



Digital Transformation Award 2026

INTRODUCTION

The Digital Transformation Award, an initiative of the SESAR Joint Undertaking in collaboration with ACI EUROPE, will recognise a European airport that has embraced digitalisation, adopting innovative technologies and procedures to improve the safety, capacity, efficiency and environmental footprint of its operations. The winner will be announced during the Conference Dinner at the ACI EUROPE Annual Congress & General Assembly in Prague, Czech Republic on 23 June 2026.

In partnership with:



ELIGIBILITY

- Both individual airport operators and multi airport operators can apply.
- Founding membership in SESAR JU is not required.
- Projects submitted as part of the application do not need to be taken directly from the SESAR Solutions Catalogue. Still, they should align with SESAR's overarching mission to make Europe the most efficient and environmentally-friendly sky to fly in the world.
- Airports of all sizes are encouraged to apply.
- Submissions are free of charge.

REQUIREMENTS

To compete for this award, airports are required to provide details of the implementation of a solution(s) (SESAR Solutions or solutions developed outside the programme) that match the SESAR vision of the Digital European Sky, leveraging technologies according to the following SESAR flagships:

- Connected and automated ATM
- Air-ground integration and autonomy
- Virtualisation and cyber-secure data sharing
- Multimodality and passenger experience
- Aviation green deal
- Artificial intelligence (AI) for aviation



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The SESAR vision is outlined in the [European ATM Master Plan](#). A full list of delivered SESAR Solutions is available in the [SESAR Solutions Catalogue](#). In case applying airports choose to run for the award with a project that is not part of the SESAR JU portfolio of solutions, a short explanation is required on how the project aligns with the SESAR vision. The implementation can be local or part of a Europe-wide initiative and must have been carried out between 2010 and 2025.

In addition, applicants are encouraged to demonstrate how their digital transformation efforts have contributed to optimising airport and air traffic management (ATM), and positively impacted environmental management in line with the SESAR vision of making Europe the most environmentally-friendly and efficient sky to fly in the world.

EVALUATION

The selection process will see one airport awarded the Digital Transformation Award. Applications will be evaluated based on a combination of following criteria:

- 1. Innovation**, describing the digital technologies that have been harnessed to implement the solution.
- 2. Collaboration**, detailing how the airport involved relevant stakeholders and any innovative approaches to ensure effective collaboration.
- 3. Duration**, describing the time it took to implement the solution and whether the airport was a first implementer.
- 4. Benefits**, demonstrating a clear relationship between the digital innovation and the benefits that the solution is bringing in any of the following areas: cost and/or operational efficiency, safety, capacity, with a strong focus on the environment, considering the ambition of establishing Europe as the most efficient and environmentally friendly sky to fly in the world.
- 5. Communication**, documenting how the airport has communicated about the implementation and examples, if any, of how the airport has inspired others to implement



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PAST WINNERS

- 2025 - [Munich Airport](#)
- 2024 - [Aeroporti di Roma](#)
- 2023 - [Prague Airport](#)

QUESTIONS

1. What digital technologies were harnessed to implement this project, and how do they demonstrate innovation in airport operations? (250 words)
2. How did the airport engage relevant stakeholders in the development and implementation of this project, and were any innovative approaches used to ensure effective collaboration? (200 words)
3. How long did it take to implement this project, and was your airport among the first to introduce this innovation within your size category based on annual passenger traffic? (150 words)
4. What were the main challenges encountered during the implementation of this digital transformation, and how were they overcome? (200 words)
5. What measurable benefits has the solution delivered in terms of any of the following categories (choose one or more if applicable): cost and/or operational efficiency, safety, capacity, and environmental impact? (300 words)

**YOUR ENTRY SHOULD BE SUBMITTED BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS (18:00 CET)
ON 20 MARCH 2026.**

The winners in each category will be announced at the ACI EUROPE Annual Congress & General Assembly in Prague, Czech Republic on 23 June 2026.

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