

PRESS RELEASE

Cluj Avram Iancu International Airport presents for the first time the new ABC and ILS CAT III systems – two major investments in the modernization of the airport infrastructure

Cluj-Napoca, October 27, 2026 - Cluj Avram Iancu International Airport, an autonomous company under the authority of the Cluj County Council, organized today a press conference dedicated to the presentation of two important projects for the modernization of the airport infrastructure: **the Automatic Border Control System (ABC – Automated Border Control) and the Instrument Landing System category III (ILS CAT III).**

The conference took place in the form of a guided tour, during which the modernized airport infrastructure was presented, both in the Departures Terminal and in the Arrivals Terminal.

The event was attended by Mr. **Radu Rațiu**, Vice President of the Cluj County Council, Mr. **Sergio Colella** – President, Europe, at SITA, Mr. **David Ciceo**, General Manager of Cluj International Airport, Chief Commissioner **Liviu Done** – Head of the Cluj Airport Border Police Sector, representatives of the Cluj County Council, local authorities, honorary consuls, representatives of airlines, as well as other institutions with responsibilities in the field of aviation and mass media.

Cluj Avram Iancu International Airport has implemented a **modern Automated Border Control (ABC Gates) system**, in order to increase passenger processing capacity, streamline passenger flows and improve operational efficiency, while maintaining high security standards.

The investment objective, in a total amount of **12,084,739 lei, excluding VAT**, consisted of the installation of a number of **12 automated border control gates**, provided by the SITA company, distributed as follows:

- **6 ABC gates in the Departures Terminal**, intended for the processing of EU passengers travelling to non-Schengen destinations;
- **6 ABC gates in the Arrivals Terminal**, intended for processing EU passengers arriving from non-Schengen countries.

The system uses **advanced biometric verification technologies and secure reading of electronic travel documents**, allowing identity checks to be carried out automatically for eligible passengers, under the supervision of Border Police personnel.

The main benefits of the investment are aimed at increasing passenger processing capacity, reducing congestion and improving the travel experience. The system allows the parallel processing of several passengers, a group of six gates can be monitored by a single Border Police operator, according to the operational configuration described.

In the Arrivals Terminal, the implementation of automated gates contributes to the more efficient use of the available space and to the management of passenger flows from non-Schengen countries, representing a solution to optimize the existing capacity until the completion of the terminal expansion project.

At the same time, integrated technologies, including biometric verification and security mechanisms, help to strengthen border control, while intuitive interfaces and guidance systems make it easier for passengers to complete formalities.

The ILS CAT III (Instrument Landing System – Category III) system, the most advanced guidance system for landing in low visibility conditions currently available in

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civil aviation, is already operational at Cluj International Airport, marking the completion of an infrastructure project of strategic importance, which places Cluj airport among the European airports with the highest operational capacity in dense fog.

Taking into account the specificity of the region, in this case, the confrontation, in the cold season, with long episodes of dense fog and, implicitly, reduced visibility, depending on the policy of each air operator, the particularity associated with the type of aircraft and the accreditations of each pilot, through the operationalization of the Instrument Landing System – ILS CAT III – will be significantly reduced: flight cancellations, flight rerouting, in order to land at other airports, flight delays, economic losses of air operators and respectively affecting the degree of satisfaction of passengers.

Thus, this major investment – the transition from ILS CAT II to ILS CAT III, will significantly contribute to generating benefits in favor of passengers and airlines, from the perspective of operational advantages.

The project was implemented as a result of the conclusion of the Financing Contract No. 232/24.05.2023 between Cluj Avram Iancu International Airport and the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure. The total value of the Financing Contract for the project "Ensuring operating conditions CAT. III at runway 07-25" was **8,500,354.66 lei**, of which the value of the European Union co-financing was 3,035,847.73 lei. This project was co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund through the Large Infrastructure Operational Program 2014 – 2020.

Mr. Alin Tișe, President of the Cluj County Council, said: *"Today we are witnessing the operationalization of two of the most important projects in the history of Cluj International Airport. We are convinced that this constant development of the airport will continue to bring significant benefits to the entire community and will contribute to increasing the visibility of our county on the European map. The Cluj County Council will continue to support the modernization and development of the airport, in order to strengthen its role as the main air gateway of Transylvania and as an engine of the economic development of the region."*

Mr. Viorel Federiga, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Cluj International Airport mentioned on this occasion: *"Through this important event marked today, Cluj Airport confirms that it is a true benchmark of performance and development at European level. These investments are clear evidence of a strategic vision as well as of an involved and dedicated management."*

Mr. David Ciceo, General Manager of Cluj Avram Iancu International Airport, said: *"The implementation of the ILS CAT III system and the ABC automatic gates represents a landmark moment in the development and modernization of the infrastructure of Cluj International Airport. It is a strategic investment in increasing the reliability and predictability of air operations, as well as in streamlining passenger flows. By integrating these modern, efficient and safe technological solutions, we adapt the airport's operational capabilities to current traffic requirements and thus contribute to improving the quality of services offered to passengers in Cluj and the entire Transylvania region."*

Sergio Colella, President, Europe, at SITA, said: *"What are we seeing in Cluj is how technology and innovation are being translated into practical improvements for passengers and airport operations. The new automated border control gates are one example, bringing automation and biometrics into the journey to support smoother, more efficient processing. This*

is part of a broader focus on innovation, from testing new approaches to baggage and passenger services to drawing on SITA's aviation and technology expertise here in Cluj. It is about exploring how technology can address real operational challenges and help shape the airport experience of the future."

Through these investments, Cluj Avram Iancu International Airport continues the process of modernizing the airport infrastructure, by integrating technological solutions designed to support operational efficiency, security and improvement of passenger services.

On this occasion, Cluj International Airport would like to thank all the institutions that contributed to the realization of these large-scale projects, namely: the Romanian Civil Aviation Authority (AACR), the Romanian Air Traffic Services Administration (ROMATSA R.A), the Border Police, SRI – Anti-Terrorist Brigade, and the airlines.

At the same time, we thank the passengers for the understanding and patience they have shown during the implementation of these projects, meant to contribute to increasing safety, operational efficiency and travel comfort, as well as to aligning Cluj International Airport with modern international standards.

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