



**INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT
PETR TRUBAEV,
General Director,
JSC INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
“KAZAN”**

**For a report by United World
To be published in the [USA TODAY](#)**



UNITED WORLD (UW): Kazan Airport dates back to 1979 and has witnessed many changes in Russia and Tatarstan down the years, both in terms of social and political events, and advances and developments in the world of aircraft and aeronautics. What do you believe have been the key events and turning points over the years that have impacted and changed Kazan Airport?

PETR TRUBAEV (PT): The most significant event was the government's decision to build a new airport for the Republic. At the time, we had another airport located inside the city of Kazan that could no longer handle the increasing volume of passengers. It became necessary to build another airport outside the city. The second key event was the construction of the airport itself, and the launch of its operations. Another significant event was the airport acquiring its international status, thus giving the Republic of Tatarstan the opportunity to operate international flights. Other important developments concern the equipping of the air traffic management system by Thompson, and the construction of a fuel complex for the new runway. These are the key points that I would like to highlight.

I should also mention the role played by the airport for the celebration of Kazan's millennium. For that event we built a new business terminal. Unfortunately, at that time we were not able to undertake a complete renovation of the existing Terminal 1, but I think it that will be one of the significant events in the future of our airport. The Government of the Republic is already considering that proposal.

UW: Prime Minister Minnikhanov has said that “the serious development of the economy is impossible without the proper infrastructure in all sectors of the economy” and that the airport here in Kazan is in need of “specialist attention” because so much depends on its “modernization and positioning in the system of European Airports”. How crucial to the overall growth of Tatarstan’s economy do you believe the airport in Kazan to be?

PT: The Republic of Tatarstan is of great interest to foreign investors. We have seen a sharp increase in passenger traffic, especially in what regards international flows. The airport is an integral link for the economy of the Republic of Tatarstan, and cannot remain at the lowest level. You are right to say that the first impression of the Republic is created at the airport. However, our government understands this and therefore there is the serious intention to modernize it and position it at the same level of European airports. But there is a lot to be done, although we already possess the basic elements such as the runway, for example, which can take all types of aircraft except the A380. Two years ago, we landed and refueled the world's largest aircraft, the AN-225 "Mariya", an over-tonnage universal transport plane.

We have a modern refueling system that is up to world standards. Lufthansa has flown here for more than 10 years, and we have met their demands for fuel,



something that proves we can provide world-class aviation fuel. Our air traffic control is also of a very high standard. The basic components are all there.

However, there is still much to be done. Firstly, there is the reconstruction of Terminal 1, gate repairs, and the renovation or construction of a new airport hotel.

Passengers last year increased by 40%. This is the highest rate we have witnessed since the airport was established. It is also gratifying that at the beginning of this year, this positive trend continues.

UW: The amount of freight being carried has also increased by 66% from 2006.

PT: Yes, cargo transport growth is even higher, but I would not say that this is a great result. For us, this is a good outcome, but in terms of competition between airports, Samara ranks first, Ufa second, and Kazan only third. We lag behind, and there are reasons for this which I do not wish to discuss now. But I would like to point out that we can catch up with them given our positive momentum.

UW: In the past, various foreign firms have been involved in development projects at Kazan Airport, such as Siemens and the French company Thomson. Is there a line of thinking here at Kazan Airport that suggests, 'if we are to become a truly international airport, we need international cooperation'?

PT: In fact, we had representatives of the organizations you mention. Their role is to advise us on our work. Given their enormous potential and experience with other similar structures around the world, they are well positioned to give us advice on how to make Kazan Airport world-class. We aim to have a European standard airport.

UW: "Lufthansa" flies to Kazan four times a week. What are your prospects to increase the number of foreign airlines that fly here?

PT: As a rule, changes are taking place in the geography of charter programs. If in the past the demand was only in the direction of Antalya, Istanbul, we now have Sharm-El-Sheikh, Hurghada, Dubai, Sharjah, etc. During the summer of this year we plan to open new directions with flights to Spain, Bulgaria and the Czech Republic. Our geographical expansion is taking place quite rapidly.

UW: Kazan is a very beautiful city with 1,000 years of history. If you consider the size of the whole of Russia, Kazan is quite close to Moscow and St. Petersburg. What role do you think the airport will be able to play in attracting vacationers as well as business tourists to Kazan?

PT: We have been already involved and are playing our role in this. After the millennium of Kazan, the residents of neighboring regions such as Perm, Kirov



and Izhevsk area, began arranging two or three day trips by bus, and used our airport as a stop as well as for the accommodation of tourists in our hotel. These are examples of land tourism. As for the prospect of air, I think you know that Kazan is going to stand as a candidate for the forthcoming World Universiade 2013. Therefore, Kazan will have new sports facilities such as a tennis academy and a water sailing center, amongst others. In this way Kazan will become more attractive in what regards tourism and, of course, Kazan International Airport will not stand aside in transporting tourists to and from Kazan.

UW: What potential do you see for the development of relations with international partners?

PT: As I said, all of the facilities and equipment that we need must be of the highest level, whether it be a hotel, Terminal 1, or a special machine for the processing of aircraft, and of course, we aim to attract only the best companies and professionals on the basis of a tenders.

UW: Do you have any final words about Tatarstan, Kazan or about Kazan International Airport which you would you like to convey to readers of our reports?

PT: Perhaps my words sound dramatic, but we are very proud to live and work in such a beautiful Republic. Here, people live with the highest share of responsibility entrusted to them, including the staff of Kazan International Airport. The preparation and holding of the millennium of Kazan has become a key event for us, and our work has been given the highest rating by the authorities of the Republic and Moscow. After this event, we - airport officials - have come to the conclusion that we are strong enough to implement any tasks set by our government, and we have no right to remain at levels that do not correspond to those of world standards. We find full support on this issue from the Government of the Republic. I anticipate that the year 2008 will be a real point of reference for the implementation of all our plans and the plans of our republic.

To the readers of the *USA Today*, I would suggest you visit our republic and get acquainted with its various enterprises, organizations and professionals. I am sure that there are many points of agreement, culturally, and in terms of business, as well as the ensuing possibility for joint ventures and projects born after such meetings. Welcome to the Republic of Tatarstan!