolios now expanding beyond their domestic market at the **2026 Summit of the Americas** at Booth 323.

Acting as global duty free agent for both companies - with a particular focus on Europe and the Americas - JP-GTR will showcase brands from Virginia Distillery Co. and Grain & Barrel Spirits, each entering the global travel retail channel for the first time.

Virginia Distillery Co. will present its American Single Malt whiskies following the official recognition of the category in the United States in 2025 - the first new U.S. whiskey classification in more than 50 years. As the largest independent producer of American Single Malt whisky in the country, the distillery's flagship range, **Courage & Conviction**, demonstrates a distinctly American approach to single malt production, offering provenance-led discovery and premium trade-up potential for international travelers, says the company.



Grain & Barrel Spirits will introduce its flagship Chicken Cock Whiskey, a brand with nearly 170 years of heritage.

Established in 1856 and known as "The Famous Old Brand," the bourbon blends historic character with modern premium appeal. Crafted from a mash bill of 70% corn, 21% rye and 9% malted barley and aged for a minimum of four years in American white oak barrels, it delivers notes of toasted oak, butterscotch and vanilla, presented in a Prohibition-era inspired bottle designed to stand out on shelf.

"We are proud to bring two exciting American spirits portfolios to travel retail for the first time," said Jean-Philippe Aucher, Founder of JP-GTR. "These brands have built strong reputations domestically and are now ready for international discovery. The Summit of the Americas allows us to place them directly in front of key decision-makers, and we hope this will mark the beginning of meaningful distribution across the channel."

The showcase forms part of JP-GTR's broader strategy to introduce differentiated craft and premium American spirits into international duty free, supporting brand partners as they establish their first global listings.