

Beijing's massive new airport 'on time' for 2019 launch

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Beijing's new airport will have eight runways and is expected to be used by 72 million passengers annually

Amid farmlands on the outskirts of Beijing, a massive construction site rising above the horizon bustles with activity as 8,000 workers build a

new mega airport.

Aimed at easing passenger load from Beijing's other two airports, Daxing International Airport is scheduled to become operational in June 2019, said Li Jianhua, vice chairman of Beijing City Planning New Airport Construction.

It will operate at full capacity by 2025 with eight runways expected to transport 72 million passengers annually—making it set to be the world's busiest airport.

The International Air Transport Association has forecast that by 2020, existing airports in Beijing, Manila and Singapore will have reached full capacity.

"All our projects have finished on time or ahead of schedule and our techniques are all in line with international standards," Li told journalists on Thursday during a site visit.

Built at a cost of 63.9 billion yuan (\$9.35 billion), the new [airport](#) will use some 200,000 tonnes of steel, the same amount used in [building](#) China's Liaoning aircraft carrier, Li said.

He added that builders have been working at a rate equivalent to putting up one 18-storey building a day.

Inside the construction site, beams of light shone through the glass roof illuminating the dark insides of the building.



Li Jianhua, vice chairman of Beijing City Planning New Airport Construction, said all their projects had been on time or ahead of schedule

A slew of propaganda posters encouraging occupational health and safety are strung up across the [site](#) with a giant Chinese flag hung up in the centre of the building.

Some 7.8 billion people are forecast to fly worldwide by 2036 with nearly half of passengers flying to, from, or within Asia Pacific said IATA chief Alexandre de Juniac earlier this year.



The new airport has cost 63.9 billion yuan and used the same amount of steel as China's Liaoning aircraft carrier



More than 8,000 workers are on the site building Beijing's second major international airport

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