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TRAVEL DISTRIBUTION AND RETAILING UPDATES



WEEKS 31 & 32, 2026

THIS EDITION CONTAINS NEWS ON:

Copa Airlines | EgyptAir | Emirates | Flair Airlines | Qantas | Riyadh Air | Ryanair | Southwest Airlines | TAP Air Portugal | Volaris | Accelya | Amadeus | Atlas | BCD Travel | Sabre | Travelport



EGYPTAIR SIGNS NDC AGREEMENT WITH TRAVELPORT

EgyptAir has signed a long-term distribution agreement with Travelport, adding NDC content alongside its offering. Travelport-connected agencies will retain access to EgyptAir's EDIFACT content and gain new NDC content and ancillaries as they become available. The content is accessible through both Smartpoint, Travelport's booking application, and TripServices, its cloud-native API platform.

EgyptAir's distribution and retailing journey



SEP 2025

Go-live of NDC content on
TPConnects



AUG 2026

Signed distribution agreement with
Travelport for both EDIFACT and
NDC content



MAY 2023

Signed enhanced technology
collaboration with Amadeus (Revenue
Management, Booking Intelligence, etc.)



JUL 2026

Deployment of IATA NDC 24.4 via
TPConnects' Astra Platform



QANTAS RAISES DISTRIBUTION SURCHARGE FOR EDIFACT AND NDC

Qantas has increased its per-segment distribution surcharges on EDIFACT and Standard NDC via GDS bookings, effective 29 July 2026. The increase applies to Qantas-marketed segments globally and covers surcharges only, not base fares.

The increases are modest in absolute terms, but the percentage rise is steepest on Standard NDC via GDS, particularly in the rest of the world tier. Standard NDC booked directly through technology partners/ QDP portal, and Premium NDC, remain surcharge-free.

	Australia (in AUD)		New Zealand (in NZD)		ROW (in USD)	
	old	new	old	new	old	new
EDIFACT	11.50	12	17.50	18	13	13.50
Standard NDC (via GDS)	4.50	4.70	5	5.50	3	4
Standard NDC (direct)	Zero		Zero		Zero	
Premium NDC	Zero		Zero		Zero	



SOUTHWEST PLANS NDC CONNECTIVITY BY YEAR-END

Southwest Airlines plans to add NDC connectivity by evolving its in-house API, with a direct-connect option expected by year-end. It has also selected Amadeus's Altéa NDC solution to reach agencies through third parties, though that option is not expected until 2027. Southwest currently has no NDC connectivity, distributing only through its own direct channels.

COPA AIRLINES ADDS NDC CONTENT TO ARGO

Copa Airlines has integrated its NDC content into Argo, a corporate travel management platform used across Brazil and Latin America. The integration lets Argo users combine NDC and non-NDC flights in a single search, access public and private fares, use frequent flyer benefits, and issue tickets online. The move is part of Copa's broader push to grow its footprint in Brazil's corporate travel segment, one of the largest and fastest-growing markets in Latin America.



ATLAS ADDS VOLARIS TO ITS AIRLINE NETWORK

Atlas has gone live with Volaris, Volaris Costa Rica, and Volaris El Salvador, giving connected travel sellers access to one of Latin America's largest ultra-low-cost airline networks through a single connection. The three carriers together cover a network spanning Mexico, the United States, and Central America. The move builds on Atlas's broader strategy of consolidating low-cost carrier content onto one modern API.

TAP AIR PORTUGAL GOES LIVE WITH CONTINUOUS PRICING

TAP Air Portugal has gone live with PROS Continuous Pricing, moving beyond traditional class-based pricing to introduce more price points between fare levels. The system allows fares to adjust more granularly based on demand and market conditions. The update builds on a 25-year partnership with PROS.

AMADEUS AND SABRE REPORT Q2 2026 FINANCIAL RESULTS

Amadeus and Sabre reported contrasting Q2 results this week. Sabre's Marketplace revenue, formerly known as Distribution, grew 6% year-on-year to 577 million USD. Air distribution bookings remained positive. The company has since raised its full-year guidance for Adjusted EBITDA and free cash flow. Sabre's share price rose by 11% following the results.

Amadeus reported a more difficult quarter. Air distribution revenue fell 2.4% year-on-year, as bookings dropped 7.6%, largely attributed to the Middle East conflict. A 5.6% increase in revenue per booking partially offset the decline. Amadeus has lowered its full-year growth outlook due to its Q2 results.

	Sabre	Amadeus
Distribution revenue	577 million USD	762 million EUR
Change vs. Q2' 2025 (YoY)	+6%	-2.4%
Change vs. Q1' 2026 (QoQ)	-7%	-7%

**Calculation used for reporting metrics are not identical between the GDSs*

ACCELYA'S NDC FASTTRACK EXPANDS TO 18 MEMBERS

NDC FastTrack has grown from its founding members, Sabre, Amex GBT, and Accelya, to 18 organisations. The newest additions are ATPCO, Direct Travel, Emburse, Farenexus, and Spotnana.

NDC FastTrack launched in 2025 as an industry working group focused on solving practical NDC adoption barriers. Its first concrete output addresses deferred payment across the NDC booking and servicing process, with recommendations being shared with IATA.

GDS

Sabre

Travelport

Amadeus

Others

ARC

Tech providers

Accelya

SAP Concur

Travelfusion

ATPCO

Emburse

Spotnana

Farenexus

Travel sellers

Amex GBT

BCD Travel

FCM Travel

CTM

Fox World Travel

Navan

Direct Travel



BCD TRAVEL PUSHES FORWARD ON AI AND NDC

BCD Travel's proprietary platform, Tripsource, now brings itinerary, booking, agent, and analytics tools into one system, and handles more than 30 percent of BCD's bookings. Separately, BCD has made an equity investment in Amgine, a third-party AI automation platform it has used over the past year for group bookings and email handling, and plans to expand Amgine's use across its global operations.

Further, BCD's SME platform GetGoing is adding NDC content from American Airlines, United Airlines, and Lufthansa Group, with British Airways, Air France, and KLM following in the third quarter. The platform is also expanding rail content and payment automation.



Tripsource now handles more than 30 percent of BCD's bookings



Equity investment in third-party AI automation platform Amgine



GetGoing is adding NDC content from several airlines for SMEs



KAYAK FOR BUSINESS ADDS MULTIPLE AI FEATURES

Kayak for Business is rolling out natural language trip support and an "Ask AI" search tool from 31 July, letting travelers handle common tasks or search using specific flight and hotel preferences in plain language. A third feature, an agent-to-agent connector, lets enterprise customers reach Kayak for Business directly through platforms like Teams, Slack, and ChatGPT, with internal AI assistants pulling in travel content and booking capability through Kayak's API.

AMEX GBT CONNECTS EGENCIA TO CLAUDE

Amex GBT has linked Egencia, its online booking platform, to Claude, Anthropic's AI assistant, marking the first deployment of its agent-to-agent architecture. Travelers can now search, book, and manage policy-compliant air and hotel trips from within Claude.

Separately, Amex GBT and SAP Concur added a supplier perks feature to Complete, their joint travel and expense management platform, surfacing airline loyalty benefits and negotiated corporate perks directly at the point of sale during booking.



TRAVELWITS TO INTEGRATE WITH TRAVELPORT

TravelWits, a travel booking platform, is building a new integration with Travelport. Once live, agencies using Travelport's GDS will be able to adopt TravelWits' booking technology. Early adopter testing is underway now, with a full launch targeted for the first quarter of 2027 and international expansion in view. TravelWits has offered the same technology to Sabre-using agencies since 2015.

EMERGING TRAVEL DEEPENS TRAVELPORT PARTNERSHIP

Emerging Travel Group, which operates RateHawk, ZenHotels, and Roundtrip, has deepened its integration with Travelport, simplifying post-booking management for travel professionals including ticket issuing, voiding, and voluntary refunds. The two companies began integrating in 2025, giving RateHawk and Roundtrip users access to Travelport's GDS fares and content, including NDC content from select airlines.



AI UPDATES

Ryanair has extended its partnership with **AWS** for five more years to accelerate cloud and AI-driven innovation, including agentic AI, across passenger experience, flight operations, and pilot workflows.

Accelya has launched two new tools aimed at accelerating NDC adoption:

- A Modern Retailing Readiness Score helps corporate travel buyers gauge their readiness for channels like NDC, built on data from over 20 corporate travel programs.
- SPRK Assist brings AI-powered servicing into Accelya's NDC booking portal, now piloting with travel sellers.



PAYMENTS UPDATES

Emirates has launched **Crypto.com Pay** on its website and app, letting eligible UAE residents pay for flights in AED using their Crypto.com wallet. The rollout follows a partnership signed in July 2025 and supports Dubai's push toward a fully cashless economy by the end of 2026.

Riyadh Air has launched **RX Pay**, a branded Mastercard payment card issued with leading Saudi banks. Cardholders earn Sfeer Points on everyday spending, not just flight bookings, with features including multi-currency payments, split payments, and instalment options. The rollout begins in Saudi Arabia before expanding across the airline's growing network.

Flair Airlines has expanded its partnership with **Elavon** to include managed chargeback services across its payments environment. The agreement is designed to streamline dispute handling across multiple payment acquirers, reduces fraud exposure and improves long-term payment resilience.



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- 2) Distribution Strategy - END-TO-END PROJECT
- 3) Distribution as a Service - ONGOING EXPERT SUPPORT

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