

# RUNWAY REPORT

The most significant aviation headlines from last week.

**SILVERHAWK**  
AVIATION EXECUTIVE

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## Drones pose increasing risk to airliners near major US airports

An alarming increase in drone-related near-miss incidents has been reported near major U.S. airports.

In 2024, drones accounted for nearly two-thirds of such incidents, prompting the FAA to explore advanced detection and countermeasure technologies. [Read More >>](#)

## NEW REGULATION

### FAA Issues New Guidance on Runway Safety

In response to a recent crash, the FAA has issued an emergency order grounding New York Helicopter Charter Inc. and initiated a comprehensive review of the company's operations. The grounding was partly due to the company firing its director of operations after he voluntarily ceased flights. The review (Certificate Holder Evaluation Program) will assess the operator's compliance, safety management, and identify risks. [Read More >>](#)



### Malaysia Airlines Wants China's Canceled Boeing Order Cancellations

Malaysia Airlines is in talks with Boeing to acquire 737 MAX jets that may be declined by Chinese carriers. Its another example of Trump's tariff strategy against China is harder on China than the US. This move could expedite Malaysia Airlines' fleet modernization efforts. [Read More >>](#)



### Avelo is Ramping-up Hiring Pilots

Avelo Airlines is set to operate deportation flights under a new contract with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The airline is hiring flight attendants, pilots, and mechanics to support this operation, which will commence from Mesa Gateway Airport in Arizona. [Read More >>](#)



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## JOB MARKET

### The Need for Pilots is Increasing, but the Demand for Mechanics has Surged

Airline pilot hiring has stabilized, with approximately 5,000 pilots hired in 2024, aligning with pre-pandemic figures. While this reflects a normalization, the demand for qualified pilots remains strong. [Read More >>](#)



Despite the impression that airlines are hiring less pilots, many U.S. airlines are hiring at pre-pandemic levels [Read More >>](#)

Regional airlines such as Endeavor Air, Horizon Air, Republic Airways, and Piedmont Airlines are not only hiring but are actively recruiting with advertisements, emails, and presences at airshows and recruiting events.

**While demand has steadily returned for pilots, there is one aviation field where demand has spiked - aircraft mechanics.** After the pandemic, the aviation market had to address a lack of airline pilots. Many airlines over-hired in 2023 and '24. However, the lack of aircraft mechanics was never addressed in the same manner.

Why? There simply aren't as many places to train mechanics as there are pilots. Thus, demand for qualified and eager mechanics is still strong. [Read More >>](#)

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Weekly Aviation News For Aviation Enthusiasts

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## NEW TECHNOLOGY



### Fuel-Efficient Sharkskin-Like Coating Gains Traction

Aviation Week reports that Lufthansa Technik and BASF's AeroSHARK coating, inspired by sharkskin, is gaining traction in the aviation industry.

The riblet film reduces aerodynamic drag, leading to approximately 1% fuel savings on long-haul flights. 1% may not seem like much, but it saves billions of dollars over its lifetime use.

[Read More >>](#)

### Ecopetrol to Invest Up to \$700 Million in Sustainable Aviation Fuel

Colombia's state-run energy company, Ecopetrol, plans to invest between \$500 million and \$700 million to construct a plant dedicated to producing Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF).

The facility aims to commence operations by 2030, contributing to the industry's decarbonization efforts. [Read More >>](#)

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