

# RUNWAY REPORT

THE MOST IMPORTANT AVIATION NEWS FROM LAST WEEK.

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## Key Points:

The past week's biggest news showcased notable growth in the aviation industry, indicating a positive future for professionals and students.

- FAA changes certification requirements for light sport aircraft and broadens aircraft options.
- FlexJet Secures \$800 million investment to purchase larger jets and attract wealthy commuters.
- Emirates Airlines announces plan to hire 18,000 new employees through March 2026.
- DHS ends "shoes off" policy for general aviation travel.

## FAA Unveils Sweeping Changes to LSA Rules (MOSAIC)

In a landmark move for general aviation, the FAA has finalized the Modernization of Special Airworthiness Certification (MOSAIC) ruling. This significant regulation dramatically changes certification requirements for light sport aircraft (LSA), moving away from fixed weight limits to a performance-based standard. Sport pilots will now be able to operate a much broader range of high-performing aircraft, with new LSA models potentially having up to four seats. The rule opens up new commercial opportunities for sport pilots, including aerial photography and agricultural surveillance. This is expected to stimulate innovation in aircraft design and manufacturing. [Read More >>](#)



## Flexjet Secures \$800 Million Investment to Expand its Fleet & Attract the Wealthy

Private jet provider Flexjet has announced the closing of an \$800 million investment. This significant investment is expected to bolster Flexjet's operations and expansion plans in the competitive private aviation market, signaling strong investor confidence in the sector.

- **Fleet Enhancement:** Responding to the increased demand for larger aircraft.
- **Infrastructure Development:** The investment will support the development of 11 terminals.
- **Curated Luxury Experiences:** Flexjet aims to provide more curated luxury experiences aimed at a wealthier demographic. [Read More >>](#)



## Aspen Avionics & AIRO Group Plans to Purchase Many Part 141 Flight Schools

Aspen Avionics, a leading provider of general aviation avionics, is partnering with the AIRO Group to address the pilot shortage and drive innovation in the aerospace industry.

The AIRO Group, through its training division, is focused on expanding into the commercial training market and addressing the significant pilot shortage. They plan to achieve this through acquiring flight training companies: [Aviation International News](#) reports that the AIRO Group intends to acquire flight training companies to expand their commercial training market presence. [Read More>>>](#)



## Emirates Group Plans to Hire Over 17,000 Employees Globally

The Emirates Group is undertaking a large-scale global recruitment drive with the aim of hiring over 17,300 new employees during the current financial year, which ends March 2026.

This initiative, described as one of the largest in the aviation industry this year, is designed to support the Group's ambitious expansion plans and align with Dubai's Economic Agenda D33, which focuses on strengthening the city's position as a global hub for transport and tourism.

The recruitment drive includes Emirates Airline and its sister company dnata, a leading global air and travel services provider. A wide range of roles are being recruited for, encompassing approximately 350 different positions. These roles include pilots, cabin crew, engineers, IT specialists, finance professionals, as well as staff for ground handling, cargo, and catering operations.

To facilitate this massive hiring push, the Emirates Group will be hosting over 2,100 recruitment events and open days throughout the year across 150 cities globally.

The Emirates Group's current global workforce stands at over 121,000 employees. The organization has seen substantial growth in recent years, having onboarded more than 41,000 professionals since 2022, with nearly 27,000 of those hires in operational roles.

According to International Business Times UK, the previous financial year saw over 3.7 million applications for roles within the Group, highlighting its strong reputation as an employer. [Read More >>](#)



## DHS Ends "Shoes-Off" Policy at Airport Security

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced on July 8, 2025, that passengers will no longer be required to remove their shoes at Transportation Security Administration (TSA) checkpoints in US airports. This change concludes a practice implemented after a 2001 attempted bombing.

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem attributed the decision to advancements in security technology and the TSA's multi-layered security measures. The goal is to improve the traveler experience and reduce wait times while maintaining security.

While most travelers can keep shoes on, some may still need to remove them if flagged for extra screening or if they do not have a REAL ID. TSA PreCheck passengers already had this benefit. Other recent security adjustments include benefits for uniformed service members and their families and the implementation of REAL ID.

The agency is also reportedly reviewing restrictions on liquids in carry-on bags.

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Got suggestions or stories? Email me at [Brandon@silverhawkaviation.net](mailto:Brandon@silverhawkaviation.net)