



TRAVEL DISTRIBUTION AND RETAILING UPDATES

WEEKS 13 & 14, 2026

THIS EDITION CONTAINS NEWS ON:

Air Transat | Arajet | Drukair | Ibom Air | ITA Airways | Kenya Airways |
Lufthansa Group | Riyadh Air | Transavia | Accelya | Amadeus |
Datalex | Fliggy | Kyte | TPConnects | Travelfusion | Travelport

ITA AIRWAYS ANNOUNCES SERIES OF INTEGRATIONS AND UPDATES

ITA Airways has had a pivotal few weeks. The Italian flag carrier partnered with Accelya to deliver NDC content via the Lufthansa Group's (LHG) NDC API, marking its first NDC retail implementation. Full NDC content is expected to go live via LHG channels on 5 May 2026. ITA also signed a long-term deal with Travelport, making NDC content available through Travelport+. In April, ITA became Star Alliance's 26th member and joined TPConnects.

Recent updates from ITA Airways



MAR 3, 2026

LHG announces ITA content integration into NDC platforms from 5 May



MAR 30, 2026

Long-term distribution deal incl. NDC signed with Travelport



JAN 2025

Lufthansa Group acquires 41% stake in ITA Airways for 325M EUR



MAR 26, 2026

Accelya NDC partnership announced



APR 2026

ITA Airways joins Star Alliance as 26th member; Connects to TPConnects

LUFTHANSA GROUP INCREASES AMADEUS GDS SURCHARGE

Starting May 5, 2026, Lufthansa Group (LHG) will increase its Distribution Cost Charge (DCC) for Amadeus-issued tickets by 1 EUR across all group airlines. The EUR surcharge for Travelport and Sabre remains unchanged. The NDC DCC amount remains the same at 8 EUR for all GDSs.

Evolution of LHG GDS EUR surcharges

	Amadeus	Sabre	Travelport
September 2015	16.00	16.00	16.00
October 2020	19.00	19.00	19.00
September 2022	17.50	19.50	23.00
January 2024	17.50	24.50	23.00
January 2025	17.50	22.00	23.00
January 2026	18.00	22.50	23.00
May 2026	19.00	22.50	23.00

■ *Surcharge increase* ■ *Surcharge decrease*

TRAVELPORT RECEIVES NEW FUNDING FOR AI DEVELOPMENT

Travelport is evolving and positioning itself as "the intelligence layer that powers AI-driven travel commerce," supported by a 50 million USD shareholder capital injection closed on 20 March. The company completed a full platform modernisation onto a single cloud-native stack, with API-driven transactions growing from 43% to 63% of all bookings since 2022. EBITDA grew 12% from 303M USD to 339M USD in 2025. The company also introduced John Mangelaars (ex CEO SkyScanner) as their CEO on 1 April.

Sabre made similar headlines recently, pivoting from its legacy GDS identity toward becoming an "AI-native technology leader," highlighting the introduction of agentic APIs and an MCP server.

Investments into Travelport

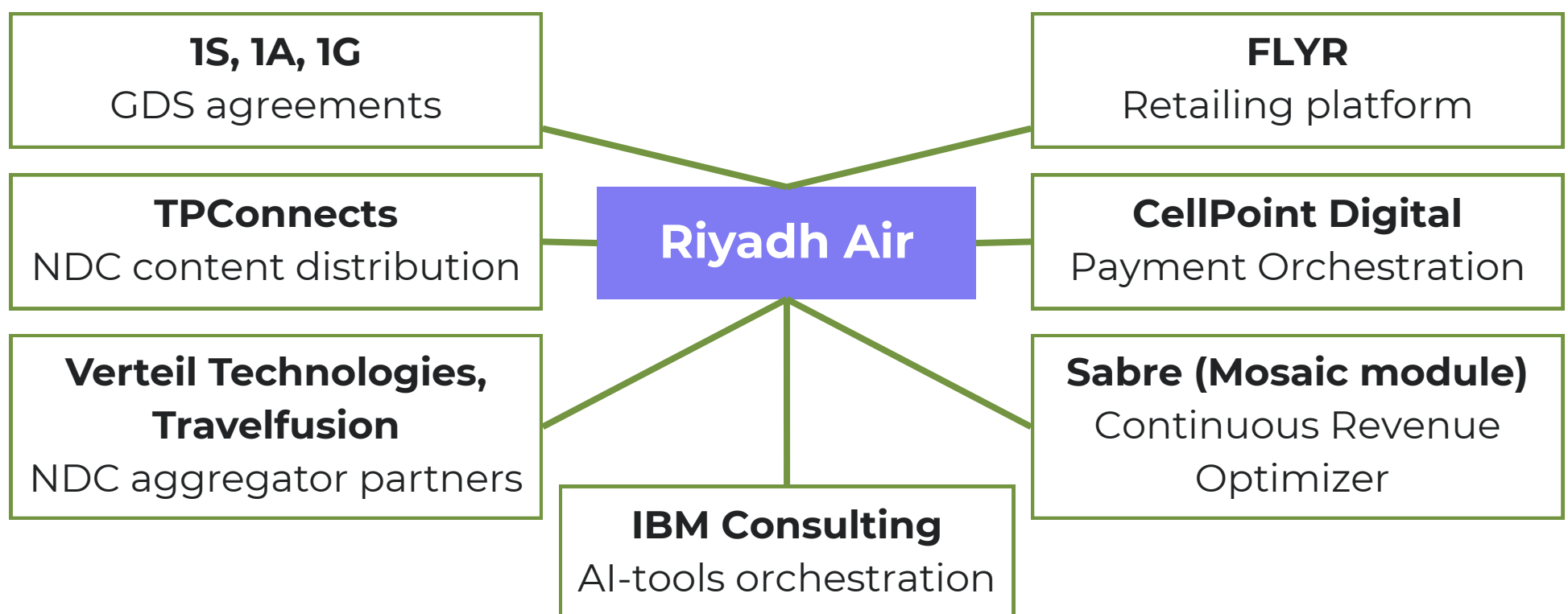
May 2019	June 2020	March 2023	December 2023	March 2026
Travelport becomes privately owned	\$500 million	\$200 million	\$570 million	\$50 million

RIYADH AIR GOES LIVE ON TRAVELFUSION AND VERTEIL

Riyadh Air's NDC content has gone live via TraveIfusion and Verteil Technologies, completing the integrations announced between 2024 and 2025. Connected travel sellers now have access to dynamic fares, branded fare families, and ancillary services.

Ahead of launching commercial flight operations, Riyadh Air has been entering into multiple technology and commercial agreements.

Selection of Riyadh Air's technology and commercial partnerships



TRANSAVIA GOES LIVE WITH DISTRIBUTION ON KYTE

Transavia, the Air France-KLM Group budget carrier, has gone live on the Kyte distribution platform. Connected travel sellers now access Transavia's full content (fares, ancillaries, and bundles) through a single API without requiring a GDS connection.

In 2024, Kyte entered into integrations with Spotnana and TPConnects to distribute airline content.

LCCs entering agreements with Kyte

easyJet

August 2023

Ryanair

March 2024

Jet2.com

June 2025

Wizz Air

December 2025

Transavia

March 2026

AIRLINE UPDATES WITH AMADEUS

Drukair – Royal Bhutan Airlines has gone live on the **Amadeus** Travel Platform, following a distribution agreement signed in November 2025. The go-live marks the first time content from Bhutan's national carrier is accessible through a GDS.

Non-IATA travel agencies in Kenya can now access **Kenya Airways** NDC content through **Amadeus**, opening up NDC connectivity to a wider range of travel sellers in the region.

Arajet, a Dominican Republic low-cost carrier, has signed a distribution agreement with **Amadeus**, making its content available to agencies on the Amadeus Travel Platform. The deal comes in tandem with Arajet expanding to a fleet of 17 aircraft in 2026. The carrier previously signed a distribution agreement and went live with Sabre in 2024.

Ibom Air, the Nigerian state-owned carrier, has joined the **Amadeus** Travel Platform, making its content available to travel agents across Nigeria and West Africa.

TPCONNECTS ADDS MCP LAYER TO IRIS, GIVING ACCESS TO 60+ AIRLINES

TPConnects has announced that it has integrated a Model Context Protocol (MCP) layer into its agency platform, Iris. This news comes just weeks after the same protocol was integrated on TPConnects Astra NDC platform. The Iris platform now unifies content from four major GDS systems (Amadeus, Sabre, Travelport, Abacus) alongside 60+ airlines, the company also announced.

NDC							
							
							
							
							
LCC							
							
							
GDS							
							
Coming Soon							



FIRST RESULTS FROM THE DLX PAY AND AIR TRANSAT PARTNERSHIP

Since going live with DLX Pay in September 2025, Air Transat has seen improvements across its payment operations. Over the first three months, the platform recovered 6.6% of failed transactions through smart retry logic and processed over \$400 million in transactions. Air Transat also onboarded a new payment service provider at go-live.

DLX Pay is a modular payment orchestration platform built for airlines by Datalex in 2025, with Air Transat as the launch customer.

ALIBABA'S TRAVEL PLATFORM, FLIGGY, GOES LIVE WITH AI

Fliggy, Alibaba Group's travel platform, has confirmed its AI interface can now process bookings end-to-end. Powered by Alibaba's Qwen App, Fliggy reported an 800% increase in AI orders during China's Spring Festival, with attraction bookings up more than 24x. Conversion rates for air and train tickets are now comparable to established OTAs.



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- Audits that offer airlines solutions to specific problems in GDS and NDC distribution
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