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# VIRUS CRISIS

**EXCLUSIVE  
INTERVIEW**

UK transport  
minister

**FLIGHT TRAINING  
CHALLENGE**

Preparing for  
the MAX return

**ALSO INSIDE  
THIS ISSUE**

Routes magazine



Airlines on the front lines  
again

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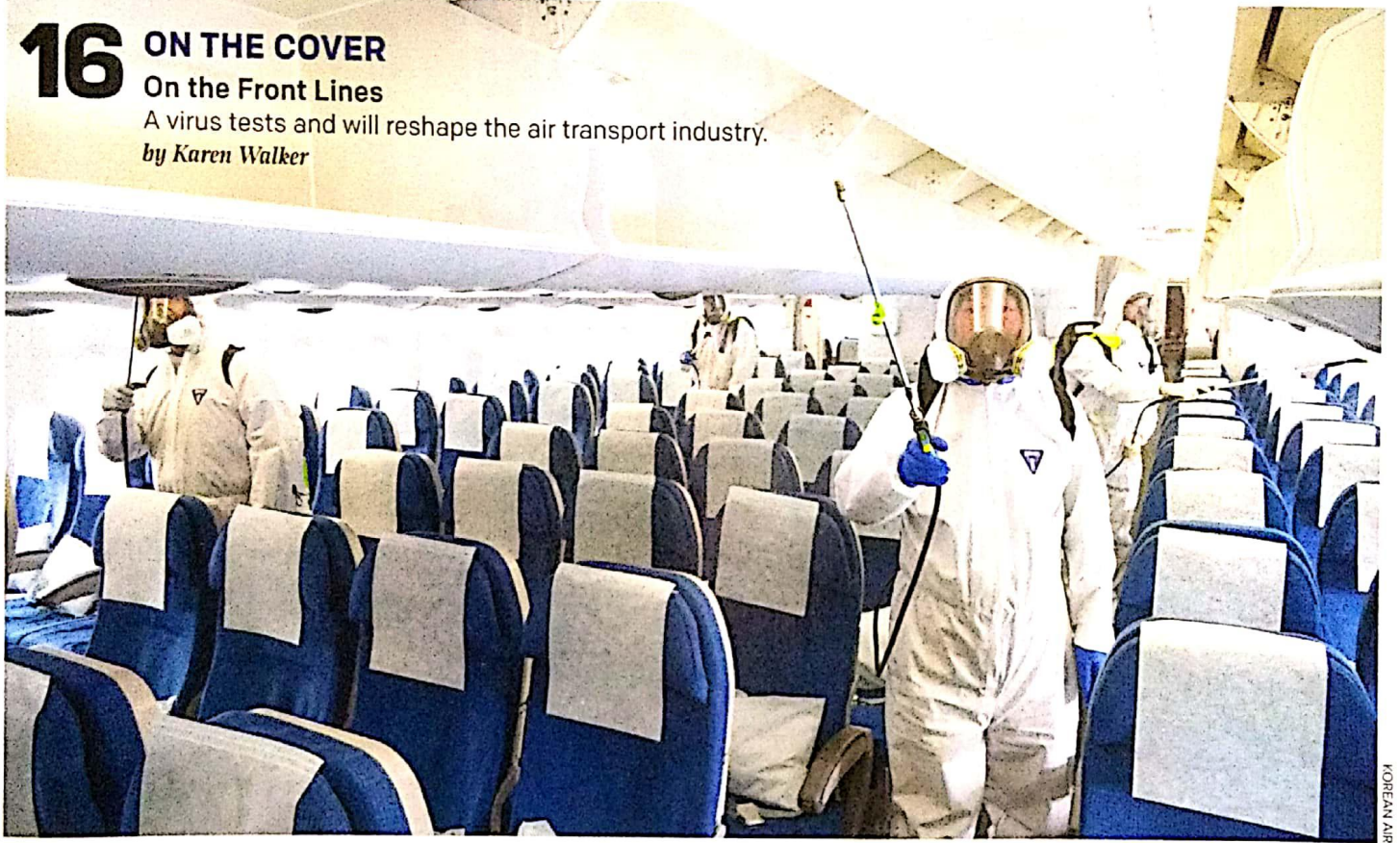
AVIATION WEEK  
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## 16 ON THE COVER

### On the Front Lines

A virus tests and will reshape the air transport industry.

by Karen Walker



KOREAN AIR

## FEATURES

- 24 RESCUE PLAN**  
South African Airways' prospects seem grimmer by the day.  
*by Victoria Moores*
- 28 SIMULATING CHALLENGES**  
How FFSs are used, rather than how many are available, may be the critical safety factor.  
*by Henry Canaday*
- 32 DESERT DREAMS**  
Saudi Arabia's next major industry is likely to be tourism and its airlines stand to benefit.  
*by Alan Dron*

- 39 ALWAYS CONNECTED**  
Passenger expectations for onboard Wi-Fi are rising.  
*by Linda Blachly*
- 42 GOOD TO SHARE**  
How will the air cargo industry catch up on digitalization?  
*by Karen Walker*

**INSIDE** Routes magazine begins after page 26

## CABINS & CONNECTIVITY

- 36 LONG-HAUL COMFORT**  
Cabin designers rethink comfort for ultra-long flights.  
*by Victoria Moores*



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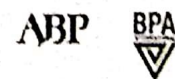
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**AVIATION WEEK NETWORK**  
An Informa business

- 7 Editorial**  
Applaud those who keep us connected.  
*by Karen Walker*
- 8 CEO Interview Uncertain Times**  
Michael O'Leary  
Ryanair  
*by Kurt Hofmann*
- 10 Interview Straight and Level**  
Grant Shapps  
UK transport minister  
*by Karen Walker*
- 12 Analysis Pals Again**  
Why American and Qatar are putting past grievances aside.  
*by Alan Dron*
- 13 Quotables**  
Best quotes heard from industry leaders

- 14 Analysis More Than Fair**  
A more pragmatic US DOT seeks to refine airline 'unfair practice' definitions.  
*by Karen Walker*
- 15 Commentary Confronting COVID-19**  
Airlines must take lead on coronavirus.  
*by Rob Britton*
- 44 Sustainability Report**  
New eco-aviation initiatives
- 48 Trends**
- 49 Customer Services**
- 49 Advertisers' Index**
- 50 News Briefs**  
Airline News  
Heathrow third runway blocked

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# Editorial



**Karen Walker** | Editor-in-Chief  
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## Applaud those who keep us connected

**I**n what seems like almost an overnight transition, the global air transport industry outlook has plummeted from positive to dire.

In December, IATA forecast that 2020 would be the 11th consecutive profitable year for airlines as a collective and that the industry would post a 4% increase in revenue to \$872 billion. Within three months, that picture has changed drastically and even the largest airlines with the strongest cash balances are in survival mode.

The COVID-19 pandemic will not only wipe out airline profitability, it will take with it the many airlines that were operating on the financial margins before the virus struck.

Many governments have been woefully lacking in their leadership for aviation in this disaster. In particular, the US Trump administration has thrown chaos on top of crisis, issuing travel bans without consulting and coordinating with the countries affected, giving incorrect information about who and what was allowed to fly, and clos-

ing most of its international gateway airports to incoming overseas flights. The apparent lack of preparedness by US Customs and Border Protection to deal with the sudden changes led to massive bottlenecks and crowding at major US airports of people arriving from virus-struck countries—a reckless and potentially deadly situation that was completely avoidable.

What must not be forgotten is the many in this industry who are displaying great professionalism and leadership—in particular, those airline and airport workers on the front lines who continue to do their duty, allowing people to get home or where they need to go while travel is still permitted. Flight attendants, pilots, check-in desk personnel, and airport and airline cleaners share the same concerns as the traveling public. They are also worried about future job security. They are on the front lines of this human crisis. They will be needed more than ever when the world is ready to reconnect. **ATW**

### Michael E. Korens

*Mike Korens died March 1 of a heart attack, aged 57. An aviation lawyer and consultant in Washington DC, Mike was known to many in the industry for his work with airlines, airports and aerospace companies. He previously served on the US Senate Aviation Subcommittee and the Bush-Cheney transition team.*

*A passionate advocate for aviation liberalization, Mike was known for his kindness, generosity, integrity and professionalism.*

*Mike was buried in his family home of Phoenix, Arizona. A memorial service is being planned to be held in Washington DC later this year.*



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