

money talks

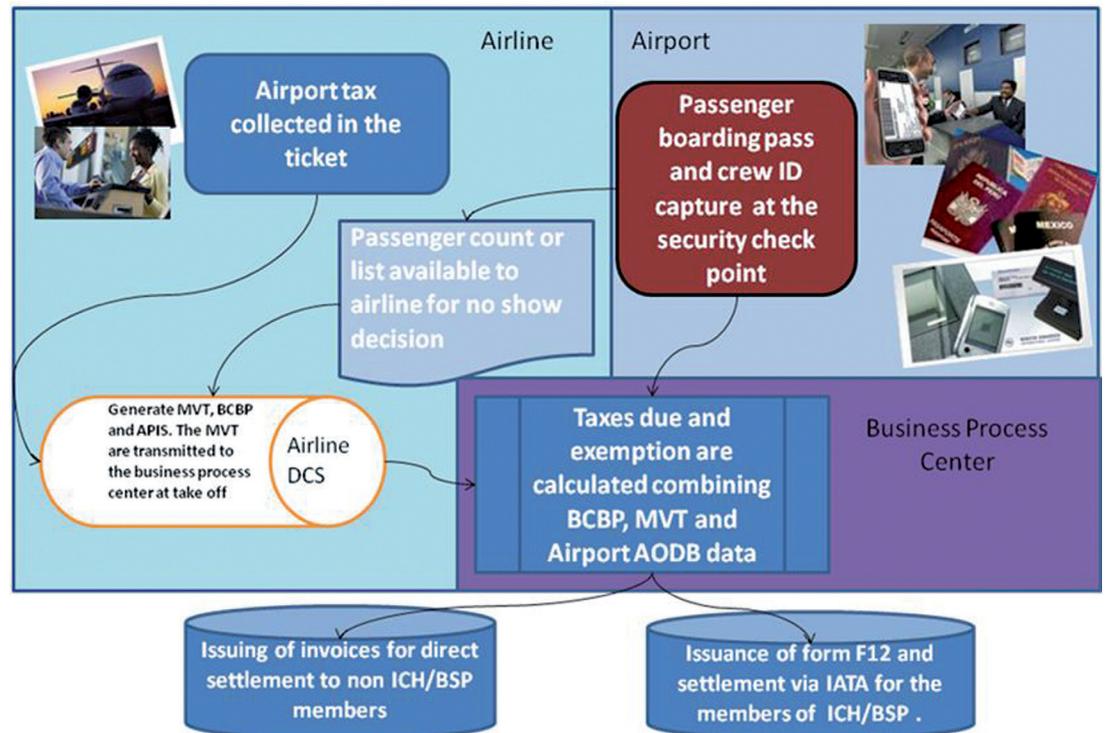
Efficient systems are essential if airport operators are to monitor and collect passenger taxes effectively

With passenger fees the main financing tools for the development of airports, it is essential for operators to ensure that they capture the full amount of due taxes if taxes are collected as part of the ticket. Moreover, operators need a strong auditing method in order to comply with government accounting rules or, for the few groups who have gone public, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. Tax and fee rules can be complex, and it can become confusing for employees to understand who should pay and who is exempt when taxes are collected.

Global Systems has developed a computerised and customisable system to audit, secure and speed up the collection of airport taxes and fees, which are included in the passengers' tickets. Based on available sets of industry tools to control passengers, such as barcode boarding passes and flight closing messages, the new system guarantees the amount of taxes to be collected and issues IATA F12 file to ensure automatic, fast settlement in the clearing house.

More than just a financial and auditing tool, the system permits the automated verification of boarding passes issued via web check-in or at kiosks against the passengers' documentation. This enables the airport to comply with policy and supervisory authority requirements in order to validate a mobile phone barcode boarding pass before entering the sterile zone, and at immigration.

Global Systems collects passenger numbers using special readers at security checkpoints that interpret barcode and non-barcode boarding passes and verify IDs, a process that can be used to control the quality of APIS data. The passenger counts at checkpoints are made available to the airlines.



KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

- ICH:** International Conference on Harmonisation
- BCP:** Billing and Settlement Plan
- BCBP:** Bar Coded Boarding Pass
- MVT:** Movement Message
- AODB:** Airport Operational Database

ABOVE:

A customisable tool to help airports collect airport taxes and fees

data processing centre controls the data for discrepancy. It also treats exemptions and issues the IATA Form F12 for the direct settlement in the clearing house and invoices for non-IATA BSP/ICH members.

The system has helped several airports to suppress the tax collection at a window at the airport, simplifying the passenger experience by eliminating one step. With the airlines benefiting from mobile acceptance, APIS and no-show management, the faster passenger processing and the airport collection certainty, this is a win-win system.

At flight closing time, the airlines send one of the movement messages to the data processing centre. Combining the data collected at the security checkpoint and the flight information data coming from the airport AODB, the

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