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# IATA's new programme helps airlines avoid turbulence

The International Air Transport Association has announced the roll-out its new programme that will assist airlines with avoiding turbulence when planning flight routes. The new data resource, named Turbulence Aware, expands air carrier's ability to forecast and avoid turbulence by pooling and sharing (in real time) turbulence data generated by participating airlines.

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Today airlines rely upon pilot reports and weather advisories to mitigate the impact of turbulence on their operations. These tools—while effective—have limitations due to the fragmentation of the data sources; inconsistencies in the level and quality of information available, and the locational imprecision and the subjectivity of the observations. For example, there is no standardised scale for the severity of turbulence that a pilot may report other than a light, moderate or severe scale, which becomes very subjective among different-sized aircraft and pilot experience.

Turbulence Aware improves on the industry's capabilities by collecting data from multiple contributing airlines, followed by rigorous quality control. Then the data is consolidated into a single, anonymised, objective source database, which is accessible to participants. The data is then turned into actionable information when fed into an airline's dispatch or airborne alerting systems. The result is the first global, real-time, detailed and objective information for pilots and operations professionals to manage turbulence.

"Turbulence Aware is a great example of the potential for digital transformation in the airline industry. The airline industry has always cooperated on safety—its number one priority. Big data is now turbocharging what we can achieve. In the case of Turbulence Aware, the more precise forecasting of turbulence will provide a real improvement for passengers, whose journeys will be even safer and more comfortable," said Alexandre de Juniac, IATA's director general and CEO.

## Turbulence challenege

The challenge of managing turbulence is expected to grow as climate change continues to impact weather patterns. This has implications for both safety and efficiency of flight.

Turbulence is the leading cause of injuries to passengers and crew in non-fatal accidents (according to the FAA).

"As we progress to having accurate turbulence data available at all flight levels, pilots will be able to make much more informed decisions about higher flight levels with smoother air. Being able to climb to these altitudes will result in a more optimal fuel burn, which will ultimately lead to reduced CO2 emissions."

The first operational version of the platform will be developed by end of 2018. Operational trials will run throughout 2019, with ongoing feedback collection from participating airlines. The final product will be launched in early 2020.

*Source: eTurboNews*