

air cargo update

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



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Divisional Senior Vice President, Cargo

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EDITORIAL

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Middle East, Africa, Asia & beyond

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

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Editor's Note

Halfway through 2019

We're halfway through 2019. It's a volatile journey for people, businesses and nations amid uncertainties in politics, socio-economic policies, trade relations and a paradigm shift on how we live and do business in the 21st century.

The air cargo industry sailed through the first half of the year with miniscule growth but there appears to be a silver lining in the horizon with its services getting high demand in the e-Commerce industry with a greater number of the world's population opting to shop online requiring speed and efficiency in delivering orders—mobiles, gadgets, clothes, bags, shoes, other personal effects, among other things.

In this edition, we'll share with you Emirates SkyCargo's continued growth despite the many challenges facing the industry. Known for quality and efficiency, the Dubai-based freight carrier also leads in investing in new technology, equipment, people and system to enhance its products and services.

The result: a robust business that supports millions of people and industries across continents even to the farthest shores of the planet. It's a business with conscience ruled by strong ethical standards.

In India, we'll bring you the story of the country's first Green Airport, the Kempegowda International Airport, which is investing US\$1.864 billion to expand its facilities to cater to the long-term demands of the growing Indian aviation market. With over 37 passenger airlines and 15 cargo airlines operating from its zone, it's envisioned to push further growth in India's economy.

We'll also share with you the latest technology that different airports across the world are mulling to use to speed up the process of screening passengers without compromising security. There's the facial biometrics technology, among others, that will soon slowly replace the use of boarding passes among passengers.

Read on the rest of the latest news and features in the dynamic air cargo industry in our June edition.

Gemma Q. Casas
Editor-in-Chief

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British entrepreneur gets into acting and voiceover

Former British military officer turned entrepreneur Gregory Gottlieb wears many hats—he's a soldier, a professional skydiver, a private pilot, an author, a speaker, a moderator, a business executive and most recently, an actor and voiceover talent for TV commercials.

His face and voice had appeared on many TV commercials shot in Dubai and aired across the Middle East, inspiring him to try his luck even on movies.

"I enjoy acting because you meet a lot of interesting people. It's quite fun," Gottlieb who studied at Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham and Goldsmiths University of London told **Air Cargo Update**. "I have also auditioned for a couple of movies."

While in the British military, Gottlieb recalled he would, from time to time, command the Changing of Guards at the Buckingham Palace where about 5,000 people at any given day watch in awe the ceremony.

Gottlieb described that spontaneous live act as the beginning of his interest to perform and get into acting which he made possible late in life.

"I'm doing quite a lot of acting, TV commercials and voiceovers," Gottlieb happily shared.

His 20-year-career in the British Army culminated in 1998 as the UK Ministry of Defence Officer responsible for all CT & SF aviation equipment requirements.

From the military, Gottlieb leaped into the corporate world of aerospace and defense, taking up a senior management role with a German group of companies in aerospace and logistics before moving to the Middle East



Gregory Gottlieb

Founder and Managing Director
Airships Arabia

where he had been based for more than a decade now.

In the Middle East, Gottlieb worked as program manager for some of the best firms in aerospace and defense like the Abu Dhabi Autonomous Systems Investment, LLC (ADASI), a subsidiary of the Abu Dhabi government's business entity Tawazun and the Prince Sultan Advanced Tech Research Institute in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia before embarking on his own independent consultancy firm where he provided technical and managerial support to government agencies and commercial enterprises in the US and the UK, including the provision of specialist third-party engineering services.

Gottlieb is today the founder and managing director of Airships Arabia, a Dubai-based startup offering consultancy services to government and commercial clients on aviation, logistics and general management with emphasis on airships, hybrids and aerostats.

Formed in 2016, the company's interest extends across the Middle East with offices in the UAE and Saudi Arabia, aiming to eventually engage into airship operations, maintenance, repair, overhaul, and crew training enterprise in its own right, with focus on hybrid airships.

While success has come his way many times, Gottlieb remains grounded and firm in believing that it's best to spread kindness and peace no matter what your status in life is.

"To manage and control our life, we have to go with the flow. Always be kind to people and avoid conflict at all costs," said Gottlieb. "I became a soldier at age 18 because I believe in peace."

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Turkish Cargo adds Porto to growing freight route network



ISTANBUL: Turkish Cargo has added Portugal's second largest city and most important industrial hub, Porto, to its growing route of freight network of more than 300 destinations worldwide apart from 88 dedicated direct cargo flights.

Turkish Cargo says Porto is not only one of the most important industrial ports in Europe but is also a vital point for exports. Located in southwestern Europe, the city is one of the oldest in the continent with a population of 1.8 million people.

It has many crucial industrial ports on the shores of the Northern Atlantic Ocean dating back to 4th century AD. Turkey's national freight carrier says it

will operate flights to/from Porto on Sundays by A330-200F freighters on the line İstanbul (IST) - Madrid (MAD)–Porto (OPO) - İstanbul (IST).

Turkish Cargo has risen to the 7th top cargo brand spot in recent months, according to World Air Cargo data with 9.6 percent increase in its tonnage despite the 5.8 percent shrinkage in the global freight market in January and February.

Indian government to buy Dighi Port for US\$2.3 billion

MUMBAI: The Indian government-owned Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) is set to buy the debt-ridden Dighi Port Ltd. for Rs 853.28 crore (about USD2.3 billion) after the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) approved its resolution plan for the proposal.

This is the first time a government-owned company is acquiring a private entity under India's insolvency and bankruptcy law, according to media reports.

JNPT, the biggest container port in India, won against Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ), India's biggest private port operator which quoted Rs 1 crore more than JNPT and argued that JNPT's proposal should be rendered

nonresponsive pending its submission of performance bank guarantee of Rs 100 crore.

But the Mumbai court countered: "The non-submission of performance bank guarantee by JNPT which is a Government of India undertaking will not render the CoC decision a nullity since JNPT has "Sovereign Guarantee", which is at a very higher footing than bank guarantee and there is no reason to question the solvency of Government of India undertaking."

According to news reports, JNPT will pay Rs 651.12 crore to a clutch of 18 financial creditors of Dighi Port, a 72.2% cut to the Rs 3,074.51 crore that Dighi owes them. JNPT will invest

a further Rs 190.78 crore as equity to improve the operations of Dighi Port and also pay Rs 11.38 crore to Maharashtra Maritime Board (MMB).

JNPT, which has cash and cash equivalent of more than Rs 5,000 crore (about USD14 billion), proposes to fund the resolution plan from its internal resources through a mix of equity and preference shares and shareholders' funds.

Located in the same district as JNPT, India envisions Dighi to be developed as a satellite port. The port has a capacity load of 30 million tons of cargo and has started partial operations from two multi-purpose berths that can load, coal, bauxite, steel coils and containers.

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GLOBAL NEWS

South African Airways aims for tourists and high-value cargo out of Guangzhou

JOHANNESBURG: South African Airways is poised to launch three weekly direct flights between Johannesburg and Guangzhou, China on September 18, 2019 targeting both tourists and high-value cargo out of the affluent Chinese city.

The Guangzhou route is designed for leisure and business travelers as well as traders looking for reliable transport for high-value goods between the routes.

SAA will be the only carrier operating direct service between Johannesburg and Guangzhou, with flight time of approximately 13 hours and 40 minutes, providing the shortest travel time on a nonstop basis between the two points.

Guangzhou is the capital of Guangdong province, the center of China's export-led manufacturing industries. The city is the third largest in the country after Beijing and Shanghai and is an important transportation hub and trading port in the region.

Described as "the world's manufacturing hub", formal and informal traders source the majority of goods purchased in Sub-Saharan Africa from the Guangdong due to Africa's poor manufacturing capacity.



"We are confident that the introduction of this route is based on sound commercial considerations and will not only benefit SAA but South Africa as a whole as China is the largest source market in Asia. It is also South Africa's largest trading partner in the world," said SAA CEO Vuyani Jarana.

There will be three new flights per week to Guangzhou and these will complement SAA's current operations to Hong Kong. This means, SAA will fly four times a week to Hong Kong. Airbus A340-300 aircraft will operate both the Guangzhou and Hong Kong routes.

"Adding a direct service to

mainland China, combined with our current popular flights to Hong Kong provides SAA with immense growth opportunities to and from mainland China. It also gives our traders access to the centre of Chinese manufacturing," said Jarana.

For more travel options for SAA customers flying to and from Guangzhou, the airline has made interline agreements with China Southern Airlines, China Eastern, Air China and Hainan Airlines.

The afternoon arrival flight in Guangzhou will connect to more than 20 cities in China which include Shanghai, Beijing, Fuzhou, Xiamen, Nanning, Kunming, Haikou, Qingdao, Nanchang, Wuhan and Chengdu.

Bangladesh garment products get boost with UK cargo ban lifted



DHAKA: Bangladesh's multibillion garment industry continues to get a boost with Britain's decision to lift in April the two-year cargo ban

on its clothing exports amid safety concerns.

The belly capacity of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, the national carrier of Bangladesh, continues to be filled with garments from the capital Dhaka since the decision was made.

Biman carried 15 tons of garments when the ban was lifted and booking for more shipments keep on coming for the Dhaka-London route, according to reports.

Two years ago, cargo transports between Dhaka and London were stopped over safety concerns from the British government. The cargo ban was lifted in April this year after extensive safety initiatives were done by Bangladesh. Biman had since received the ACC3 designation as a cargo carrier.

dnata and Lufthansa Group expand partnership in the US

AUSTIN, TEXAS: Lufthansa Group is further expanding its partnership with dnata, one of the world's largest air services providers, through numerous services in the United States.

dnata has been selected to provide ramp, secure clean and passenger handling services to Lufthansa at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport and now serves the airline group, including Swiss International Air Lines, Austrian Airlines and Edelweiss Air, at eight airports in the country.

In Austin, dnata will handle Lufthansa's new Frankfurt flight, which the airline operates five times a week, using its Airbus A330-300 aircraft. The ground handler's professionally trained staff will ensure a safe and seamless travel experience for up to 70,000 passengers a year from check-in to boarding, and from disembarkation to baggage collection.

Including the German carrier, dnata now provides quality and reliable air services to three airlines in the state capital of Texas with a team of 75 customer-oriented aviation professionals.

"We are proud to be the ground handler of choice for a leading global airline group in the world's largest aviation market. Our newest contract with Lufthansa is a testament to our successful partnership and the consistent high quality our teams deliver across the U.S. We stay committed to providing best-in-class services to our airline customers and their passengers, every day," said David Barker, Chief Executive Officer of dnata USA.

Holger Bremes, Director Commercial Airport Infrastructure, Lufthansa Group, noted: "As a premium airline, Lufthansa Airlines is excited to grow the North American relationship with the start of service in Austin with dnata. With our very positive service experience from destinations like Boston (BOS), Los Angeles (LAX), San Francisco (SFO) and New York (JFK) we are looking forward to providing first class service to our customers with our handling partner at Austin Airport."

dnata commenced ground handling and cargo operations in the US in 2016. Since then, it has invested more than US\$45 million in facilities, equipment, training and technology, while continually expanding its operations in the country.

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GLOBAL NEWS

Nippon Cargo Airlines warns customers insufficient info could get their goods offloaded as US gets tough on security cargo rules



TOKYO: Nippon Cargo Airlines cautioned customers their cargo to the United States could be offloaded if the mandatory pre-arrival information on their shipments are not provided as the US gets tough on security threats associated with foreign goods entering the country.

The US Customs and Borders Protection (CBP) will start implementing the Air Cargo Advance Screening (ACAS) Program on June 12, 2019. This requires the submission of advanced air cargo information on shipments arriving in the US from a foreign location. Previously, airlines do it on a voluntary basis.

The US Department of Homeland Security (DHS), however, said the baseline on aviation security worldwide should be raised. With which, airlines must submit a subset of required pre-arrival air cargo data to CBP at the earliest point practicable and prior to loading the cargo onto aircraft destined to or transiting through the United States.

The pre-arrival information required include the following: House Airway Bill (Maximum 12 digit) & AWB (Standard 11 digit) number; shipper's name and address; consignee name and address; total pieces of goods; gross weight and

description of cargo.

"If you don't submit any cargo information in a timely manner, it might be possible to offload your shipment," Nippon Cargo Airlines warned customers.

"We might charge to you the penalties and fines imposed on us by the US authorities if it arises from customer's negligence," it added.

CBP said the ACAS Program came about after authorities intercepted an attempt by the Al-Qaeda group in Yemen to conceal some ship explosive devices in cargo onboard US-bound aircraft in October 2010.

CBP and the US Transportation Security Administration, thereafter, began meeting with industry partners to collectively develop a mechanism to collect cargo data within the supply chain. ACAS was first implemented on a pilot basis before its full implementation this year.

"ACAS is now a requirement. As a program, it enhances the security of the aircraft and passengers on U.S. - bound flights by providing an additional layer to DHS's robust risk-based layered security strategy. ACAS risk assessments identify and prevent the loading of high -risk air cargo that could pose a risk to the aircraft during flight," CBP said.

Singapore joins Etihad Cargo freighter network



ABU DHABI: A weekly scheduled B777 flight between Etihad Cargo's hub in Abu Dhabi and Singapore's Changi International Airport was launched last month as the cargo and logistics arm of Etihad Aviation Group expands in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Singapore weekly flight will continue to Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam, before returning to Abu Dhabi. Etihad Cargo says the move reinforces its commitment to serve key logistics hubs in the region and meet customers' demand for more freight capacity between the cities.

Trade and economic relations between the UAE and major Asian cities are strong and demand more transport support.

In 2018, Etihad Cargo restructured its network and simplified its fleet to five Boeing 777 freighters, to focus on key trade lanes that benefit from Abu Dhabi's globally-central location. The company has also increased cargo capacity in core markets including China, India and Vietnam, and Singapore's addition further strengthens its growing freighter network.



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GLOBAL NEWS

Swissport is new terminal operator at Finnair Cargo's COOL Nordic Cargo Hub in Helsinki

HELSINKI: Finnair Cargo has contracted Swissport to manage and operate its new terminal at Helsinki Airport, the COOL Nordic Cargo Hub, which combines robotics and intelligent warehouse automation as among its key state-of-the-art features.

The EUR80-million cargo terminal, which is designed for the expansion of the A350 fleet that will double-long-haul cargo capacity by 2020, continues to handle record volumes since its opening in 2018 as demand for Finnair Cargo services continue to rise.

Janne Tarvainen, Finnair Cargo Managing Director, said the company's business relations with Swissport span across numerous airports and that there's no doubt it will deliver the same quality service to further develop Finnair's operations.

"Swissport is one of the world's biggest air cargo handling companies and they are our cargo handling

partner at numerous airports around the world. We are confident that with their solid industry knowledge and drive for innovation and operational excellence they are an ideal partner for us to develop and expand our COOL concept of data-driven and proactive operations steering in the Finnair network," said Tarvainen.

With COOL Nordic Cargo hub terminal now managed by Swissport, Finnair Cargo says it aims to shift focus to network-wide data-driven operational excellence.

Tomi Viitanen, CEO of Swissport Finland, is delighted with the new partnership and looks forward to strengthening the collaboration between the companies.

"This new agreement strengthens our long-standing relationship with Finnair and we are excited to contribute to their transformation journey as the operator of their main hub. We share their vision of high-quality service and look forward to



Tomi Viitanen, CEO of Swissport Finland, left, with Janne Tarvainen, Finnair Cargo Managing Director.

exploring the opportunities that digitalisation can bring to air cargo handling," he said.

Finnair Cargo, one of the largest air cargo carriers in the Nordic and Baltic region, made record revenue growth in 2018 at 4.8% year-on-year to €206.9 million.

WFS gets new contract from 3 US airlines and 1 Canadian carrier



LONDON: Three US airlines—Allegiant Air, Spirit Airlines and Jetblue—and Canada's Flair Airlines—have awarded new ground handling contracts to Worldwide Flight Services (WFS) in the US.

Allegiant Air has partnered with WFS at four new airport locations in the US; Albany and Plattsburg in New York, Albuquerque in New Mexico, and Tucson, Arizona. The two-year contracts are for WFS to provide

above and below wing handling services for some 30 Allegiant Airbus A320 flights per week.

Spirit Airlines has also signed up with WFS to support its A320 services from Plattsburg to Fort Lauderdale. The airline is already a customer of WFS at Asheville Regional Airport in North Carolina, Newark, and Henry E. Rohlsen Airport on the island of St. Croix.

WFS' ability to offer passenger and ramp services at multiple US airports also attracted Canadian carrier, Flair Air, to award a three-year contract for its seasonal operations from Palm Springs and Phoenix-Mesa and its year-round services from McCarran International Airport in Las Vegas. From these airports, Flair serves both

Edmonton and Winnipeg with Boeing 737 operations.

At Bozeman Yellowstone International Airport in Montana, WFS has also commenced handling for JetBlue's new twice-weekly seasonal Airbus A320 flights to Long Beach, providing the airline with passenger, ramp and de-icing services.

"Airlines serving multiple airports across the United States recognise the value of working with WFS because we provide the opportunity for them to partner with a single ground handler. We are also able to demonstrate the high-quality standards of service, safety and security our teams at each airport provide, which gives us a very strong business proposition," commented Tricia Casalinho, Senior Vice President, Ground Handling at WFS.

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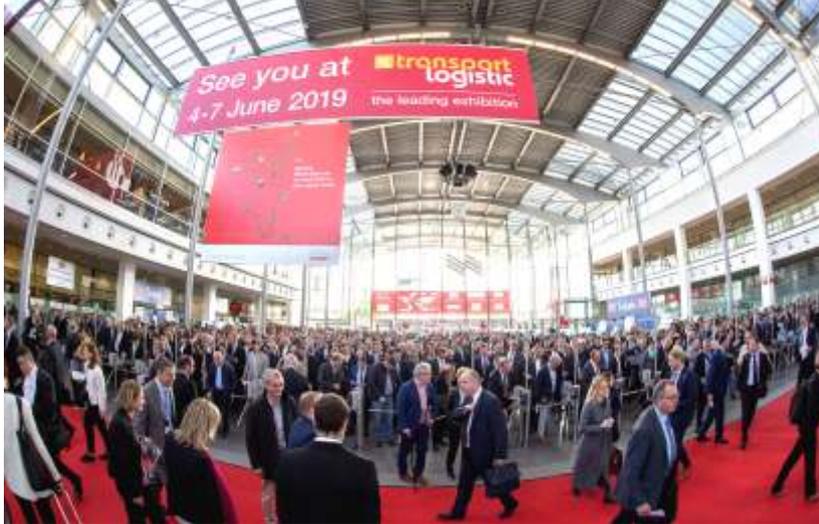


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GLOBAL NEWS

Munich's 'transport logistic' to open with record 2,360 exhibitors



MUNICH: The world's biggest transportation trade fair, transport logistic, is set to open with record 2,360 exhibitors despite ongoing global economic and political uncertainties.

Organizer Messe Munchen says all major players will be at the event from June 4-7 to discuss Europe's opportunities against the background of China's Silk Road Initiative, the shortage of skilled workers, paths to smart city logistics and the specific logistics trends on road and rail, water and air, among other things.

"We do not feel uncertainties due to

trade wars, economic developments or Brexit when participating in this year's trade fair – to the contrary: The number of exhibitors has so far increased by 9 percent from 2,162 to 2,360 and its international share has risen by 3 percent to 56 percent," Stefan Rummel, Managing Director of Messe München, stated.

Growth comes mainly from European markets, but participation from China has almost doubled to 64 exhibitors. There will be 25 international joint pavilions, including Sri Lanka, Romania, Lithuania, Poland and Turkey.

"Logistics is the cornerstone behind global trade flows, and there is a great need for information and international cooperation," noted Rummel. The trade fair has opened another hall and consequently will extend over 10 halls and the open air area.

Top line-up at the opening "Changing Global Markets – Is Logistics in the Driving Seat?" is the topic of the trade fair opening. Andreas Scheuer, Federal Minister for Transport and Digital Infrastructure, will open the fair, then Dr. Frank Appel, CEO of Deutsche Post DHL; Dorothea von Boxberg, Executive Board of Product and Sales of Lufthansa Cargo AG; Alexander Doll, Executive Board of Finance, Freight Transport and Logistics of Deutsche Bahn AG and Rolf Habben Jansen, CEO of Hapag-Lloyd AG will participate in a panel discussion.

There will be approximately 50 forums in the conference program, focusing on the global economy, digitalization, the lack of drivers and skilled workers as well as sustainable city logistics. Artificial intelligence is seen as a promising response to many challenges.

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GLOBAL NEWS

Grand Jury to pick the best of the best among 10 finalists of #NexGenLeaders



PARIS: A grand jury will select this month the best of the best among the 10 projects that made it to the #NexGenLeaders challenge out of 1000 that competed across the world, GSSA global leader and organizer ECS Group announced.

The final selection took place simultaneously worldwide on 13 May among the 50 teams that were coached by mentors for over two months as they presented their projects live and in person to ECS Group which described it as a "rewarding day full of amazing moments and discoveries."

ECS said it's already a major victory for the 10 teams, which all win passes to the unmissable Air Cargo Europe trade show, taking place on 4-7 June in Munich – the ideal opportunity to present their projects to the entire industry.

The #NexGenLeaders Grand Jury made up of industry stalwarts will select the final winners of the challenge in the following categories: best student project, best startup project, and best ECS Group employee project. The three winners will be announced at the prestigious World Air Cargo Awards Ceremony

2019 in Munich on 5 June.

"It's a big achievement for the 10 teams that were successfully selected from among more than 1000 participants and over 200 innovative projects. As well as the honour of being chosen by renowned experts from the air freight industry, coming to Munich also gives them the opportunity to open doors within the industry and discuss their future," said ECS Group which will have a dedicated #NexGenLeaders area at its stand during the event.

The 10 chosen #NexGenLeaders are:

Students:

- **MHTV:** a new packaging method for cargo waste management
- **Each % Counts:** a solution to optimize the empty space in cargo planes to upgrade it in a sustainable & social way
- **BTeam:** an ecosystem deal with the whole aircraft decommissioning process
- **Augmented by DCK:** improving shipment acceptance, handling and pallet build-up via augmented reality

Startups:

- **CLIVE:** The Selfie App: a unique data service for cargo airlines
- **Cargonow:** a platform for comparing, tracking and booking air freight capacities
- **Aviationchain:** a ULD tracking mesh network with a web interface
- **Leg-2.com:** a tailor-made solution allowing an airline to partially or totally outsource its mail activity

ECS Group employees:

- **BCS Leaders:** online tool to connect all the employees of a company worldwide)
- **Cargo Assistant:** a voice assistant tool that performs a range of tasks)

EGYPTAIR CARGO eyes African market, initiates tech reforms



CAIRO: After successfully launching a freighter flight between Cairo and Johannesburg, South Africa in March, EGYPTAIR CARGO now seeks to expand its market presence in the continent.

The airline is using an A330-200 plane with maximum payload of 54 tons for the route. Capt. Bassem Gohar, Chairman of EGYPTAIR CARGO, said the company looks forward to serving the route with more freighter flights as well as reaching out to other African nations under the airline's new yield management plan.

In March, the freight carrier also shifted the company's airmail and air cargo systems to new and more advanced electronic methods which is seen to speed up the process. The company hired American VMAIL for the project.

Gohar said the new system had been activated in coordination with the Egypt's National Postal Authority to offer consumers better e-services on mail shipments.



flydubai Cargo now serves Kilimanjaro, Naples & Sochi



DUBAI: flydubai launched direct flight service to Naples, Italy and Sochi, Russia on May 31 and June 7, respectively, and resumed service to Kilimanjaro in Tanzania on June 1, offering options for both passenger and

cargo customers seeking access to the routes.

The budget airline's air freight division, flydubai Cargo, said the new routes will provide customers in Dubai cheaper, easier & faster ways to transport

their goods—general cargo, spare parts, valuables, perishables, among others.

“Working closely with our interline partners, we also offer cargo services to more than 300 destinations,” flydubai said in a statement.

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Virgin Atlantic Cargo doubles India services by returning to Mumbai



LONDON: After four years of hiatus, Virgin Atlantic Cargo is resuming its daily service between London Heathrow and Mumbai on October 27, doubling its capacity to the thriving cargo route for customers in India, the UK and US.

The daily service will not only enhance a vital link between India's commercial centre and the UK's capital, it also provides seamless connections via Heathrow between India and the US and complement the airline's long-established route between London and Delhi, the company said.

The new flights will depart and arrive Heathrow in the morning to align with connecting passenger and cargo flows to and from US. The Mumbai flights will be operated on Virgin Atlantic's Boeing 787-9 aircraft, providing up to 26 tons of cargo capacity.

"2019 marks a significant period of growth for Virgin Atlantic and I'm delighted that we're continuing to expand our route network once more, by returning to Mumbai. Until recently, we've been able to serve this important market through our partnership with Jet Airways, however, since Jet Airways has sadly suspended its operation, we now have an opportunity to provide

alternative options for our customers and meet this demand," said Juha Jarvinen, Executive Vice President, Commercial, at Virgin Atlantic.

Dominic Kennedy, Managing Director of Virgin Atlantic Cargo, said the Mumbai market is thriving and re-launching service there will provide customers easy connections between India, London and the US.

"In the last four years, the overall market from Mumbai to the UK and US has increased by more than 50% in revenue terms, alongside increases of 46% to India from both countries. When we resume Mumbai operations in October, we aim to win a strong share of this growing market, supported by our fast and easy connections over London to and from major cities across US and our enhanced capabilities for handling pharmaceuticals, one of the main types of shipments ex Mumbai. More capacity is great news for our import and export customers," he said.

The new Mumbai flights mark Virgin Atlantic's 27th daily service from London Heathrow and its third new route announcement this year. Flights to Tel Aviv, Israel, are due to commence in September 2019, with flights to São Paulo, Brazil, starting in 2020, marking the airline's first venture into South America.

Unilode expands services portfolio with global short- and medium-term ULD leasing solutions



ZURICH: Unilode Aviation Solutions says it's now offering short- and medium-term ULD services and further ULD types will soon be made available as part of the company's strategy to strengthen its global market position.

The ULDs can be leased from different strategic storage locations around the globe to increase customers' operational flexibility and cover for ULD imbalances and seasonal shortages.

Unilode's ULD leasing solutions will benefit all customers through an expanded asset base and service network.

The company's current leasing network covers key air cargo hubs in Europe (LHR, AMS, FRA, MXP) and Asia (HKG), and is being gradually expanded in the USA (ORD, LAX, MIA). It says further stations will be added soon to establish the brand as a leading global ULD leasing provider.



GLOBAL NEWS

Taiwan's China Airlines orders 3 new planes from Boeing



TAIPEI: Taiwan's national carrier, China Airlines, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Boeing to buy B-777 freighter planes with option to order another

three in the future.

The airline says the 777Fs are more fuel efficient and requires less maintenance than older aircraft. They are intended to be used for long-haul

flights like Europe and North America.

China Airlines also made a deal with Airbus to lease 14 A321neo aircraft this year aimed at bolstering its commercial passenger operations. The narrow-body planes will be used to serve short-haul routes in the Asia-Pacific region.

The company's lease agreement with Airbus allows option to lease up to 16 additional aircraft.

"After assessing all relevant aircraft features and considering the congestion of neighboring airports in Asia, China Airlines (has) selected Airbus A321neo as the optimum aircraft for the regional narrow-body operations," China Airlines said in a statement.

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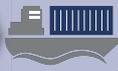
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LOGISTICS NEWS

Qube acquires LCR Group for A\$135 million

SYDNEY: Qube, Australia's largest integrated provider of import and export logistics services, acquired on May 10 the Brisbane-based LCR and its subsidiaries for A\$135 million (about USD94.14 million) in a debt-financed deal.

Qube Holdings Limited (ASX: QUB), which has a market capitalization of about US\$3.23 billion, used its existing undrawn debt facilities to finance the deal.

LCR, well known for providing innovative lift and shift materials handling solutions across Australia and PNG, is also a leading specialist provider of outsourced industrial logistics services, operating across mining, heavy transport, mobile crane and renewable energy industries including oil and gas.

"The acquisition of LCR is significant as it provides Qube the ability to deliver enhanced broad spectrum mining and industrial services to its existing and future customers," said



Qube Holdings Chief Operating Officer Paul Digney.

The acquisition provides Qube additional geographical diversity and service capability to enhance the company's ability to provide reliable integrated logistics solutions.

LCR CEO and Managing Director Col Partington said Qube and LCR Group are aligned in their business models and are both driven by a solid and

stable team.

"This alignment will continue under the support umbrella of Qube which will drive our collective goal to increase our presence and customer focus both in Australia and internationally. I am very excited for the staff and customers of LCR; Qube offers a great opportunity for all parties to be part of a growing national logistics business," said Partington.

Serbian government taps P&O Ports as new operator of Novi Sad Port



DUBAI: The Dubai-owned P&O Ports will now operate the Novi Sad Port in Serbia as part of its long-term investment agreement with the Serbian government.

Under their Public-Private Partnership (PPP) agreement, P&O Ports will operate Novi Sad for an initial

25 years with option to renew for another 25 years subject to both parties' consent.

The agreement primarily calls to upgrade the Novi Sad Port's equipment and services as well as support the Serbian government's strategy to create an intermodal

terminal and logistics centre with rail, road and inland waterways links to the rest of Europe.

The port is situated on a 24-hectare site alongside the Danube river and is operated by the last remaining port operator in the country owned and operated by the government with an estimated throughput of around 1 million tons a year.

The UAE firm will retain exclusive rights to undertake all waterside operations, container handling, project cargo, and fertilizer activities. The current quay is 500-m long and includes cargo handling, warehousing facilities, storage of bulk cargo and general cargo connections to the national railway network.

The construction of a new 189-metre vertical quay wall, new silo capacities, new handling equipment and refurbishment of existing machinery, plus the installation of a terminal operating system will be part of the development plan. New container terminals could also be considered in partnership with the Serbian Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure.



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CEVA Logistics signs three-year deal with LUSH in UK and Ireland

ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH, UK: CEVA Logistics announced it has been awarded a three-year deal to manage and deliver LUSH products to its stores across the UK and Ireland.

With this new agreement, CEVA will be responsible for moving the full range of items sold by LUSH—An ethically responsible cosmetics producer selling fresh, handmade, vegetarian cosmetics including hair care, skincare, bath bombs, shower gels, fragrances and other beauty products.

CEVA will make daily collections from LUSH's UK distribution centre at Poole. Collected merchandise will be taken into CEVA's overnight distribution network for delivery throughout the night to LUSH's store network in the UK and Ireland.

"We are delighted to be working with LUSH Cosmetics as their official supply chain logistics provider. Our shared values mean LUSH will benefit from CEVA's approach to minimising our combined impact on the environment through environmentally responsible logistics solutions," said



Eddie Aston, CEVA's UK, Ireland and Nordics Managing Director.

Implementing innovative, sustainable and value-added solutions, CEVA will use double deck trailers significantly reducing distance travelled and vehicles on roads. Its vehicle fleet is also fitted with telematics, which will provide data and insight to influence driver behavior and reduce fuel consumption.

CEVA's shared user network will also

be utilised to perform final mile delivery to almost 80 stores and ensure full visibility of all products as they are moved. LUSH's store managers will benefit from timely deliveries to their sites and decanting at night through unassisted deliveries to ensure minimal disruption to daytime activities. By using the CEVA Track app, they will also receive up to date/real-time delivery information on their individual orders.

Poland's PEKAES opens new customs agency in Białystok



BRENTWOOD, ESSEX: PEKAES, a leading logistics service provider in Poland, has opened a new customs agency in Białystok amid growing demand for customs services between countries in the region such as Belarus, Ukraine and Russia, according to Pangea Logistics Network.

PEKAES is a member of Pangea—a network of air and ocean freight forwarders and consolidators with 180 members operating from 400 bases in 95 countries handling over 1.5 million bookings per annum.

PEKAES says it plans to launch further services in the customs area for

clients in Białystok with simplified procedures and temporary storage warehouse.

"The development of customs services in PEKAES results not only from a constant increase in the number of cargoes entrusted to us by our clients, but also from expanding cooperation with our business partners from all over Europe within the international general cargo services," said Maciej Bachman, President of the Management Board of PEKAES.

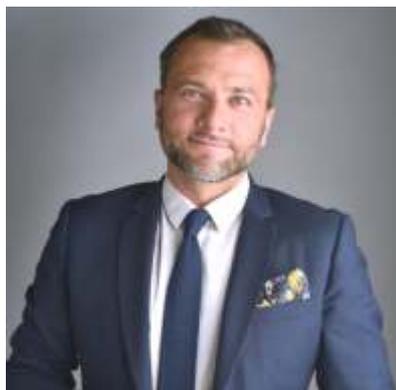
"Our company provides professional advice, and represents

clients before customs authorities and other state institutions, such as SANEPID, WIJHARS. We also provide a number of additional services, such as handling TIR and ATA carnets and security measures for the transport of goods under Community transit procedures," Bachman added.

PEKAES has been seeing a steady increase for customs services among its clients. In Błonie, among other things, diplomatic packages are cleared. In Czechowice-Dziedzice, the company provides export clearance services for goods to the Republic of South Africa, Chile, Afghanistan, as well as electrical equipment to Vietnam, Nigeria, New Zealand and various products to Bahrain. The PEKAES Group currently has three Customs Agencies, and additional customs orders are processed also by Maritime Forwarding Departments in Gdynia and Szczecin and the Air Freight Forwarding Department in Warsaw.



Q&A with Adrien Thominet CEO, ECS Group



At ECS Group, we have made significant investments and we have now created a range of products designed to boost our clients' performance and maximize their revenue.

e-Commerce worldwide sales in 2018 grew by 18% to US\$2.86 trillion with North America posting the highest growth at 15% to over US\$500 million with transactions significantly done on mobile phones, studies showed.

The era of the so-called "New Retail" which integrates shopping online and offline that involves air freight, logistics and data, across a single-value chain is a phenomenon that directly impacts how airlines, freight forwarders, financial tech and the air cargo sectors do their business.

With more retailers shifting to the Progressive Web Apps (PWAs) instead of having customers download the traditional app to promote their products, e-Commerce is projected to grow even more. A

PWA is a new software development that combines regular web pages or websites with mobile apps. These hybrid PWA sites are said to be 10x faster than mobile apps and allow push notifications with AI assisting customers to vividly view what they are buying with some even having virtual reality options for select products, thus, enhancing online sales.

Air Cargo Update talks to Adrien Thominet, the CEO of ECS Group, the largest integrated GSSA worldwide, with more than 1,000 strong employees across its 69 offices in 47 countries dealing with dozens of airlines.

An economics graduate with broad international experience, the Paris-based Thominet shares his insights on e-Commerce in the air cargo industry in this Q&A.

How is eCommerce changing the air freight industry for the better as far as the GSSA industry is concerned?

It's a crucial challenge and one that is very relevant today. For a well-structured GSSA such as ourselves, it's a real opportunity to bring added value. Well-organized teams, a truly

connected network and, of course, investments in the appropriate technological resources (developing business intelligence tools and robots) mean we can play our part in the rise of e-commerce.

At ECS Group, we have made significant investments and we have now created a range of products designed to boost our clients' performance and maximize their revenue.

Furthermore, air freight is more expensive than other methods of transport (10 times more costly on average than sea transport) but its key asset is its faster speed. And today, companies need this quicker pace, this responsiveness, in order to remain competitive. This means that e-commerce brings three improvement focuses to the air freight industry:

- ★ A faster logistics chain, and above all, last mile delivery;
- ★ Traceability, which is a new aspect;
- ★ The ability to make use of logistics solutions almost anywhere in the world (ordering products from and having them delivered to anywhere in the world)





EXCLUSIVE Q&A



In terms of volumes, how much percentage of cargo did ECS handle in 2018 involving e-Commerce?

Around 15% at the moment, but this figure looks set to grow rapidly as e-commerce is driving us to faster roll-out. E-commerce accentuates time-related challenges, and although time constraints are already central to our work as a GSSA, the growth of e-commerce makes time a crucial factor beyond the 'borders of e-commerce'.

Which countries are you seeing steady rise on e-Commerce?

The countries where we have seen the greatest growth in e-Commerce are, for exports, the USA and China, and across Asia in general. But more broadly, this phenomenon is truly global, and countries such as the United Kingdom, Germany, France and Brazil are not far behind.

At ECS Group, we are perfectly capable of managing this fast-paced roll-out thanks to our strong global network. Our local 'heroes' are an essential asset: thanks to their knowledge and expertise, they are able to meet all of our clients' needs and requirements, and help to move our industry and our processes forward.

In your opinion, what can the air cargo industry do in general to protect the interest of stakeholders in this burgeoning e-Commerce industry?

The air freight industry as a whole has to work together and create the innovative solutions of the future. Of course, this requires digital transformation, changes to our ways of working, and efforts to capitalize on the younger generations who are accustomed to new products and new ways of consuming. This is what we at ECS Group are doing through #NexGenLeaders.

But in our view, it also requires us to boost our visibility and highlight our distribution solutions (last mile delivery, for example), as well as simplifying/standardizing customs tariffs, which are a major obstacle in some regions.

Amazon has leased planes to deliver goods bought from its online stores. Do you think it's best for some other online stores to align themselves with specific air freight carriers for e-Commerce purposes?

Amazon is not the only stakeholder in this field – Alibaba is also an important player. It is clear that we are faced with a new business model and that other major groups will follow this model if it is seen to be viable in the long-term.

This solution seems profitable at the moment because Amazon is only using it for its domestic requirements, and thus, isn't faced with customs-related issues. However, when it comes to international flows, the same profitability can no longer be achieved. This difficulty is one that will be faced by other online stores that are interested in adopting a similar model.

As a GSSA, it is up to us to develop new services to meet new needs – and to create new needs. At ECS Group, we believe that a diverse and complementary range of solutions and business activities is the way forward. As such, while e-commerce helps to support the dynamic nature of our industry, it is only one of its components.



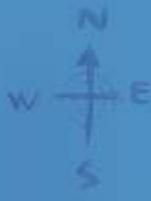
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Emirates SkyCargo

Business with conscience

-By Gemma Q. Casas



“

The UAE is our home market. We've had strong performance across all our global trade lanes. Our strategic positioning in Dubai allows us to connect to sea freight as well through Jebel Ali Port and this aspect of air-sea connectivity has also done really well. We had a solid finish for the last year with positive growth. We have a strong offering for the other markets in the GCC region with our connectivity on flights as well as trucking. One of the main verticals is the import of perishables into markets including KSA, Lebanon, Jordan, Oman and Iran.

**-Nabil Sultan, Divisional Senior Vice President
Emirates SkyCargo**

Emirates SkyCargo moved close to 2.7 million tons of cargo in financial year 2018-2019, impacting the lives and livelihood of millions across continents in both developed and emerging markets, ensuring that they get the best value for their money in today's challenging world beset with political, economic and environmental uncertainties.

With good cargo volumes mainly on perishables and pharmaceuticals, the Dubai-based air freight carrier grew its annual revenue during the period by 5% to AED13.1 billion (about USD3.6 billion) despite experiencing headwinds in the form of increasing fuel prices and currency exchange movements' negative impact, shared Nabil Sultan, Divisional Senior Vice President, Emirates SkyCargo.

“Despite a challenging and competitive market, Emirates SkyCargo had a strong performance in the 2018/19 Financial Year. We moved close to 2.7 million tons of cargo and positively impacted the lives of millions of people globally,” said Sultan, a US-educated Emirati who has been with the company since 1990.

This year, Sultan said Emirates SkyCargo is focusing on specialized products amid increasing demand from customers to address their specific needs.

“Our success and recognition in the industry has been the result of our continuing focus on developing and refining our specialized offerings. Customers have been demanding specialized care and handling for their shipments,” Sultan explained noting that in addition to the company's flagship Emirates Pharma, Emirates Fresh and Emirates Wheels products, it launched Emirates AOG for the rapid transportation of aircraft components and Emirates Pets for the safe and comfortable journey



(including door to door in select markets) for pets such as domestic cats and dogs. “We will continue to focus on specialized products for 2019.”

Watching Global Trends

With geopolitical conflicts directly impacting the movement of goods, businesses across many fronts, especially those in the air freight industry which accounts for a third of global trade valued at about US\$6 trillion annually according to the International Aviation Transport Authority (IATA), are closely monitoring global trends.

Emirates SkyCargo is among key players in the global air cargo industry closely watching global trends, preparing to adjust its operations for any eventualities.

“For the coming year, we are closely monitoring global trends. With the outlook of trade flows being impacted between the US, China and Europe, due to the introduction of tariffs, there is no doubt that there could be an impact on cargo volumes,” Sultan explained.

“We are also closely watching developments in the European economy with Brexit and other geopolitical considerations. However, there are always opportunities we can tap,” he added. “E-Commerce continues to post double digit growth, boosting production in some markets. The emergence of new markets has also

resulted in some non-traditional cargo movements. We continue to analyze these trends and will react by ensuring that our capacity is best deployed where there is demand.”

British Prime Minister Theresa May is scheduled to step down as Tory leader on June 7 and will subsequently serve as caretaker PM until the Tories have selected her replacement by end-July.

The UK and the UE agreed to a second delay to Brexit until October 31. If no deal is made by then, UK's access to the European Single Aviation Market may be in peril along with other matters connected to the transportation sector like cross-border shipping, rail, trucking and even logistics.

Analysts said upon execution of Brexit without clear aviation/transport deals with the EU, UK-licensed airlines will lose their right to fly to and from EU and between the remaining EU member states.

The heightened trade tension between the US and China, meanwhile, continues to take its toll on import and export sales volumes between the countries with consumers directly impacted on additional tariffs imposed on traded goods.

Green perishables

In 2018, Emirates SkyCargo transported about 400,000 tons of perishables, 40 percent of which are vegetables and fruits, and 30 percent



COVER STORY



meat and seafood, with the world demanding all sorts of cuisines and ingredients sourced from all corners of the planet.

"In today's connected world, people are becoming increasingly familiar with cuisines and ingredients from other countries and regions. This is helped by popular culture including TV shows as well as more international travel. Over the years, this familiarity has led to an increasing demand to transport food and other related perishable items across the world," Sultan said.

"Air Cargo is able to fulfill this need because of the ability to transport goods rapidly. So fruits and vegetables, loaded after harvesting, can remain fresh even as they arrive at their destination," he added.

Emirates SkyCargo's wide route network spanning six continents adequately meet the global demand for food from all corners of the world.

"The largest segment of perishables that we carry tends to be fruits and vegetables accounting for over 40% of all perishable cargo that we transport. We see large volumes of fruits and vegetables being transported from Africa (Kenya, Egypt, and South Africa), South Asia (India, Sri Lanka), South East Asia and Australia," Sultan explained.

"Meat and seafood form about a third of the total volume of perishables transported. Major export markets for meat tend to be Australasia, South Asia and Africa and for sea food some of the major export

markets include Norway, Chile Sri Lanka and South Africa. The Middle East market is a major consumer of meat and sea food," he added.

From Kenya in Africa and Equador in Latin America, Emirates SkyCargo, hauls tons of fresh cut flowers directly to Amsterdam, the site of the world's largest flower auction market.

India: The Gulf's food source

Geographically close to the Gulf, India's rich and abundant agricultural landscape has always been a top source of food imports for many countries in the Middle East which was complemented with the presence of millions of Indian migrants in the region.

"India is an important market for Emirates SkyCargo. With more than 170 weekly flights to nine stations in the country, we facilitate an important volume of trade to and from the country including the export of pharma and perishables," said Sultan.

Every month, the freight carrier transports between 4,000 to 5,000 tons of perishables from India to other parts of its route network. Last year, the Indian perishables it moved totaled close to 53,000.

Mangoes are among India's top seasonal commodity while vegetables that grow all-year-round like Okra, chillies, ginger, among many others, are regularly transported to the region and elsewhere.

"Mangoes are an important seasonal commodity that we help export from India, particularly Mumbai and Ahmedabad, to the Middle East, Europe (especially UK) and the US. But other than mangoes there are important quantities of other Indian fruits and vegetables that are exported to the Middle East and other markets where there is a considerable presence of Indian diaspora. Fruits and vegetables transported include Okra, drumsticks, green chillies, gourds, ginger, mushrooms, papaya, guavas and so on," said Sultan.

The volume of food cargo sourced from India rises depending whenever any major religious festival is observed in various communities.

"In terms of seasonality, we see a rise in exports of perishables to the Middle East during Ramadan and a spike in exports of fruits and vegetables around Indian festivals to the Middle East—especially Vishu and Onam, which are important events for expats from Kerala settled in the region," Sultan explained.

Perishables: Our speciality

Transporting millions of kilos of fruits and vegetables on a daily basis, Emirates SkyCargo is renowned for keeping them in their natural state

with sophisticated storage facilities on land and on air as well as expert handlers in the industry.

Sultan said Emirates Fresh, launched in 2017, is the company's answer to address the requirements of their global customers in transporting fruits, vegetables and other perishable cargo.

"We have three tiers to this product offering. Emirates Fresh is the basic offering which is used for transporting perishables with a fairly high level of temperature tolerance. The Emirates Fresh Breathe product predominantly caters to delicate perishables such as cut flowers, bouquets, cut fruits and vegetables. The cargo gets temperature controlled and prioritized ground handling," he said.

Emirates Fresh Active is the company's dedicated product to high-value perishables like fine wines, cheese, caviar, etc.

"Emirates Fresh Active is a very specific product and meant for the crème da la crème high-end perishables such as fine wines and cheese, caviar, high end fruits and frozen goods that cannot withstand any deviation in temperature. We use temperature controlled containers to ensure that we do not compromise product integrity," Sultan explained.

These specialized products are complemented by the company's state-of-the-art facilities at its cargo terminals at DXB and DWC in addition to supporting products such as the White Cover range of thermal blankets and the Emirates Fresh Ventilated Cool Dolly which are important to preserving the freshness of the perishables being transported.

Global leader on pharma

A global leader in transporting pharmaceutical products across the world, Emirates SkyCargo moved over 73,000 tons of pharma across its network in 2018—reflecting a double-digit growth compared to its previous record year-on-year.

"We transport a wide range of pharmaceutical products from



generics and vaccines to oncology medication. Over the years, the sophistication of the pharma cargo we transport has increased and so has the specialisation of the services we provide," said Sultan.

The company's three-tiered offering for global pharma customers, Emirates Pharma, first launched in 2016, is highly regarded for its innovative solutions to preserve the medical or biosciences being transported.

"Emirates Pharma Plus is ideal for high value pharmaceuticals with a thermal cover that can withstand minor temperature fluctuations during handling and transportation and Emirates Pharma Active works best for high value pharmaceuticals that are extremely temperature and time sensitive, and need to be transported in active containers," said Sultan.

"We continue to experience a strong double digit rate of growth in the volume of pharmaceuticals that we transport. The growth in the first four months of this year has so far been robust and we do not expect any change in the upward trend in the

volume of pharmaceuticals transported," he added.

Emirates SkyCargo has more than 8,000 sqm of dedicated pharma handling spaces across its two cargo terminals in Dubai. Both are certified as compliant to EU GDP standards.

Additionally, the company has trucking service between Emirates SkyCentral DXB, its terminal for handling cargo from passenger aircraft and Emirates SkyCentral DWC, its terminal for handling cargo from freighter aircraft that runs 24/7.

"We have a fleet of 49 trucks and there are also 12 dedicated reefer trucks making sure that the cool chain is not broken when the cargo is being transferred from our passenger to freighter aircraft or vice versa. We have streamlined our processes to an extent where we are able to deliver a transit time of just 4.5 hours between the arrival of goods on freighter aircraft to their departure from passenger aircraft and the other way around," said Sultan.

"The trucks almost act as a seamless conveyer belt in transporting pharma cargo between the two airports. In addition, we have invested in developing additional equipment and initiatives to ensure that pharmaceutical cargo is transported safely and securely through our hub and aircraft," he added.

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'There is a strong ethical value to our business'

EDITOR'S NOTE: In this segment, Nabil Sultan, Divisional Senior Vice President, Emirates SkyCargo, talks about the human side of the air cargo industry, making sure that people's personal belongings—medications, high-value cars or art pieces, to cherished pets, among others—move without delay or damage. And ensuring that what may be left behind is taken care of. Indeed, it's a unique business that requires skills, resources, efficient systems and a lot of ethics.



Nabil Sultan
Divisional Senior Vice President, Cargo

The air cargo industry is indeed very unique. We play an important role in the facilitation of international trade and air cargo is an important vehicle that has a direct impact on a nation's economic development and GDP. Countries and exporters rely on us to offer them robust capacity to support their exports in a timely manner as this has a strong impact on trade and livelihoods.

By itself air cargo is fairly different from the passenger side of aviation. Whereas, customers are able to manage by themselves for processes such as transfer within the airport, boarding and so on; for air cargo you really require a seamless process in the background for the shipment to move from one end to another.

It requires close monitoring and a granular attention to detail to make sure that the cargo moves without damage or delay. Some of the cargo we transport such as perishables or temperature sensitive pharma need to be moved within a specific timeframe.

Also much of the cargo that we move could hold a strong personal significance to our customers. Whether this is lifesaving medication, cherished pets such as cats or dogs, beloved possessions such as cars, personal effects or artwork there is a strong connection on a personal effect to cargo that travels on our aircraft and this means that we have to doubly vigilant that our processes are fail proof.

There is a strong ethical value to our business. And this ultimately leads me to the question of how I begin my day.

The first part of my day involves looking at what didn't work the previous day. Were there any shipments that were left behind? What issues did we face as a team? What worked and what didn't? Our daily operational meeting at 7.30am is a time for me to regroup with the team and to dissect the results of the previous day.

The key priority for us, of course, is to make sure that anything that went wrong, for example shipments that

missed their milestones, are immediately given attention and steps taken to rectify the status.

We look at all aspects of the process including making sure that we are transparent with our customer in communicating to them and giving a complete status report on when they can expect the shipment, the recovery and rebooking details, time of arrival at the final destination.

Ultimately customer satisfaction and customer trust is what drives our business forward and it is very important that we do not lose this. I place a high importance in reacting immediately to make sure that the customer is kept abreast of all details.

Once the key priority operational issues from the previous day have been looked into, the rest of my day is devoted to strategy and analysis. We need to monitor industry trends, analyze how well our capacity has been utilized across our global operations spanning more than 155 destinations across six continents and making decisions based on this data.

Keeping an eye to future developments is also an important part of my role, looking into how better we can serve our customers going forward.

The rest of the day is taken up by looking at our performance and market information in granular detail, understanding potential gaps or red flags and working with our diverse and talented team to ensure that we exceed customer expectations with our world class service.



AISATS Coolport: India's first integrated on-airport perishable cargo handling center

Seeing 100 percent import cargo volumes increase and receiving shipments from 1,000-odd trucks from other cities in India, the Kempegowda International Airport is also expanding its logistics facilities, setting up a 5-acre truck parking area with amenities for food & beverage outlets, service and fuel stations.

The Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru, owned and operated by Bengaluru International Airport Limited (BIAL), is among the world's fastest growing airports with state-of-the-art facilities for both passengers and cargo.

And it is not stopping at that. The airport has undertaken a massive Rs. 13,000 crore (about US\$1.864 billion) capacity expansion to cater

to the long-term demands of the growing aviation market in India.

Its growth has been stupendous. By the end of financial year 2018-2019, the airport registered a record 33.30 million passengers. It undoubtedly plays a key role in driving the economy of the region – offering a wide air-route network – with over 37 passenger airlines and 15 cargo airlines operating from its zone.

Its cargo throughput saw a sharp

increase of 11 percent, handling 386,780 metric tons (MT), including 242,650 MT international cargo. Cargo volumes were up from 348,403 MT in 2017-18. Air traffic movements (ATMs) increased by 21.8 percent with a total of 240,251 landing and take-offs, with the average ATMs per day for the year being 658. Airport authorities are constantly working on various projects to keep on benchmarking the facilities.



AISATS Coolport

One such is the AISATS Coolport (Air India and SATS Limited joint venture) which has come as a boon to exporters and importers of pharma, perishables and other temperature-sensitive items.

Thanks to the state-of-the-art facilities it offers, the catchment region is fast expanding. There is considerable movement of perishables from not just the catchment radius of 250 km, but beyond.

There are some exporters from Vishakapatnam, Hyderabad, etc., which are often trucking it to AISATS Coolport and to destinations beyond. It has the largest air cargo terminal handling capacity in South India and the average distance by road is 9 hours from manufacturing clusters.

AISATS, which started comprehensive ground and cargo handling services here in 2008, has been growing from strength to strength.

In order to cater to the burgeoning demand for perishable cargo, AISATS launched the 'Coolport'— India's first integrated on-airport perishable cargo handling center.

AISATS Coolport is a one-stop shop comprising regulatory offices such as Customs Clearances; State-of-the-art Drug Controller laboratory; Plant quarantine inspection and certification office. Earlier, exporters and importers had to shuttle between the city and the airport to get clearances, now all that happens within the airport, thus, truly facilitating 'ease of business'.

Thanks to its facilities, AISATS Coolport has already notched up substantial business and has

capacities for more. In 2018-19, it had handled around 23,000 tons of cargo, compared to 17,000 tons the previous year, registering overall year-on-year growth rate of 35%.

The growth has been across all types of cargo – perishable moved from 12,000 tons to 17,000 tons (42% growth); pharma up from 3,000 tons to 3,550 tons (18% growth); cut flowers 1,500 tons to 2,000 tons (33%).

During Valentine season in February this year, the facility alone handled 180 tons of flowers, mostly to Europe. Last summer, it exported 195 tons of mangoes. The other special products it has handled include – 700 tons of hatching eggs; 30 tons of food items such as Oreo biscuits, chocolates, paneer, etc.

Imports include over 30 tons of Atlantic Salmon which is finding its way into speciality restaurants in the city. Similarly, it has been handling Special Mochi ice-creams from Thailand.



FEATURE

World-class air cargo solutions

With such facilities and benchmarking, the Kempegowda International Airport is providing consistent and reliable world-class air cargo solutions with focus on the needs of customers.

It has one of the most mechanized cargo terminals in the country, which includes automated storage & retrieval system (ASRS); elevated transfer vehicle (ETV); very narrow aisle trucks (VNA); high rise racking; lift and run system (ULD movement); reach stackers with bar code readers, and handheld devices.

Realising the importance of trade in the region, the airport is connected to 79 destinations (50 domestic and 29 international). The 15 dedicated freighters—AeroLogic, Cathay Pacific, Etihad, Ethiopian, Fedex, Uni-top, Lufthansa, MAS Cargo, Qatar Cargo, Singapore Airlines, DHL, Turkish Emirates, Blue Dart, and SpiceXpress have been doing substantial business from here.

The BIAL, along with its cargo custodians Air India SATS Airport Services Private Limited (AISATS) and Menzies Aviation Bobba Bangalore Private Limited (MABB), has capacity of handling 70,000 MT annual perishable cargo. Menzies Aviation Bobba Bangalore Pvt. Ltd also has a cold zone.

Pharma Exports on the rise

Pharma exports accounts for more than 7% of total exports from here of which 2% is temperature controlled pharmaceutical. They have been growing at a steady growth of 25%.

"From an IATA perspective, cold chain pharma is expected to be

AISATS Coolport features include:

- ★ **11,000 sqm facility**
- ★ **Handling capacity – 40,000 metric tons**
- ★ **Major perishables (fruits, vegetables, cut flowers, seafood, meat, dairy products)**
- ★ **Pharmaceuticals**
- ★ **Acceptance, Handling & Delivery at ambient temperature of 20 to 25 deg C**
- ★ **11 dedicated cold rooms with temperature ranging from 2 to 8 deg C**
- ★ **5 dedicated freezer rooms with temperature ranging -15 to -25 deg C**
- ★ **Refrigerated queue lane with temp range of 2 to 8 deg C for ULD storage**
- ★ **Indigenous developed cool trolleys**
- ★ **Separate X-ray machines for pharma and perishables**

worth around \$415 billion annually. According to them, 20% to 25% of products shipped are degraded due to incorrect shipping process and flawed cold chain. The biggest value-add we provide our customers at Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru is that there is no temperature deviation in our coolport facility," Satyaki Raghunath, Chief Strategy and Development Officer, Bangalore International Airport Limited, told **Air Cargo Update**.

"This essentially means that the required temperature for certain pharmaceutical vaccines and medicines is maintained not only in storage, but also in the pre-loading area, right up to the time the cargo is loaded onto the aircraft. Of late, we

have had exporters from the pharmaceutical industry in Goa and Vishakapatnam use our facilities, besides several other places from South India. We are seeing a growth on the biotech front. Though the volumes are small, that segment is seeing a steady growth rate," he added.

The airport's Drug Controller lab incidentally is only the second and the largest such facility in India. Testing of all export and import of pharmaceuticals that is required by Customs is done at the airport itself.

The top 12 countries where Indian pharmaceuticals are exported to the tune of 70 % are USA; UK; Australia; Canada; France; Vietnam; Philippines; Germany; Nigeria; Algeria; Uganda; and Russia.



"We are the first airport in South India to house a fully operational Drug Control Lab, which incidentally is only the second and the largest such facility in the Country. Testing of all export & import of pharmaceuticals that is required by customs, is therefore done at the Cargo Terminal itself. In addition, the Coolport has also been awarded the Group Distribution Practices Certification for WHO-mandated standards," Raghunath explained.

"Our Drug Control Lab is now fully operational and our clients need not go to a city laboratory for the testing required by customs. This has enabled shippers considerable savings in transportation cost and time. Historically, raw material used to be imported to Mumbai and then ferried by road to Bengaluru. We are witnessing a 100 percent growth in import volumes with cargo now

being sent directly to Bengaluru as it saves importers a huge amount of transaction cost," he noted.

BIAL's vision

BIAL's vision is to make the airport a successful passenger and cargo hub with state-of-the-art infrastructure and technological advancements that deliver efficient airport operations.

To boost the cargo movement, BIAL has strengthened the connectivity to catchment areas, with the introduction of a dedicated road feeder service – under the brand name LOGI Connect – connecting Tirupur, Coimbatore and Ambur to the airport. All this has given an upper-edge in establishing Bengaluru as a cargo hub for South India. The airport aims to be hub for cargo traffic and shippers aspiring to reach this fast-growing region.

BIAL is in the process of setting up a 5-acre truck parking facility spread. It

will have amenities like food & beverage outlets, service and fuel stations. On average, the airport receives shipments from 1,000-odd trucks, including from other cities like Hyderabad, Tirpur & Visakhapatnam.

BIAL has invested substantially to develop a world-class cargo infrastructure with state-of-the-art Cargo terminals for faster turnaround. The current design capacity of the combined cargo terminals is 5,70,000 MT, catering to both international & domestic traffic. There is scope to further expand capacity up to 8,50,000 metric tons.

Currently, Air India SATS Airport Services and Menzies Aviation Bobba are the two cargo terminal operators. The master plan of the airport has incorporated additional space for the development and building of an integrated air cargo and logistics hub in future.



New Quester

The truck with Smart Logistics

Japanese commercial vehicle maker UD Trucks unveiled in April in the MEENA region its new truck model which enables big savings through enhanced fuel efficiency, productivity and connectivity features



Fuel efficiency, battle for talent, productivity and connectivity are top priorities for fleets and transport companies all over the world.

UD Trucks, a leading Japanese commercial vehicle solutions provider since 1935 and a proud member of the Volvo Group currently active in more than 60 countries on all continents, says these challenges will be addressed in enhanced time-tested features known as ESCOT (Easy Safe Controlled Transmission) and UD Telematics embedded in its latest truck model, the New Quester.

First rolled out in January 2019 in Thailand, the UD Trucks export hub to growth markets in Southeast Asia, the New Quester was introduced to the Middle East, East

and North Africa (MEENA) region in April. The same will be introduced in other fast-growing regions across the world in the coming months.

"We recognize immense potential in fast-growing markets such as Southeast Asia, Middle East, Africa and Latin America where business success is a key contributor to economic progress. Combined with our Ultimate Dependability standard and Gemba spirit, New Quester marks our commitment to continue championing Smart Logistics and providing unmatched value to our customers in these regions," said Jacques Michel, President, Volvo Group Trucks Asia & JVs Sales.

Following the respective market launches, New Quester's driving adventure film series filmed around the world will showcase how the truck supports businesses in tackling actual, market-specific challenges faced by truck companies in fast-growing regions around the world.

The Smart Logistics Truck

UD Trucks said the new version of the brand's well-established heavy-

duty truck introduces a range of enhancements that will enable logistics companies across the region to tackle critical industry challenges and boost their bottom line through Smart Logistics.

Building on proven robustness and reliability, New Quester introduces key features such as ESCOT automated manual transmission, engines with higher horsepower and user-friendly telematics to deliver greater fuel efficiency, productivity, driver efficiency, safety and uptime.

"The truck industry in the region is changing rapidly and customers are increasingly conscious of the total cost of ownership. With New Quester we have the ideal product to address these needs. Moreover, New Quester combines the best of three worlds: UD Trucks' strong Japanese heritage and craftsmanship; Volvo Group's innovative technology; and our strong local support for our valued customers, which we callour Gemba spirit," said Mourad Hedna, President of UD Trucks MEENA.

"We are humbled by the



TRUCKING



tremendous confidence and recognition that the Quester line has earned. With New Quester, we are looking forward to carrying on this legacy of being the truck brand that our customers want to partner with," he added.

Better productivity and profitability

UD Trucks says the New Quester aims to boost productivity and profitability for business owners and logistics companies, for whom a rise in fuel costs consequently increases operating costs. It delivers enhanced fuel efficiency of up to 10 percent over the current Quester.

This is aided by the ESCOT automated manual transmission,

lighter tare weight and optimized driveline, and is also affected by the operating conditions, driving behavior and vehicle maintenance.

ESCOT includes software which optimizes gear shifting according to the engine revs, vehicle speed, loading weight and even road gradient. The smart system also includes a sensor that will select the optimum gear automatically instead of assuming a first gear selection.

New Quester's enhanced fuel performance also aligns with the increasing global focus on curbing fuel consumption and meeting environmentally-friendly regulations in relation to emissions quality standards, all of which

effectively reduces the new model's overall carbon footprint.

More driver-friendly features

A game changer in the transportation business, New Quester with ESCOT automatically selects the optimal gear at the right time based on the operating condition.

This takes away the need for manual gear shifting which, depending on the transportation operations, happens 1,000 to 1,500 times a day. ESCOT's automated gear selection also enables drivers to easily adapt to operating New Quester and better focus on driving with ease.

In addition to making driving simple, New Quester also aims to



help businesses expand the pool of driving talent with an easy-to-operate gear lever that uses a straight shifting pattern. In certain target markets, for example, the number of female Quester drivers is increasing due to its drivability.

New Quester opens the doors for companies to attract even more prospects to pursue truck driving as a career and diversify the pool of talent for this role. This increases overall drivability and safety for drivers with features that focus on increasing drivers' comfort levels and reducing driver fatigue.

Driver fatigue continues to be a serious industry challenge, contributing to up to 20 percent of road accidents in the world. To address this, New Quester is developed with an air suspended cab and ride comfort package which reduces cab vibrations by up to 18 percent. Driver comfort is also enhanced by the ergonomic seats and lumbar support for long-distance assignments.

Boosting business growth

In line with elevating business success through Smart Logistics, New Quester supports effective fleet management and driver performance with innovative customer telematics such as real-time vehicle tracking and geofencing for better fleet visibility and optimization.

Such smart connectivity features support the increasing trend of new logistics delivery solutions that are offered by technology and local start-up companies in, for example, the Middle East.

New Quester trucks are equipped with UD Telematics, which make it possible to connect directly to UD Trucks workshops to monitor and detect each vehicle's condition and service needs before a potential



emergency occurs. Preventive maintenance analysis guides customers via monthly driving behavior and fuel consumption reports, ensuring higher uptime and optimized fuel economy over time.

Owners of New Quester will also enjoy increased uptime, with the clutch life span being 2.5 to 3 times longer when equipped with an ESCOT automated manual transmission as compared to a manual clutch, depending on operating conditions, driving behavior and vehicle maintenance, UD Trucks noted.

Built to deliver UD Trucks' ethos of "Ultimate Dependability", New Quester increases uptime through UD Extra Mile Support, which has proved popular with customers across MEENA, the company said.

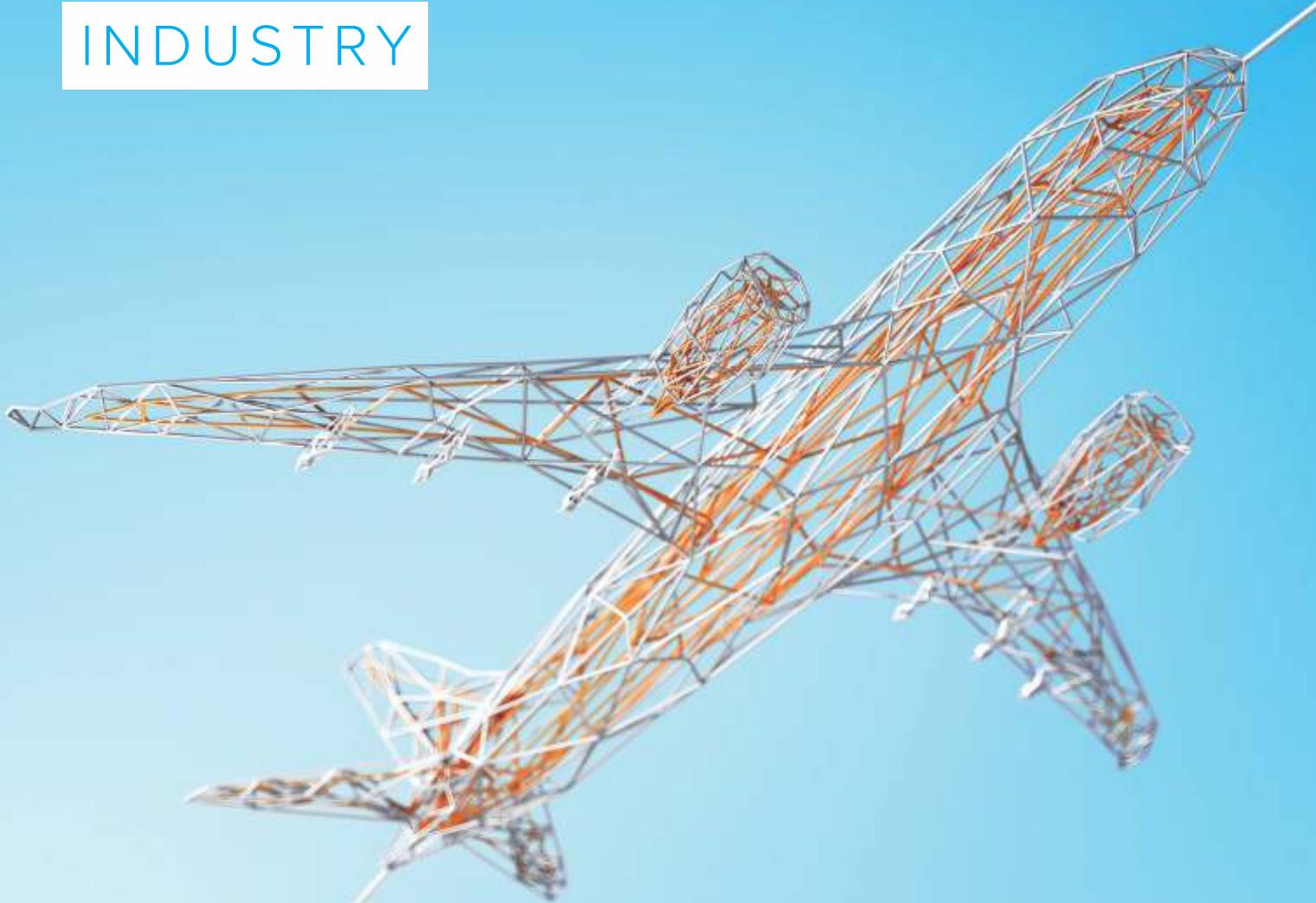
Offering an extensive network of well-trained service technicians, it provides quality aftersales service with genuine parts, service planning and vehicle handover training that optimizes fleet performance, it added.

The MEENA region is one of the most dynamic in the world with diverse economies marked with steady growth in construction, tourism, mining, real estate, logistics, maritime, among many other industries that require dependable mode of transportation.

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Qantas world's first zero waste flight

WORLD'S FIRST ZERO WASTE FLIGHT

QF739, Sydney to Adelaide, 8 May 2019

Every inflight item will be composted, reused or recycled. 1000 single-use plastic items removed or substituted from flight. QF739 normally generates 34kg of waste.

Qantas Partner BioPak's sustainable products include

- Paper BioCups** with plastic made from plant matter, not oil. Fully compostable.
- BioNapkins** made with Forest Stewardship Council certified pulp. Fully compostable.
- BioCane food container** made from sugar cane pulp left over from refineries. Fully compostable.
- BioPlastic cutlery** produced from starch sourced from non-GMO crops.

Qantas partner SUEZ will dispose of items sustainably

COMPOSTING

- Organic material is shredded and kept moist for months.
- Micro-organisms are released to break down material.
- Final product used on farms, in factories and in gardens.

RECYCLING AND REUSE

- Plastic, paper, glass and aluminium packaging will be recycled into new products.
- Non-recyclable plastics transformed into a type of non-fossil fuel called PEF, used in cement making.

SYDNEY: On May 8, Qantas Airways became the world's first to operate a zero waste flight with all inflight products on board QF739, flying from Sydney to Adelaide, biodegradable which will be disposed of via compost, reuse or recycling.

Qantas Domestic CEO Andrew David said the trial flight was an important milestone for the national carrier's plan to slash waste by cutting 100 million single use plastics by end-2020 and eliminate 75 percent of its waste by end-2021.

The national carrier's waste reduction initiative has been called The Bowerbird Project, named after the Australian bird that reuses small plastic items. The name was nominated by a cabin crew member in a staff competition.

"In the process of carrying over 50 million people every year, Qantas and Jetstar currently produce an amount of waste equivalent to 80 fully-laden Boeing 747 jumbo jets," David said. "We want to give customers the same level of service they currently enjoy, but without the amount of waste that comes with it."

That flight would typically produce 34 kilograms of waste – with the Sydney to Adelaide route producing 150 tons of waste annually.

"This flight is about testing our products, refining the waste process and getting feedback from our customers," said David.

About 1000 single-use plastic items were substituted with sustainable alternatives or removed altogether from the flight, including individually-packaged servings of milk and

Vegemite.

Alternative products used during the flight include meal containers made from sugar cane and cutlery made from crop starch, all of which is fully compostable.

At the end of the meal service, Qantas cabin crew collected the items left over for reuse, recycling or composting in multiple waste streams.

In its effort to remove 100 million single use plastic items every year by the end of 2020, Qantas and Jetstar will replace 45 million plastic cups, 30 million cutlery sets, 21 million coffee cups and 4 million headrest covers with sustainable alternatives.

Airlines are legally required to dispose of some materials permanently, such as quarantined food from international flights. Qantas will work with suppliers and government to reduce the volume of this waste.

Last year, Qantas also made history when it operated the first biofuel flight between Australia and the United States using biofuel processed from mustard seed.

SIA rakes in record US\$16.3 billion revenue in 2018

SINGAPORE: Despite a challenging market environment, the Singapore Airlines Group reaped a record US\$16.3 billion revenue in financial year 2018-2019 through transformation initiatives and robust growth in air cargo volumes flow.

Passenger load factor rose 1.6 percentage points to 83.0%, a record for the Group. Cargo flown revenue for the year improved \$45 million (+2.1%), as cargo yield growth (+5.7%) was more than sufficient to offset lower loads carried (-3.5%) in a softening trade environment, the Group said which agreed to pay its investors a final dividend of 22 cents per share.

Although a decline from last year's operating profit of \$1,549 million (\$482 million lower or -31.1%), the Group's underlying performance was strong against the backdrop of a \$1 billion increase (+25.1%) in fuel cost due largely to a 21.6% increase in fuel prices, and the absence of one-off revenue items recorded last year (-\$243 million), the Group said.

Flown revenue growth was up \$829 million, with passenger flown revenue improving \$784 million (+6.4%), lifted by traffic growth of 8.5%, on a 6.4% increase in capacity. Notwithstanding the significant expansion in capacity, a new revenue management system and revamped pricing and sales processes helped enable RASK (measured in revenue per available seat-kilometre) to hold steady against last year, Singapore Airlines Group said.

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Delta to serve Haneda Airport and 5 US cities



ATLANTA, GEORGIA: Delta would become the leading US airline serving Tokyo's preferred airport under a preliminary decision announced May 16 by the Department of Transportation, with new slot pairs for flights between Haneda Airport and Seattle, Detroit, Atlanta, Portland, Oregon and Honolulu.

Together with Delta's existing service from Los Angeles and Minneapolis/St. Paul, these new routes will provide more convenient access for customers and better position the carrier to compete with other airline partnerships serving Tokyo's preferred airport. The city's

other major airport, Narita, can increase travel time by up to two hours to downtown Tokyo compared to Haneda.

DOT's tentative decision to award Delta five slot pairs is a major milestone that once finalized, would increase traveler options and bring more competition to this critical market, the airline said.

It will better position Delta to compete with US airlines that have previously been able to offer better access to Haneda through joint venture partnerships with Japanese airlines. It will also enhance the ability of Delta and its partner Korean Air to

provide comprehensive service and connecting options across the region, the company added.

"This preliminary order demonstrates the DOT's commitment to encouraging competition and providing more choice for customers traveling between the US and Tokyo's city center," said Steve Sear, President – International and Executive Vice President - Global Sales. "This service will allow Delta to combine its superior service, product and operational reliability with the convenience of Tokyo-Haneda's central location – an important win for customers."

Pending final government approvals, the new routes would launch in the Summer 2020 flying season. Delta and other airlines that have submitted proposals for additional Haneda service now have the opportunity to respond to DOT's preliminary order. DOT will review airline responses and issue a final order awarding Haneda slots, expected in late summer 2019.

United Airlines expands Raptor Relocation Network

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA: United Airlines announced it's expanding its successful Raptor Relocation Network to its premier West Coast hub, San Francisco International Airport.

United says it's again teaming up with Audubon International to trap raptors – primarily barn owls – residing near the airport and resettle these birds of prey at suitable golf course habitats where the species are more likely to thrive.

Their first team up in 2017 successfully resettled more than 80 birds – including several American kestrels, a species of concern in New Jersey. United will now work in tandem with Audubon International and San Francisco airport officials to resettle the barn owls and other at-risk species at Bay Area golf courses certified within the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program.

As an official sponsor of the PGA Tour, United says it is uniquely positioned to help connect wildlife professionals at airports with the suitable golf course habitats identified by Audubon International for relocation purposes and to help inform the public on the importance of environmental sustainability.

United's expansion of the Raptor Relocation Network follows the airline's recent announcement in San Francisco that the company has committed to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2050. United's pledge to reduce emissions by 50% relative to 2005 represents the equivalent of removing 4.5 million vehicles from the road, or the total number of cars in New York City and Los Angeles combined.

"Being environmentally conscious means more than just reducing our footprint; it means convening

different groups to develop new and innovative ways to actively protect vulnerable species," said Janet Lamkin, United's President of California. "As we continue our commitment to protect raptors in the New York area, we are excited to expand our efforts to San Francisco and further underscore our industry-leading efforts to operate sustainably and responsibly."





AIRPORTS

Sharjah Airport welcomes 3.15M passengers in Q1 2019

SHARJAH: Sharjah Airport says it handled more than 3.156 million passengers during the first quarter of 2019, up by nearly 10 percent compared to the same period in 2018 which recorded 2.880 million passengers.

At the recently concluded Arabian Travel Market, Sharjah Airport also revealed developments and projects that would increase its capacity to accommodate some 20 million passengers by 2025.

"During the first quarter of 2019, Sharjah Airport's positive results in terms of passenger numbers, aircraft movement and freight volume reflected the Airport's outstanding position and the continued efforts to improve our services, enhance travellers' experiences, develop our facilities and provide passengers and customers with the best procedures based on the vision of H.H. Dr. Sheikh Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, and the follow-up of H.H.



Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed bin Sultan Al Qasimi, Crown Prince and Deputy Ruler of Sharjah and Chairman of Sharjah Executive Council," said Ali Salim Al Midfa, Chairman of Sharjah Airport Authority.

"The Emirate of Sharjah has succeeded in strengthening its position in terms of regional and international tourism and trade. By continuously upgrading the quality of

services provided to passengers and customers, the airport plays a pivotal role in enhancing the image of this pioneering emirate," added Al Midfa noting that Sharjah aims to welcome 10 million tourists by 2021.

January was the best month in terms of passenger numbers for the Airport with 1.122 million passengers recorded, while the highest growth rate – 10.59 percent – was recorded in March, with 1.079 million passengers.

Air Canada now flies daily between Vienna & Toronto



VIENNA: With the first "Maple Leaf" landing on April 30, 2019 in Vienna greeted with the traditional water salute, Air Canada officially launched its daily flights between Vienna and Toronto.

Julian Jäger, Joint CEO and COO of Vienna Airport, said it envisions Air

Canada as an ideal long-haul partner in North America which had shown tremendous growth in recent years.

Canada, the world's second-largest country, is considered to be a favorite tourist destination among Europeans thanks to its impressive natural heritage of lakes, mountains, forests

and a broad range of wild animals.

Renowned for its maple trees and maple syrup which account for up to 90 percent of global production, Canada is considered a healthy option to visit for many tourists. Air Canada's daily flights to the Canadian metropolis Toronto offers passengers connecting flights to more than 120 destinations in Canada and the USA.

"In the first quarter of the year, we recorded 27.5% passenger growth on routes to North America. Air Canada greatly enhances our reach into this region," said Jäger. "For this reason, we look forward to an excellent cooperation with Air Canada. Now two important destinations in Canada are directly accessible from Vienna due to the direct flight connection of Air Canada to the business centre of Toronto and of Austrian Airlines to the metropolis of Montreal."



Fraport Group revenues up 17.9% in Q1 2019



FRANKFURT: With solid passenger growth at Frankfurt Airport and almost all of Fraport's airports worldwide, the Fraport Group says its 2019 first quarter revenues rose 17.9 percent to €803.8 million.

Adjusted for revenue in connection with capital expenditure for expansion projects at Fraport's Group companies worldwide (according to

IFRIC 12), revenue grew by 5.3 percent to €678.5 million, it said.

The passenger traffic growth led to higher revenues, ground handling services in particular, as well as security services and infrastructure charges. Likewise, retail and parking revenues also netted good results for the Group.

Globally, Fraport Group's major

revenue contributors came from Lima, Peru and the United States with the company taking over the management of retail areas at New York-JFK's Terminal 5 (April 2018) and at Nashville International Airport (February 2019).

"We had a robust start to the new business year, supported once more by the ever growing contributions to revenue and earnings from our Group airports worldwide. In Frankfurt, we successfully managed the first stress test of 2019 during the busy Easter travel period," said Fraport AG's Executive Board Chairman Dr. Stefan Schulte.

"Together with our partners, we will continue striving to accommodate the high demand of our customers in the best possible way. To achieve this goal, we will further optimize and streamline processes and improve infrastructure utilization, as well as vigorously moving our expansion projects forward," he added.

India's KIA to use faces of passengers when boarding



BENGALURU: In the next few months, India's first solar-powered airport, the Kempegowda International Airport, will board passengers using their faces as security passes by adopting the face recognition technology.

The project is part of the Ministry of Civil Aviation's Digi Yatra Central Identity Management program

which will be rolled out at KIA in the third quarter (Q3) of this year, making it the first airport in the country to have this technology after the successful completion of the Field Acceptance Trials.

Owned and operated by the public-private consortium Bengaluru International Airport Limited, KIA is the third-busiest airport by passenger traffic in India handling more than 25 million passengers and 600 aircraft movements in 2017.

India's first Greenfield airport first opened in 2008 as an alternative to ease congestion at Hindustan Airport, the original primary commercial airports serving Karnataka.

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Blind and visually impaired passengers now get free 24/7 help at Gatwick via mobile phone camera

WEST SUSSEX: Blind and visually impaired passengers at Gatwick Airport can now call a professionally trained agent 24 hours a day who will—by using the camera on the passenger's mobile phone—guide them through the airport, help them read documents or flight information, shop or even find their bag on the luggage carousel.

Gatwick said the free, on demand service can be accessed through the aira app on a smart phone. About 12,000 passengers a year – or 500 a month – notify Gatwick Airport they are blind or partially sighted.

The system is being trialed for six months at Gatwick in partnership with the airport's biggest airline easyJet which is helping to fund the trial to improve accessibility for blind or partially sighted passengers. The service, however, can be used by passengers flying with any airline at Gatwick.

"This extremely ground-breaking technological breakthrough will allow the partnership between easyJet and Gatwick to demonstrate, for future use across airports here and across the world, just how a simple app and addition to an iPhone or other similar technology can make such a difference," said Lord David Blunkett, Chair of easyJet's Special Assistance Advisory Group.

Once downloaded onto a mobile phone, the Aira system is



purposely straightforward and simple to use and the trained agents can help passengers find specific airport locations such as boarding gates, shops and restaurants – or the airport's special assistance facilities.

"Airports are complex environments and this new system helps to give blind and visually impaired passengers more independence so they can more easily relax and enjoy their time at Gatwick," said Chris Woodrooffe, Chief Operating Officer, Gatwick Airport.

World's first: Drone delivers donor kidney for transplantation

MARYLAND, BALTIMORE: In a world's first, a drone has delivered a donor kidney to surgeons who performed a successful transplantation in a 44-year-old patient with kidney failure. Transplant physicians and researchers at the University of Maryland School of Medicine (UMSOM) and the University of Maryland Medical Center (UMMC) in Baltimore joined aviation and engineering experts at the Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Test Site, part of the A. James Clark School of Engineering at the University of Maryland, College Park to complete this landmark 2.8 mile, 9.52 minute flight on April 19, 2019, officials said.

Transportation logistics are often the most complicated part of the organ transplant process, typically involving expensive chartered flights, or relying on the variability of commercial flight schedules, and occasionally resulting in an organ left on a plane, or delays that destroy the organ's viability, according to Dr. Joseph Scalea, Assistant Professor of Surgery at UMSOM, who is the project leader and one of the surgeons who performed the transplant at UMMC.

"There remains a woeful disparity between the number of recipients on the organ transplant waiting list and the total number of transplantable organs. This new technology has the potential to help widen the donor organ pool and access to transplantation," Dr. Scalea said. "Delivering an organ from a donor to a patient is a sacred duty with many moving parts. It is critical that we find ways of doing this better."

The researchers theorized that unmanned aircraft technology could help solve some of the transport issues by potentially eliminating many of the human hand-offs and reducing the chance of mishaps.

"When we started this project, I quickly realized there were a number of unmet needs in organ transport," said Dr. Scalea. "For example, there is currently no way to track an organ's location and health while in transit. Even in the modern era, human organs are unmonitored during flight. I found this to be unacceptable. Real-time organ monitoring is mission-critical to this experience," he added. The project also required building a custom unmanned aircraft specifically designed to transport an organ to meet the rigid medical, technical and regulatory demands of carrying an unaccompanied deceased donor organ for human transplant.





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EXECUTIVE MOMENTS

Etihad Cargo fills key positions with Emiratis



Bader Ahmed Al Ali



Haleema Al Hosani



Raya Mohamed Ibrahim

ABU DHABI: Etihad Cargo, the cargo and logistics arm of the Etihad Aviation Group, has named Emirati nationals to key positions in the Commercial Division and Global Customer Program in a bid to further enhance its market share globally and locally.

Etihad Cargo's UAE Commercial Division will now be headed by Bader Ahmed Al Ali who joined the company in 2010 after spending years in the financial services sector in Abu Dhabi. He held several posts within Etihad Cargo, most recently as Manager Government key accounts and charters.

In his new role as Senior Manager Commercial for the UAE home market, Bader will look after UAE key customer accounts, UAE Government key accounts, Dubai and Northern Emirates sales, Abu Dhabi sales, imports and Etihad Cargo counter sales at the Abu Dhabi Cargo

Terminal, as well as specialized product sales in the UAE including perishables, live animals and luxury vehicles.

He will oversee a talented group of Emiratis also taking up new roles within the UAE Commercial team, with Raya Mohamed Ibrahim (UAE Key Accounts), Hessa Al Shehhi (Government Key Accounts) and Aref Al Mulla (Dubai & Northern Emirates Sales) appointed to lead these key areas to help Etihad Cargo better serve its home market.

Etihad Cargo also revamped its Global Customer program and Cargo Loyalty scheme with Haleema Al Hosani as the new Senior Manager leading these programs.

Holding a Masters in National and International Security, Haleema has been with the Etihad Aviation Group for over two years serving within the Government & International Affairs division. Prior, she held several posts with the Abu Dhabi Department of Transport, the Abu Dhabi Aviation Sector Development Committee and the International Civil Aviation Organization Air Transport Regulatory Panel.

"Today Etihad is proud to see these talented Emirati individuals take up leadership positions within Etihad Cargo. Since our inception 15 years ago, Etihad Cargo has grown rapidly to cement its place as a top 20 global air cargo carrier. Our Global Customer program, our loyalty scheme and our UAE home market have all been key catalysts for this growth, and today's key Emirati appointments are a further signal of our commitment to better serve these segments, while developing our top Emirati talents into key leadership positions," commented Abdulla Mohamed Shadid, Managing Director Cargo and Logistics Services at Etihad Aviation Group, on the new appointments.

Dirk Goovaerts is dnata's new regional CEO for Asia Pacific



Dirk Goovaerts

DUBAI: dnata, one of the world's largest air services providers, announced the appointment of Dirk Goovaerts as the company's Regional

Chief Executive Officer for the Asia Pacific region.

In his role, Goovaerts will be based in Singapore and will oversee dnata's catering, ground and cargo handling operations at 10 airports in three countries, including Australia, the Philippines and Singapore, managing a workforce of 6,000 employees.

Goovaerts joins dnata from Saudi Ground Services Company (SGS), where he held the position of Chief Operations Officer since 2016.

Leading a team of over 12,000 staff through a period of liberalization in Saudi Arabia, Dirk Goovaerts was responsible for transforming SGS to become the ground handler of choice in a new competitive environment, across 26 airports in the country.

Previously, Goovaerts held senior leadership roles at Menzies Aviation with the most recent being Senior Vice President, Europe, managing the company's operations at more than 50 airports.



UPCOMING EVENTS

air
cargo
update

Multimodal 2019

Now on its 12th year, Multimodal is the UK and Ireland's premier freight transport, logistics and supply chain management event, representing every logistics sector under one roof. The event is characterized by key vertical sectors, including manufacturing, retail, agribusiness, chemical, automotive, electronics, FMCG, food & drink, fashion, pharmaceuticals, construction, aerospace, energy, real estate, recycling, paper/print and perishables, amongst others.

**NEC Birmingham, United Kingdom
June 18-20, 2019**

World Routes 2019

World Routes is the global meeting place for every airline, airport and aviation stakeholder. The event presents an unrivalled platform for route development professionals to discuss, develop and plan network strategy on a global scale. Providing unique cost and time-saving benefits, World Routes is a 'must attend' event and attracts the most senior decision makers from the world's leading aviation organizations.

**Adelaide, Australia
September 21-24, 2019**

IMHX 2019

IMHX is the UK's largest logistics exhibition and acts as a meeting place for those involved in the handling, movement or transportation of goods throughout the supply chain to come together and do business. The growing role of artificial intelligence and technology within modern supply chain operations will be reflected at IMHX 2019: with over a third of exhibitors showcasing some form of automation, robotics, autonomous vehicles or new tech, visitors to the show will be able to discover exciting technology for themselves and get a greater understanding of how it can deliver operational benefits and competitive advantages.

**NEC Birmingham, UK
September 24-27, 2019**

TIACA Executive Summit 2019

Budapest Airport (BUD) will host The International Air Cargo (TIACA)'s Executive Summit (ES) and Annual General Meeting from 20th to 22nd of November 2019, bringing together decision makers from across the globe for a series of panel discussions, keynote speeches, and round table debates. BUD will host an Opening Ceremony for its new dedicated freight centre, called BUD Cargo City, during the event, inviting delegates, customers, and suppliers, among other stakeholders.

**BUD Cargo City, Budapest, Hungary
November 19-21, 2019**



Air & Sea Cargo Americas 2019

Air & Sea Cargo Americas will bring together top executives from all sectors of the aviation, maritime and logistics industries to exchange views and experiences to enhance the growth of the cargo industry in the Western Hemisphere. Airports, seaports, exporters, shipping lines, freight forwarders, shippers, importers, consignees, equipment and technology suppliers, among others, will interact, exchanging ideas and information. Topics will include security, regional consolidation, manufacturer and shipper needs in high growth cargo, trade facilitation, improving productivity, speed and service quality, responding to market changes and demands from shippers, consolidators and forwarders, and controlling costs while streamlining customer services.

**Doubletree By Hilton Hotel Miami
Airport & Convention Center
October 30-November 01, 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.

**www.dubaiairshow.aero
DWC, Dubai Airshow Site
November 17-21, 2019**



12th Global Supply Chain and Logistics Summit

This summit held annually in Dubai, acknowledged as the biggest and the most informative thought leadership conferencing for supply chain and logistics industry in Middle East, Asian subcontinent, Turkey, Central & East Europe and Africa region, will focus on the latest insight and trends of global trade, economics, transportation, logistics, manufacturing and distribution. Uniqueness and sophistication of supply chain pertaining to various industry verticals like retail, energy, healthcare, automotive and FMCG will be included.

**Dubai, UAE
November 27, 2019**



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