

air cargo update

Vol. 06 Issue 10, No. 48, December 2016

The first and only PAN-Regional Magazine
Middle East - Africa - Asia and beyond



ECS Group Broadening horizons

Adrien Thominet
COO, ECS Group

**Air cargo industry
makes way for
DRONES, other UAVs**

**Blue Dart, India's
formidable
express cargo**

**Technology is
rapidly changing
maritime industry**

**New trucking
security
requirements
in 2017**

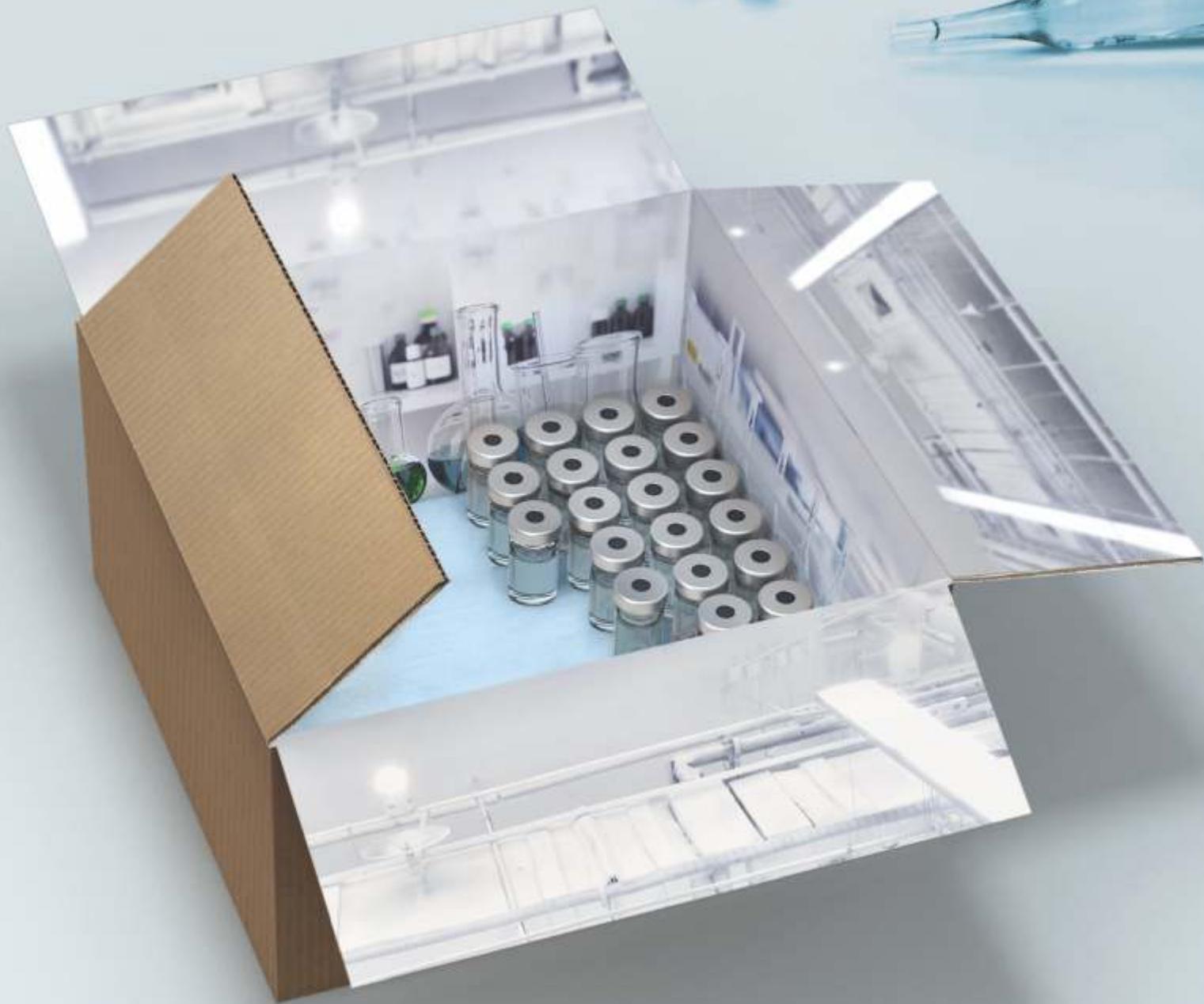
The Lounge



Poonam Datta

Chief Commercial Officer, Globe Express Services

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EDITORIAL

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Middle East, Africa, Asia & beyond

Air Cargo Update serves as a platform to share news and discuss critical issues within the Air Cargo Industry from the Middle East, South Asia and African region.

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Editor's Note

2016: Year of power shifts and reforms

Surprising global power shifts and alliances, triumphs for the underdogs, new innovations in aviation, the transport sector, medical and other industries, evolutions in e-marketing as the world further embraces e-Commerce and more unprecedented changes, marked the end of 2016.

In the air cargo industry, the year brought ups and downs as the global economy struggled to maintain sustained growth after the 2008 world economic downturn.

After a weak first quarter in 2016, the air cargo industry gathered some strength the rest of the year and experts believe this is the beginning of its growth through 2018 as global trends shift and adjust to the times.

The industry, after all, accounts for about 35 percent of the global trade value and is critical for serving markets that demand speed and reliability in transporting goods.

In this edition of **Air Cargo Update**, we'll bring you industry insights on how technology is changing logistics in the maritime industry.

With speed a major factor on e-Commerce delivery even courier giants like DHL take advantage of drones which decades past were limited to military use.

We bring you as well the latest industry news and features.

We're also carrying a story about the long-term prospects for the business or corporate jet industry.

Industry experts say its future pass 2017 looks bright with as many as 8,600 planes up for deliveries within a decade worth billions of dollars.

We'll also talk about global expansion from the perspective of ECS Group, a world leader in complete cargo outsourcing solution, which is seeking and seeing possibilities beyond the horizon.

The global trade in 2017 is forecast to grow slow. But the outlook for many emerging markets is up, particularly in India, which the IMF predicts to see a 7.6 percent jump in its gross domestic product.

The IMF says some conflicts in the Middle East will likely stay but some depressed economies in the region will start to see improvements like Libya which will soon resume exporting oil.

That's reason enough to see 2017 with lots of possibilities despite uncertainties.

Cheers to 2017!

Gemma Casas

Editor

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The LOUNGE

Poonam Datta

Chief Commercial Officer, Globe Express Services

Poonam Datta is an accomplished business leader with over 25 years of experience in the global supply chain and logistics industry.

She has worked with some of the biggest companies in the industry and is currently the Chief Commercial Officer for the US-based Globe Express Services, a global logistics provider with offices in 100 countries.

Coming from an aristocratic and illustrious family in India, she grew up always hungry for knowledge with great compassion to others.

Her father, Anand Datta, is a successful writer/filmmaker while her mother, Sneha Datta, is a linguist professor. Her grandfather, Dr. G.L. Datta, was a great academician and physicist who founded the DAV colleges in India, and also served as the Vice Chancellor of Ujjain University.

A world-class consultant with a post-graduate degree in business management, Poonam is an avid reader and enjoys writing and listening to music.

As for her favorite song, movie and book, she says, "It is difficult to label one as the best, just as a garden is beautiful because of the mix of colors and fragrances of each flower. All are important and have their own place and so it is the same in songs, movies and books."

Read on the rest of **Air Cargo Update's** interview with this woman of substance.

If you had a week of free time, where would you like to go and why?

I prefer to go places where I can enjoy nature. Spending time in nature boosts happiness. Communing with nature can be a spiritual practice. Being in nature inspires creativity. Breathing in the fresh air of nature can be regenerative.

What keeps you busy when you're not working?

While I enjoy spending time with my loved ones, especially my mother, I do treasure moments to myself too. It is my way to disconnect with the distractions around me, while also giving me a moment to tune into and reconnect with myself. Reading books. Reading is a lifelong skill, books help give you a greater understanding of the world around you. They introduce you to new environments, new cultures, new philosophies, new ideas and might even help you build new skills.

What is your favorite song and why?

"I Will Survive" by Gloria Gaynor inspires me because it reminds me that even in the hardest of times, you have to believe in yourself and your ability to get through whatever difficulties are in your path.

"With My Own Two Hands" by Jack Johnson is also my favorite. The song speaks to the notion that we can change the world but we have to take action. We can make the world better, brighter and safer if we all take accountability for the energy we put into the world. My career and purpose for being is to inspire people to create the life they want to lead, and this song inspires me to do so.



Poonam Datta

Chief Commercial Officer, Globe Express Services

What is your favorite movie of all time?

"The Peaceful Warrior." It's a wonderful movie about an athlete, his mentor, a temporal defeat and living in the present. It is a philosophical movie and will be appreciated more by those that have already been in contact with self-development and oriental philosophy.

"Pursuit of Happiness." It has excellent messages about the importance of keeping your cool in the face of incredible disappointment or provocation and fighting for your passions and for what you love despite your own hardships.

If you were given a chance to meet someone famous, who would you choose and why?

The Dalai Lama—Strong spiritual leader. He stands for achieving peace by way of peace. He's been saddled with the responsibility of shouldering the hopes and dreams of millions of Tibetan people. He lives his values.

Warren Buffett—Successful businessperson, smart investor, and still a man who believes in living simply. He believes and shares his values and principles. Well known philanthropist.

What is your favorite book?

Illusions by Richard Bach – Bach takes to the air to discover the ageless truths that give our souls wings: that people don't need airplanes to soar...that even the darkest clouds have meanings once we lift ourselves above them and that messiahs can be found in the unlikely places—like hay fields, one-traffic-light Midwestern towns, and most of all, deep within ourselves.

Mastery by George Leonard. He explains that mastery never ends – you will never have perfect technique and be able to stop. Instead you'll keep learning, improving, and hitting plateaus. The big point in Mastery is that plateaus are vital for improving your skills and that you therefore must start enjoying them instead of getting impatient or quitting like most guys do.

What do you enjoy spending money on?

Family and Charity. I believe in spending generously on things I love and cutting costs on things I do not.

Where would you want to retire and why?

Home is where the heart is and I would like to be close to where my family would be. It could be between Dubai and India.

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GLOBAL NEWS

Turkish Cargo launches freighter service to Chennai and Colombo

ISTANBUL: Turkish Cargo has launched two new weekly freighter service to India and Sri Lanka, further strengthening its presence in South Asia.

A strategic part of Turkish Airlines, Turkish Cargo inaugurated its weekly freighter service to Chennai (MAA) on November 9 as Colombo (CMB) cargo services continue on a weekly basis.

Well reputed as providing the most connection leading production and commercial centers across the globe, Turkish Cargo is present in 292 destinations, including 64 freighter destinations in 117 countries.

With 13 freighters and 323 passenger aircraft at its disposal through Turkish Airlines, Turkish Cargo continues to expand its network and quality service to even more customers, meeting the needs of its clients with careful attention to details.



Established in 1936, Turkish Airlines operated its first international cargo shipment that same year. Today, it flies to 292 destinations around the world with a fleet of 336 planes.

The company, which has been

maintaining its cargo services & operations under the subbrand Turkish Cargo since the beginning of 2000, stands as the internationally fastest-growing brand offering air cargo service to the highest number of countries around the world.

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American Airlines starts using bigger and fuel efficient aircraft for cargo



FORT WORTH, TEXAS: American Airlines launched in November its international Boeing 787-9 service between Dallas/Fort Worth (DFW) and Madrid Barajas (MAD) in Spain, offering cargo customers up to 36 LD3 positions, or 12 pallets, depending on the market.

The 787-9 is also currently operating from DFW to Sao Paulo (GRU) and in January, will be added to the DFW-Paris (CDG) route. Similarly, in February of 2017, cargo customers will also benefit from the use of the new 787-9 between DFW and Incheon (ICN).

"The introduction of the 787-9 brings another more fuel

efficient aircraft type with even greater cargo capacity into the American Airlines fleet," states David Vance, American's vice president of Cargo Operations. "On routes where we operate the aircraft, our cargo customers will see notable capacity improvements. We are especially pleased that DFW to MAD is one of the first routes to benefit from the use of this aircraft, as there has been long-term demand for increased space."

Although the exact aircraft equipment for each route is subject to change, American plans to have four of the new 787-9s flying within its network by the end of 2017.

American Airlines Group is the holding company for American Airlines which provides one of the largest cargo networks in the world with cargo terminals and interline connections across the globe.

American Airlines and American Eagle offer an average of nearly 6,700 flights per day to nearly 350 destinations in more than 50 countries.

Ruslan Intl will cease but new Antonov airline cargo team will take over



UKRAINE: Antonov Company announced its Antonov An-124-100 joint venture company, Ruslan International formed in 2006 with Volga-Dnepr Airlines, will cease operations on December 31, 2016.

At the same time, it introduced its Antonov Airlines team in the UK which will take the lead in the global sales and operations of this unique cargo aircraft.

Throughout its decade-long existence, Ruslan International has consistently demonstrated a combined expertise in the outside and heavyweight cargo market.

Antonov Company thanked Volga-Dnepr Airlines for contributing to their partnership, which has served the global 'Ruslan' customer base so efficiently for the past 10 years.

Dreamlifts Ltd. (trading as Antonov Airlines) is managed by an international group of well-known experts from the outside and heavyweight cargo industry. With decades of experience between them, Antonov Company expects a seamless transition for its customers in the global supply chain and a continuation of its flexible and highly personal service.

In 2016, Antonov Company celebrates the 110th anniversary of the birth of Oleg Antonov, its founding father and leader in the design the An-124 Ruslan – the world's largest production aircraft.

The company, which proudly bears Antonov's name, introduced the world to the commercial advantages of the An-124 Ruslan 27 years ago.

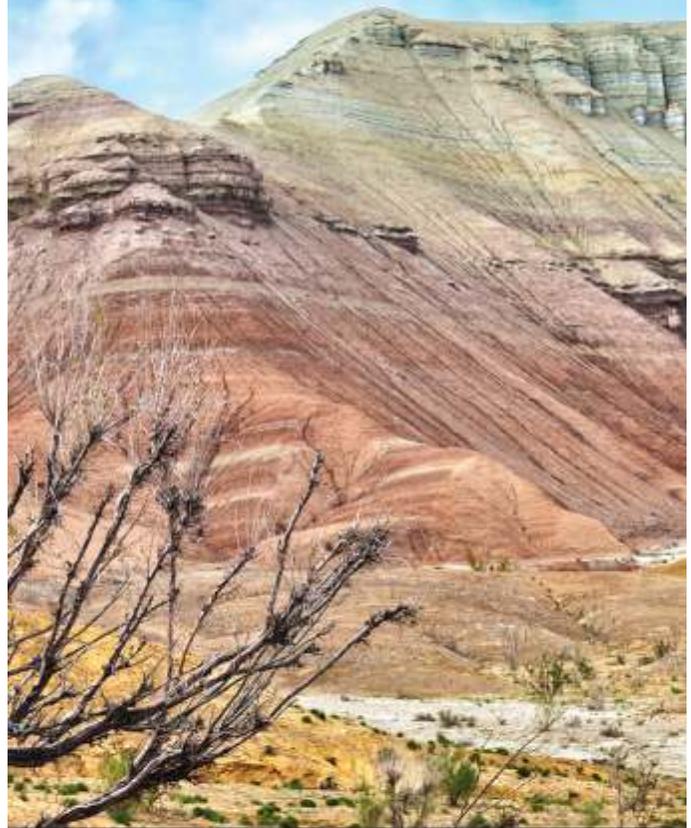
Antonov currently operates a fleet of seven An-124s including the AN-124-100M-150 with a payload of up to 150 tons.

It also operates the unique capability An-225 Mriya with a 250 ton payload and the world's largest turboprop, the An-22 Antei.

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Etihad Cargo transports \$45 million worth of racehorses



ABU DHABI: Etihad Cargo has successfully shipped recently a very special consignment from England to Kuwait—72 elite racehorses worth a combined \$45 million (£36 million).

The racehorses were flown to Kuwait after the end of the European racing season so they can spend the winter months training and racing in the temperate Middle Eastern climate.

Etihad Cargo said the horses were flown on one of the carrier's state-of-the-art Boeing 777 freighters, equipped with comfortable seating for up to nine grooms and can accommodate up to 75 horses at a time.

"Safety is the most important thing for our equine customers, which is why it is imperative we offer a safe and reliable service on all of our shipments," said David Kerr, Senior Vice President of Etihad Cargo.

"The Middle East has these magnificent creatures that have been bred back thousands of years. Every day, they are arguably the most precious cargo we carry. So far alone Etihad Cargo has been entrusted to transport more than 1,200 horses, with several more large shipments scheduled before the end of the year," he added.

Conan Busby, MAC's Head of Cargo, owners of London Stansted Airport, said: "We are delighted that Etihad Airways chose Stansted to handle this delicate and valuable cargo. Stansted is the UK's number one airport for horse travel and handles many specialist flights every year. Many of the horses taking part in this year's Olympic Games and the Queen's 90th Birthday celebrations passed through Stansted's dedicated equine facility."

A team of six professional grooms

handled the horses during loading, while on board the flight – when they visit them in the cargo hold to ensure they are comfortable and calm – and on arrival in Kuwait.

When the horses arrived at Stansted they were loaded by their grooms into jet stalls, specially designed with non-slip floors which hold three horses apiece. The IATA-approved stalls were then loaded onto the temperature controlled cargo hold of the aircraft in an operation which took more than six hours.

Etihad Cargo operates a fleet of nine wide-body freighters – five Boeing 777Fs and four Airbus A330Fs – which can be configured to carry 75 and 30 horses respectively.



GLOBAL NEWS

Panalpina sends UNICEF Christmas cheers to Chad



N'Djamena, CHAD: Global logistics and supply-chain firm Panalpina chartered a cargo aircraft this month to deliver UNICEF's 80 tons of relief goods to thousands of villagers and refugees in Chad who are in dire need of help.

The partnership between UNICEF and Panalpina, now on its fourth consecutive year, brought in 20 tons of

blankets and tarpaulins, 15 tons of therapeutic food, including milk sachets for malnourished children, medical equipment and drugs.

"As in previous years, we decided that a charitable donation in the form of an aircraft charter for UNICEF would be of more value than Christmas gifts for customers and employees. The goal of our donated charter remains the same too: to bring some respite to those who are less fortunate than us, especially children," said Panalpina CEO Stefan Karlen.

Chad, one of the poorest countries in the world, has faced several military conflicts in the past that continue to stifle its economic growth.

This landlocked country in Central Africa also suffers from extreme climate and is faced with about 650,000 internally displaced people

and refugees from Nigeria.

Panalpina's Charter Network had organized the relief flight. It says the goods will address acute needs in the areas of health, hygiene and nutrition but also children's recreation, particularly in refugee camps.

"Our goal is to reach the most vulnerable children that are in dire need of help. In landlocked Chad, there are many of them," said Elsbeth Mueller, executive director of the Swiss committee for UNICEF. "We are very grateful for Panalpina's continued support with yet another relief flight to Africa."

The relief goods flown to Chad include medical equipment used for vaccination, malaria treatments, paracetamol, disinfectant, water purification tablets, and hygiene sets for women.

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GLOBAL NEWS

Bismillah picks Hactl to handle first scheduled flights to HK

HONG KONG: Bismillah Airlines of Bangladesh has chosen Hong Kong Air Cargo Terminals Ltd (Hactl) to handle its newly-launched twice-weekly B747F services from Dhaka to Hong Kong.

Bangladesh's inbound cargo to Hong Kong is likely to include fruits, seafood, marine and textile products, for which it is well known.

The country also envisions the new deal to provide an important trade link with the rest of Asia for its thriving manufacturing industries.

Hactl, which has a wide network of air cargo destinations accessible via its 100+ other airline customers, will provide a one-stop-shop service including ramp handling, cargo terminal operations, crew transportation and air cargo documentation to Bismillah Airlines.

The flights will be marketed in Hong Kong by general sales agent Smart-Trans.

Launched in 1998, Bismillah Airlines is part of the Mollah Group of Industries, a well-established industrial and export entity.



"We are excited to launch this new service to Hong Kong, which is a strategic step in our country's international trade plans. We are also very happy to be working with a handling agent of high standing like Hactl, and are confident it will play a key role in the success of our services," said M. A. Mannan, Managing Director of Bismillah Airlines.

Hactl Chief Executive Mark

Whitehead, noted: "The Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) Economic Corridor is a component of the Belt and Road initiative, and all additional transport links which are introduced to serve it will benefit from the increasing cooperation between the countries it connects. We congratulate Bismillah Airlines on this major and visionary step in its development."

AMI UK marks 8 millionth shipment



LONDON: The UK arm of AMI – the world's largest trade-only airfreight and express wholesaler – has passed another major milestone in its history, with the receipt of its 8 millionth booking.

Fittingly, the landmark 8 millionth booking, from AMI Express customer Kepair, was for a shipment to Australia – AMI's first major export market. AMI Express' share of all AMI UK business grew by 5% in 2016.

The profile of AMI bookings has changed dramatically in recent years: while average shipment sizes have reduced in line with market trends, a large proportion now also involve value-added services such as security screening,

ground transportation, documentation and Customs processing. Although AMI's original UK business was entirely exports, 5% of it now involves imports.

The company also announced AMI Express's all-inclusive click2ship service (an integrator-style product for the trade) is now 100% booked online, while 45% of AMI's hard freight business is also transacted through its Quote & Book web portal.

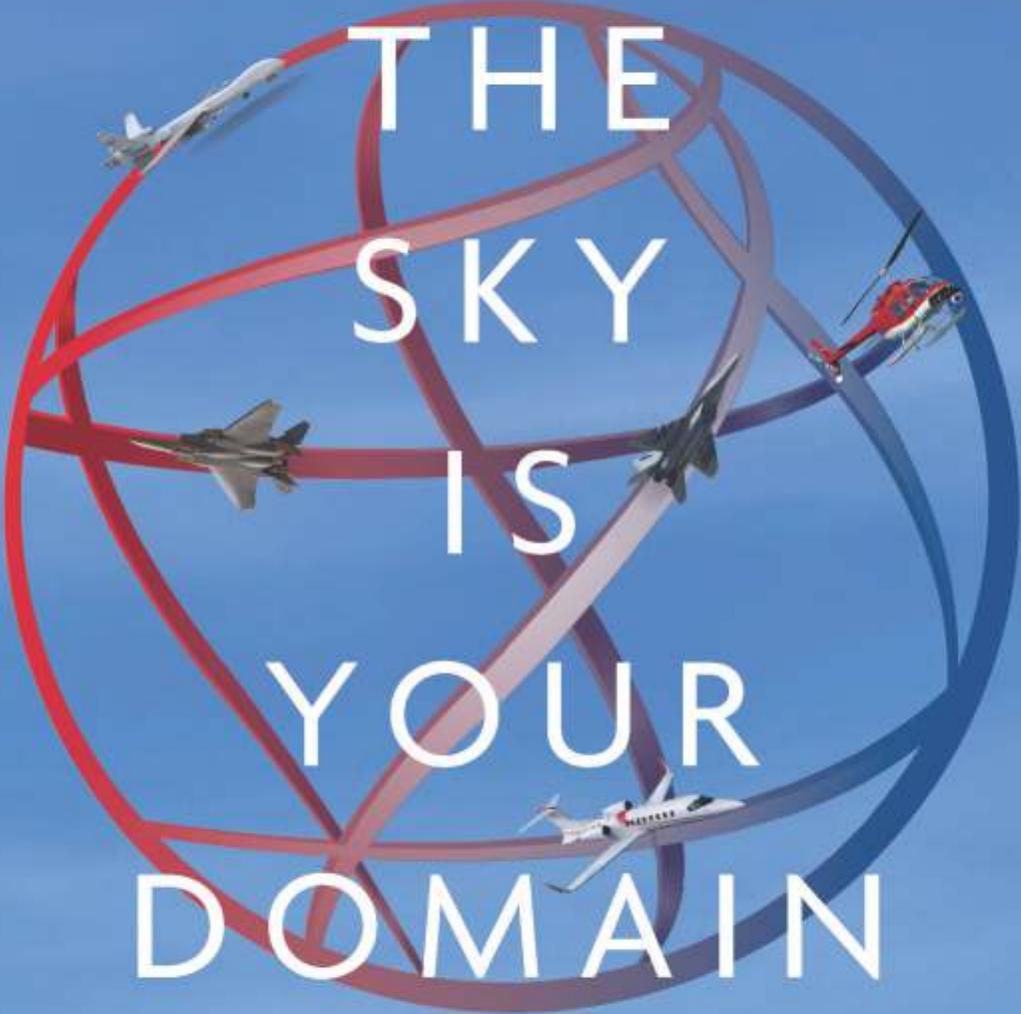
The growth in AMI's online business has freed up its staff to deal with larger shipments requiring spot rates, those customers requiring advice and more complex shipments requiring human intervention.

"When AMI was first launched 40 years ago, nobody expected that we would one day be celebrating eight million shipments. But we send hundreds of tons of cargo every week, to 200+ destinations around the world, including eighty regular consol services. So the numbers continue to build up," said AMI VP Europe Sharon Wright.

"The lessons we have learned in the process of creating and refining AMI Express click2ship have been invaluable in steering our entire business here and around the world. The result is a faster, more customer-friendly and transparent service that is proving particularly relevant to our increasing engagement in e-commerce," she stressed.



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GLOBAL NEWS

WFS subsidiary gets new cargo handling contract

SOUTH AFRICA: Africa Flight Services (AFS), a subsidiary of Worldwide Flight Services (WFS), will continue to provide cargo handling services for Turkish Airlines in South Africa.

The contract renewal signed this month requires AFS to handle the airline's cargo handling services in Johannesburg estimated at around 2,500 tons a year apart from Cape Town.

Turkish Airlines operates daily Airbus A330-300 flights between the city's O.R Tambo International Airport and Istanbul.

The new contract started just days after AFS was voted 'Best Cargo Handler of the Year' in Johannesburg for

2016 in the annual 'Feather Awards' for service excellence presented by Airports Company South Africa (ACSA), the government-owned airport management company. The award is based on votes cast by freight forwarders using the airport's cargo services.

"Having served Turkish Airlines in Cape Town since July 2015, we have been able to demonstrate the quality and reliability of our cargo handling services and this has clearly given the airline confidence to award us this additional contract in Johannesburg. We now look forward



to serving their cargo customers at both of our airport locations in South Africa," said Malcolm Tonkin, General Manager –Cargo (South Africa) at AFS.

Senator International now serves US market



MUNICH: Senator International has launched a new weekly scheduled flight to Greenville/Spartanburg, North Carolina, looping in many engineering, electrical and chemical companies in Bavaria seeking to do business in the US.

This is the company's first-ever service from Munich to that airport, and will be operated with an Air Atlanta Icelandic Boeing B747-400F.

"With Munich, we now have our own optimal freight connection between the vital German and US markets for the first time. The hub in southern Germany was a very conscious choice for us. We see enormous potential here, and not only for this region," said Tim-

Oliver Kirschbaum, the managing director of Senator International.

Bavaria, with its powerful industrial base and the many companies in the automotive, mechanical engineering, electrical and chemical sectors that rely on the import and export of goods, is a key region in Germany for Senator International.

By launching a direct connection to Greenville/Spartanburg –

initially with one flight per week – the company is now expanding the services offered to its customers.

"Serving this new route with a B747-400F is a strong affirmation of Munich's importance as an airfreight center. Every day, goods originating in Bavaria, other parts of southern Germany, Austria, Eastern Europe and northern Italy are flown from our airport to destinations all over the world. We're looking forward to working together in the coming years with companies like Senator International on the continuing development of Munich Airport as a cargo hub," said Dr Michael Kerkloh, the CEO of Munich Airport.

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GLOBAL NEWS

Swisslog marks entry in KSA

JEDDAH: Swisslog, a leading automation expert for robot-based and data-driven intralogistic solutions, has made its presence felt in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

It joined for the first time as launch partner at Materials Handling Saudi Arabia.

Swisslog Middle East introduced their latest warehouse automation solutions and new picking technologies for forward-thinking customers in Saudi Arabia and the bordering region.

Highlighting the company's participation & innovation in automated warehousing, Frederic Zielinski, General Manager of Swisslog Middle East commented, "We are excited to be part of one of the most prestigious global trade shows in the supply chain



sector. Being an international company, we have more than 2,500 employees on board and work with business customers in more than 50 countries. This exhibition provides us with unparalleled opportunities to connect

with new customers and existing partners in our endeavour to provide robot-based warehousing solutions for customers across the Kingdom." Swisslog says the KSA is a very important market for the company.

Largest rice factory in the Gulf now open at KIZAD



Abu Dhabi government officials and business executives during the factory's grand opening.

ABU DHABI: The largest and only fully-automated rice factory of its kind in the Gulf Region capable of producing 120,000 metric tons of rice per annum was formally opened at the Khalifa Industrial Zone Abu Dhabi (KIZAD).

Owned by Al Dahra Kohinoor, a subsidiary of Al Dahra Holding, the factory spans across a total area of

100,106 square meters at KIZAD and will be handling the full production cycle of rice that includes milling, storage, packaging as well as distribution within the UAE and exporting to foreign markets via the adjacent Khalifa Port.

The Dh140-million facility, opened on Dec. 6, will produce up to 120,000

metric tons of rice per annum with 40 silos; each boasting a 750-ton capacity.

It also features storage facilities with a capacity of 8,000 tons, a processing unit, in addition to administrative offices and support facilities. The company aims to create a strategic rice reserve in Abu Dhabi of about 30,000 metric tons.

Capt. Mohamed Juma Al Shamisi, CEO of Abu Dhabi Ports, described the project as "a monumental achievement that significantly contributes to

the long-term vision of the Abu Dhabi Government to achieve food supply security and sustainability."

The factory will benefit from a vertically integrated supply chain that guarantees the sourcing of the finest quality Basmati and non-Basmati rice from India and Pakistan, officials said.

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GLOBAL NEWS

New trade passage links China, Tibet and Nepal

BEIJING: China has opened up a new rail and cargo road service passage linking one of its most important provinces to Tibet and Nepal in a bid to boost trade among them and other neighboring Asian countries.

The state-run news agency Xinhua reported dozens of trucks carrying goods worth \$2.8 million left the Tibetan border port of Gyirong en route to Kathmandu on December 9.

China's Belt and Road Initiative essentially connects Guangdong, Tibet and Nepal, thereby, cutting travel time in delivering cargo in the areas.

Xinhua reported a train carrying eight carriages and 14 boxcars full of products, including shoes, clothes,

hats, furniture, appliances, electronics and building materials, covered the 5,200-km distance between Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong Province, and Xigaze in Tibet.

The goods were then transferred to trucks that traveled to Gyirong and finally to Kathmandu, Nepal's capital.

It took up to six days for the trucks to reach their destinations, much faster than 20 days at sea.

Yao Yanfeng, general manager of the freight carrier Tibet Tianzhi Import and Export Co. Ltd. said, "The time could be cut further to 3.7 days in the future."

Yao said his company is providing relatively quick delivery service and,

despite higher costs, it can meet demand for time-sensitive clients.

"In the slower winter season, the train and trucks will make a round trip every one or two weeks," said Yao. "In the busy season next year, there will be two to three per week and, eventually, we're aiming for four to five trips per week."

"Nepal needs Chinese goods," said Liu Denghui of Adam Refrigeration Equipment Co. Ltd. in Shenzhen upon hearing about the new trade route.

Guangdong and neighboring regions, known as China's manufacturing hubs, are a major source of imports for South Asia, including Nepal.

Customs can inspect 150 trucks in an hour



DUBAI: Dubai Customs has the latest inspection tools and applications to examine different goods, including a system that can investigate 150 trucks in just one hour.

The agency made the disclosure as government agencies around the region are urged to help thwart the illegal trade of endangered species at the 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (Cites CoP17) in Johannesburg aimed at tackling the world's biggest wildlife challenges and opportunities.

Miteb Al Bannai, Senior Inspection Manager at Client Management Division at Dubai Customs, shared to

participants how Dubai is using advance technology and system to curb the illegal trade.

Al Bannai explained that Dubai Customs also regularly organizes workshops for inspectors to train them on the best ways that support Cites, and has signed an MOU with the International Fund for Animal Welfare to support efforts in protecting endangered animals and plants and preventing the smuggling of these animals and plants.

"The Department foiled many attempts in this regard including a seizure of 215 ivory pieces in 2012, and 259 ivory pieces in 2013," he said.

IAG Cargo launches new cargo route

PARIS: IAG Cargo is launching a new Paris to Newark, New Jersey route, carrying mostly fashion and textiles, perishables and spare machinery parts.

The company says the service, its first ever direct cargo route between France and the US, is expected to appeal to French forwarders looking to access the American market through a more local hub.

The route will be served by a wide bodied Open Skies B767-200 aircraft and will operate four times a week. Express products will be shipped under IAG Cargo's Prioritize offering while must travel emergency shipments will travel under the carrier's newly launched Critical product.

"This new development presents an exciting new opportunity that allows us to better serve our European customers. Our new route opens direct access from mainland Europe to the North-East of the USA maximizing efficiencies and minimizing security and handling costs for European forwarders," said David Shepherd, Commercial Director at IAG Cargo.



DXB freight volumes up 9.5% in October

DUBAI: Freight volumes at Dubai International Airport posted a 9.5 percent growth to 236,169 in October, the biggest monthly increase seen so far this year, according to Dubai Airports.

Paul Griffiths, CEO of Dubai Airports, said year-to-date cargo volumes reached 2,127,589 tons, up 2.8 percent compared to 2,069,360 tons recorded during the same period last year.

In terms of passenger volume, DXB welcomed more than 69 million as of October 2016, up by 6.8 percent compared to the same period in 2015 with 64.947 million passenger traffic.

Eastern Europe led the pack again as the fastest-growing market in October (+25.2 percent) thanks to additional capacity and new services launched by a number of airlines, followed by South America (9.9 percent), Asia (8.2



percent) and the Indian Subcontinent (6.7 percent). India remained the top destination country (901,958 passengers), followed by the UK (493,181 passengers) and Saudi Arabia (349,198 passengers).

London continued to be the top destination city out of Dubai with 301,024 passengers followed by Doha (230,561 passengers) and Mumbai (177,590 passengers).

Baku (+108.7 percent) topped the list of cities in terms of percentage growth,

followed by Amritsar (80.9 percent), Calicut (56.8 percent) and Cape Town (49.3 percent) due to increased capacity.

A total of 35,294 flights operated at DXB during the month under review compared to 34,921 movements recorded in October 2015 representing an increase of 1.1 percent. Year to date 347,463 flights operated at DXB, up 3 percent compared to 337,426 recorded during the same period in 2015.

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CARGO AID

Aid organizations still struggle to send relief to Syria

SYRIA: More than 250,000 Syrians have died and over a million have been injured since the civil war in the country broke in 2011 and fears of more dying from hunger increase as aid organizations continue to struggle finding ways to deliver relief goods to survivors via air or land.

The United Nations warned more people could die from starvation if aid organizations are not allowed to send in food packages.

Last September, a UN aid convoy delivering food relief to a rebel-held area near Aleppo was targeted in an airstrike, resulting to the death of 12 people and destroying 18 trucks laden with food intended for tens of thousands of victims crying out for help in the city.

The UN said it was a hit from the air that killed the victims, mostly Syrian Red Crescent drivers, who were unloading food at a warehouse in opposition controlled Urem al-Kubra. The fierce fighting between warring groups in Aleppo and elsewhere in Syria continues, displacing more people in the process. "Human rights violations and abuses continue to occur in the context of widespread insecurity and in disregard of international law, international humanitarian law, and human rights law. The UN is working with partners to provide humanitarian assistance to those in need," the UN said.



ERC sends aid anew to war-torn Yemen



HADHRAMAUT: The UAE's Emirates Red Crescent (ERC) sent anew much needed relief goods to an impoverished village in war-torn Yemen to help alleviate the people's sufferings.

The Emirates News Agency, WAM, said the ERC distributed some 3,000 food packages in the Directorate of Thamud in the Governorate of Hadhramaut to increase the population's resilience in facing harsh economic and living conditions.

The ERC said the food assistance is part of its fourth program to help low-income and poor families in Hadhramaut, who have endured choking economic conditions due to exorbitant food prices.

"The program comes within the framework of the UAE's assistance to the Yemeni people, so they might be resilient in facing the crisis created by the practices of the Houthi rebel militia and forces loyal to defunct president Ali Abdullah Sa'elh," said Hamdan Al Mehnali, ERC Representative in Hadhramaut.

The assistance will enable the people of Thamud to face their difficult living conditions, he added.

Dubai Cares helps rebuild shattered lives in Nepal

DUBAI: Dubai Cares is continuing its efforts to help rebuild shattered lives in quake-ravaged Nepal with a three-year program known as "Post-Earthquake Recovery Efforts for Education in Nepal."

Launched in November, the \$2.5 million program aims to provide children the opportunity to learn and cope during and after crises.

Tariq Al Gurg, Chief Executive Officer of Dubai Cares, says the program includes a two-phase recovery intervention.

The first one focuses on infrastructure and learning environments including the reconstruction and renovation of 10 schools, which include 115 classrooms, in the Nuwakot district, and the second one consists of implementing a holistic literacy program targeting children between the ages of 4 and 10 in 100 schools, reports the Emirates News Agency, WAM.

"Natural disasters such as Nepal's devastating earthquake are in the



Dubai Cares CEO Tariq Al Gurg, right, with some Nepalese children benefitting from their program.

international headlines for a few weeks, but after that the real work of rebuilding the fractured communities must begin. In line with our commitment to supporting Education in Emergencies, Dubai Cares intends to help children go back to school to minimize disruption of their education and exposure to risks of neglect, exploitation and trafficking," said Al Gurg.

A massive 7.9 magnitude earthquake hit a vast, mountainous region between Kathmandu, the country's capital, and the city of Pokhara.

More than 8,800 people died and close to a million homes were destroyed or damaged.

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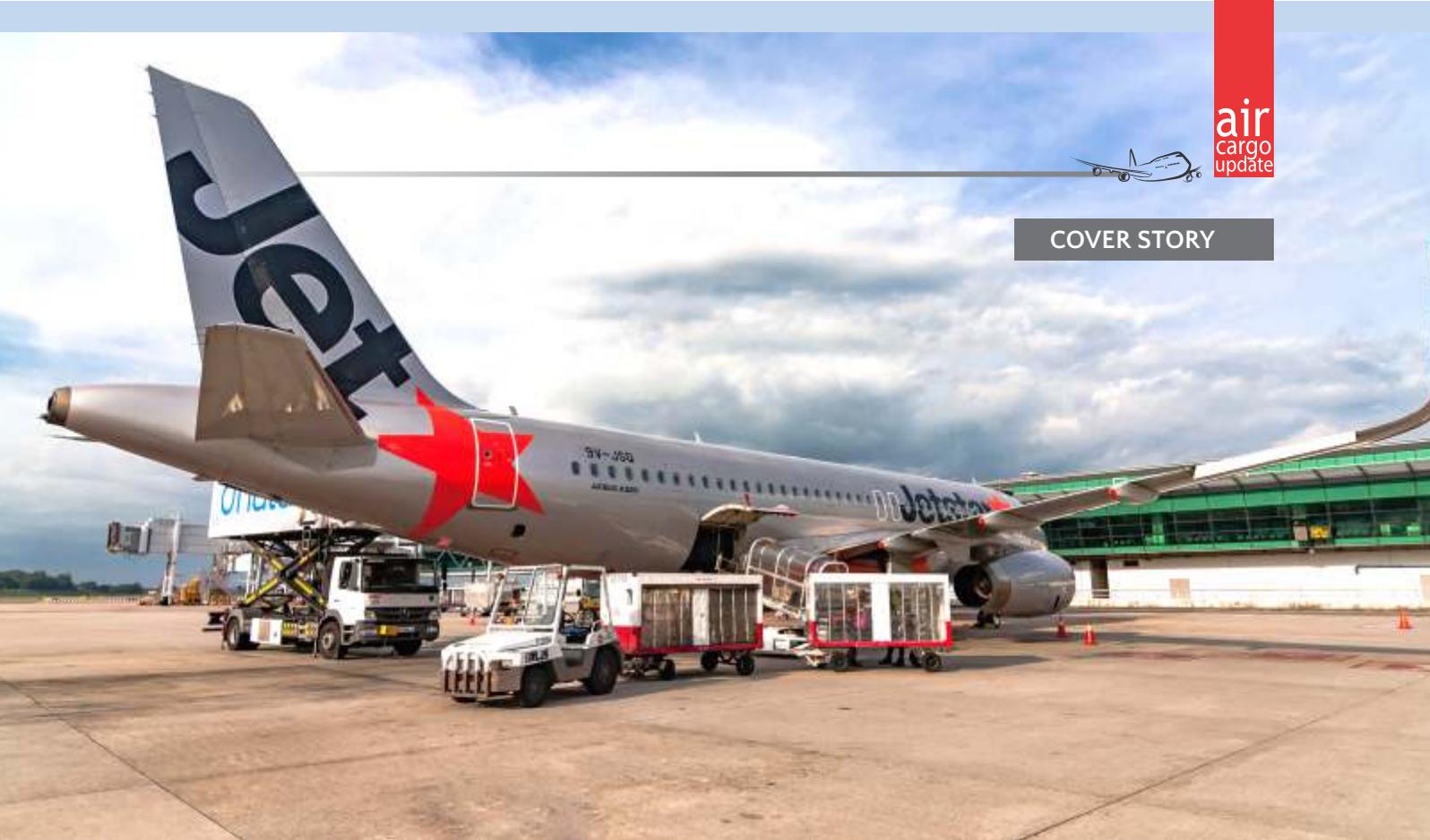
COVER STORY

ECS Group

Broadening horizons

By Gemma Q. Casas





Adrien Thominet is no stranger to the air cargo industry having spent more than 20 years of his career sailing through this tough and rough yet rewarding sector.

Thominet, the health-buff COO of ECS Group, a Paris-based leading General Sales and Service Agency (GSSA) providing complete cargo outsource solution with 69 subsidiaries and 128 offices across 47 countries dealing with more than 110 airlines, has every reason to be thankful for in 2016.

The year has been very good to the company marked with lots of acquisitions, new deals and contracts with airlines and firms in allied industries, across Europe, Latin America and Asia.

In July, ECS won two new GSSA contracts in Germany with DHL and Malaysian Airlines, which is setting up its cargo operations in the country.

“We’re quite happy this year because we have new contracts, new airlines and new acquisitions,” the French entrepreneur told **Air Cargo Update** in an interview in Paris on the sidelines of the Air Cargo Forum held in October.

This year, Thominet said ECS has

extended its network to at least five countries in Latin America—Chile, Argentina, Colombia, Ecuador and Mexico.

“These are niche markets. Chile is booming and there are also opportunities in other Latin America countries,” he said.

Additionally, the company was awarded the contract to provide total cargo management to Jetstar Asia, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Qantas Airlines, which flies to 22 destinations across the globe.

“Economically, this is very good for us,” said Thominet, noting that the company is also eyeing further expansions in some emerging markets in Southeast Asia like Myanmar and Cambodia.

And their quest for more acquisitions will go beyond the traditional routes with Iran even considered to be served.

“This is something that we’re considering,” said Thominet when asked about the prospect of doing business with Iran, which opened up its economy to outside forces this year after successfully negotiating an anti-nuclear deal with the Obama administration, that among others would yield to some \$100 billion in fresh capital for the country.

Regional Expansion

With just four countries in 2001, ECS has managed to increase its presence in 47 more nations with annual sales of about \$1.1 billion.

And it’s on a mission to further expand its network. In November, the company’s chief executive and chairman, Bertrand Schmolli, announced ECS acquired Asian specialist AVS as it looked to expand its presence in Southeast Asia.

Headquartered in Bangkok, AVS consolidates cargo from the ASEAN region on its network of flights and interlines to the rest of Asia, Europe and the US. Its office network includes Taipei, Hong Kong, Yangon, Phnom Penh, Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Penang, Manila, Cebu and India.

Schmolli said having a large network,

In Dubai, Globe Air Cargo FZE, a fully-owned subsidiary of ECS Group, steers the company's business in the Middle East. Its services include: GSA facilities; full sales coverage; Cargo reservation & accounting for all airlines; trucking within the UAE &; supervision for all online flights GHA supervision in both DXB & AUH.



COVER STORY

but with good local market knowledge would be key to the company's future expansion.

"For me there are two things that are important for a GSSA," said Schmoll. "The first is the network because when you want to make an offer to an airline you must have this network and you must also control this network. That's why it's important you have your own representation & not just commercial agreements."

"The second point is that the GSSA business will remain local because if locally you have poor management



About ECS

ECS Group offers airlines a comprehensive GSA service which encompasses all aspects of their cargo capacity management, enabling them to maximize their cargo capacity and sales yield, while reducing costs.

The company is also into charter and brokerage activities, offering a critical service to forwarders for urgent or outstanding shipments, airlines, when their needs exceed their flying capacity or when they require substitute aircraft to ensure that they fulfill their commitments in case of a temporary aircraft shortage, among other special circumstances.

The company also offers a direct warehouse handling service to airlines and forwarders at a number of airports as well as handling supervision elsewhere. ECS also offers warehouse space, dedicated airline storage for export and import, IT controlled systems for documentation, cargo warehousing and tracking.

and poor governance you will have problems with the airline. So what is important is the selection of the manager and to have the best manager in each country."

Schmoll added that he expected the outsourcing of cargo sales to grow over the coming years because of the amount of belly capacity that is coming on-stream.

This will lead to lower prices and therefore airlines will look to outsource the cargo sales business to reduce costs and also try to fill the cargo holds.

Thominet noted the AVS acquisition would benefit its existing customers as it would now be able to feed in cargo from across the Southeast Asia region.

This is also helped by one of its big contract wins in 2016 – a deal to provide Singapore-headquartered low cost carrier Jetstar Asia with a total cargo management solution.

Jetstar Asia currently has 18 A320 aircraft in its fleet, operating more than 600 weekly return flights across 25 destinations in 13

countries.

"With the AVS acquisition we suddenly have access to the Southeast Asia market, which is one of the booming areas of Asia," Thominet said.

"Through the acquisition we immediately have offices, we have a trucking system to connect with the main gateways like Saigon and Bangkok and then we have Jetstar Asia feeding from those places to Singapore. Immediately – we are the CSA of Finnair flying out Singapore – we give [Finnair] access to those markets instead of just fighting over the Singapore-Europe market," he added.

Ready for the challenges

Apart from being extremely competitive, the air cargo industry is also marred with unpredictability depending on which region you're looking at.

But Thominet says ECS is ready for any eventualities and will push ahead with its expansion goals.

The company, after all, has successfully shown its capabilities, even in developing new IT systems to enhance efficiency.

"We need to continue this trend," said Thominet. "We still have lots of acquisitions to make. The market is still very unsettling. It's very difficult to predict the market. Nevertheless, we will try to do new business and develop new concepts that will help our clients."

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Air cargo industry makes way for

- D - R - O - N - E - S -

other UAVs

The UAV Commercial Drone Market is estimated to reach over \$1.2 billion by 2020, creating around 150,000 jobs in the EU by 2050



Transportation in the logistics industry is growing, changing and becoming more autonomous, with options more reliant to IoT and connectivity.

The use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) has been substantially documented in the logistics industry but its current usage remains in the infancy stage and how wide its future use is still unknown.

In an email interview with **Air Cargo Update**, DHL Express Country Manager Geoff Walsh, notes, "There is a lot of potential use for drones in the future such as remote area deliveries and urgent medical deliveries to catastrophe struck locations. The use of drones for these deliveries can save time, cost and overcome logistical obstacles for sending or picking up items."

But its availability in the UAE remains

hanging pending further studies, rigorous tests and trials on its feasibility, the cargo expert opined.

"The UAE has always been and will continue to be a pioneer when it comes to adopting new technologies and solutions like 3D printing and mobile solutions for government services. Whether it will be available anytime soon or not depends on the reliability of the drones and the technology behind it, which will only be enhanced through rigorous testing and trials," said Mr. Walsh.

Drone Market Growing

The international freight transport volumes are expected to rise more than four-fold by 2050, with average transport distances across all modes increasing by 12%, according to the forecast of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The UAV Drone Market for Commercial is estimated to reach over US \$1.2 billion by 2020, which could create around 150,000 jobs in the EU by 2050, the MARSH report pointed out.

And about 42% of logistics carriers will be using UAVs for their cargo distribution in the future, according to a research by the National Aeronautical Center (NAC).

With fuel prices identified as one of the greatest perceived risks facing the logistics industry, majority of its stakeholders view UAVs as a way to provide cost savings on a long-term basis.

DHL's hub in Germany has beaten all the tech companies by launching a regular drone delivery service in a shape of a small robotic helicopter called 'Parcelcopter' for the first time in 2013.



FEATURES

“The primary purpose of Parcelcopters as well as other forms of drones is to facilitate the delivery/pick-up process from areas or destinations that might be challenging to reach. They can also support in cutting delivery time, especially if they are supported by technology such as a GPS locator, etc.,” DHL said in a statement.

“As mentioned, drones and its other forms can aid in the delivery of small to medium sized packages that weigh no more than 5 to 10 kg. Some of the items that can be delivered could be medicines, vaccines and other forms of life-saving supplies to remote areas.”

The DHL Parcelcopter is primarily for circumstances that do not match the standards of established infrastructures or where standard delivery methods are excessively long. Locations which are not linked to the road network are one of the examples.

‘Natural barriers’ such as water or mountains are not an issue for the drone. The DHL Parcelcopter is, thus, seen as an instrument for enhancing infrastructure in hard-to-reach areas, improving the lives of the residents there.

Delivery flights

DHL’s technical innovation Parcelcopter includes extended flight duration and range. The flight is completely automated with a rough span of 12 kilometres. This indicates that the pilot does not have to take any action during the overall flight phase.

For safety reasons and in compliance with the requirements set by the responsible agencies, the DHL Parcelcopter is continuously monitored during the flight by a mobile ground ‘packstation’ called ‘SkyPort’ so that manual action can be taken immediately in real time if a malfunction or emergency persists. The ground station is also in constant contact with air traffic controllers.

To ensure if the DHL Parcelcopter is operating reliably, flying safely and always landing at the right location, an autopilot with automated take-off and landing functions has been developed. This system is robust and reliable and has been tested extensively.

Depending on wind speed, the Parcelcopter can travel up to 18 meters per second with an altitude of 50 meters. Its primary purpose is to transport urgent parcels at certain

times during the week and on weekends.

This delivery option focuses on times when such alternatives as ferries and flights are not available. The Parcelcopter takes off from the ‘packstation’ and lands at a launch pad reserved only for the Parcelcopter.

From there, a DHL courier will then deliver the goods to the recipient. To check if the goods are secured optimally during transport, DHL Parcel has developed a particular air-transport container that is extremely lightweight as well as weather and waterproof.

Changing the logistics industry

When asked if Parcelcopter will revolutionise the logistics industry, Mr. Walsh opined, “I do not think the use of drones and other Parcelcopters will transform the logistics industry as their use and requirement is currently quite niche and for very special purposes rather than mainstream deliveries and pick-ups. However, as technology improves and other cutting edge innovations come into place, the use of drones will gradually increase.

“The Parcelcopter is one form of innovation, and at DHL we are constantly looking for ways to innovate and enhance our capabilities. Some other great and fruitful examples include the use of robotics for sorting in our warehouses as well as the use of augmented reality like the Google and Vuzix smart glasses for ‘vision picking’ solutions.”

But the executive stressed that the use of drones might help in booming the e-commerce industry in the long run, once the technology and back-end support systems are all integrated.

“We feel having a stronger post office network that is digitised and readily available for both government and commercial entities would play a much huger role in driving e-commerce especially facilitating deliveries and cutting delivery time and cost”.

Trial phase

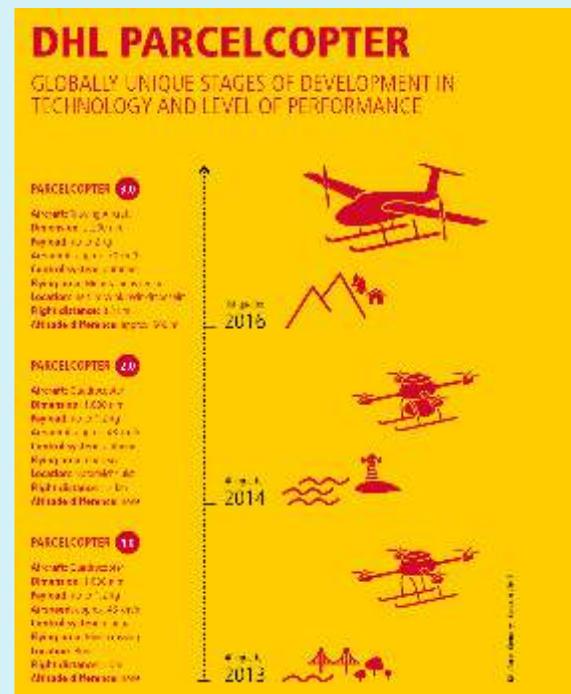
DHL parcel successfully concluded a three-month test of its third Parcelcopter generation recently. The trial run was conducted between January and March 2016 in Germany, representing worldwide a parcel service provider directly integrated into its delivery chain for the first time.

During the trial period, customers

inserted their shipments into the Skyport to initiate automated shipment and delivery per Parcelcopter. A sum of 130 autonomous loading and off-loading cycles were ultimately performed.

As the major aspect of the trial, the technically upgraded vehicle was able to manage heavier loads, long distances and delivery to an alpine region famous for its geographical and meteorological challenges.

The primary assignment was to master the rapidly changing weather



conditions and severe temperature fluctuation in the test area. With that achieved, the DHL Parcelcopter then played out a series of seamless flights.

Each round trip from Valley to plateau at roughly 1,200 meters above sea level covered eight kilometres of flight. The drone’s cargo was typically either sporting goods or urgently needed medicines, and it arrived at the Austrian station within just eight minutes of take-off. A similar trip by car takes more than 30 minutes during winter to reach its destination.

During the upcoming months, DHL Parcel will be analysing performance data and other insights from the trial together with its R&D partner, the Rheinisch Westfälischen Technischen Hochschule Aachen (RWTH). The findings will be used to select other potential areas for testing.



Blue Dart, India's formidable express cargo

With a fleet of six Boeing 757-200 freighters, Blue Dart has a formidable competitive advantage. The aircraft are supported by 9,313 ground vehicles operating across 13 domestic hubs serving 35,008 location

Many have come and gone, but Blue Dart, South Asia's premier courier and integrated express package distribution company, seems to have an enduring longevity.

The award-winning Blue Dart is the only company which has weathered many a storm and is doing well in the realm of logistics, while other players have bitten the dust.

The quick winding up of Capt. Gopinath's 'Deccan 360 degrees' cargo

business is hard to forget.

The man who launched India's first truly low cost carrier could not sustain the cargo business. It requires enormous business acumen and Blue Dart has shown that by not only doing well financially but also as a company with CSR (corporate social responsibility) values.

It recently garnered Payload's Regional Express Provider of the Year Award and the Corporate Social Responsibility Award for its exemplary service.

Anil Khanna, Managing Director, Blue Dart Express Ltd, said, "We are extremely pleased to receive such prestigious awards. It has been our constant endeavor to deliver exceptional world class quality service and experience across 34,838 locations in India and in over 220 countries worldwide. To be honored with the Regional Express Provider of the Year Award and the Corporate Social Responsibility Award at the APAC level for our extraordinary service in the industry and towards



society is extremely overwhelming."

End-to-end express logistics solutions. Blue Dart offers customers complete end-to-end express logistics solutions with an extensive pan-India air and ground network that provides a significant competitive advantage.

With a fleet of six Boeing 757-200 freighters, Blue Dart has a formidable competitive advantage. The aircraft are supported by 9,313 ground vehicles operating across 13 domestic hubs serving 35,008 locations.

With an optimised dedicated air and ground network coupled with cutting-edge technology, Blue Dart continues to be the undisputed leader in the express logistics industry. Blue Dart is committed in letter and spirit to sustainability reaching out to the community and touching lives through the three pillars of Living Responsibility - GoTeach, GoGreen and GoHelp.

The company believes that the most powerful way in which a business can make an impact is through an evolved business model, where business makes profit by meeting societal and environmental needs through a 'shared value' proposition. Post the evaluation of a number of criteria including commitment to quality service, customer satisfaction, brand association and perception, Blue Dart was announced the winner in the above categories.

Strong financials

Blue Dart is doing well business-wise. For the quarter ended September 30, 2016, it posted Rs. 42.80 crores profit after tax. The net Sales/Income from operations for the quarter stood at Rs. 663.22 crores.

Anil Khanna said, "We have stayed true to our commitment to maintain excellent service quality and deliver customer delight through innovation in our service offerings. We will continue to invest in technology and infrastructure and align our people and strategy to cater to India's express logistics requirements. Despite a restrained macro-economic environment, we will sustain our efforts to bring immense value to internal and external stakeholders by incorporating high benchmarks and quality standards in every aspect of business and remain the undisputed leader in the air and ground express industry in Blue Dart country."



Anil Khanna, Managing Director, Blue Dart

Country's first 'Parcel Locker'

The company continues to innovate on its services to ensure customer satisfaction. It recently launched the country's first Parcel Locker at Gurgaon's Unitech, Cyber Park. With the Indian e-tailing industry expected to grow at 52 per cent from 2014 to 2020, the sector has been witnessing phenomenal demand from across India.

Parcel Locker will allow recipients of parcels to collect their shipments from the facility 24-hours a day. This mechanism will benefit e-tail customers who may not be present during regular delivery hours, and can collect their shipments from the Parcel Locker at any time as per their convenience.

The service will also be beneficial for those who travel often, especially with the festive season around the corner. While e-tailing offers customers the opportunity to shop around the clock, with Parcel Locker, Blue Dart offers the convenience of a 24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year delivery mechanism.

This service uses mobile technology in tandem with specially designed lockers to ensure customers get all-day access to their shipments from a safe, secure and convenient facility.

As soon as the package is delivered to the Parcel Locker, the e-tail customer will receive a unique security code via SMS. They will have to use this code to

unlock the Parcel Locker and collect their shipment at a convenient time. The facility will have an interactive and a parcel storage mechanism.

This is yet another product from Blue Dart that demonstrates the benefits of combining technology with business innovation to provide end-users a revolutionary service for ease and convenience. At a later stage the Parcel Locker will also be used to collect reverse shipments from customers.

Available for e-tail shipments Parcel Locker is currently be available for prepaid e-tail shipments. In the next phase, the company will provide automated payment collection consoles at the facility.

Globally DHL, the parent company with a 75 percent stake in Blue Dart, was the first to launch this service in developed markets. Since its introduction in Germany in 2001 more than 4 million active users have registered for the more than 2750 Parcel Lockers throughout the country.

The concept has also been picked-up in US and other European markets. Parcel Locker eases the delivery process for customers who may be away from the shipping address for long hours, effectively revolutionising the way e-business is being done.

Blue Dart was recently featured in the Fortune 500 list of India's Largest Corporations,

It was also listed as one of India's Super 50 Companies by Forbes India and was ranked amongst the top 500 non-financial corporations.



FEATURES

Technology is rapidly changing logistics in maritime industry

Technology will shape the shipping industry in three main ways – the reduction of physical human intervention in logistics, the integration of the internet of things and disintermediation.

Technology continues to transform logistics in the maritime industry.

Companies now utilize all kinds of drones, robotics, etc., for seamless delivery purposes.

The industry is filled with new technology and innovation. Before 3D printing, the Internet of Things (IoT), drone delivery and augmented reality ideas were known to be integral parts of science fiction world.

But now, the shipping industry is embracing these advanced technologies to provide faster, cheaper, more reliable and sustainable delivery process.

In an email interview with **Air Cargo Update**, Mr. Nigel Moolenaar, SCS Implementation Head at Kerry Logistics, UK, notes that the shipping industry is on the brink of seeing futuristic technologies, such as the use of robots, which is now becoming mainstream.

“At Kerry Logistics, we have noticed the pace of technological advancements accelerate in many key areas. A lot of the significant trends we see centre on automation; aspects such as loading and unloading becoming automated and robotics appearing in the supply chain”.

Real time data

In the same thread, customers and organisations are looking for more and more real time data. This data is the key to implementing automation

and speeding up process improvement.

“With this information at our fingertips, we can make quick decisions, and process improvement need not wait weeks or months. We are in an age of increasing personalisation within shipping, and thus, this value add increases customer satisfaction,” said Moolenaar.

“Data integration, allowing data to be passed between partners in the supply chain, results in a more personalised service for the end consumer. For example, some delivery companies are able to tell their customers how many deliveries their driver has that day, and where in the queue they are, so the customer can better plan their time,” he added.

When data sharing improves the service value along the chain, customers are more accepting of the practice and logistics becoming an important part of the value proposition to consumers, the executive stressed.

Major trends

Technology will shape the shipping industry in three main ways – the reduction of physical human intervention in logistics, the integration of the internet of things and disintermediation, according to Kerry Logistics UK.

“The reduction of human physical intervention embraces robotics

and automation as a replacement for the human labour in the supply chain to bring down cost, fulfilment times and capacity for human error,” according to Moolenaar.

He further explained that as the age of the Internet of Things races on, ever more of the devices around us are connected in some helpful way to the internet.

For instance, a refrigerator may automatically reorder your milk and cheese when it senses there is none left.

This provides a greatly enhanced customer experience – the effort on their part on placing the order is zero!

The shipping landscape will need to address the challenge of these constant automated requests.

“Disintermediation addresses the question of how to reduce the steps in our supply chain, and improve efficiency and fulfilment times. Enhanced and new business models such as Airbnb, Uber and Deliveroo have learnt naturally toward a reduction in intermediaries as a way of reducing time and cost,” said Moolenaar.

“By linking manufacturer to end consumer, we also improve personalisation, as well as drive down mark-ups which happen in between. For those who remember, DELL computers were the pioneers of this model.”



Nigel Moolenaar



Big data

Big data is translated into easily accessible knowledge, for better sharing. A summary of what that data means, along with a conclusion of what this means for us, and recommendations for improvement, are of much more use than large spreadsheets full of numbers.

"The shipping industry must begin to interpret and present data in a more intelligent way. This is how we can effectively communicate our value add," said Moolenaar.

Through automation in warehouses, packing and loading, the main players in the shipping industry already see quicker fulfilment of orders and reduced D2D times. Several online retailers of white goods, fashion items and other consumer goods already enable customers to receive their goods the next day when they place their order any time till midnight the previous day.

In September 2015, Kerry Logistics became the first 3PL in Asia to adopt robotic butlers and the company already has six fully-automated and programmed robotic butlers at their flagship facility PC3 in Hong Kong. The integration of these robotics has, without a doubt, improved efficiency and reduced fulfilment times.

"Our butlers can pick 280 items per hour compared to an average of 50 when using human labour, making the pick time more than five times faster. Orders are transmitted to the butlers in real time via our proprietary warehouse management system

(WMS), and the designated shelf is then picked and packed.

"We can already see robotic forklifts automatically offloading a vehicle and allocating items directly to their correct place in the warehouse. In theory, you could have a driverless car arrive at a warehouse, a robot offloading, and then another robot picking, sorting and loading items onto a drone which takes off from a nearby helipad," explains Moolenaar.

Connecting businesses

Automation in the shipping industry will see each step of the supply chain becoming more and more integrated with the other. Planning for automation involves all partners in the supply chain with similar objectives working together.

"Ideally, all planning to reduce costs and time scales will put the shipper and their clients at the core of the conversation, as the developments ultimately will be dictated by their requirements."

Start-up ventures tend to be very efficient at reducing fulfilment time, as they are considering their supply chain for the first time, from a fresh perspective and with no preconceived ideas of what it should look like.

"They drive cost out of the supply chain as a result of not holding onto stock and disintermediation, so we see not only reduced time and client satisfaction but price advantages across the board," explains Mr Nigel.

Future trends

The focus on corporate social responsibility will continue. Many industry developments have the common goal of reducing carbon emissions (CO₂), and there is consensus for some time now that this has become the responsibility of the shipping industry to address these issues.

"At Kerry Logistics, we run our green facilities across the globe. We increasingly use renewable energy, and several of our sites in Hong Kong are LEED certified," said Moolenaar.

The cost of reducing carbon emissions and embracing renewable energies has reduced so drastically in the last five years that any technological advancements worth their salt will take these considerations on board.

"Technological developments within the supply chain are all about adding value to the products being shipped while, at the same time, reducing cost and time. Consumers will notice it becoming increasingly easy to find the exact products they want, customised to their requirements, available to order 24/7 and able to be shipped even during extended holiday periods," Moolenaar concluded.

About Kerry Logistics

With head offices in Hong Kong, Kerry Logistics employs a far-reaching global network that stretches across six continents including the largest distribution network and hub operations in Greater China & the ASEAN region.



FEATURES

Rosy outlook for **BUSINESS AVIATION** despite uncertainties

Wider space, seamless connectivity & fuel efficiency will define new jets

Political uncertainties across many parts of the world is weighing on the global business aviation industry but the long-term outlook for the sector remains rosy with up to 8,600 new business jets up for deliveries between 2016-2026.

The US-based Honeywell, a Fortune 100 diversified technology and manufacturing leader in aerospace products and services, said the new jets up for deliveries are estimated to be worth \$255 billion, representing a 6 to 7 percent reduction from values noted in its 2015 forecast.

Mike Beazley, vice president for global sales of Honeywell, said political uncertainties are weighing in on jet deliveries, noting a significant decline on orders everywhere except for North America (NAM).

Nevertheless, Beazley who presented the company's findings at the 10th Middle East and North Africa Business Aviation Association (MEBAA) Conference held in Dubai this month said the long-term outlook for the industry remains strong.

Honeywell has been doing an aviation industry forecast for the past 30 years.

About 1,500 non-fractional business jet operators were interviewed and had participated in the company's latest forecast, which also had expert opinions and deliberations from aerospace industry experts.

"We continue to see relatively slow economic growth projections in many mature business jet markets. While developed economies are generally faring better, commodities demand, foreign exchange and political

uncertainties remain as concerns," said Brian Sill, president, Commercial Aviation, Honeywell Aerospace.

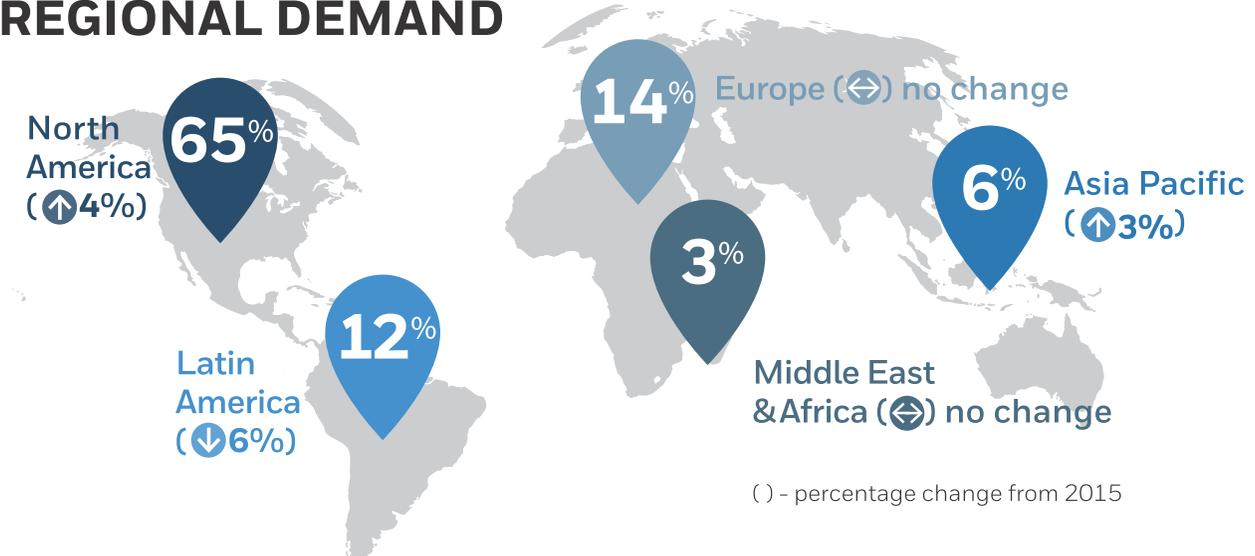
"These factors continue to affect near-term purchases, but the survey responses this year indicate there is improved interest in new aircraft acquisition in the medium term, particularly in the 2018-19 period. In the meantime, operators we surveyed this year indicated plans to increase usage of current aircraft modestly in the next 12 months, providing some welcome momentum to aftermarket activity, which has been flat recently."

Operators expect aircraft manufacturers to come up with new models that boasts of wider space, seamless connectivity, fuel efficiency and parts that require less maintenance than older versions.



Global purchase plans remain steady; larger jets still command largest share of demand.

REGIONAL DEMAND



Key global findings in the 2016 Honeywell outlook

- Deliveries of approximately 650 to 675 new jets in 2016, a low- to mid-single-digit percentage decline year over year. The pullback in deliveries expected in 2016 comes on the heels of a small increase in 2015 and is largely due to slower order rates for mature models and a stabilization in fractional-usage type of aircraft deliveries.
- 2017 deliveries are projected to be slightly lower, reflecting transitions to new models slated for late 2017 and 2018 service entry.
- Operators plan to make new jet purchases equivalent to about 27 percent of their fleets over the next five years as replacements or additions to their current fleet, an encouraging increase but one that is less than firm in timing.
- Of the total purchase plans for new business jets, 21 percent are intended to occur by the end of 2017, while 18 percent are scheduled for 2018 and 2019, respectively.
- Operators continue to focus on larger-cabin aircraft classes, ranging from super mid-size through ultra long-range and business liner, which are expected to account for more than 85 percent of all expenditures on new business jets in the next five years.
- The longer-range forecast through 2026 projects a 3 to 4 percent average annual growth rate despite the lower short-term outlook as new models and improved economic performance contribute to industry growth.
- Gains in five-year operator purchase plans are offset in the long-term forecast based on changes in new program timing, slower economic growth projections, and political and currency uncertainties, resulting in a moderately lower overall outlook.

The Middle East and Africa

With oil prices yet to stabilize more than two years after falling to new record lows, oil-rich countries in the Middle East and Africa are taking it slow when it comes to buying new aircraft.

Honeywell said the projected five-year global demand in the region is just slightly below its historical range of 4 to

7 percent.

About 21 percent of the respondents said they will replace or add new jet purchase on their fleet but it's still below the overall world average.

"Operators responding to the survey seem to be looking past current regional concerns, with potential buyers in the region scheduling their purchases sooner in the next five-

year window compared with last year, with 49 percent of purchases planned before 2019. These improved survey responses appear at odds with the obstinate nature of the issues facing the region," Honeywell pointed out.

New purchases in the region is largely driven by brand reference, range and bigger space, the survey revealed.

BRIC

Brazil, Russia, India and China, collectively known as BRIC, posted a 32 percent return rate when it comes to jet purchases, reversing several years of decline.

Brazil, which during recent years was rocked with economic and political turmoil, remains the strongest when it comes to new aircraft purchase plans.

Despite the recession, passenger traffic in Brazil grew in 2016 with many attributing it to the Rio Olympics.

"The combined BRIC countries' near-term demand profile has shifted somewhat later in the forecast period this year, with 38 percent of intended new jet purchases scheduled for the next two years," said Honeywell.

ASIA-PACIFIC

This region could garner up to 6 percent share of global new jet demand over the next five years, according to Honeywell.

Despite ongoing regional tensions and government austerity measures, operators in the region, particularly



FEATURES



China, appear to be enthusiastic in improving their fleet.

In a separate study, Boeing said Asia-Pacific will fuel much of the growth in the global aviation industry as the region's share of world GDP is projected to rise from 31 percent in 2016 to 39 percent by 2035.

"The significant growth rate in this emerging market is expected to continue. As a result, airlines, airport capacity, and passenger traffic are expected to experience a robust growth rate in the next 20 years. Demand in commercial aviation is also coming from the continuing expansion of the middle class in Asia, where a greater sector of the population is reaching income levels that make flying more affordable," Boeing pointed out in its long-term global outlook forecast.

Latin America

In Latin America, purchase plans among operators are projected to happen between 2016-2018.

Honeywell said nearly 27 percent of those surveyed in the region indicated replacing or adding new jet purchases during the period.

"Some of the larger traditional markets in the region reset purchase plans to lower levels this year, particularly those linked strongly to commodities markets. Resilience in the Brazilian operator base helped offset some of the darker mood elsewhere in the region," Honeywell said.

"With 47 to 48 percent of this region's projected purchases planned to occur between 2016 and 2018, this indicates some potential deferral of purchases suggested last year for the 2015-2017

period, which was equally front-loaded," it added, noting that Latin America's 12 percent share of total projected demand slipped several points compared with a year ago.

North America

About 65 percent of the global demand for aircraft would come from North America with new jet purchase plans in the region rising 5 points in 2016.

"Current plan levels are now in alignment with the averages of the 2008-2012 period. Though buying plan rates are just under the overall world average, the fleet and operator base have expanded, supporting solid demand levels," said Honeywell.

Boeing pointed out the region has seen the highest passenger traffic demand in recent years, particularly in the United States.

"The Big 3 network carriers filled on average 86 percent of their domestic (mainline) seats as demand outpaced supply, with a year-over-year 3.5 percent increase of traffic and an increase of only 3 percent year-over-year in capacity," Boeing said.

Cuba's new open skies agreement with the US is also projected to boost the need for more planes in the region.

Boeing said several US airlines have applied for the initial flight frequencies to Cuba: 20 daily round-trip flights to the capital, Havana, and 10 round-trips to nine other Cuban international airports.

Europe

New jet purchase plans in Europe continues despite the region's sluggish economic growth as it copes with elevated political tensions, the

uncertain effects of the Brexit vote, the refugee and migrant crisis and depreciated currencies.



Honeywell said Europe's purchase expectations improved this year to 30 percent, in line with averages seen since 2009.

"Despite the improved new jet purchase plans, Europe's share of estimated global five-year demand remained at 14 percent in the 2016 survey. This outcome is due in large part to the fact that the European fleet has not expanded in recent years. Many aircraft have migrated to other regions, resulting in an active fleet that is slightly lower despite an infusion of new jet deliveries," Honeywell explained.

Its analysis points to an uneven proportions of demand in the next three years of the five-year window, with about 26 percent allocated through 2017 followed by a dip to 15 percent each in 2018 and 2019, suggesting a cautious approach to timing the replacement of expansion of the fleets with new acquisitions.

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- Meet Middle East and international forwarders in one location
- Upgrade service options and product development to offer clients better service
- Professionally manage and preschedule all meetings with delegates
- Efficient and cost-saving conference for targeted and prescreened meetings
- Includes conference materials and packages, lunch and coffee-tea breaks, group outing, cocktail party

OUR VENUE

Sheraton Jumeirah Beach Resort



This is one of Dubai's most visited and renowned five-star luxury beach resorts situated in Dubai, Marina with a very promising view of landscaped gardens shaded by palm trees and overlooking the Gulf. The beach resort has 256 spacious rooms and suites perfect for family staycation and make your business stay more pleasurable. It also features a wide range of activities such as water sports, Armonia Spa, kid's club and other multiple sports facilities for the visitors. Sheraton Jumeirah Beach Resort is also very accessible to coffee shops, designer boutique stores, and restaurants that offer superb international cuisines.

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FEATURES

Dubai takes on sustainable **FOOD SUPPLY** challenge in the region





FEATURES



With minimal arable land, dependency on food imports has become the norm in many countries in the Middle East. But as the region's population grows amid shrinking resources, food security will become a major challenge in the future.

And Dubai, which has been in the forefront of creating opportunities and possibilities in the region, is seeking to address this issue by making it the preferred manufacturing platform for global businesses and Islamic food products market under the long-term Dubai Industrial Strategy Program.

Mark Napier, Exhibitions Director at DWTC and Show Director at Gulfood Manufacturing, says the region's food industry is so big that in the UAE alone, the food and beverage sector is projected to grow to \$13.2 billion by 2018.

"The growth will be driven by new outlets opening and tourist numbers growing in-line with the emirate's targets. Across the GCC region, the food retailing market is also thriving and is estimated to be worth US\$155 billion by 2018, according to a recent Frost & Sullivan analysis," Napier told Air Cargo Update in an email interview.

The British advertising and events executive, who decided to live in Dubai eight years ago after seeing it for the first time on a family holiday, said the growth in domestic food manufacturing will spur market demand for equipment used in the food processing and packaging sectors, which will ultimately generate economic activities in related industries like freight, cargo and logistics.

"The GCC packaged food industry was valued at US\$25 billion in 2013 and is projected to increase at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 8.5% till 2018. Initiatives such as Dubai's Industrial Strategy will only underline that growth," said Napier.

Napier explained the Dubai Industrial Strategy aims to help generate more than 27,000 jobs and an additional AED160 billion in the emirate's economy by 2030.

"Among the objectives in Phase One of the strategy are increasing total output and value-addition of the manufacturing sector; enhancing the depth of knowledge and innovation; making Dubai the preferred manufacturing platform for global

businesses; promoting environmentally-friendly & energy-efficient manufacturing systems; and making Dubai the centre for the global Islamic products market," he said.

And that is where Gulfood Manufacturing, held last November, came into play.

The show provided tailored sourcing, procurement and networking for business to stay ahead of the technological curve, conduct business and ultimately, improve operational efficiency and high-quality production.

This year's show has grown 20 percent in size compared to the previous year as more exhibitors participated. Napier said they welcomed exhibitors from 52 countries and 29 official national pavilions, including first-time pavilion



Mark Napier, Exhibitions Director at DWTC and Show Director at Gulfood

participation from Russia, Switzerland, Ireland, Indonesia and Ukraine.

The show brought together the region's leading production, foodservice, retail, logistics and transportation players for two days' of intensive education sessions, as well as dedicated time to build new business relationships and explore best practices.

And all agree Dubai's business friendly and technology-driven manufacturing sector is ready to take on the region's food security challenges.



New trucking security requirements in 2017

EMEA toughens stance vs cargo theft



Thorsten Neumann, Chairman TAPA-EMEA

“Of all the cargo thefts reported to our intelligence database, only around 5% are from TAPA members because generally their supply chains are far more resilient because of the steps they take to protect their products during the transportation process. The growth in the number of recorded cargo crimes is an industry-wide problem and using intelligence is the best possible way to avoid becoming a victim.”

Thorsten Neumann



TRUCKING

Trucks that will travel the road across Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) in 2017 will have tougher technology and other security features as the trucking industry fights back against the rising incidents of cargo theft in the region.

The Transported Asset Protection Association (TAPA) says the industry has accumulated losses of at least €19,883,639 as of end-September due to cargo theft.

This included 28 incidents involving a loss of more than €100,000 and a biggest single loss of €4 million of Jewellery/Precious Metals from a vehicle while en route in Arezzo, Italy, on July 11. The average loss for crimes with a value in the quarter was €86,828 as TAPA recorded incidents in 25 countries in EMEA.

Thorsten Neumann, Chairman of TAPA EMEA, said the situation now calls for a tougher stance and one of the measures the group wants to adopt in 2017 is by issuing the latest revision of its Facility Security Requirements (FSR) and Trucking Security Requirements (TSR),

It will recognize existing secure parking locations and encourage other parking site operators to update the security of their locations to attract new business.

“Of all the cargo thefts reported to our intelligence database, only around 5% are from TAPA members because generally their supply chains are far more resilient because of the steps

Italy and South Africa, where we believe the majority of thefts from warehouse facilities and trucks are not reported to our IIS (Incident Information Service),” he added.

The TAPA official said their members will also have access to a new online tool that will incorporate a route planner, a secure parking locator, site information and contact details, as

Products moving in supply chains in EMEA remained most at risk during the quarter. Five incident categories involving trucks accounted for 437 or 89.5% of the Q3 2016 incidents:

THEFT FROM VEHICLE	- 269 Or 55.1%
THEFT FROM TRAILER	- 88 Or 18%
THEFT OF VEHICLE	- 46 Or 9.4%
TRUCK THEFT	- 22 Or 4.5%
THEFT OF TRAILER	- 12 Or 2.5%

TAPA's IIS also recorded 24 cases of Theft from Facility - 4.9% of all Q3 incidents as well as 10 Hijackings, seven of which took place in South Africa.

they take to protect their products

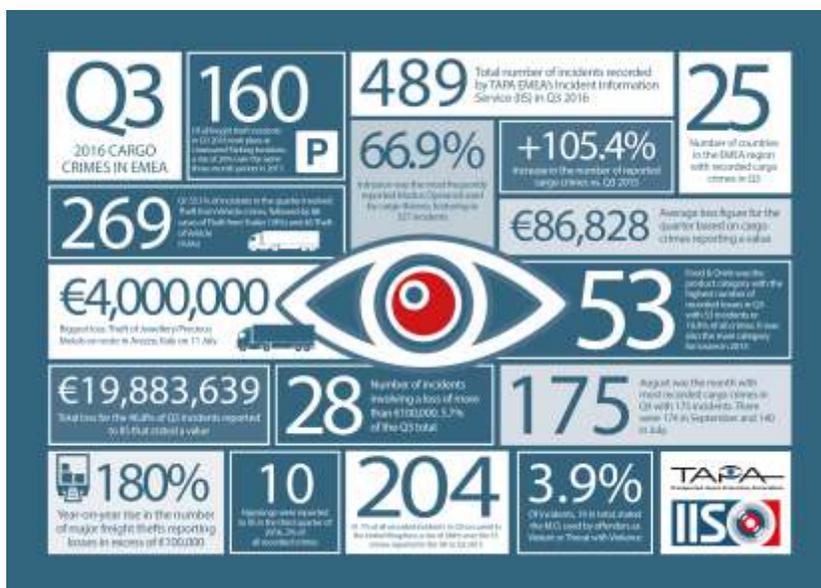
well as an incident history overlay showing the locations of previous cargo crimes reported to TAPA on the routes companies are planning to use.

TAPA's call for action comes as its latest data for thefts from supply chains in the region in Q3 2016 shows a total of 489 newly-recorded losses, more than five a day and up 105.4% year-on-year.

Neumann said the cooperation of the entire trucking industry in providing information on the type of incident, the modus operandi used by thieves and the products targeted in the attack, will tremendously help their members.

Authorities believe the level of risk in the UK and the Netherlands may be no greater than in a host of other countries where a reluctance to share intelligence results in a lower, but often misleading, level of recorded crimes.

In Q3 2016, 204 incidents of cargo crime were reported in the UK to TAPA's IIS, the Netherlands recorded 104 thefts, and Sweden 53. Over the three months, 49 further losses were reported in Germany, while Italy and South Africa both featured in 10 new incidents added to the IIS database.



recognised as the leading security standards for supply chain security.

It is also launching a new secure parking program for all parking owners to help identify and increase the number of secure parking places in the region through certification, partnership and mutual recognition.

during the transportation process. The growth in the number of recorded cargo crimes is an industry-wide problem and using intelligence is the best possible way to avoid becoming a victim,” said Neumann.

“However, there are still many countries, such as France, Germany,



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For many of us, traveling by plane is the most common way to reach our dream holiday spot. Depending on the season, this can be really costly but fast.

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History traces the origin of luxury cruising to 1900 when Prinzessin Victoria Luise of Germany was built. Others followed and the idea of traveling through luxury liners became even bigger with the popularity of the hit TV show *The Love Boat*.

And yes, who could forget the epic-romance of Jack Dawson (Leonardo DiCaprio) and Rose DeWitt Bukater (Kate Winslet) aboard the ill-fated *Titanic*.

Whether you have romance or pure adventures in mind, today's modern-

day cruising offers you value for money, comfort, lots of entertainment & unmatched amenities.

Celebrity Constellation

One of the most popular cruise liners out in the market is **Celebrity Constellation**. This 294-meter long ship recently called port in Dubai with its 2,000 passengers and 1,000 crew members.



TRAVEL



Dubai government officials with executives from DP World with the officers of Celebrity Constellation.



through April 2017, up by 16 percent compared to the same period which had just 134 luxury liners.

In terms of passengers, this means an additional 650,000 tourists visiting Dubai during the period.



The luxury liner is set to sail two nine-night cruises within the UAE and Oman, as well as longer trips from the UAE that follow the ancient Spice Route to the Indian cities of Cochin, Mangalore, Goa and Mumbai, before returning to home port in the UAE.

At each stop, passengers can have the chance to explore the city they are visiting and have fun.

This 12-storey luxury liner has all the facilities and amenities you could find in a five-star hotel—a fitness center, world-class bars and restaurants, a solarium, a garden, unique lounge areas, relaxing spa and beauty salon, retail stores and yes, even a casino.

Throughout your journey, you'll have "evening hors d'oeuvres" on a daily

basis, complimentary shoeshine service, free use of high-quality binoculars and VIP parties on board events.

The vessel also features what is being billed as the first Apple Specialist at sea – the Celebrity iLounge, a one-of-a-kind internet lounge with iLearn classes for photography, video and audio skills. Younger guests can head to Fun Factory for an enjoyable day of games and activities, while teenagers can experience the newest gaming consoles at X-Club.

157 ships and counting

Dubai Customs expects to receive 157 cruise ships from October 2016

"The strategic plan to attract a million cruise tourists by 2020 is on track following a clear road map. His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai is closely following up on this to make sure Dubai and the UAE become a regional and international hub for cruise tourism," said Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, Group Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of DP World.

These scheduled cruise trips to Dubai also means your chance to hop in one of those ships for a slew of adventures far less than what you'd pay if you traveled by plane.

As French novelist Andre Gide once said, "Man cannot discover new oceans unless he has the courage to lose sight of the shore."



AIRLINES



UAE National Day

Happy 45th UAE National Day! Dubai International's 89m-high Air Traffic Control (ATC) tower has been wrapped in a 700m² UAE flag, as the airport prepares to celebrate the 45th National Day on December 2. The stunning display of red, green, white and black was installed over the course of 12 days by a six-man team, using special access ropes. Supplied Photo

Ethiopian Airlines poised to serve Conakry and Oslo



Ethiopian Airlines Group CEO Tewolde GebreMariam proudly shows the trophy given to the carrier for winning for the fifth year in a row the Airline of the Year Award from the African Airlines Association (AFRAA). The awarding was held in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

ADDIS ABABA: Ethiopian Airlines is welcoming 2017 with more positive news: First, it will resume services to Conakry in the Republic of Guinea and it will start five weekly flights to Oslo, Norway via Stockholm, Sweden.

The fastest growing airline in Africa, Ethiopian Airlines announced its flight resumption in Conakry will begin on February 1 while the Oslo flights using the ultra-modern Boeing 787 Dreamliner will take effect on March 26, 2017.

Oslo is the capital, most populous city and governmental centre in Norway, a hub to the Norwegian trade,

has rich deposits of diamonds and gold.

With Ethiopian's entry into the Conakry market, passengers will also be able to connect to major cities in Asia, the Middle East and East and Southern Africa via Ethiopian's hub at Addis Ababa, including Beijing, Guangzhou, Shanghai, Beirut, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Seoul, Bangkok, Dubai, Mumbai, Johannesburg and Nairobi.

"We are delighted to have the opportunity to provide our customers a new choice of fast and efficient connectivity via our Addis Ababa gateway to and from our global network together with a multiple award winning customer service and care," said Mr. Tewolde GebreMariam, Group CEO of Ethiopian Airlines.

"Charting a route that joins Africa, East to West and North to South, Ethiopian is greatly contributing to the economic, tourism, and trade development of the African continent. We are proud to add Conakry among our West African destinations and further deepen our African route network. Conakry will be our 54th African and 96th international destination," he added.

Ethiopian Airlines commands the lion's share of the pan-African passenger and cargo network operating the youngest and most modern fleet to 95 international destinations across five continents.

It is currently implementing a 15-year strategic plan called Vision 2025 that will see it become the leading aviation group in Africa.

banking, industry and shipping.

Conakry is the capital of The Republic of Guinea and a port city on the Atlantic Ocean serving as the country's economic, financial and cultural center. Guinea is a major producer of bauxite and



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AIRLINES

Qatar to serve 15 new destinations starting next year

DOHA, Qatar: Qatar Airways will cover a total of 15 new destinations with the announcement of eight new routes it intends to serve starting 2017.

Qatar's flag carrier, touted as the fastest growing airline in the world, announced it will start serving next year these additional routes: Canberra, the airline's fifth destination in Australia; Dublin, Ireland; Las Vegas, the airline's 11th destination in the United States; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Santiago, Chile; Medan, Kualanamu International Airport, the airline's third destination in Indonesia; and Tabuk and Yanbu, the 9th and 10th destinations in Saudi Arabia.

Previously, it announced new flight services to: Auckland, New Zealand starting February 5, 2017, and will be the world's longest commercial flight; Sarajevo, Bosnia; Skopje, Macedonia; Libreville, Gabon; Nice, France; Chiang Mai, the airline's fourth destination in Thailand; and Douala, Cameroon.



Qatar Airways route network spans to more than 150 destinations on six continents around the world.

"We operate the world's youngest fleet, averaging just five years old, and we fly the most technologically advanced aircraft that provide our passengers with an award-winning experience while also ensuring the most efficient and environmentally friendly operations," said Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive Akbar

Al Baker.

"With today's network announcement, we will be able to connect more people to more places than any other Gulf airline, and we will ensure our passengers will delight in the journey. At Qatar Airways, we are going places together with our passengers, and we look forward to welcoming these new destinations in 2017-18."

Oman Air now flies to Guangzhou



MUSCAT: Oman Air has expanded its operations to Guangzhou, China in a bid to further strengthen political, economic and social links between Oman and China.

The inaugural flight to Guangzhou, China's third largest city, was launched on December 9 and is expected to meet customers' demand for more flights between the

two countries.

"It is always exciting to open a new destination and Guangzhou is a perfect choice to Oman Air's network. Guangzhou, the 54th destination on the WY network will be an added value meeting the demand of the traders and businessmen of the two countries, as well as to tradesmen from different neighboring countries,"

said Oman Air CEO Paul Gregorowitsch.

"Passengers on the new route can now enjoy their entire journey on our luxurious A330, configured with 196 Economy Class seats and 30 Business Class seats. The operation will initially offer four flights per week, and we are confident that this service will be a great success. We look forward to a long and prosperous presence within the Chinese market," he added.

Oman Air will run flights to Guangzhou from Muscat on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays using its wide-body A330. The planes take off from Muscat International Airport, Oman, at 1015 and reach Guangzhou at 2100.

Oman Air flights depart Guangzhou to Muscat on Sundays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 0625 and land in Muscat at 1100.

The airline's network expansion program runs in parallel to its major fleet expansion development that has seen the addition of Airbus A330, Boeing 737 and Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft to its fleet.

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AIRLINES

Flydubai adds Bangkok to daily routes outside of GCC

DUBAI: flydubai launched in November its daily flights to Bangkok, offering holidaymakers a variety of experiences from adventure, sports, health and wellness retreats.

The Dubai-based budget airline says its Bangkok flights will also provide passengers with alternative travel options to neighboring Southeast Asian countries.

Commenting on the launch of the new route, Ghaith Al Ghaith, Chief Executive Officer at flydubai, said the launch of the Bangkok route, the first outside of the region “is a significant milestone for our airline and represents the increasing maturity of flydubai’s network.”

Reflecting on the recent passing of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, Ghaith Al Ghaith added: “We would like to express our heartfelt condolences to the Thai people on the loss of their King. flydubai joins the nation in mourning their leader.”

Speaking at a press conference held with the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), Sudhir Sreedharan, Senior Vice



flydubai CEO Ghaith Al Ghaith, center, presides over a press briefing announcing the airline’s new daily flights between Dubai and Bangkok.

President, Commercial (GCC, Subcontinent and Africa) for flydubai, said: “Bangkok is one of the most visited tourist destinations in the world, offering a wide range of attractions and activities. With the addition of this important city to flydubai’s growing network we will not only offer passengers from Dubai alternative travel options through Thailand, but additionally connect

Thailand to Russia and Europe via Dubai, strengthening the UAE’s position as an international travel hub.”

Thailand is the latest addition to flydubai’s network of more than 90 destinations, offering increased choice and flexibility for business and leisure passengers.

The airline has added eight new aircraft to its fleet.

Gulf Air adds Colombo to its growing network



MANAMA: The Kingdom of Bahrain’s flag carrier, Gulf Air, will add Colombo, Sri Lanka, to its network of destinations starting January 19, 2017.

The carrier will have five weekly flights to and from Bandaranaike

International Airport in Colombo, the business capital of Sri Lanka which is also strong in terms of international tourism because of its beautiful beaches and scenic spots.

Gulf Air says the move is

in line with their business strategy to further strengthen its position as one of the leading airlines in the Middle East providing vital link to business and tourism destinations.

“We are pleased to re-connect Bahrain and Colombo, meeting the demands of our customers across the globe and tapping into the significant commercial opportunity that exists from business and leisure travelers from both countries and, of course, facilitating connections for travelers across our network,” said Gulf Air Chief Executive Officer Maher Salman Al Musallam.

“This is a promising development which we believe will start 2017 on the right note, building momentum for Gulf Air’s further development over the course of the next year.”

Gulf Air currently serves 41 cities in 24 countries spanning across three continents.

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AIRPORTS

Lufthansa Technik & DC Aviation Group perform first A-Check in Dubai

DUBAI: Lufthansa Technik and DC Aviation Group recently performed the first A-check for a narrow-body aircraft at the Al Maktoum International Airport (Dubai World Central Airport) in Dubai.

The services were provided for an Airbus A319 of an undisclosed customer from the region in the hangars and VIP facilities of DC Aviation Al-Futtaim, a joint venture of DC Aviation and Al-Futtaim.

The workscope of about 350 hours included the check of all systems which are relevant to flight safety, the exchange of several components, the completion of service bulletins and as a special topic the test of the ram air turbine.

As part of the cooperation agreement that dates back to May 2016, the product portfolio consists of regular checks as well as maintenance



services, including unplanned repairs for example in the case of an AOG (Aircraft on Ground). It also features services for aircraft cabins, including small modifications. Moreover, plans call for a mobile aircraft and cabin service to serve the region.

Around-the-clock facilities for entry procedures and customs clearance will ensure seamless support allowing for highest levels of convenience and privacy. A hangar extending over 5,700 square meters of floor space can accommodate business jets up to the size of an Airbus A320 or Boeing 737.

Iran, Boeing seal \$16.5B deal on new planes



TEHRAN: US aircraft manufacturer Boeing is set to deliver 80 new planes to Iran within a 10-year-period as part of their \$16.5 billion (about Dh61 billion) contract finalized on December 11.

Farhad Parvaresh, managing director of the Civil Aviation

Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran and chief executive of Iran Air, said 50 of the planes are B-737 and the remaining 30 are long haul 777, which should modernize the country's aging fleet.

Boeing officials signed the landmark deal in Tehran, the first since the 1979

Islamic revolution turned the two countries against each other.

According to the Flight Safety Foundation, Iran has some of the worst safety aviation records in the world partly because of its aging fleet and lack of new parts for repair.

Iran is separately buying 100 planes from the European firm Airbus in a bid to further modernize its fleet.

Plans are also afoot to remodel its aging international airport to accommodate the new planes and more passengers as it opens up for more international trade.

Iran will receive \$100 billion from the US as part of its nuclear deal that lifts its economic sanctions.

The finalization of the Boeing deal came amid talks in Washington that President-elect Donald Trump plans to rip up the nuclear accord that the Obama administration forged.



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EXECUTIVE MOMENTS

Zubkov is new TIACA secretary general

FLORIDA: Volga-Dnepr Group of Companies Vice President Vladimir Zubkov will be TIACA's new Secretary General, replacing Doug Brittin, who retires at the end of the year.

"I am honored to be leading the only organization that represents all parts of the air cargo supply chain," Zubkov said in a statement.

"Building on Doug's successes with the regulators and key international organizations, we will continue to work closely together with ICAO, IATA, the World Customs Organization (WCO), freight forwarder organizations, Airports Council International (ACI), and all other partners, to ensure that the new regulations are implemented in

a uniform way across the industry," he added.

Zubkov has more than 40 years experience in the air transport industry, including senior roles with ICAO, TIACA, the Global Air Cargo Advisory Group (GACAG) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA) Industry Affairs Committee.

He vows to focus on more recruitment in the Far and Middle East, Latin America and Africa, where the industry remains under represented. Before joining Volga-Dnepr in 2008, Zubkov spent over 20 years with ICAO, where he was Director of Air Transport Bureau and later Director of Planning and Global



Vladimir Zubkov

Coordination.

He worked for 10 years with Aeroflot, and began his career at Moscow Sheremetyevo Airport. He has a Master's degree in Air Transport Management from the Civil Aviation Academy of Leningrad.

B&H Worldwide names new RMD for EMEA



Mark Nightingale

LONDON: Specialist aerospace logistics and warehousing provider B & H Worldwide has appointed Mark Nightingale as Regional Managing Director, EMEA. He joins the company from UPS where he held the position of Managing Director Freight Forwarding for UK, Ireland and Nordics.

Nightingale is a highly accomplished leader in multi-national logistics and has wide experience in developing and driving forward customer focused solutions for global customers.

AT B&H, he will be responsible for leading the operations, developing new business and delivering exemplary customer service across the region. The company's key offices at London Heathrow, Manchester and Hamburg will all come under his remit as well as dedicated partners across EMEA.

B&H Worldwide CEO Stuart Allen said: "We are delighted to welcome Mark to our senior leadership. I am confident his management skills and entrepreneurial spirit will help us develop and drive forward our business in both new and existing markets. He is a results-driven individual with a strategic understanding and vision who can lead this region to deliver its full potential."

Waller is SEVA's new chief finance officer

NETHERLANDS: CEVA Logistics, one of the world's largest supply chain management companies, has recently named Peter Waller as Chief Finance Officer and member of the Executive Board.

Peter brings experience in the travel, logistics, business services and internet/e-commerce industries. He has previously been Group CFO at Eurofins Scientific and spent over eight years with the Thomas Cook Group in London and Frankfurt where he held roles including CFO of its online division, as Investor Relations Director and as Group Financial Controller for its German airline subsidiary Condor.

He has also served as a management consultant at several firms. Peter received his MBA from ESSEC and the University of Mannheim and a PhD in Strategy from the University of Paderborn in Germany.

"We are delighted that Peter is joining CEVA. His strong commercial and strategic financial expertise and leadership skills make him an excellent fit for CEVA. He will be a real asset in allowing us to reach our next level of performance," said Xavier Urbain, CEO.

Peter Waller succeeds Arjan Kaaks, who has chosen to leave CEVA to pursue new opportunities. We would like to thank Arjan for his contributions to CEVA.



Peter Waller



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Casino Convention Resort, Emperors Palace in City of Ekurhuleni, Johannesburg, South Africa

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Five previous editions of the summit allowed the newest generation of industry executives to express their viewpoints and make a sound contribution to the global air cargo agenda.

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