

air cargo update

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



First Priority Cargo Logistics simplified

Anvar Majeed
Director, UAE

السعودية SAUDIA CARGO

The Lounge



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Vice Chairman, Al Reyami Group



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EDITORIAL

Monthly: Vol 08 | Issue 10 | No. 68
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

Modernization is growth

Regardless of your status in life, technology is there. Sometimes you see it. Sometimes you don't. But it's impacting how you live and even those in far flung places on earth.

There's the internet. The smart mobile phones. The gadgets. Online banking. Online shopping. The things we use at home. The high-tech healthcare treatment tools and methods. The mall doors that automatically open when sensing people. Robots answering your queries in various airports in Europe or serving restaurants in Tokyo and China. The automated bus and rail tickets, the unmanned trains and the list goes on.

More than half of the people on the planet, about 3.8 billion in recent estimates, have access to the internet. And by 2019, the number of mobile phone users is forecast to exceed 5 billion globally. That's how fast technology is reaching out to the world.

The air cargo industry is no exception to the increasing influence of the digital world on how we do business and live our lives. At the recently held biennial Air Cargo Forum in Canada, digitalization was touted as the new world. And the industry, like it or not, must catch up to keep up with its demands.

In this edition, we'll bring you stories about digitalization, the latest in aerospace in the Middle East, news and features about the industry and the supply chain. On **The Lounge**, we have an Emirati businessman who loves doing off-road driving and camping in the desert with his farm animals.

These and more in the November edition of **Air Cargo Update**.

Gemma Q. Casas
Editor-in-Chief

Correction

In last month's cover story about Mateen Express titled "**Connecting Iraq to the world**," we inadvertently described Antonov-12 as the largest cargo plane. The Russian-made Antonov 225 is the world's largest cargo plane and AN-12 carries only 14 tons. Our apologies.

Let us hear from you

For press releases, ideas or opinions, send us a Letter to the Editor at **gemma@7dimensionsmedia.com**. We would be delighted to hear from you.

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Program Highlights

- The big picture on Air Cargo & the global supply chain
- Will Middle East keep its position as leading cargo gateway?
- Innovation in Logistics & Supply Chain
- Artificial Intelligence in logistics - what to expect?
- Shipper's view
- Expo 2020 -assessment of procurement of opportunities
- Building world competitive airports/cargo hubs
- E-commerce -redefining industry relationship
- Humanitarian logistics
- The future of the air cargo industry

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The LOUNGE

Sporty businessman loves off-road driving and desert camping

“ I spend most of my free time enjoying camping in the desert, especially during winter time. I feel that I need to get out of the town. Get some fresh air, touch and play the sand. I have sheep, chickens, birds and some rabbits in the camp.”

With plenty of scenic deserts and sand dunes, especially in the capital Abu Dhabi, home to the world's tallest and largest sand dunes towering at hundreds of meters, the United Arab Emirates' natural landscape harmoniously blends with people seeking ways to relax and reflect.

Khalifa Al Reyami, vice chairman of Al Reyami Group, one of the biggest in the country with 15 companies under its wing, is among those who find comfort in spending time in the desert much like the Bedouin ancestors of the UAE who harnessed the power of the desert to bring clarity to one's mind.

The Al Reyami Group began as a humble furniture store in 1994 with just five employees. Al Reyami says his father, founder and chairman, Rashid Mubarak Saif Al Reyami, a retired military official, eventually grew his business to become one of the biggest in the furniture and interiors industry, giving rise to more than 20 other subsidiaries in the steel, shipping & logistics, technologies, publishing & printing, among many other sectors.

At its peak, Al Reyami Group had over 8,000 employees with annual gross income of over AED600 million, records showed.

The Al Reyamis treat their employees like family and many of them have been there since inception.



Khalifa Al Reyami
Vice Chairman, Al Reyami Group

The younger Al Reyami who now runs the family business says the desert brings him unmatched peace and happiness. He spends most of his free time camping in the desert with only the stars, the moon and his pets by his side.

“I spend most of my free time enjoying camping in the desert, especially during winter time,” Al Reyami shared to **Air Cargo Update** in an interview at the company's headquarters in Dubai. “I feel that I need to get out of the town. Get some fresh air, touch and play the sand. I have sheep, chickens, birds and some rabbits in the camp.”

During summer, Al Reyami says he spends time at the gym to stay healthy and fit.

Al Reyami is also into off-road driving, one of the most exciting things you can experience in the Middle East with rugged terrain and towering sand dunes that collapse at every turn, giving you that indescribable adrenaline-rush. The businessman even had a special car built in the United States for his hobby.

“I have my off-road car built in America. You cannot drive it on the road. It's a special car,” he said.

With the welfare of his five daughters on top of his priority, Al Reyami said he ditched the fast cars a long time ago in favor of off-road driving which is safer.

“I love fast cars but I have five daughters and I have to take care of them,” said Al Reyami, a former aircraft mechanic at the UAE Air Force before deciding to fully run their family business.

Nowadays, Al Reyami says he drives Nissan Patrol most of the time because it's economical, family-friendly, spacious and flexible enough to be driven on the road or off-road.



Turkish Cargo taps CHAMP to handle over 1M shipment data

FRANKFURT/TORONTO: Turkish Cargo has signed up with CHAMP Cargosystems to use its Traxon CDMP quality management solution to handle its data of over 1 million shipments annually.

The solution measures over 40% of the worldwide Cargo iQ airline shipments. It has been developed with new functionalities and user-friendly features to serve additional quality measuring and monitoring needs that go beyond the Cargo iQ scope.

"We are glad that it guides us to gain experience about utilizing Cargo iQ for quality management," said Turhan Özen, Chief Cargo Officer of Turkish Cargo. "We



upgrade our quality standards and take important steps towards our target for being one of the top five global air cargo brands."

Arnaud Lambert, CEO at CHAMP Cargosystems, said the company is delighted that Turkish Cargo has decided to expand the use of its portfolio.

"We are confident Turkish Cargo will experience the benefits of Cargo iQ and will further improve efficient quality management," he said, noting that CHAMP's solution is designed to bring a wider range of possibilities to improve business efficiency.



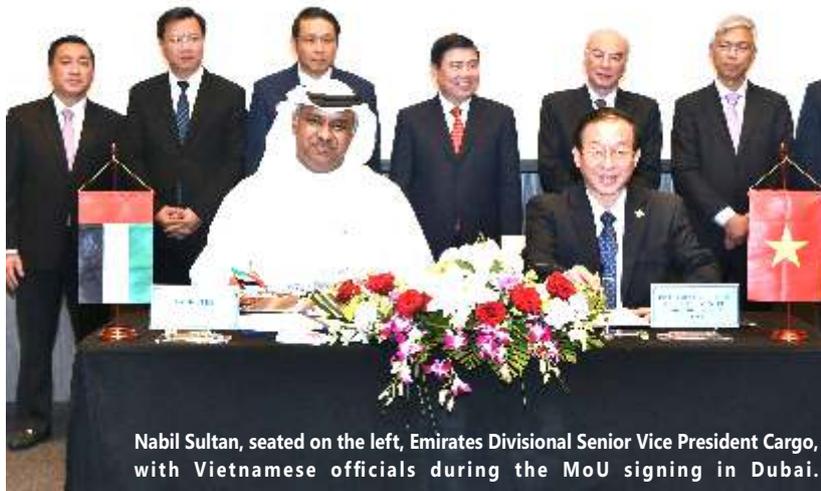
How we got a cruise ship running again.

When a cruise ship was stuck in a docking area last summer, we delivered a spare drive shaft for the ship's propeller as quickly as possible from Zurich to the Port of Hamburg so that the ship could start operating again without further revenue losses. This is just one of the many success stories we share with our customers.



GLOBAL NEWS

Emirates SkyCargo and Vietnam explore more trade opportunities



Nabil Sultan, seated on the left, Emirates Divisional Senior Vice President Cargo, with Vietnamese officials during the MoU signing in Dubai.

DUBAI: Emirates SkyCargo has transported close to 50,000 tons of Vietnamese exports and imports over the past two years, prompting the company to forge an MoU with the Investment and Tourism Promotion Center of Ho Chi Minh City (ITPC) to jointly explore opportunities to promote trade to and from Vietnam.

Emirates SkyCargo says the value of exports and imports from Vietnam grew by 13% in the first half of 2018 compared to the same period in 2017.

The agreement was signed in Dubai by Nabil Sultan, Emirates Divisional Senior Vice President, Cargo and Phạm Thiết Hòa, ITPC Director, signed it on behalf of the agency in their homeland.

Emirates SkyCargo has played a key role in supporting trade between Vietnam and the rest of the world since the start of its operations in Hanoi in 2008. Over the last decade, the air cargo carrier has scaled up the number of freighter and passenger

flights to Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi, offering incremental support to Vietnamese businesses in reaching out to their global customers.

Through its partners, Emirates has also been able to support businesses from other Vietnamese cities such as Da Nang. Its vast network of over 160 destinations has also helped Vietnamese exports reach new markets.

In 2017, Emirates SkyCargo supported a near five-fold increase in the volume of perishables such as rambutans and lychees from Vietnam to Dubai working in close cooperation with Vietrade. Currently, Emirates SkyCargo offers a total weekly cargo capacity of well over 1400 tons for exports and imports to Vietnam.

The main commodities transported from the region include fruits and vegetables, garments, sporting apparel and fresh fish. Emirates Fresh, the carrier's specialized solution for perishables, ensures that all perishables traveling from Vietnam retain maximum freshness during their journey. In addition to its daily passenger flights, customers can also transport their cargo on two weekly freighter services from Ho Chi Minh City.

Cargolux pledges support to United for Wildlife International Taskforce

LUXEMBOURG: Cargolux has pledged support to United for Wildlife International Taskforce's campaign to protect the interest of animals with illegal wildlife trade still a major concern globally.

The airline says the move ensures it recognizes the devastating impact of illegal wildlife trade and a commitment not to take part or facilitate it in any way.

"We are proud to add this declaration to the number of steps that have been taken by Cargolux to fight the illegal trade of animals and animal parts. We are strongly committed to promoting and taking part in conservation and environmental efforts. As a key player, it is our job to set the standard for an ethical and sustainable industry," says

Richard Forson, President and CEO of Cargolux.

The United for Wildlife Foundation welcomes Cargolux's engagement, underscoring the importance of transport companies in the fight against trafficking.

"By forming partnerships such as the one we have with Cargolux, United for Wildlife is bringing new voices to the conservation discussion to identify and implement solutions. The Transport Taskforce brings together transport stakeholders,



including key airlines, with law enforcement and other agencies to facilitate action led by the private sector," said Robert Campbell, Program Manager at the United for Wildlife Taskforce.

Gulf Air opts for ECS Group's Aero Cargo to handle freight in France



PARIS: Gulf Air has chosen ECS Group's partner Aero Cargo France to handle cargo services from Paris to its hub in Bahrain as it resumes services between the routes.

Bahrain's national carrier will also task Aero Cargo to sell priority high-yield cargo—Express, mail, pharmaceuticals and perishables. ECS Group's subsidiary Globe Air Cargo is the GSA for Gulf Air in the UK.

"We are really excited to be part of Gulf Air's expansion plans. We will do our best to ensure that it's successful and continue to support Gulf's strategy of being a premium carrier, focusing on high yields and high service levels," Adrien Thominet, CEO of ECS Group, said in a statement.

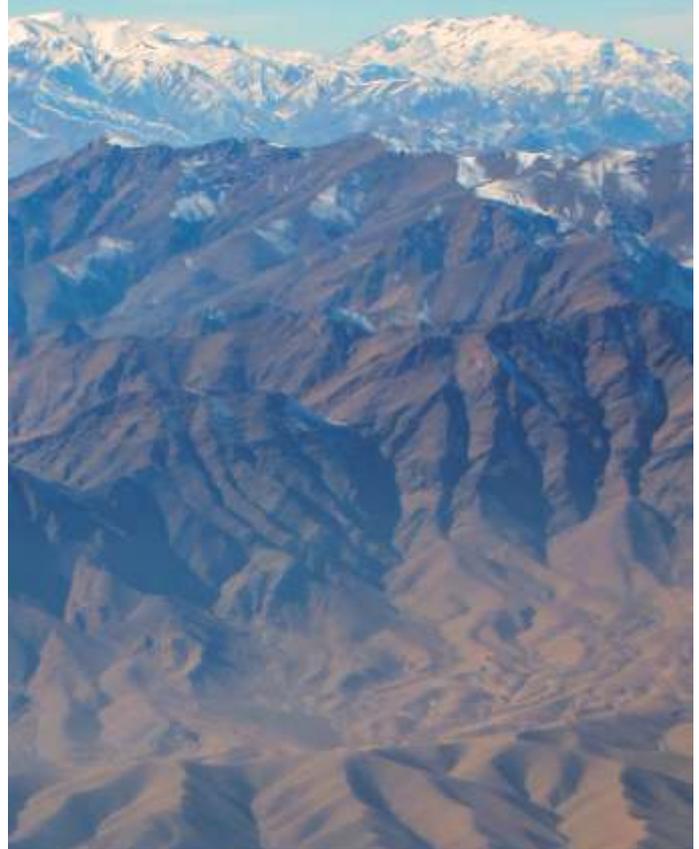
Jean Ceccaldi, managing director of Aero Cargo France, for his part, said: "Aero Cargo has great connections in its home market. We will use this to best advantage whilst representing this premium airline."

Aero Cargo France other marketing routes, include but are not limited to: Bahrain (BAH), Dubai (DXB), Jeddah (JED), Medina (MED), Riyadh (RUH), Cairo (CAI), Bangkok (BKK), Peshawar (PEW), Islamabad (ISB), Lahore (LHE), Karachi (KHI), Addis Ababa (ADD), Khartoum (KRT), Dhaka (DAC), Manila (MNL), Dammam (DMM).

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GLOBAL NEWS

India aims to become Asia's MRO hub



NEW DELHI: With India becoming more popular on all things technical like IT and its GDP steadily increasing, the country also aims to become the maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) hub for Asia's growing aviation industry.

India is presently the fastest growing civil aviation market in the world with every 1% increase on its GDP translating to 2% growth in its aviation sector. And this growth has thrown open opportunities in another sector, the aviation maintenance sector, officials said.

Issues on India's growing MRO industry would be discussed in the two-day conference Aerospace & Defence MRO South Asia Summit in New Delhi scheduled for January 17-18, 2019 organized by the STAT Times of India.

The Government of India's emphasis on indigenization in manufacturing has shifted the focus on opportunities in the aviation maintenance sector, which has not grown commensurately. Experts say each aircraft requires 7 aircraft engineers and with the right talent available in India, India has all the credentials to become the MRO hub in Asia in the future.

Jayant Sinha, India's Minister of State for Civil Aviation, in his message to STAT Times said: "There is a remarkable business opportunity to develop MRO capabilities within India following the massive anticipated increase in demand for both civilian and defence aircraft. Developing indigenous maintenance capabilities will save precious foreign exchange for our country and also will boost

manufacturing activities within the country, which is the aim of the 'Make in India' program initiated by our Honorable Prime Minister."

India's Ministry of Civil Aviation (MOCA) has made several provisions in its recent budget towards achieving this objective: exemption from customs duties, improved clearance processes for imported parts and components, and enabling the facilitation of appropriate visas and temporary landing permits.

The main theme will focus on the opportunities that these initiatives have created in the context of the fast changing dynamics of Aviation industry.

The 2nd Aerospace and Defence MRO South Asia Summit 2019 is supported by Air India Engineering Services Limited, Ultra Aerospace, Ramco Systems, Compass Law Associates and Avion World.

Notable participants to the event include Air India Engineering Services Ltd.(AIESL), Boeing ,Ultra Aerospace, Ramco, Compass Law Associates, Airport Authority of India, Aeronautical Society of India, Indian Air Force, Airbus, Air Vistara, IIT Mumbai, Stelae Technologies, Rollis Royce, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas, Balmer Lawrie, Indian Railways, Blue Dart Aviation, KPMG, Max Aerospace, AAR Corp. STS Component, Henkel Adhesive Tech., ASSA ABLOY Entrance, IBS Software Services, Honeywell Corporate, Vector Aerospace Engine Services, Hawker Pacific, MARPOSS INDIA Pvt. Ltd. Reheat International Ltd., Chapman Freeborn, Inter Freight Pvt. Ltd, MAG Engine Systems Pvt. Ltd, FL Technics and Wipro Aerospace.

Hong Kong to screen cargo outside of airports

HONG KONG: Cargo in this former British colony will soon be screened outside of airports following the Civil Aviation Department's announcement it has launched the Regulated Air Cargo Screening Facilities (RACSF) Scheme as part of international law's call for more protection against threats of terrorism.

CAD had since opened the operation of the air cargo screening facilities at off-airport locations for bids.

"To enhance the level of aviation security in view of the rising threats of terrorism around the globe, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has issued a new policy direction whereby one way to strengthen air cargo security, apart from enhancing the Regulated Agent Regime, is to have all air cargo subject to security screening by June 30, 2021," CAD explained in a statement, adding that the government has been working closely with the air cargo industry to meet new international aviation security requirements.

Air freight is currently screened at cargo terminals of airports around Hong Kong.

In anticipation of more cargo volumes coming to the city, the government says it must start working on the off-airport scheme early.

"The establishment of off-airport screening facilities will enable air cargoes to be screened at the existing warehouses or similar premises of the air cargo industry before such cargoes are transported to the airport for loading onto aircraft," CAD said.



Air Charter Service carries 600 tons of relief goods to Indonesia

LONDON: Air Charter Service has delivered more than 600 tons of aid to Indonesia after it was devastated by earthquake and tsunami in recent weeks.

The company's global offices in 34 countries are also sourcing aircraft to carry relief goods to the region apart from helping charities attend to survivors following the tragic incidents in September.

Over the past few weeks Air Charter Service's global offices have been sourcing aircraft to carry relief goods to the region.

"The 7.5 magnitude earthquake and subsequent tsunami caused widespread damage to the Sulawesi coast of Indonesia – tens of thousands of homes have been

destroyed and there are hundreds of thousands of people now homeless," said Dan Morgan-Evans, Group Cargo Director for ACS. "The death toll from the natural disaster has now exceeded 2,000, with many thousands of people still missing. Our US, Asian and European offices have all been heavily involved in the humanitarian effort since, on behalf of our clients."

"We have been flying in different types of much needed aid, such as shelter kits and water purifying tablets on a variety of aircraft types, including Antonov AN-12s, Boeing B757s and B777s. There are a lot of



aid supplies stockpiled in Malaysia and the surrounding area so, once the aircraft were sourced, many of the operations have been swift," he added.

ACS had also flown in relief goods from the Middle East and Europe out of 20 charters to the region that its offices have arranged so far.

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GLOBAL NEWS

WFS and THAI Cargo sign 5-year cargo handling contract

LONDON: Worldwide Flight Services (WFS) began providing on September 1 cargo handling services to THAI Cargo in its offices in the UK and Ireland.

Under the companies' five-year contract, WFS will provide cargo handling for THAI's double daily Airbus A380 and Boeing 777 flights from London Heathrow to Bangkok as well as regional cargo handling across its UK and Ireland stations and trucking network connecting each airport location.

The Thai Cargo team in the UK and Ireland will also relocate to WFS' Building 550 in the World Cargo Centre at Heathrow, where THAI will have a dedicated export facility with direct air-side access.

The location is also conveniently situated adjacent to the UK Border Inspection Post (BIP) at Heathrow.

"We are extremely proud that THAI Cargo chose WFS to support its continued growth in the UK and



Ireland. Our ability to provide a dedicated location at Heathrow alongside our stations and trucking network connecting all the major cargo points of the UK and Ireland all contributed to our successful tender for this contract," said Patrick Roberts, VP UK & Ireland at WFS.

"This gives us further opportunity to enhance our growing relationship with THAI Cargo at another major airport gateway in Europe and we look forward to providing the highest quality standards of service, safety & security for THAI and its customers."



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New cargo center is hoped to help poor Ugandans

KAMPALA, UGANDA: The oil-and-gas rich but poor African country of Uganda is hoping its new cargo center will generate more business activities once it opens to raise the standard of living of many Ugandans.

Funded by the Government of South Korea, Uganda's Entebbe International Airport began undergoing renovation and expansion in 2016. The project will be carried through 2035 with total budget of US\$586 million.

In August, the Ministry of State Works reported about 80% of the new cargo center's aircraft parking apron is already complete; 35% of the cargo terminal building is done, and; 90% of works for the landside and airside access roads were accomplished.

The airport's runway, which is also undergoing rehabilitation, is expected to be completed by end-2018.

"Works for rehabilitation and strengthening of the old runway 12/30 commenced in May 2018 and are expected to be completed by the end of 2018. The works are undertaken by China



Minister of the State Works Gen. Katumba Wamala and other Uganda officials doing an ocular inspection at the site.

Communication Construction Company (CCCC), which is also handling the ongoing construction of a new 100,000 tons capacity cargo center," said Minister of the State Works Gen. Katumba Wamala during a recent inspection at the site.

The general said the airport and the cargo center are crucial in developing the country's economy largely dependent on exporting coffee, base metals, tobacco and cocoa beans, including re-exporting oil.

"Entebbe International Airport plays an important role in promoting tourism, trade and leisure travel. This is the best time to

say positive things about our country because passenger experience is going to improve significantly with the upgrade of our airport," he said.

One of the poorest nations in the world despite its vast crude and natural oil reserves, Uganda was once a British protectorate. It gained independence in 1962 but the succeeding years were marred with violence over power struggle among its leaders.

Today, Uganda continues to rebuild its economy severely shattered during the regime of strongman Idi Amin, a civil war and the invasion of the Democratic Republic of Congo that led to the deaths of nearly 6 million people.

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Program highlights

- Africa - The Big Picture
- Regulatory and Industry Initiatives in Africa
- Developing African Cargo Networks
- Perishables Logistics
- Hot Spots
- Humanitarian & Relief Logistics
- Ground Handling & Infrastructure Improvements
- Future Prospects for Air Cargo in Africa

Confirmed speakers

Fitsum Abady, Managing Director, Ethiopian Cargo Services
Lyndee du Toit, CEO South Africa, Air Charter Service
Sanjeev Gadhia, CEO, Astral Aviation
Jane Ngige, CEO, Kenya Horticultural Council
Rishi Ramrakha, Head of Regional Logistics Unit
 Africa, Int'l. Fed. of Red Cross & Crescent Societies (IFRC)
Jeroen van der Hulst, Managing Director, FlowerWatch
Steven Verhasselt, Commercial Director, Liege Airport
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Saudia Cargo teams up with Gallup to develop human capital

JEDDAH: Saudi Airlines Cargo Company has signed up a three-year agreement with Gallup Inc., the global management consulting company, to study and develop the air carrier's employee trends and performance levels.

Saudia Cargo CEO Omar Talal Hariri said the company attaches great significance to the development of its human capital, its greatest asset.

The company also aims to turn the Kingdom into one of the major global logistics platforms in line with Saudi's Vision 2030.

"The agreement aims to create and implement clear strategy and vision to increase the company's client base and launch an internal program speeding up the implementation of

the transformation strategy and creating conducive environment that enhances culture of sharing. Gallup will provide consultations to executive officers and directors of departments to help them achieve and surpass the expectations of clients," said Hariri.

The three-year agreement will help Saudia Cargo enhance its vision and values and meet the expectations of staff members while retaining capable employees who can support company objectives.

Saudi Arabia has initiated economic reforms which call for empowering its young population in the labor sector. Logistics and freight are among industries where Saudis are badly needed.



Omar Talal Hariri
Saudia Cargo CEO

Saudia Cargo had announced plans to increase productivity and enter into more strategic partnerships to fortify its position in worldwide logistics and the global cargo map.

CargoLogicAir takes delivery of fourth 747 freighter



LONDON: CargoLogicAir (CLA), the UK's only maindeck cargo airline, received its fourth Boeing 747 freighter amid continued growth and demand for its services this year.

The latest 747-400ERF joins the airline's fleet on an operating lease and will initially be used to meet customer demand on CLA's US routes. The delivery also keeps CLA on track with its five-year growth strategy, based on the airline operating a fleet of five freighters by 2020.

David Kerr, CEO of CargoLogicAir, said "2018 has been our busiest year of

operations so far with volumes and revenues doubling in the first nine months compared to last year."

"The delivery of our fourth 747F will enable us to meet peak season demand, especially in our core US market, and increase our options in terms of frequencies and new routes as we head into 2019. We are continuing to consult with our customers to identify where they need maindeck cargo capacity and expect to be adding new destinations to our network in the first quarter of next year," said Kerr.

Additional aircraft capacity will also

enable customers to benefit further from seamless connections into the international network of CLA's strategic partner, AirBridgeCargo Airlines, extending its reach to more markets in Europe, Russia, the Americas and Asia Pacific.

Headquartered close to London Heathrow Airport and with its main operating base at London Stansted, CLA's growing route network connects customers in the UK with prime export markets in Europe, North America, the Middle East and Asia Pacific, as well as enabling international businesses to supply goods to British companies and consumers.

CLA's network is designed to support customers in key industry sectors which require scheduled maindeck cargo services to serve their key markets, such as Houston and the United Arab Emirates for oil & gas shipments, Atlanta for pharmaceutical, aerospace and automotive cargoes, Mexico City for automotive parts and components, and Hong Kong's thriving e-commerce market to the UK and Europe.



LOGISTICS NEWS

DB Schenker trains logistics personnel with 3D technology and virtual reality



ESSEN: DB Schenker logistics employees in Leipzig have undergone training utilizing 3D technology and virtual reality in carrying out their responsibilities.

Jointly developed by experts from the Fraunhofer Institute and DB Schenker, the training program dubbed "Enterprise Lab for Logistics and Digitalization" focuses on packaging and order-picking processes.

DB Schenker said the training program is built around six exercises that teach participants about the processes from start to finish by encouraging playful learning. The employee training course is currently

available in German and English, and additional languages can easily be added.

"We have been successfully collaborating with the Fraunhofer Institute for several years, and we have already jointly developed numerous transport and logistics solutions of the future. This innovative employee training program marks yet another milestone in the digitalization of logistics processes and in DB Schenker's focus on Logistics 4.0," said Erik Wirsing, Vice President Global Innovation at Schenker AG.

A virtual reality (VR) version of the exercises is also in the works. Deutsche Bahn leads Germany in the use of VR

for training purposes, since opportunities to train with real equipment during ongoing operations are frequently limited.

In virtual environments, employees can be trained to complete tasks such as opening nose covers and operating wheelchair lifts on ICE 4 trains. DB Schenker is drawing on this technology, too: its employees can don 3D glasses to step into a virtual world where they can interact with the training environment and even learn movement sequences.

This makes it considerably easier for employees to navigate the transition from the virtual environment to the real one. The technology offers employees an opportunity to perform extensive testing on logistics processes that are still in the implementation phase before they advance to the next phase. In addition, training in a virtual environment increases the efficiency, quality and speed of training.

The training program was recently launched and is currently being used to train employees at DB Schenker's site in Leipzig. There are plans to expand the program to other contract logistics sites.

Air cargo & digitalization at logitrans Turkey

HOLZWICKEDE: Rhenus Group has expanded its air and ocean freight network in Germany with the opening of two new offices in Hanover and Dortmund.

The company said the new sites are designed to appeal to customers in the metropolitan regions of Hannover-Brunswick-Göttingen-Wolfsburg and Rhein-Ruhr which have a combined population of close to 14 million and the presence. The areas are also home to many large and medium-sized companies.

"The German market for us is of

strategic importance. In particular, trade and industry such as the automotive industry and the chemical industry are strong. Germany not only has a central location in Central Europe, but also convinces by its good infrastructure and international trade contacts," said Tobias Bartz, CEO of Rhenus.

Apart from international transport, Rhenus also takes care of



all import and export customs formalities for its clients. Across Germany, the company has 13 sites and is now growing connections to America and Asia.

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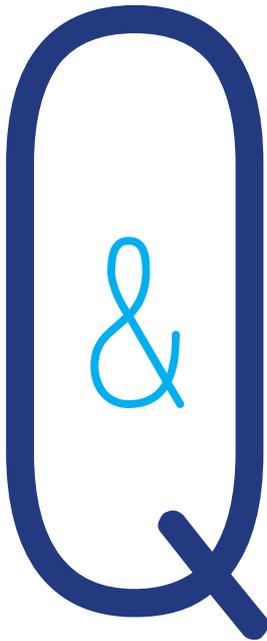
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Exclusive Q&A



A with Nael Attiyat

Text By Vasujit Kalia
Edited By Gemma Q. Casas

Known for his innovative ideas with a strong will to make a difference where possible, Nael Attiyat, head of cargo at Royal Jordanian Cargo, is highly regarded in the global air freight industry.

After earning his Bachelor's Degree in Geophysics at Damascus University, Attiyat began his career in the industry with DHL Jordan in 1996.

He spent more than 15 years of his solid 22 years in the industry with DHL, rising from the ranks, giving him full understanding of the inner workings of the global air freight sector.

He also worked for major companies like TNT and OSN in key management roles before moving to Royal Jordanian Cargo in 2016 where



Nael Attiyat, Head of Cargo at Royal Jordanian Cargo

he is credited for making significant restructuring, making the company more profitable and competitive regionally and globally.

In an exclusive interview with

Air Cargo Update, Attiyat, who also studied at Cambridge University and holds an MBA from New York's Rutgers Business School, shares his insights and thoughts on Jordan's



top air freight company and the air cargo industry in general.

Royal Jordanian Cargo is one of the leading air freight carriers in the Middle East serving more than 28 airports throughout the Arab world and 22 points in Europe, what makes it superior to its competitors?

Thousands of years ago, Jordan played a major role in what was called at that time the "Silk Road" wherein it was recognized as the "Regional Distribution Centre" due to its favorable location, weather conditions and its ability to deliver on its tasks.

RJ Cargo is building on those facts in giving value to the logistical world's map towards meaningful methods of transportation. Jordan's geographical location and its ideal weather condition help in the supply chain in guaranteeing speed, consistency, ideal cost modeling and flexibility.

With that in mind, and knowing that we have a dynamic network of freighter and passenger aircraft, we managed to add great value to the supply chain globally.

With a great team, we're able to provide the right solutions connecting the Far East, Europe, the United States to the Middle East, focusing on offering quality transit while meeting the growing demand for efficient air transportation.

How has the air freight industry transformed over the last few years in your opinion?

With regional dynamics and changes that are happening, along

with increased demand for e-Commerce (B to C) regionally and globally, a new dimension in air freight service came about where quality and transparency became the key selling points for any carriers.

How can customers track their shipments? What techniques do you employ to track consignments?

We at RJ Cargo have re-introduced our website with better features and product information to help customers navigate easily in checking shipments, making inquiries or do other business transactions online.

Now customers can be introduced to our vast services and products apart from calculating the cost of shipping charges before preparing the MAWB, and most importantly, website offers transparent visibility where customers can track and trace their shipment. With those features, customers can know the exact departure and arrival details of their shipments. Thereby, they can plan accurately for receiving the shipments at final destination. This feature is available on <http://rj-cargo.com/>

Do you agree that e-Commerce will help increase air cargo volumes? If so, please elaborate.

Developments in technology have led to global exposure online of numerous products. This has brought the supply chain closer, between end-user and seller, causing shortcuts that are needed to speed-up the process and reduce cost.

The e-Commerce demand is growing fantastically well in the last

few years, and this year was no exception as we are experiencing a major peak caused by the growing demand to link between end-user and supplier.

While regionally we are at "Business to Consumer" Stage "B to C" we are actively looking and watching the (C to C) Consumer to Consumer Dynamics, preparing to make the necessary changes to meet the growing demand in that sector.

Are you planning to increase your clout in the Indian Subcontinent and if yes what steps have you taken for the same?

The Indian Subcontinent is a major player in the logistics world map. We are currently working very closely with our partners, supporting the high-demand through alliances that we have in place. These solutions have been introduced. However, we will watch the increasing demand to make sure that we have the right investment when needed.

Please tell us more about your plans for expansion.

We are going ahead with the plan we started about two years ago—promoting Jordan as a transit hub and regional gateway. Making sure that the investments needed should be well prepared and seized according to the market dynamics.

The air freight market is constantly changing and it's more like the stock market nowadays. Every morning you open your eyes on something new and only dynamic organizations can capture the opportunities on time.



First Priority Cargo

Logistics simplified



First Priority Cargo specializes in cargo into Africa. Africa is our key market. And it's been going strong ever since. All people from Africa shop in Dubai and they send it back home through us.

The UAE's advanced infrastructure and forward thinking policies continue to push its economy to grow with World Bank and other international financial bodies forecasting growth to accelerate in the country in 2019 and 2020 when it hosts World Expo in Dubai.

Dubai, the country's financial capital, is fast rising in global trade, posting external non-oil trade in the first nine months of 2018 AED965.3 billion. Re-exports registered 13 percent growth to touch AED299.2 billion, while imports reached AED 592.2 billion, and exports AED97.7 billion, government records showed.

Dubai Customs pointed out Dubai's distinctive performance in external trade reflects the success of government policies and initiatives and strategic sustainability development plans to support growth in various economic sectors, including air freight and logistics.

But decades ago Dubai, home to the world's tallest structure, the Burj Khalifa, which puts to shame even New York's tallest buildings, was once just a fishing village with barren desert and only one-high structure, the World Trade Center, built in 1979.

WTC was also the tallest in the Middle East at that time, created under the leadership and vision of the late Sheikh Rashid bin Saeed

Al Maktoum, father of Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, who continued to transform Dubai into a major global city that everyone looks up to.

Dilip K. Sitlani, vice president for business intelligence & operations of First Priority Cargo, who came to Dubai for the first time in the 1980s as a teen to join his family was among those who saw the emirate's major transformation.

Combining work with studies, Sitlani got his break in the air cargo industry when he got hired as duty officer for ramp and load operations at Cargolux Airlines, the Luxembourg-based freight carrier which was among the first carriers to do business in the city.

Under his father's visa, Sitlani managed to work for Cargolux, rising from the ranks throughout his nearly 20-year career at the company.

"Whatever I know today, it's from Cargolux. I've been in the cargo industry for 30 years and the experience has been excellent. There's a lot of learning. Cargo situation changes every day," said Sitlani.

Cargo grows with Dubai's growth

With everything imported to the UAE and the rest of the oil-rich Middle East back in the day, the cargo



Sharjah Head Office

industry flourished in the region, particularly in Dubai, now considered one of the busiest logistics and freight hubs in the world.

Sitlani said all food, personal effects and even soil from all over the world were flown to Dubai and studied for their potential to grow various trees, fruits and vegetables, a clear indication of the government's push to provide for the UAE's food security despite its harsh climate and unfavorable natural conditions.

"Actually, the cargo industry played a big role in Dubai's growth. All the food, trees, special soil, and so on, were flown from different parts of the world. Special scientists were brought here to study them. Today, you have all sorts of trees growing and you even have the Miracle Garden. That's how far they have gone," said Sitlani. "It's been a great experience to have grown up in Dubai as a kid."

Sitlani credited Sheikh Mohammed and the Royal family for their vision to transform Dubai into a futuristic megacity.

"These are all made possible through the vision of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed. He was the Defense Minister when I came to Dubai and he gave a statement that he will change Dubai and follow his

father's vision. What you see today is all from Sheikh Rashid who had already planned DP World, the Maktoum Airport and so on. He just followed that vision and now, of course, his son, the Crown Prince, is doing the same," he said.

The UAE's air freight market is projected to grow 4.8 percent between 2017 to 2021, largely driven by expansion projects combined with new investments in the logistics sector. From 2012-2016, its freight market grew by 8.6 percent compounded annually. This year, the UAE is forecast to handle nearly 5 million tons of cargo, the third largest in the world.

Africa's leading partner

First Priority Cargo specializes in serving the African market out of the need of the continent for a reliable air freight company.

It has Ethiopian Airlines, the largest airline in the African continent, Sharjah International Airport, and Air Arabia, the first low cost carrier in the region, as partners.

"First Priority Cargo specializes in cargo into Africa. Africa is our key market. And it's been going strong ever since. All people from Africa shop in Dubai and they send it back home through us," said Sitlani.

Contrary to popular notion that it's difficult to do business in Africa, Sitlani said their experience has been blissful saying, "All transactions are in cash & the risk is very little. Africa is good."

First Priority Cargo flies six full flights a month to Nigeria's capital Lagos and its key city in the north, Kano. From there, the shipments are distributed to the country and other nations in Africa.

"They come and shop here and we deliver it directly to Lagos and Kano. We do a huge range in Africa. From Kano and Lagos, the goods are distributed all over Africa," explained Sitlani. He described the goods as mostly "personal effects, electronics, furniture, a mix of everything."

"Dubai is the shopping paradise for Africans," noted the business executive who credits the company's strong team work for First Priority Cargo's positive growth.

"Team work is our number one priority. It's like the first priority," said Sitlani highlighting that quality customer service is also one of their strengths.



COVER STORY

Speed and reliability

Anvar Majeed, First Priority Cargo director for UAE, says the company focuses on building a niche market known for speed and reliability.

"We excel in rendering total logistics solution, building close partnerships as well as relationships. The secret to our success is the excellent service we provide to our customers at very economical rates," said Majeed.

He credits Sitlani for steering the company to the right direction and introducing innovations.

"Our group VP Business Intelligence Dilip Sitlani has moved us ahead with new ideas and innovations and signed up with Sharjah Airport for a screening machine in our facility and would be the first agent in the UAE to have this facility of pre-screening," said Majeed.

First Priority Cargo's facilities in Sharjah are open 24/7.

The company which handles the delivery of Lamborghini on behalf of Al Jaziri Motors, the official distributor of the Italian luxury sports car in the UAE, won two awards in July from two major carriers—AirFrance/KLM Cargo and Turkish Cargo.

Partners through subsidiaries

Through its subsidiaries, First Priority Cargo's customers from Africa who may need services for shipments elsewhere can also get assistance.

Sitlani explained one of their subsidiaries offer multimodal services with access to hundreds of destinations thanks to ties to three of the world's biggest airlines—Emirates, Etihad Airways and Turkish Airlines.

"We have this Block Space Agreement with Emirates, Etihad and Turkish Airlines which other agents don't have. We can virtually use them for any routes," Sitlani explained, noting that with the agreement customers can reach "all destinations in the world."

This year, the subsidiary reached another milestone when it opened its new office at the Dubai Airport Freezone (DAFZA) which launched this month its 24/7 operations to meet the demand of its growing clients.

"We're now open 24/7 and we have two DG (dangerous goods) experts on board," said Sitlani noting that the company is both GCA (UAE General



First Priority Cargo
Air Freight Team

Civil Aviation) and DAFZA compliant in handling dangerous goods or hazardous materials—chemicals, mixtures of substances, manufactured products or articles which can pose risk to people, animals or the environment if not properly handled in use or in transport.

As a fully licensed and approved DG handler, the subsidiary has its own dedicated DG handling area within its warehouse confines, equipped with an expert team of dedicated and highly qualified DG personnel to handle all its customers DG requirements.

These facilities are extended to both Dubai and Sharjah in view of providing timely handling of all DG shipments. The service offerings include repackaging of DG shipments as per IATA DG regulations for air shipments and IMO regulations for ocean shipments and cover any and all DG or hazardous materials classified commodities.

Air, land and sea

Apart from unparalleled route link through its airline partners, First Priority Cargo has advantages through subsidiaries that offer global air charter flight solutions, arranging and organizing dedicated freighter flights, to and from any destination worldwide at short notice.

Clients have the option to choose from bulk, narrow-bodied or wide-bodied freighter aircraft fit to carry emergency supplies, relief cargo, live animals, and vehicles, among many other things. They also deal with international ocean freight, working in

tandem with some of the world's leading shipping lines.

In land, its subsidiaries also offer reliable and on-time solutions available 24/7 throughout the year, guaranteeing the quickest routes. With partners across GCC countries and worldwide, the firms also manage a comprehensive Door-to-Door or Door-to-Port Road Haulage service to cater to customers' distribution needs, whilst taking care of all the tedious customs and border formalities.

"Our strength is in offering our customers tailor-made solutions, with the best available schedules and transit times at competitive prices. We are capable of handling consignments of any size, with assurance of expert handling by a team of experienced professionals," said Sitlani.

The cargo business in Dubai has been in an upward swing and the trend is likely to continue through 2020 when the city hosts World Expo.

Apart from general cargo, one of its subsidiaries also acts as the GSA for Cebu Pacific, a privately-owned budget airline in the Philippines, and other destinations it serve in the Far East like Hong Kong, Singapore and Incheon City in South Korea.

With about over 700,000 Filipinos working in the UAE, the company is also working with Cebu Pacific to introduce a door-to-door cargo service throughout the Philippines.

"Right now, were doing air-to-air delivery but soon we will be launching door-to-door delivery with our offsite agents in the Philippines," said Sitlani.



Dilip K. Sitlani

Vice President Business Intelligence
& Operations, First Priority Cargo

Actually, the cargo industry played a big role in Dubai's growth. All the food, trees, special soil and so on, were flown from different parts of the world. Special scientists were brought here to study them. Today, you have all sorts of trees growing and you even have the Miracle Garden. That's how far they have gone.



Inspiring journey

Working at his teens in the air cargo industry, you would think Dilip Sitlani would grow tired of it. But his passion in this highly competitive world went on for decades, bringing him new heights in his career at every opportunity.

He began his career as duty officer for ramp operations and load control with Cargolux Airlines, mainly looking after the ramp operations on a day-to-day basis. He described himself as an "expert in offloading and loading the 747/400 & 747/800."

He eventually became the

operations manager at Cargolux where he spent the first two decades of his career before moving on to Sharjah Airport Authority, Dubai World Central and Dubai Airports, where he held key management positions for many years.

Last year, Sitlani moved to First Priority Cargo & simultaneously held the position of vice president for business development and operations of two of its sister companies in the logistics industry.

For Sitlani, staying loyal to your career will lead to leaps and bounds in the long run.

"First, get educated because that's very important today,"

advises Sitlani who began working in the air cargo industry in his teens. "Hopping and skipping won't get you anywhere that's what I learned."

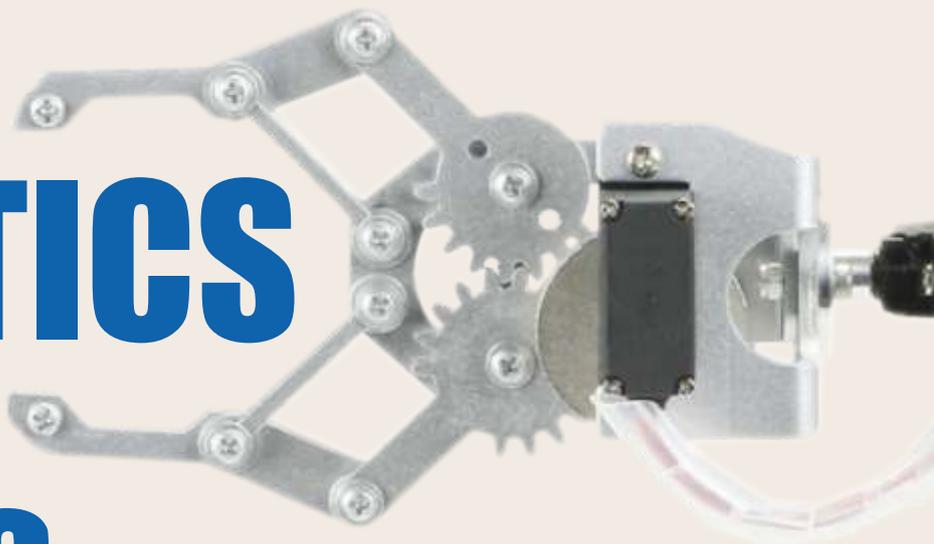
And despite his well deserved achievements, Sitlani who holds a BA from the University of Mumbai and numerous specialized certifications, remains humble, a trait he says is necessary to lead effectively and reach your goals.

"Be humble. Keep your feet on the ground. Regardless of what's written in your business card, when you leave your office, you're just another human being," Sitlani humbly says.



ROBOTICS

is changing India's warehouse landscape



The country widely recognized as a service oriented hub is now realizing the importance of manufacturing and to catch up with the world's global factory, China, it has adopted artificial intelligence on a larger scale

The Flipkarts, the Amazons, the Snapdeals, the Myntras, the Jabongs, et al., have been changing the dynamics of not just the e-commerce sector in India, but also impacting other businesses—logistics, warehousing, supply chain management and multimodal transportation.

At the core of this change are rapid technological changes that are taking place, bringing about efficiency, scale, quick turnaround times, so crucial in transportation.

With artificial intelligence/robotics making faster inroads (thankfully no one is opposing automation, remember the days when bank employees in India were up in arms when computers were being introduced in the banking system) in various sectors, there is a new found dynamism in businesses.

As regards the warehouse sector, it is seeing a tectonic shift from ramshackled godowns with men carrying loads (it still is rampant but changes are taking place at least in the cities) to automated systems.

Massive warehouse space

As India shifts its development gears, deployment of automation is going to increase considerably. The growth of the warehousing industry

itself is impressive, with warehouse space likely to touch 1,439 million square feet by the end of 2019, up from the present 909.5 million square feet.

The warehouse sector is expected to touch double digit by 2022. This is going to create not only employment opportunities but also large scale deployment of automation. No wonder, start-ups like Grey Orange, iFuture, Rivigo, etc., are doing well. Smart automation is what some of them offer.

GreyOrange expanding fast

Bengaluru-based Grey Orange is a multinational technology company that designs, manufactures and deploys advanced robotics systems for automation in warehouses, distribution and fulfilment centres.

Founded by BITS-Pilani graduates Samay Kohli and Akash Gupta, Grey Orange produces up to 1,500 robots a month and has research and development centres in India, the US and Singapore. Through the use of flexible automation, the power of artificial intelligence and exceptional customer service, Grey Orange works closely with businesses to recognize their needs, optimize the supply chain and enhance process efficiency.



FEATURE

Some of its clients include Flipkart, Myntra, Jabong and Pepperfry in the ecommerce realm and Aramex, DTDC, Delhivery and Mahindra Tractors in logistics. Its overseas customers include Hongkong based Kerry Logistics, Singapore-headquartered Ninja Van, Japan's Nitori, Trusco and Daiwa, Brazil's Loggi and Indonesia's Pos Indonesia.

Arkrobot and its clockwork efficiency

Another robotics company, also from Bengaluru making significant forays is iFuture Robotics. Set up recently in 2016, the company offers products and solutions with RoHS (restriction of hazardous substances) compliance and in-line with global safety standards. Its flagship product in the Indian market is Arkrobot which is a warehouse automation robot.

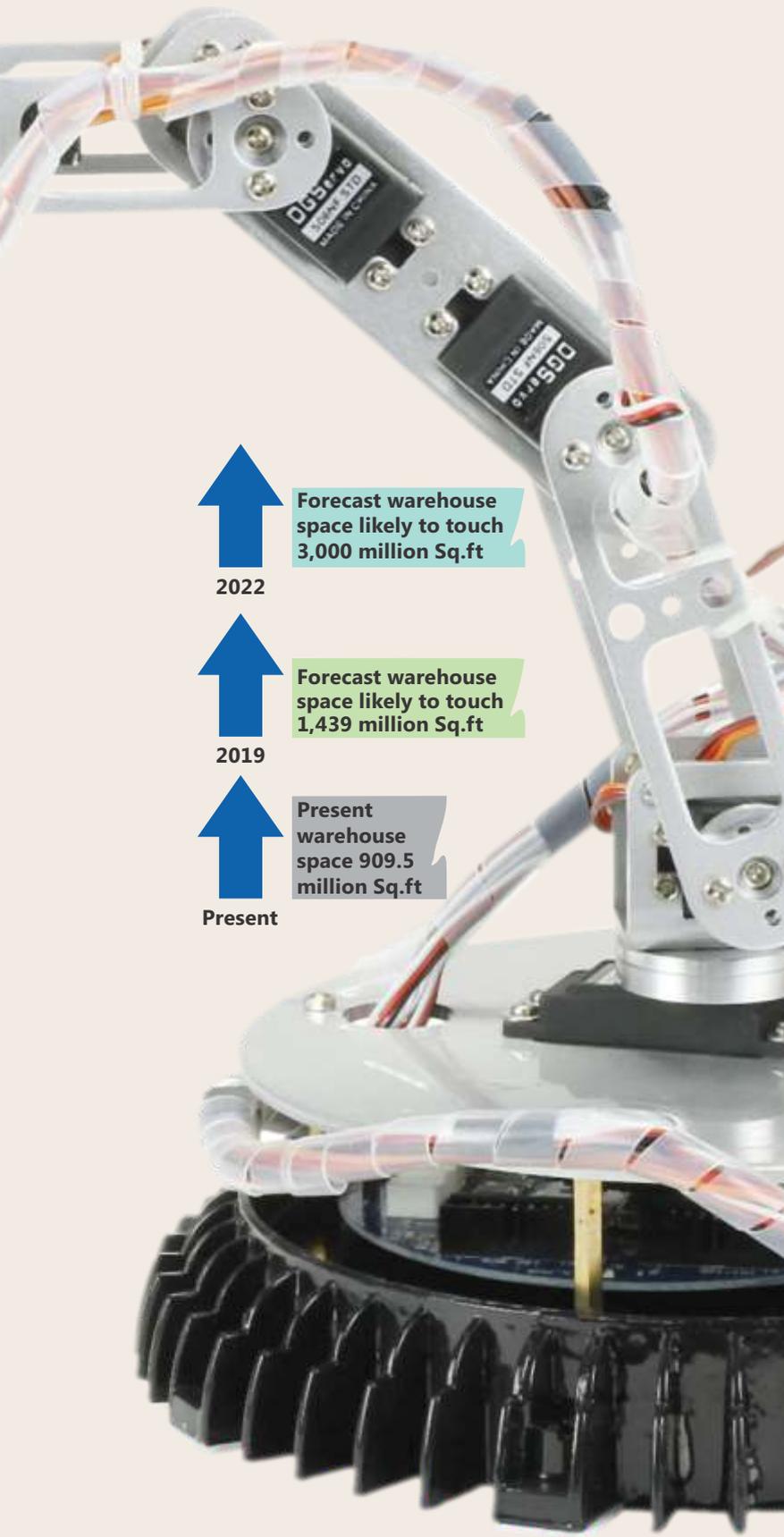
It is looking at entering the US and European markets where the rate of technology adoption is much higher. Arkrobot is a breakthrough in automatic order fulfillment technology, suited for ecommerce and other industries. Arkrobot offers solutions to clients ranging from startups to gigantic scale order fulfillment centres and automated warehouses.

In a business that requires storing and retrieving of huge number of product inventories, it is critical to implement a quick and efficient automation solution. It is widely known that manpower dependency leads to delays, quality issues, inaccurate picking and slower pick rates, hence, reduced throughput from a warehouse.

A rapidly growing business which is looking to scale up often faces this as a bottleneck when it comes to handling the surge of orders. The current process involves sending pick workers with a trolley to inventory locations, but it has many challenges. With Arkrobot the scenario changes where the goods are brought to the people and stored efficiently using data analytic such that the fastest selling items are always stored closest to the worker.

The company states that is among the most advanced and efficient automatic storage and retrieval systems (ASRS) in the world. Arkrobot is offered in the Indian market to industry segments such as e-commerce, automotive and logistics.

The company's founder Rajesh Manpat states that the market for robots is going to grow exponentially and the Indian factories and logistics firms are understanding the value of artificial intelligence.



↑
2022
Forecast warehouse space likely to touch 3,000 million Sq.ft

↑
2019
Forecast warehouse space likely to touch 1,439 million Sq.ft

↑
Present
Present warehouse space 909.5 million Sq.ft



FEATURE

**Robotic palletization and more**

Similarly, Noida-based Addverb Technologies provides robotic integration, warehouse automation and industrial internet of things by leveraging industry 4.0 technologies. Addverb provides customizable, modular, robust and innovative solutions to cater to the needs of an increasingly digital supply chain.

The company's solutions include Robotic Palletization; Robotic Pick and Place; and Bin Plucking solutions. Robotic Palletization is used for the automation of production process, where the robots can pick case or cartons from the production line and arrange them on a pallet for storing or shipping.

These robotic solutions offer dramatically higher throughput and improve ergonomics of the workplace. Addverb provides robotic palletization solutions for cartons, crates, drums and containers. It has integration expertise over ABB, Kuka, Delta and Omron Adept Robots. Its Pick and Place solutions are ideal for high speed picking operations. The Bin Picking solutions can pick random objects kept in a tray /bin and load the arranged parts at the start of the production line. Addverb's solutions are used in the pharma, automotive and food chain supply entities.

Logistics companies have started understanding the value of automation. The Vice President (Marketing) of Safexpress, Mr. Vineet Kanaujia has stated that the focus will be on establishing centralized warehouses with investments in technologies. Safexpress is banking on artificial intelligence for its next level of growth. So far, it has created 32 logistics parks in Hyderabad, Manesar etc and has a roadmap for more futuristic logistics hubs in smaller towns such as Coimbatore, Siliguri etc. A report by CBRE mentions that regions such as Gurgaon, Chennai, Hyderabad, Pune and Kolkata are witnessing launch of large scale supply in the warehousing and logistics space.

According to the 2017 World Robotics Report, published by the International Federation of Robotics (IFR), by 2020 over 1.7 million new industrial robots will be installed in factories around the world.

Today, the strongest growth in robotics industry is in Asia – led by China as the world's number one marketplace. It said robot supplies in the Americas will surge by 16 percent and in Europe by 8 percent.

Important drivers of this development are said to be that it leads to faster business cycles and its flexibility tailored to customer demand in all manufacturing sectors. 'Robots offer high levels of precision and their connectivity will play a key role in new digital manufacturing environments,' states Joe Gemma, President of IFR.

In India, one of the drivers certainly is the ecommerce segment which is presently catering to only mega cities and when it forays in Tier II and III cities, the warehouse and logistics sectors will explode and only robotics will be able to handle the scale. And it is a myth that robotics is expensive.

In China alone there are said to be over 10 million robots and it is capitalizing on robotics to propel its place as number one as far as manufacturing is concerned. India, on the other hand, is a service oriented hub, but is now realizing the importance of manufacturing and to catch up with China, it has adopted artificial intelligence on a larger scale.

However, newer industry segments such as e-commerce, logistics, parcels, retail, etc., are giving birth to new opportunities for applications of robotics. It's happening soon. The writing is on the warehouse wall.

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Equation

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Delivering time sensitive shipments within the day

Innovations combined with ample resources make it possible for major carriers like Delta Cargo to take on shipments and have them delivered off-shores on the same day using GPS enabled systems.





Technology is making it possible for shippers to transport time-sensitive goods the fastest way through the introduction of different solutions like the GPS enabled shipments.

Time-sensitive needs come in two forms—expedited and time-critical services. Both are used to deliver the shipment to its destination quickly. Only difference is that time-critical shipments must arrive as soon as possible. Expedited services mean the shipment must be delivered fast, which can be achieved with same day delivery.

But by using time sensitive delivery services, you will have a lot more control over your shipment, ensuring that it is delivered safe and secure, avoiding traditional routes or methods of transporting the goods.

In today's world, your shipment can be delivered internationally within the same day. Delta Cargo is pioneering in this fast route method with the introduction this year of Equation Critical, a new international service for international shipments.

Shawn Cole, Vice President of Delta Cargo, explained in an email interview with **Air Cargo Update** how Equation Critical delivers your time sensitive shipment at your door step in a jiffy.

Equation Critical

This new freight solution is a premium GPS-enabled service in transporting highly time-sensitive shipments that must travel on the next available flight, offering GPS tracking and moves with the highest priority across Delta's global network. Customers will know where their shipment is, anywhere in the world, real time.

"In distinctive pink packaging, the Equation Critical service does not require pre-booking and can be tendered up to 90 minutes before a flight. This service caters to customers who are shipping time-sensitive items, such as legal

documents, essential machinery parts and aircraft on the ground (AOG) components. Critical shipments come with a service-level guarantee and Delta's Cargo Control Center proactively monitors Critical shipments throughout the journey," notes Cole.

Delta Air Lines is headquartered in Atlanta, United States, so international shipments refer to anything shipped from the US to another country or vice-versa.

In the case of Equation Critical, the service was initially launched for international shipments originating in Atlanta, Savannah and London, destined for Bogota, Colombia; Johannesburg, South Africa; Quito, Ecuador; and Seoul-Incheon, South Korea. Atlanta, Savannah and London will also accept import shipments.

These routes allow fully GPS-enabled shipments. The company said Equation Critical will be progressively rolled out in other international markets across Delta's extensive network, subject to customer demand and regulatory approvals.

GPS-enabled tracking

In any cargo business today, GPS technology extends further than just a tool to help cargo operators navigate from locations. With the advancement in mobile technology and mobile apps for logistics mobility solutions,

GPS technology has fully transformed the cargo industry. They are mobile app developers that can hand your GPS tracking solutions that include business-effective tools required by your business and customer needs.

"A GPS tracker is attached to the Equation Critical shipment, so that it can be proactively monitored throughout the journey by Delta's Cargo Control Center. So Delta will know where this shipment is at all times.



Shawn Cole, VP Delta Cargo

A GPS tracker is attached to the Equation Critical shipment, so that it can be proactively monitored throughout the journey by Delta's Cargo Control Center. So Delta will know where this shipment is at all times.



FEATURE



"Equation Critical caters to customers who are shipping time-sensitive items, such as legal documents, essential machinery parts and aircraft on the ground (AOG) components. Critical shipments come with a service-level guarantee and Delta's Cargo Control Center proactively monitors Critical shipments throughout the journey," said Cole.

DASH Critical & Medical

Delta Cargo has been awarded IATA's Center of Excellence for Independent Validators (CEIV) Pharma logistics Certification. Delta is the first US Global passenger carrier to receive this accolade and has now joined the elite group of pharma logistics providers to achieve CEIV Pharma Certification, and it would be through this service that Delta would ship temperature sensitive shipments.

"Delta Cargo's Cargo Control Center (CCC) opened in 2017 to support daily cargo operations across the globe. The Atlanta facility provides comprehensive coverage of all aspects of cargo transportation and management, with the ability to track air shipments, trucks, mail and freight – domestically and internationally".

Delta Cargo introduced DASH

Critical & Medical in March 2017 and it was the first fully GPS-enabled, same-day product offered by a US freight carrier for shipments within the United States only. Equation Critical is for international shipments only but uses the similar distinctive pink packaging.

Delta Cargo also offers the DASH Critical & Medical for time sensitive shipments in the US, where as Equation Critical is for international shipments – both have a GPS tracker.

"DASH Critical & Medical provides real-time tracking and monitoring of any eligible shipment, and customers can ship items up until 45 minutes prior to scheduled flight departure. DASH Critical & Medical is available from 15 locations within the United States namely Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, Detroit, LaGuardia (New York), Los Angeles, Memphis, Minneapolis, Orlando, Rochester (New York), Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Savannah and Seattle with service to 89 mainland US destinations and Hawaii".

Equation Critical will be progressively rolled out in other international markets across Delta's extensive network, subject to customer demand and regulatory approvals.

The CarePod

Delta Cargo recently entered into a long-term partnership with pet transportation tech start-up CarePod. The 'pod' product, designed to safely transport live animals in the bellies of aircraft, uses Internet of things (IoT) technology to offer customers real time updates on the status of their pets and their GPS-location.

Moreover, Delta plans to use its

temperature-controlled holding areas and overnight kenneling services at various locations, adding that its Cargo Control Center, gives the airline constant visibility into all shipments, including pets.

The industry is paying greater attention to the safety of live-animal cargo after last year – a bad year for air traveling pets—when the Transportation Department tallied 24 fatalities, 15 injuries and one pet that was reported lost.

Delta Cargo also said that it would launch a new pet transportation strategy in conjunction with its partnership with CarePod. The company said it will also expand its ULD Bluetooth tracking capability to businesses based off-airport from early next year.

The US freight carrier began offering real-time Bluetooth-based tracking of its ULDs from select on-airport warehouses earlier this year, but the expansion to cargo customers' own facilities represents a significant extension to the service.

Customers will be able to track their shipment from their own warehouses to a consignment's final destination.

"The extension of the tracking technology directly to our customers' facilities will ensure visibility for the whole freight journey, creating a best-in-class shipping experience," adds Cole. "This is a genuine innovation, and we are on track to launch in January 2019, with full visibility later that year, once the customer installations are complete."

They will be able to track their shipment on the website, while receiving customized 'push' notifications.

Of particular value to the carrier, real-time ULD tracking will allow Delta's Cargo Control Center to more accurately monitor and reroute shipments that are delayed due to irregular operations, such as bad weather.

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AIR CARGO FORUM 2018 TORONTO

A DIGITAL WORLD IS THE NEW NORMAL

Air freight will remain an integral part of global business but the industry which accounts for US\$2.7 trillion of the world's economy must embrace it now or lose itself in the ongoing industrial revolution that demands more use of artificial intelligence, robotics and automation to speed up the process of doing things. **By Gemma Q. Casas**



FEATURE

TORONTO: Air freight will remain an integral part of global business but the industry which accounts for US\$2.7 trillion of the world's economy must embrace it now or lose itself in the ongoing industrial revolution that demands more use of artificial intelligence, robotics and automation to speed up the process of doing things.

While most carriers and others in the industry's supply chain have already invested in technology to keep up with digitalization more needs to be done, according to experts who discussed at length the topic at The International Air Cargo Association (TIACA) Air Cargo Forum held in Toronto, Canada on October 16-18.

Executives from eBay Canada, OMX, CHAMP Cargosystems, Unisys, and S/HE Blockchain who shared their insights on the subject all agree digitalization is the way forward for the industry which employs 65.5 million workers worldwide, including those in the aviation.

"Digital is the way to go," enthused Dheeraj Kholi, Vice President & Global Head, Unysis. "This is happening today; integrated data is happening now."

"This is what the future is, but technology is not just about Blockchain," sympathised

Arnaud Lambert, CEO of CHAMP Cargosystems, said technology is the future but it's not just about Blockchain but rather its effect on small things in our lives with big impact.

"Technology simplifies the process, starting with the customer in mind," he said.

The panelists all agree an industry-wide change of mindset is necessary along the help of major stakeholders.

"The information is available today, but it is not shared," stressed Kholi. "Technology will help and facilitate,

but the first step is a mind change in allowing information to be distributed outside an organization."

Sumit Srivastava, Head of Business Development and Seller Acquisition and Scaling, eBay Canada, noted: "If we are going to build a future, we have to start to act today."

More than 500 delegates attended the opening plenary of ACF which included two days of discussions with topics ranging from Blockchain and the Fifth Industrial Revolution, to the state of the market, regulatory updates, and unmanned freight aircraft. An exhibition was also hosted at the venue which included Air Canada, Brussels Airport, Jan de Rijk Logistics, and Turkish Cargo.

Citing studies from the McKinsey Institute, it was highlighted that transportation and warehousing are the third most automatable sector with about 60 percent of work replaceable by automation. This would likely cover both the T&L vertical and the warehousing elements of retail and manufacturing.

Growth in the horizon

Despite some challenges, industry experts forecast the air freight industry to sustain growth in the coming years with much of the commodities traded requiring its services, particularly in e-Commerce.

Darren Hulst, senior managing director of marketing at Boeing, told the delegates Boeing sees the air cargo industry to post 4.5 percent growth between 2018-2022 and



**in 24 hours
about 1.1 million
smart mobile
phones are
shipped
worldwide and
about 20 million
parcels are
transported.**



FEATURE

world trade is likely to grow 4.2 percent during the period.

Hulst said e-Commerce is the game changer in today's world. To illustrate his point, he said in 24 hours about 1.1 million smart mobile phones are shipped worldwide and about 20 million parcels are transported.

Airbus's global market outlook forecast is also rosy albeit more conservative than Boeing at 3.7 percent in air freight and 3.4 percent for world trade in the next few years.

Increasing enthusiasm

Vladimir Zubkov, secretary general of TIACA, said about 90 speakers participated at this year's ACF, which he described "as a sign of an increasing interest of our members and even non-members to sharing their knowledge, views, and achievements and to be on the agenda with a presentation or remarks during a panel."

"The range of subjects was very wide: the latest regulatory challenges, collaboration with the legislators, the booming market of distribution warehouses in the context of e-commerce, the power of



Blockchain, which was so much in demand that it required two sessions and several others which managed to keep the attention of the participants from the first minute until the last one," the official noted.

Zubkov said the exhibitors had shown optimism and satisfaction in participating in the event which the body sees as a good indication to "steer the ACF 2020 in Miami in the right direction."

At the forum, TIACA and the Germany-based Messe München

signed an MoU agreeing to combine their strengths in organizing conferences and networking to make the next ACF a success.

Under the MoU, Messe Muenchen will organize the next ACF while TIACA will retain control of the content of the conference. Conversely, TIACA will be a strategic partner at Messe Muenchen transport logistic events in Munich, Shanghai and Istanbul. Both companies agreed to jointly promote the events.





Etihad Airways & Saudia in new codeshare partnership for over 41 destinations



Eng. Saleh bin Naser Al Jasser, left, Director General, Saudia and Tony Douglas, Group Chief Executive Officer of Etihad Aviation Group.

ABU DHABI/JEDDAH: Etihad Airways and Saudi Arabian Airlines (Saudia) have entered into a new codeshare partnership, providing customers with access to more than 40 leisure and business destinations in the home markets and across the world.

The two national carriers also announced plans for greater commercial cooperation in other fields, including frequent flyer program benefits, cargo, engineering and maintenance.

The codeshare agreement was signed at Saudia headquarters in Jeddah by Eng. Saleh bin Naser Al Jasser, Director General Saudia, and Tony Douglas, Group Chief Executive Officer, of Etihad Aviation Group.

"The new partnership broadens aviation and transport links with the United Arab Emirates, building on the extensive aviation investment and strong foundation in the sector. With the agreement, the added network coverage enables our guests to benefit from added flexibility and convenience, as well as increase the benefits for members of both airlines' frequent flyer plans," said Al Jasser.

Douglas described the new agreement as a testament to the deep ties that bind the UAE and KSA, saying, "We are extremely proud to play our role and bring the two flag carriers together in this unique partnership."

"The partnership will allow for enhanced seamless travel across the Etihad Airways and Saudia networks which we anticipate will be highly popular with business and leisure travellers, especially those looking to

fly to secondary city destinations," he added.

The codeshare agreement will see Etihad Airways place its 'EY' code on Saudia's flights to, Abha, Al-Baha, Alula, Arar, Bisha, Dammam, Dawadmi, Gassim, Gizan, Gurayat, Hail, Hofuf, Jeddah, Jouf, Madinah, Qaisumah, Rafha, Riyadh, Sharurah, Tabuk, Taif, Turaif, Wadi-Ad-Dawasir, Wedjh, Yanbo, and Abu Dhabi. Port Sudan, Tunis, Alexandria, Sharm el-Sheikh, Multan and Peshawar are subject to Government approval.

At the same time, Saudia will place its 'SV' code on Etihad flights to Baku, Chengdu, Ahmedabad, Nagoya, Tokyo-Narita, Dammam, Jeddah, Madinah, Riyadh, Belgrade, Seychelles, Chicago-O'Hare, and Abu Dhabi.

For cargo, both airlines are drawing up plans to increase volumes of freighter traffic flowing into and out of the UAE and the Saudi Arabia. Etihad Airways Engineering will also provide select maintenance services for SAUDIA aircraft at its MRO (Maintenance, Repair and Operations) facility in Abu Dhabi.

In 2017, Saudia carried over 32 million passengers, registered over 200,000 flights and traveled more than 320 million kilometers, while SAUDIA Cargo carried more than 637,000 tons of freight.

Etihad Airways operated 7,578 passenger flights and carried 1.3 million guests between Saudi Arabia and the UAE last year while Etihad Cargo carried over 28,000 tons of cargo between the two countries last year.

Global Jet Center charter flights up by 200%



DUBAI: Global Jet Center, a company specializing in organizing exclusive private jet charter flights for leisure, business and medical evacuations, says its charters had increased by 200 percent five years since it was established.

Founded in 2013 at Dubai World Central, the company which marked its 5th anniversary this month said Dubai was the perfect place to launch the business because it's the fastest growing market in the region.

GJC said despite all the challenging directions and routes that the business had to go through, its partners managed to find a healthy growth within a highly competitive market.

"We are happy with our achievements so far as we succeeded in growing our office by 150% and our team by 300%. We are steadily increasing both numbers of new clients and our revenue and we look forward to many more in the future," the three founders of the company—Claudio Lietaert, Bashar Beasha and Naushad Ahmad said in a statement.



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Emirates expands global route network with Italy's Trenitalia



DUBAI: 27 train stations in Italy's national railway company, Trenitalia, were added to Emirates' global network with the airline's new codeshare agreement with the company.

Emirates said the agreement that took effect in August essentially enables travelers to reach some of Italy's most picturesque cities and towns through high speed, modern and comfortable trains that leave from Emirates' four Italian gateways - Bologna, Milan, Rome and Venice.

"This codeshare agreement with Trenitalia opens up new possibilities for our customers and complements our current services to Bologna, Milan, Rome and Venice. With Trenitalia, travelling to the Far East from Foggia, or to Padova from Sydney has never been easier," said Hubert Frach, Emirates' Divisional Senior Vice President, Commercial Operations, West.

"Emirates already flies more than 1.6 million passengers to and from Italy every year. With this codeshare

agreement, we're connecting Italian regions to our global network, significantly boosting the Italian tourism industry," he added.

Gianpiero Strisciuglio, Director of Trenitalia Long Haul Passenger Division, said the agreement is a pivotal step towards an improved and comfortable integration between train and the plane.

"Our customers will now be able to buy one single solution for their train and flight journey, departing and arriving from 27 Italian stations and enjoying the comforts and the best commercial facilities offered by Trenitalia and Emirates," he noted.

Customers can now start booking their codeshare trips via Emirates' website and travel onwards to these destination and benefit from the convenience of holding a single ticket. First Class and Business Class passengers will automatically be booked in First Class on board Trenitalia's trains.

Ryanair signs new labor agreements with Belgian staff unions



BRUSSELS: The Irish budget airline Ryanair has signed new collective labor agreements with the Belgian unions CNE-CSC and LBC-NVK affecting all of its pilots and cabin crew in the country.

The agreements, which take effect January 31, 2019, comes after separate labor pacts were made in Spain, Portugal and the UK.

Ryanair Chief People Officer Eddie Wilson was quoted in the media as saying, "These signed union agreements in Belgium, Spain, Portugal and the UK again demonstrate the considerable progress we're making in concluding union agreements with our people in our major EU markets."

The airline flew over 76 million passengers during the first half of 2018, up by 6 percent compared to the same period last year.

"We expect FY19 traffic will grow to 141m (incl. 3m Laudamotion). As we look beyond this winter, we have announced new S.19 bases in Bordeaux, Marseille, London Southend and increased capacity in Luton. We plan to operate over 100

new routes in S.19," Ryanair said in a statement.

But it warned it may initiate cuts or base closures this winter if fuel prices and other operational costs increase.

"With spot fuel reaching \$85/bbl, rising interest rates and the stronger US dollar, airline margins are under pressure and it is inevitable that more of the weaker, unhedged, European airlines will fold this winter. In recent weeks Skyworks (Switz.), VLM (Bel.), Small Planet & Azur Air (Ger.), Cobalt (Cyprus) and Primera Air (Stansted & Scandinavia) collapsed. At the same time, many larger airlines are closing bases and cutting routes to minimise winter losses," the company said.



AIRLINES

Passenger traffic at Dubai World Central up by 26 percent in Q3 2018



DUBAI: Dubai World Central passenger traffic surged 26.1% in the third quarter of 2018 to 119,000 bringing the total number of visitors welcomed so far this year to 637,176.

The top regions contributing to customer numbers at DWC include Western Europe (40,349 passengers) and Eastern Europe (38,740 passengers). Some of the top

destination cities during the third quarter were Beirut (20,566 passengers), Amman (16,216 passengers), and Katowice (10,247 passengers).

Flight movements during Q3 totaled 5,742 (-11.7%). A total of 21,811 flights have taken-off or landed at DWC (-12.3%) so far this year.

In Q3 a total of 254,421 tons of

airfreight moved through DWC (-2.5%), bringing the year to date cargo tonnage to 729,611 (+3.5%). DWC is the world's 22nd busiest hub by international freight volume according to the Airports Council International (ACI).

The outlook for passenger traffic at DWC in Q4 is positive thanks to the seasonal rush of tourists typically seen during the winter months, as well as the launch of new services from scheduled and charter carriers.

Also contributing to the positive outlook is the recent launch of daily scheduled flights to Moscow by Aeroflot while Pegas Fly (Ikar Airlines) commenced charter services from multiple destinations in Russia.

Following the launch of flights by Aeroflot and Pegas Fly, the number of international passenger airlines serving DWC has increased to 10. The airlines operate an average of 21 weekly flights to six international destinations. DWC is also home to 20 cargo operators that fly to as many as 45 destinations around the world.

Bahrain International Airport holds evacuation training exercise

MANAMA: An evacuation training exercise on the arrivals area of the Bahrain International Airport was held late October to familiarize new airport staff with fire safety protocols, test procedures for an abrupt stop at Passport Control operations and identify emergency response weaknesses, officials said.

The exercise was also held to evaluate the efficiency of Fire Evacuation Wardens (FEW), and pinpoint any delays in the reaction plan, according to the airport's operator, the Bahrain Operator Company (BAC).

The exercise was held in coordination with Bahrain's Civil Defence Force, Airport Rescue and Firefighting Services (ARFFS) to evaluate the effectiveness of current response procedures and identify



areas for improvement at BIA.

Held in accordance with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 101 standards, the exercise saw all personnel from the designated area evacuated to a safe assembly point.

"The safety and security of passengers and staff, including those of airlines operating within BIA is the highest priority for BAC. Conducting exercises such as this and learning from the results is crucial to enhance our overall emergency preparedness,"

said BAC Chief Airport Operations Officer Michael Hohenberger.

"By working closely with our partners at BIA we can ensure any potential incidents are dealt with swiftly, calmly, and effectively while minimizing the impact on airport operations. Throughout the drill, the ARFFS exercise planning team paid close attention to areas that may require additional planning or training to improve organizational readiness," he added.



Istanbul New Airport opens on Turkey's 95th Republic Day



Turkish President Recep
Tayyip Erdoğan, center, delivers a speech
at Istanbul New Airport's opening.



ISTANBUL: President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan inaugurated Istanbul New Airport on October 29, the 95th founding anniversary of Turkey as a republic, pledging to take the country to prosperity and as a global economic powerhouse.

Turkey's US\$800 billion economy ranks 17th in the world with prospects for growth. The new airport costing roughly US\$12 billion, with the help of the national flag carrier Turkish Airlines, is envisioned to help the country prosper in the global trade.

"Today, we are celebrating the 95th anniversary of our republic by opening the new airport in Istanbul, one of the most prestigious projects in the world," Erdoğan wrote in the Anıtkabir memorial book noting that the airport's historic opening comes amid "intensifying attacks at our economy."

In his Republic Day Message,

Erdoğan also noted the airport's role in pushing economic reforms and raise living standards for Turkey's 80 million people.

"We will, Inshallah, crown our great journey, which has been going on in a historical continuity from the Seljuk Empire to the Ottoman Empire and from there to the young Republic of Turkey, with our 2023 goals, and raise it to an upper level with our 2053 and 2071 visions," the president said.

Boasting of futuristic but functional facilities, the Istanbul New Airport sits on a 76.5 million square meters of land in the northern part of the city. It will host over 100 airline companies serving more than 300 destinations across the globe.

Once fully completed, it will be the world's largest airport terminal capable of serving 200 million passengers annually.

Its cargo/logistics center can simultaneously accommodate 30 wide body aircraft in parking positions fronting warehouses, a perfect operational infrastructure as it will not affect aircraft traffic. In all, the center will serve an air cargo tonnage capacity of 2.5 million tons a year in its first phase that can be expanded to 5.5 million tons a year.

The new airport is considered "green" thanks to its recycling capabilities and rainwater utilization capacity. It's also well connected to the rest of the city via the metro, road and high-speed train.

Ataturk International Airport will cease to operate by the end of the year and Istanbul New Airport will fully be operational by then. Regardless of controversies surrounding Turkey's new airport, experts say it's going to have a major impact in the global aviation industry.

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UAE launches the Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Aviation Award

DUBAI: The United Arab Emirates has launched the Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Aviation Award which aims to recognize states, business organizations and individuals around the world making a difference in the aviation industry with a US\$1 million prize, the biggest so far.

The triennial award consists of 6 distinct categories, each designed to support the UAE's commitment to promote aviation globally and support ICAO's 'No Country Left Behind' initiative.

The categories include: 'State with most improved Quality of Aviation Infrastructure', 'Outstanding Global Connectivity Award', 'Outstanding Resource Contribution to ICAO Programs', 'Outstanding International Cooperation Programs', 'Aviation personality of the Triennium' and 'Innovation Award' (encompassing aviation safety, security, sustainability, passenger experience).

Managed under the Chairmanship of Engineer Sultan Saeed Al Mansoori, UAE Minister of Economy and the Chairman of General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA), the award is a tribute to His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, and Ruler of Dubai for his visionary leadership and love for aviation and a reflection of the country's commitment to the growth and development of aviation as an economic catalyst.

"We believe that ICAO's 'No Country Left behind' initiative presents an opportunity for an award



scheme that rewards the development of the aviation industry across the board. With this in view, we launched the triennial Mohammed Bin Rashid (MBR) 'Global Aviation Award' that coincides with the ICAO General Assembly, once every three years in Montreal – Canada," said Saif Mohammed Al Suwaidi, GCAA Director General, noting that the award aims to connect and improve relations with Least Developed States (LDS) and promote innovation and liberalization across the industry globally.

Al Mansoori said the award is the UAE's humble way of saying "thank you" to those who made meaningful contribution to the country's aviation industry, built through creativity and innovation.

"The UAE's global aviation success story is thanks in large part to the visionary leadership of the UAE's Vice President and Prime Minister, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and his passion for aviation and the significance placed on aviation towards wider global economic development. Traditionally however, the aviation world has been dominated by a few nations with a long-standing history of aviation.

Thus, emerging nations such as UAE have had to develop creative ways to assert themselves," he explained.

The award has been promoted in Asia, Fiji, Montreal, Zambia and soon to Havana, Cuba to reach out to as many countries and nominees that deserve recognition, officials said.

"From the first commercial flight arriving in the UAE in October 1932 from what is now Pakistan, the UAE aviation sector has flourished and the UAE is now home to one of the world's busiest international airports and the largest international airlines. The aviation industry is already a major contributor to the UAE economy and it has the potential to become a major source of the UAE's post oil diversification portfolio," noted Al Suwaidi.

Across the world, aviation supports about a third of global trade valued at US\$2.7 trillion.

Nominations for the award are ongoing through March 2018. Winners will be announced in July 2019 and the awarding ceremony will be held in Montreal, Canada during the ICAO General Assembly in Sept 2019.

For more information, visit www.smbragaa.com.

First UAE-made satellite now orbits space



TOKYO: The United Arab Emirates has successfully launched to the outer space the first ever Emirati-designed and manufactured satellite, a first in the Arab world ahead of the UAE's quest to send a space exploration in Mars by 2020.

The KhalifaSat, named after the UAE President, His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the first remote sensing satellite built from scratch in the UAE, was launched on October 29, 2018 on an H-IIA rocket from the Tanegashima Space Centre, an island in Japan.

Developed in technology labs at the Space Technology Laboratories of Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre, KhalifaSat is one of the most technologically advanced remote-sensing observation satellites, with five patents registered.

The images provided by the satellite will be used in urban planning and management, ensuring the effective optimization of land use and realistic

Advanced Features

KhalifaSat includes a number of unique space innovations devised by engineers on the satellite team. Innovations such as these represent completely new territory for UAE engineering, and will help to cement KhalifaSat's place in history as the most advanced UAE-owned and manufactured satellite.

- Faster download & communication:** The team has developed techniques that enable faster download and communication speeds with the satellite from its position in orbit over the world.
- Advanced target positioning system:** This makes the satellite the most advanced in its weight class in terms of the highest quality of image, captured with pinpoint accuracy and super-quick speed response.
- Enhanced digital camera:** Engineers incorporated an advanced light sensor for better resolution.
- Satellite positioning system:** Developers have also been made on satellite positioning techniques, which will allow the capture of a large number of 3D images.
- Automatic satellite control system:** This has been developed by upgrading the primary satellite computer operating system, and increasing its storage capacity.

infrastructure proposals as well as to develop detailed maps of targeted areas & monitor major engineering & construction projects.

"Proud of the talented Emirati personnel at the @MBRSpaceCentre. They are the heroes behind this important project that carries the name of our President. Taking a picture of our Founding Father to outer space adds a wonderful note to our celebrations for the Year of Zayed," tweeted H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of Dubai Executive Council.

KhalifaSat is also designed to monitor environmental changes locally and internationally to support global efforts to preserve the environment. The satellite is also expected to provide detailed imagery of the ice caps at the North and South Poles, helping to detect the effects of global warming



Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, third right, says the UAE's space achievement is part of the country's efforts to make scientific advances with global benefits.

Dubai to use robots in inspecting vehicles



RTA says it plans to explore the increase in the use of these technologies to provide quality services to all owners of light vehicles and ensure the highest standards of vehicles security and safety.

DUBAI: Using cutting-edge technology is common in Dubai but the city is leveling this up with the use of robots and artificial intelligence in inspecting vehicles.

The UAE motor vehicle licensing agency Roads and Transport Authority says using smart robots for vehicles due for registration, among other things, will make the inspection faster, easier and more accurate for RTA and customers alike.

RTA says it is currently working on solutions involving a new generation of vehicles inspection that uses sophisticated technology and AI. The first is the Smart Inspection Robot—an autonomous robot that scans the vehicle plate number moves to the undercarriage to take images and send instant reports to the Control Room at the Technical Inspection Centre. It detects faults, makes observations, and links with RTA's central technical inspection system.

“Despite the contemporary technology and information revolution era, vehicle inspection technology still hinges entirely on traditional methods and human factor. This situation has prompted RTA to develop a new generation of advanced solutions tailored to deliver high-quality and accurate vehicle inspection in Dubai. The step aims at attaining the highest level of people satisfaction and happiness,” said Abdulla Yousef Al Ali, CEO of RTA.

The second is the Smart Vehicle Inspection Glasses that use the latest Augmented Reality technology. This solution provides all information needed during the inspection process as well as facilitate audit and ensures governance.

The third is the On-Board Diagnosis Device, which connects to the vehicle's computer to retrieve information and malfunctions. The initiative aims to maximize benefits from these devices by linking with the smart vehicle inspection robot to facilitate vehicles technical inspection.

RTA says it plans to explore the increase in the use of these technologies to provide quality services to all owners of light vehicles and ensure the highest standards of vehicles security and safety.





EXECUTIVE MOMENTS

Volga-Dnepr Group has new executive president for cargo operations



Konstantin Vekshin

LONDON: Volga-Dnepr Group has appointed Konstantin Vekshin as Executive President, Charter Cargo Operations (CCO) for Volga-Dnepr Airlines as part of its charter business leadership strategy.

Vekshin, who assumed the post in August 2018, will focus on achieving the airline's strategic objectives, managing its international operating bases and regional sales offices—

including the UK, Russia, Germany, USA, UAE, China and Ireland—and building up a multinational management team for the company's charter operations.

Vekshin has vast experience at Volga-Dnepr Group as well as in the air cargo industry. He joined the company in 1997 and developed his career from sales executive to vice president, charter business sales and marketing.

Between 2013 and 2016, he worked as vice president, charter & government division with Centurion Cargo Airlines and as vice president of air freight charters with Bertling Logistics. In October 2016, he was appointed managing director of CargoLogicManagement, a UK-based Volga-Dnepr Group company specializing in management consulting services provided to international airlines.

Serge Corbel is new CFO at CEVA Logistics

BAAR, SWITZERLAND: CEVA Logistics has named Serge Corbel as new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) effective October 15 replacing Peter Waller, Group CFO since 2016, who will pursue other career opportunities outside of the company.

While the Board of Directors and Xavier Urbain, CEO of CEVA Logistics, are most grateful for Waller's outstanding work in preparing CEVA Logistics for the demands of the capital market, it was concluded that a different background and comprehensive experience in logistics are required for supporting the company in further implementing its business strategy and for transforming the group and bringing it to the next level.

Waller has contributed tremendously in both the IPO in May 2018 and the successful refinancing



Serge Corbel

of the company's entire debt.

Corbel has been in the logistics industry for more than 30 years and is with CMA-CGM, a leading worldwide shipping group, for more than 25 years. He has extensive sector know-how and comprehensive experience in running complex finance organizations and has been working in Europe, America and Asia.

B&H Worldwide creates new position for Oceania

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA: B&H Worldwide, touted as the-best-in-class aerospace logistics company, has appointed Mark Hollis to the newly created position of Head of Commercial – Oceania.

Hollis will lead the business on all commercial activities in the region while reporting to the Executive Board. He will work alongside Colin Kaltner, B&H's recently appointed Head of Operations for Oceania.

As part of its continued strategic expansion plan B&H is focusing on its Lead Logistics Provider (LLP) role and Hollis' appointment will further boost its market leading capabilities in this regard in the Oceania region. As an experienced logistics professional Hollis has an extensive track record in strategic and client development with companies such as Toll Global Forwarding and Kuehne Nagel.

"Mark's arrival will really spearhead our business development across the Oceania region and will dovetail with the other activity the company is working on around the world. We are delighted to welcome him on-board and having such an experienced professional heading up the commercial team will drive our LLP activity across the region," says B&H Worldwide Group CEO Stuart Allen.

AERO MRO
Aerospace & Defence



2018
INDIA



DESTINATION INDIA

5th and 6th December 2018, Hotel Pride Plaza, Aerocity, New Delhi



MRO Association of India has been holding this B2B event since 2011 in various avatars, the latest being Aero MRO India Aerospace & Defence. The event has been looked up to by the Government Agencies, the Defence Forces, Airlines, MROs, OEMs, Supply Chain Managers, Leasing and Financing firms, Legal Firms, Trade Bodies, Equipment Suppliers, Tooling Companies, State Governments, Airport Developers and Operators and many more.

Aero MRO India A&D 2018 is supported by industry bodies such as Business Aircraft Operators Association (BAOA), Association of Private Airports Operators (APAO), Rotary Wings Society of India (RWSI), Society of Indian Aerospace Technologies and Industries (SIATI), etc.

KPMG has been our Knowledge Partners since the inception of the Association and the event.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

air
cargo
update



MEBAA Show

The MEBAA Show is the Middle East's leading business aviation exhibition and a must attend event for companies across the entire industry. This year, the MEBAA Conference will also be introduced on the show floor. Split into four distinct sessions across two days, the conference will include both a UAE Market Focus and in depth analysis of the Global business aviation market. Panel discussions and presentations will focus on topics such as what is being done to drive business aviation forward; analysing the latest trends and regulations in the market and identifying how best to take advantage as well as business aviation insurance and how it is changing, including protection against new potential threats.

Other topics will include cyber security, aviation finance and innovation, among others.

Airshow Site, DWC, Dubai

December 11-12, 2018

AVSEC World 2019

AVSEC World in Miami, Florida, USA, will showcase the dynamic security environment and provide a forum to address the challenges that the industry faces. The Conference unites professionals in the security sphere to discuss current issues and actions to be taken to manage risks in the aviation industry today.

With over 450 security experts representing the full spectrum of the aviation industry, this is the security event to attend and to expand your networks.

Hilton Miami | Miami, Florida

February 26-28, 2019

International Transport Logistics exhibition (logitrans Turkey)

The leading trade fair for transport logistics in the Eurasian region will be held once again in Turkey on November 12-14 with a professional platform for presenting innovative logistics solutions with latest update on market developments to grow your business and create new opportunities. This event will gather logistics and supply chain executives from Europe, North Africa, the Middle & Far East and CIS countries.

Istanbul Turkey

November 12-14, 2018

Aviation Day Colombia

IATA & ALTA have joined forces to host the Aviation Day Colombia in Bogotá. This event will bring together industry experts, senior airline and airport executives, and government authorities to discuss aviation's largest opportunities and key challenges across Colombia.

IATA's global Aviation Days are well known for their engaging subject matter, outstanding speakers, lively debate and, of course, some of the best networking opportunities you'll find anywhere in the industry.

Hotel Grand Hyatt Bogotá | Bogotá, Colombia

November 27, 2018

Middle East Air Cargo & Logistics 2018 Conference & Awards

The Middle East Air Cargo & Logistics 2018 Conference & Awards is a new transformative event to be held in Dubai, the global business hub and the region's focal point in air freight and logistics.

In partnership with Dubai South (formerly Dubai World Central), a sprawling multibillion economic zone supporting logistics, aviation, commercial, humanitarian, residential and other businesses around the Al Maktoum International Airport, the venue for Expo 2020, this conference promises to be an engaging and informative gathering of cargo operators, forwarders, airlines, integrators, airports, shippers, investors, brokers, general sales agents, entrepreneurs, suppliers, among other stakeholders.

Dubai South | www.meacl.com

January 29-30, 2019



Dubai Airshow 2019

The 2019 edition of the Dubai Airshow will once again bring the aerospace community together. Show on show, the Dubai Airshow delivers an unrivalled gateway to established and developing markets – with 80% of the world's population located within eight hours of one of the UAE's airports this is where the industry comes to make connections. Dubai Airshow 2017 gathered together 1,200 exhibitors from 63 countries, over 79,380 trade visitors with 159 aircraft on display. The event generated an order book of \$113.8 billion, the biggest in its history.

DWC, Dubai Airshow Site

www.dubaiairshow.aero

November 17-21, 2019

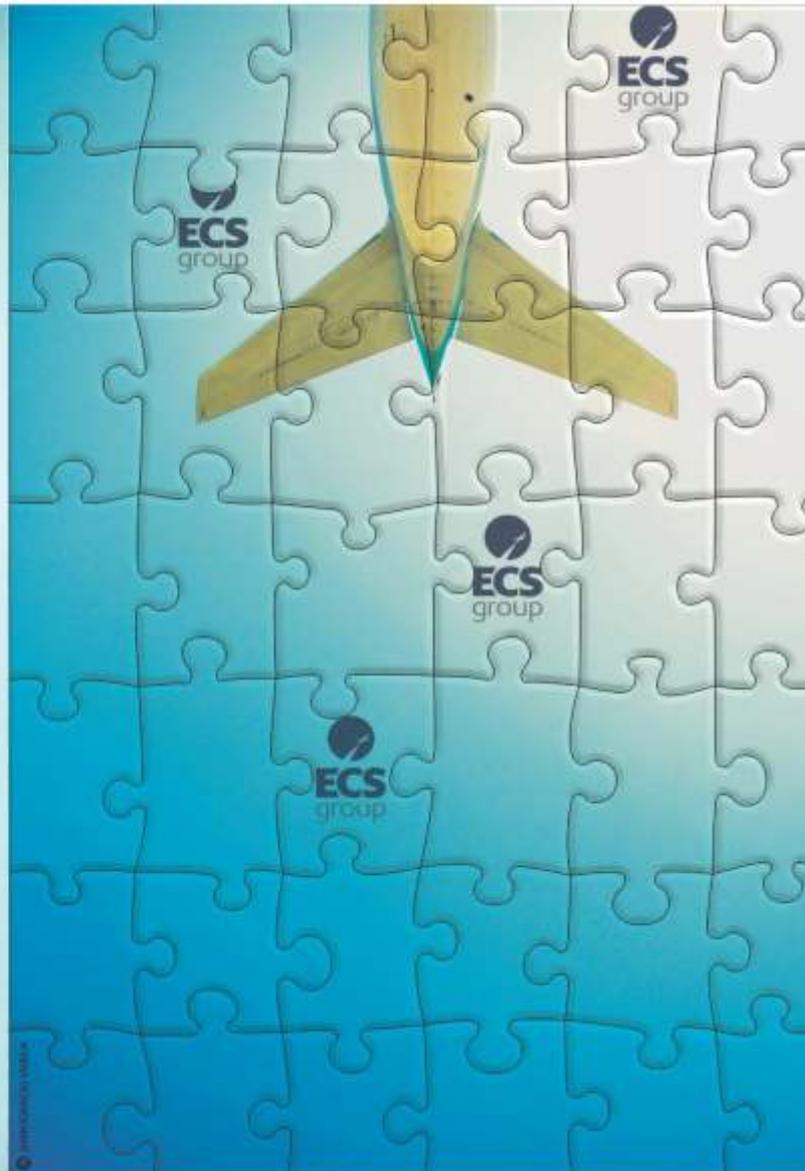


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