CBRS: Driving Safety, Innovation, & Economic Growth in U.S. Aviation

SPECTRUM FOR THE FUTURE

Empowering Mission-Critical Infrastructure

Airports across the U.S. have embraced the **Citizens Broadband Radio Service (CBRS)** band as mission-critical infrastructure that supports uses foundational to passenger safety, operational resilience, and modernization. Networks powered by CBRS provide predictable performance, strong security, and dedicated capacity at core transit hubs.

Unlocking a better passenger experience

CBRS enables airports and airlines to enhance travelers' airport experience by improving safety, reducing delays, and streamlining operations, including:

- Runway surveillance
- Drone detection
- Aircraft telemetry
- Real-time maintenance monitoring
- Baggage handling automation
- TSA queue optimization
- Dynamic wayfinding

CBRS Spurs Economic Opportunity for Airports

CBRS-powered private networks deliver economic value in three ways:

Cost Reductions

Airports avoid hard-wired connectivity expenses—often $25,000 to connect a single camera—and reduce telecom subscription costs by offloading devices from carrier networks.

Operational Improvements

Over 50+ use cases improve aircraft turnaround, real-time coordination, safety, and airport workflow efficiency.

Revenue Generation

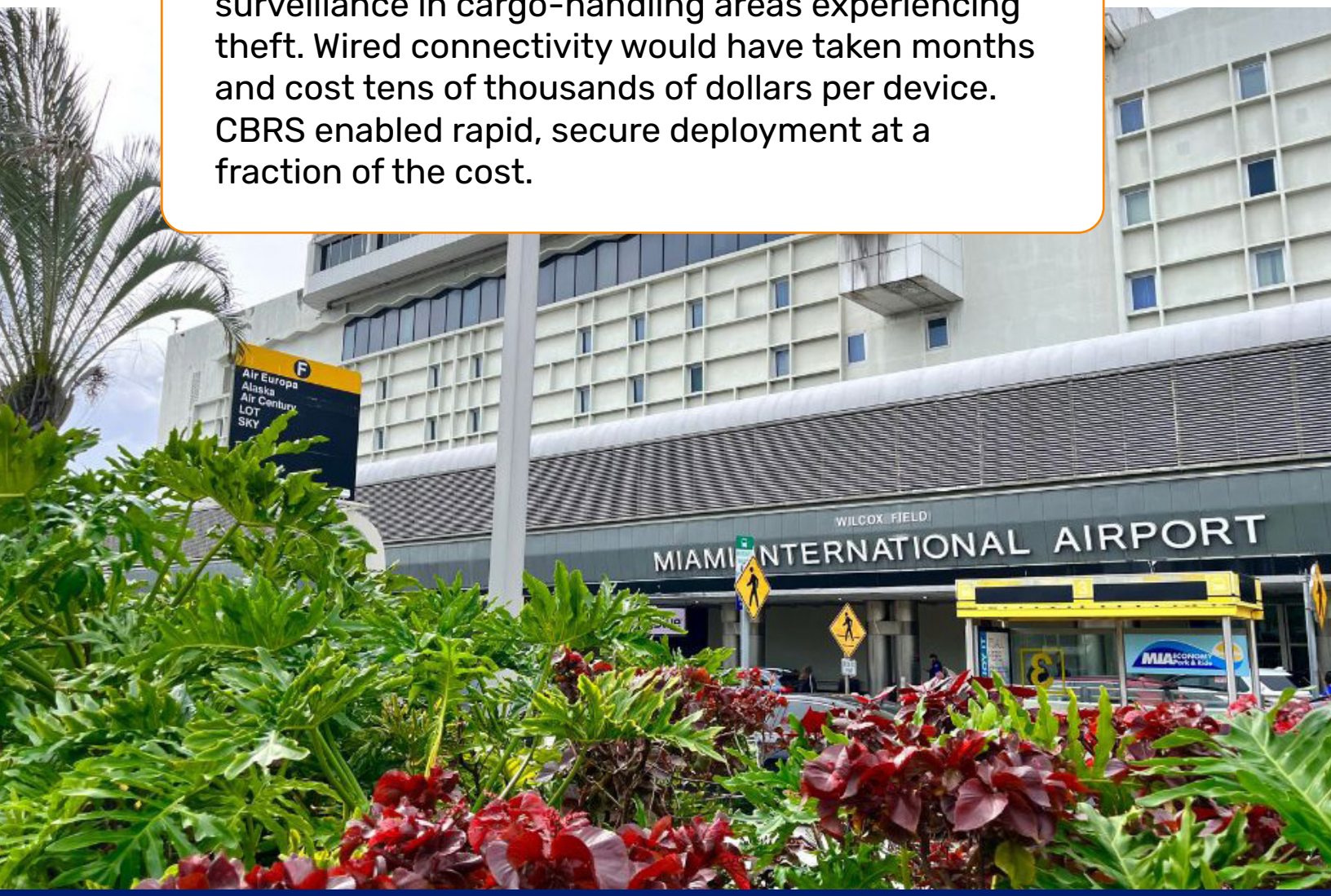
More than 30 use cases show new monetization opportunities across concessions, airlines, parking, freight, and tenant services.

Gross Output Impact Across Airports

Combined, these cost reductions, operational improvements, and net-new revenue opportunities deliver significantly for any airport that employs private wireless networks to enhance its digital infrastructure. Scaling CBRS across 55 leading U.S. airports could generate between $800M and $1.5B in economic value. The result will be a more efficient aviation ecosystem that delivers measurable improvements in safety, reliability, and passenger experience.

Case Study:CBRS at Miami International Airport

Miami International Airport needed to install video surveillance in cargo-handling areas experiencing theft. Wired connectivity would have taken months and cost tens of thousands of dollars per device. CBRS enabled rapid, secure deployment at a fraction of the cost.



Policymakers must preserve CBRS in its current form to protect existing commercial users and ensure this transformative American innovation continues to deliver nationwide benefits.

*Source: Enterprise Spectrum Valuation, Imagine Wireless