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## Istanbul's third airport set to provide world's largest capacity in terms of passenger volume

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The Istanbul Grand Airport, that is set to open on Oct. 29, 2017, will turn the city into an important hub of international aviation apart from being the biggest airport in the world.

Istanbul's third airport is currently being constructed and will open on October 29, 2017. The project is of utmost importance as it reflects the country's rising economic power and is one of the biggest projects undertaken in Turkey, both in terms of its business volume and cost.

As soon as the airport opens, 120,000 employment opportunities will be created and it will be the world's busiest airport with approximately 150 million passengers.

Istanbul's third airport was planned to be completed by 2018, which is a part of the government's plan to transform the city into a regional transport hub, but is now expected to be completed earlier than rescheduled. Construction started in June 2014. The airport is located in Arnavutköy, a district in the northern part of the city's European side.

The project is estimated to cost more than 10 billion euros when construction is completed. The Cengiz-Kolin-Limak-Mapa-Kalyon Consortium, a joint venture of Turkish companies, won the tender for the third airport in May 2013, promising to pay the state 22.1 billion euros plus tax over 25 years starting in 2018. Built over an area of about 79 million square meters, the airport will considerably relax aircraft traffic on the European side of the city.

Atatürk International Airport, currently the only airport on the European side, is expected to be closed in 2021 and fully replaced by the third airport. The third airport is further from central Istanbul, while Atatürk airport remains in the middle of an area of rapid urban development and works over capacity. In 20 years' time, Istanbul's airports' commercial aircraft traffic will exceed 1 million aircraft, according to a 2010 forecast by Middle East Technical University. The third airport will have a capacity of 150 million passengers per year.

The airport will have 165 passenger boarding bridges, four terminals connected with a railway system, three maintenance buildings, eight air traffic control towers, six runways, 16 taxiways, an airport hangar of 6.5 million square meters with a capacity of 500 airplanes, a parking lot with a capacity of about 70,000 vehicles and touted as the largest airport parking lot in Europe, a clinic, fire department, hotels, a convention center and recycling and waste disposal plants. The airport will be connected to the Istanbul metro and multi-lane highways will be built to facilitate access. The area where the airport is being built was chosen with consideration of ecological balance, wind data and the natural and artificial obstacles of the region.

If you are planning your next MICE activity in Istanbul, contact **ISTANBUL CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU**:

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