

air cargo update

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



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EDITORIAL

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Middle East, Africa, Asia & beyond

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Editor's Note

World's many firsts

April is gone but left many historic firsts in different fields, including the air cargo industry, with great impact on humanity's future.

On April 10, the first image of the black hole was captured using a network of eight telescopes around the world. Located some 500 million trillion km from earth in a distant galaxy, the black hole, scientists say measures about 3 million times the size of our planet.

In another world's first, Russia launched in April an autonomous space cargo ship with two more unpiloted resupply spacecraft scheduled later this year to travel to the International Space Station out of the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan via the Soyuz-2.1a carrier rocket.

In industry first, Air France KLM Martinair Cargo and WebCargo by Freightos launched real-time air cargo eBooking with instant pricing and capacity that can save shippers, airlines and forwarders tons of money and time.

In Europe, Athens International Airport became the first to use face scan as boarding pass by having passengers merely scanning their faces at check-in and at security points.

In this edition, we'll share with you how the upcoming Expo 2020 Dubai is fueling growth in air freight and logistics in the UAE with more than 190 countries participating in the first world expo in the Middle East and North Africa spending millions of dollars for their national pavilions. In an exclusive interview, a German official shares insights how this mega event is becoming the biggest global image platform for countries and its economic implications.

We'll also bring you the story of Zhukovsky International Airport Cargo which aims to become the new gateway in Central Russia to spruce up businesses in the region.

Technology is fast changing the world and industries are trying to catch up despite the many challenges.

It's an interesting time for many of us, including those who simply watch on the sidelines.

Gemma Q. Casas
Editor-in-Chief



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We've got ambitions for you

MORE

by ECS Group



The LOUNGE

A mother, lawyer & aviation executive rolled into one loves spending time with family, reading and traveling



Sonja Strand

VP and General Manager
Honeywell Global Airports Business

Sonja Strand, VP and General Manager, Honeywell Global Airports Business, is one of few women in modern-day aviation who holds a senior executive role that impacts airports and passengers on a global scale.

The daughter of the former CEO of Paderborn Airport in Germany who owns a private plane, Sonja developed a passion for aviation as a child. She spent her Sundays with her father and her siblings flying for leisure across different places, widening her perspectives in life and the possibilities for women in different fields.

"My father was the CEO of Paderborn Airport in Germany and he owns a private aircraft," Sonja fondly recalls. "We were allowed to fly with him every Sunday so that's where the passion came up at an early age for aviation."

She took up practical training in a travel agency as a young adult, later completing her undergraduate and graduate studies in Business Administration before pursuing a law degree. Linking both professions with aviation, Sonja's knowledge and experience in the industry further grew and today she leads Honeywell's Global Airports Business, highly regarded for its innovative tech solutions.

"I was always passionate about the aviation industry. I pursued everything that I had to know about it," Sonja shared with *Air Cargo Update*.

At the recently concluded Airport Show 2019 held in Dubai, Sonja, representing Honeywell, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Dubai Air Navigation Services (DANS) to collaborate on mutually beneficial projects on advanced IoT-enabled solutions

that empower safe and efficient air traffic operations for Dubai, one of the busiest regions in terms of air traffic.

Honeywell's global expertise in providing innovative solutions will bring benefits to DANS through enhanced knowledge transfer on airport ecosystems, airport operations, Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs) and understanding the combined, complex challenges faced by the industry.

Sonja's position is extremely challenging that requires constant traveling, managing offices at different time zones and making major decisions. And yet this mother of two young boys aged 5 and 11 still makes it a point to enjoy quality time with her family.

"I spend my time mostly outdoors. I have two kids—five and 11 years old—both boys. When we're in Dubai, we go swimming, go to parks or play basketball. And I surely read a lot, especially on aviation, to get new ideas," she said.

"And we love to travel. When you travel and you're head is free, you can share so many ideas with the team," she added.

As a woman in aviation, Sonja says it's quite difficult but with confidence, creativity and passion, women will shine.

"First it's hard work. Whether you're a woman or a man doesn't matter. You have to be ready to work hard," Sonja shared when asked what advice to give women who would like to follow her career path. "Second: Be passionate about it. Don't accept something that is said to be impossible because it's not. Think differently. What is important is to never give up. Have that mentally and use it as your strength. And remember that women have unique creativity."



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GLOBAL NEWS

Turkish Cargo expects more growth with dual hubs



ISTANBUL: Turkish Cargo expects more volume and capacity growth with its successful relocation to the new Istanbul Airport while still maintaining presence at the Ataturk International Airport.

Turkish Cargo rose to the 7th top spot in the World Air Cargo Data (WACD) with 9.6 percent volume growth in February despite a

slowdown in the global air cargo industry.

M. Ilker Ayci, Turkish Airlines Chairman of the Board and the Executive Committee, commended Turkish Cargo for its accomplishments saying it is poised to realize its goal of becoming one of the top 5 global cargo brands with increased capacity and 24/7 operations.

"With our determination and growth strategy in the air cargo market, Turkish Cargo will be one of the top five air cargo brands in the world. I express my thanks to all my colleagues who contributed to this success," the chairman said.

Turkish Cargo increased its market share in terms of sold tonnage by 0.6 percent in the first two months of the year, reaching a 4.3 percent growth rate while increasing its cumulative market share by 0.4 points to 4.1 percent, the company said.

Its dual hubs will enable it to handle as much as 4 million tons of cargo a year with the new cargo terminal having 300,000-sqm of indoor space.

Turkish Cargo serves 86 dedicated cargo flight destinations in addition to belly capacity reaching 307 destinations in 124 countries through Turkish Airlines.

Gerry's dnata obtains ISAGO Station Accreditation

KARACHI: Gerry's dnata, the leading ground services provider in Pakistan, has obtained its IATA Safety Audit for Ground Operations (ISAGO) State Accreditation at Karachi International Airport following successful completion of ISAGO audits.

Gerry's Group and dnata, one of the world's largest air services providers, joined hands in 1993 to provide ground handling services at Karachi Airport.

Since then, the joint venture has continually expanded its operations in the country and today serves 11 airline customers at seven Pakistani airports. Gerry's dnata's 2,500 dedicated employees assist over 4.5 million passengers and handle 130,000 tons of cargo annually.

"We are proud to be awarded IATA's prestigious ISAGO Registration in Pakistan," said Syed Haris Raza,



Vice President of Gerry's dnata. "As one of our core values, safety is integrated in all aspects of our operational, training and people management processes."

ISAGO is an industry global standard for the oversight and audit

of ground service providers, complimenting internationally recognized and accepted IATA Operational Safety Audit (IOSA) designed to assess the operational management and control systems of an air operator.

4.86 billion tons of road freight in China in 2 months



BEIJING: China's Ministry of Transport says some 4.86 billion tons of cargo were transported through the country's roads for the first two months of the year, up by 4.1 percent year-on-year.

The Transport Ministry said north China's Hebei Province saw road freight growth of 11.7 percent, the highest among all provincial-level regions.

Freeway freight volume increased 6.2 percent year-on-year in the first two months to 2.02 billion tons, it added. In the same period, the amount of cargo transported by water rose 7.8 percent to 1.07 billion tons, according to the ministry.

The Chinese government continues to boost China's economy amid continued trade dispute with the United States.

Last month, China's central bank pumped in some 200 billion yuan (about USD29.72 billion) into its market via the medium-term lending facility (MLF) to maintain liquidity in the banking system at reasonably sufficient level, according to the People's Bank of China (PBOC).

The MLF tool was introduced in 2014 to help commercial and policy banks maintain liquidity by allowing them to borrow from the central bank using securities as collateral. The funds will mature in one year at an interest rate of 3.3 percent, Chinese news agency Xinhua reported.

In April, the PBOC did not inject funds through pledged supplementary lending (PSL) to the China Development Bank, the Export-Import Bank of China and the Agricultural Development Bank of China. Total outstanding PSL loans in the first three months amounted to 3.54 trillion yuan.

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GLOBAL NEWS

Saudia Cargo gets new ground handling license in KSA and resumes flights to China and Mumbai



RIYADH: Saudi Airlines Cargo Company (Saudia Cargo) successfully renewed its license to offer ground handling services in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia after receiving high scores on technical and operational standards in accordance with international rules and regulations on aviation security and safety.

On April 1, Saudia Cargo also resumed weekly freighter flights to Guangzhou, China and Mumbai, India to meet the growing demand for cargo operations and stimulate the movement of goods in the Asian cities. That's an additional capacity in the region with the carrier already operating 5 weekly flights to Dhaka in Bangladesh and 7 flights a week to Hong Kong.

"This operation reflects the company's policy aiming to enhance and increase trade activities between

the Kingdom and both countries," Saudia Cargo CEO Omar Hariri said.

"Saudia Cargo will mobilize its logistical capabilities to and from both destinations, adding an extra weekly freighter flight to Guangzhou operated by a Boeing 777F aircraft and another to Mumbai, operated by a Boeing 747-400F, offering estimated 100 tons of capacity to each destination in addition to the belly-capacity on board Saudia passenger flights," he added.

Saudi's national freight carrier also has bellyhold access to Saudi Arabian Airlines which operates 480 weekly flights with 5,836 tons a week capacity to/from 21 destinations in Asia. Saudia Cargo officially became a member of SkyTeam Cargo in April, further widening its route network to 900 destinations in more than 175 countries.

Saudi's General Authority on Civil Aviation (GACA) approved Saudia Cargo's ground handling service provider license (GACAR 151) during the Global Aviation Summit held in Riyadh on April 1-2, 2019 under the patronage of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques.

The Saudia Cargo CEO thanked GACA for its trust and support to the company saying: "This license will further enhance Saudia Cargo's ground handling capabilities and pave way for opportunities, thus, increasing the logistical income into the Saudi economy in line with the Saudi vision 2030 that aims to transform the Kingdom into a global logistics hub."

Saudia Cargo provides a variety of ground handling services for international air cargo carriers operating through the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's main international airports in Jeddah, Riyadh, Dammam and Al Madina.

Fully equipped to handle different aircraft and types of cargo, Saudia Cargo serves different airlines and express companies with capacity to handle more than 1.7 million tons of cargo per year with support from a dedicated and well-trained team and highly industrialized warehouses.

Forecast rough seas delay Beluga whales transfer to Iceland sanctuary

LUXEMBOURG: Little Grey and Little White's scheduled transfer to a whale sanctuary in Iceland in April was delayed due to bad weather condition.

The beluga whales were set to fly on board Cargolux from Shanghai to Keflavik, Iceland before travelling by truck and ferry to Heimaey island.

But Cargolux said a decision has been made to temporary delay their complicated journey between the Icelandic mainland and the Island of Heimaey due to rough sea forecast that would make it very difficult for them to travel aboard the ferry.

Cargolux and SEALIFE Trust, along

with the Icelandic government, are working closely to assess every suitable option for the belugas' safe relocation and to secure the flight out of Shanghai to Iceland in the coming weeks.

Due to the complex nature of the move and the amount of different parties involved, many aspects must be considered and carefully planned ahead of the transport, Cargolux said.

The top priority remains the welfare of the two belugas and the move is dictated by their requirements and well-being, it added.

"We will share progress on the developments as they unfold and



prepare to carry out the epic flight once when our team of experts and partners have deemed it right to do so," the Luxembourg-based cargo airline said in a statement.



Etihad Cargo flies 17 of the world's top Rallycross from Europe to Abu Dhabi



ABU DHABI: Etihad Cargo flew 17 vehicles from Europe to Abu Dhabi last month for the region's first ever

"Festival of Racing" FIA World Rallycross of Abu Dhabi. Etihad Cargo, the cargo and

logistics arm of Etihad Aviation Group, the official airline partner of the FIA World Rallycross of Abu Dhabi, also flew 6 teams, 17 drivers, and support crew for the event held on April 5 and 6 at YAS Marina Circuit in partnership with Woodland Group.

Flight Valet Etihad Cargo used a Boeing 777F for the WRX cars which had traveled from all over Europe, from Liege, Belgium, to Abu Dhabi.

The three-day Urban Festival hosted the inaugural FIA World Rallycross of Abu Dhabi 2019 where Kevin Hansen won a drama-filled race for the opening round of the World Rallycross season.

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GLOBAL NEWS

WFS and SWC launch New York's first GDP-compliant airport facility



Pictured from left to right: Jo Palermo, General Manager Bldg 66 JFK, Rinzing Wangyal, VP of Business Planning, WFS, Tameika Thomas, Special Products Manager, WFS, Kathy Roberts, Director Quality and Training, WFS, Michael Simpson, EVP Americas, WFS, Michael Ganz, Head of Cargo Northeast USA and Canada, Swiss WorldCargo, Octavian David, Manager, Cargo New York, Swiss WorldCargo, Richard Hoffer, Manager, Indoor Sales and Operations, New York, Swiss WorldCargo.

Zurich Airport/John F. Kennedy International Airport: New York's first GDP (Good Distribution Practice) compliant pharma facility was launched in April after Worldwide Flight Services and Swiss WorldCargo achieved certification of its Building 66 at JFK airport.

WFS, the world's largest air cargo handler and Swiss WorldCargo, the air freight division of Swiss International Air Lines and one of the industry's leading pharma air carriers, jointly inaugurated the facility.

Additionally, WFS has signed a 15-year lease on a new state-of-the-art, 346,000 square feet cargo terminal at the airport, the first phase of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey's comprehensive Vision Plan.

The facility, which will have a throughput capacity of over 300 million kilos a year, will offer improved cargo flows and reduced transfer times, shorter truck waiting times and incorporate the latest security and screening systems and procedures. It will also house dedicated facilities for temperature-controlled pharmaceutical products and perishables cargo when it opens in 2020/21

The GDP certification confirms WFS compliance with World Health

Organization (WHO), IATA, and Parenteral Drug Association (PDA) quality standards for handling pharmaceutical and life science products, as well as with Service Level Agreements signed with individual airline customers in New York.

"As the leading cargo handler at JFK, we are proud to be the first airline handling facility to become GDP certified, which is in response to growing customer demand for high quality, standardized pharma handling," said Michael Simpson, WFS' Executive Vice President Americas, who added: "We will continue to expand our network of certified facilities, adding to our current list of JFK and Miami in the Americas as well as multiple locations in Europe."

"We are very excited that New York's first GDP-compliant airline facility is located at Swiss WorldCargo's warehouse," said Michael Ganz, Head of Northeast-/Midwest USA and Canada for Swiss WorldCargo. "This latest addition of GDP-compliant facilities allows us to offer additional quality corridors to our pharma and healthcare customers. The certification of our boutique-like single-airline facility in New York further strengthens our position as a global quality leader."

China Airlines flies Taiwan weather satellite to the US



TAIPEI: Taiwan's national carrier, China Airlines, successfully flew for the 5th time a weather satellite to the Kennedy Space Center in the US for launch to the outer space.

Using a Boeing 747-400 freighter, the satellite safely landed in Miami on April 15.

Jointly developed by the US and Taiwan, Formosat-7 is a weather satellite providing weather forecast, climate observation and space weather monitoring.

Weighing 15 tons, the main body and components of Formosat-7 were packed into nine pallets to ensure maximum shock protection, with the flight plan avoiding all known turbulence, China Airlines said.

The airline said the plane's temperature was kept at 20 degrees Celsius throughout the journey with shock-absorbing padding used during loading/unloading to minimize the amount of vibration experienced by the satellite.

China Airlines' past successes with transporting satellites and sophisticated wafer testing machines from Japan ensures that the aircraft complies with mission requirements throughout the transportation process.

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GLOBAL NEWS

Hamburg Airport begins using DAKOSY Air Cargo Community System

HAMBURG: Hamburg Airport says it has adopted the FAIR@Link Air Cargo Community System from software developer DAKOSY at its air cargo center, becoming one of the first airports in Germany to use this neutral, IT-supported system that streamlines the process.

FAIR@Link enables all companies involved in freight handling processes—in particular handling agents, forwarders, truckers and airlines—to optimize and accelerate their transport and freight processes for both import and export. Customs, security, dangerous goods and supply chain management processes are also supported, in many cases even automated.

With the new system, Hamburg Airport Cargo Center envisions to shorten handling and wait times, increase transparency along the transport chain and also minimize errors and costs by avoiding duplicate entry of data. A particular advantage is that the system prepares the Customs release & can automatically transmit it electronically upon entry into the Hamburg Airport Customs area.

Another important aspect is the



Door Management System: as part of the pilot project, time slots are booked for the delivery of goods to the air freight center. The delivery company as well as the handling partner of the airline can thereby plan coordinated schedules for the delivery of goods.

As a result, drivers can reduce wait times on site and dispatchers can more easily plan for necessary capacities. It's also a step towards protecting the environment: digital processes use less paper.

"I'm pleased that we can implement the pilot project at Hamburg Airport Cargo Center together with our experienced partner DAKOSY," says Alexander Müller, Head of Cargo at Hamburg Airport. "I'm certain that the

standardized early data exchange between the process participants made possible by FAIR@Link will create great added value for everyone. The pilot project will provide us with conclusive results for the processes at our air freight center."

Ulrich Wrage, CEO of DAKOSY, is also convinced that FAIR@Link will make air freight processing at Hamburg Airport even more efficient, saying: "Through intelligent process support and networking, FAIR@Link provides the ideal basis for further optimizing the physical processes between companies involved in air freight processing and for achieving significantly faster and more transparent processing."



SpaceX Dragon cargo spacecraft delivers 3 tons of supplies at ISS

spacecraft as part of the SpaceX-17 cargo mission," Expedition 59 station astronaut David Saint-Jacques of the Canadian Space Agency radioed Mission Control making the catch with the station's Canadian-built Canadarm2 robot arm.

SpaceX Dragon cargo has approximately 5,500 pounds of NASA cargo and science investigations that include research into Earth's carbon cycle and the formation of asteroids and comets.

Dragon will join five other spacecraft currently at the station. Its launch comes on the heels of robotics ground controllers in Mission Control Houston

successfully completing an operation to remove a failed Main Bus Switching Unit (MBSU) aboard the space station and replace it with a spare. The completion of the robotics work marks the second replacement of an MBSU not involving a spacewalk.

The space station continues to be a critical test bed where NASA is pioneering new methods to explore space, from complex robotic work to refueling spacecraft in flight and developing new robotic systems to assist astronauts on the frontier of space. Technologies such as these will be vital as NASA looks to return astronauts to the Moon by 2024.

WASHINGTON DC: With space exploration at an all time high, cargo shipments to the International Space Station (ISS) are also increasing.

On May 6, an unmanned SpaceX Dragon cargo spacecraft arrived at ISS to deliver nearly 3 tons of NASA supplies to the orbiting laboratory for its six-person Expedition 59 crew.

"We welcome to ISS the Dragon



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logitrans 2019: Bridging Eurasia through transport and logistics



The leading trade fair for transportation, telematics and logistics, **logitrans**, is returning this year at Istanbul Expo Center on November 13-15 with more innovative solutions and invaluable industry information and insights.

Last year, **logitrans 2018** introduced a new section dedicated to railway with the One Belt-One Road 850-km launch along the Silk Road route in 2017 substantially increasing freight volumes shipped through rail between Europe and

Asia. Railway cargo traffic's increasing importance will again be tackled at this year's logitrans 2019.

The Trans-Caspian Corridor, which links Turkey, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Georgia, being constructed is another important issue that will be discussed at the event.

Decision-makers in logistics and supply chain management related industries participate every year for more than a decade now at **logitrans** which provides opportunities for companies to meet with customers as well as establish new business contacts and expand their business partners.

The event which also includes meetings, discussion groups and conferences tackling the most pressing industry issues drew more than 14,000 participants from more than 50 different countries and 136 exhibitors from over 20 nations last year.

"This is a great time for you to seize your opportunities in this market and present your company and its capabilities. The event takes place from November 13-15, 2019, at the Istanbul Expo Center," said Messe

München, logitrans organizer along with EKO Fair Limited.

The Munich-based Messe München ended 2018 with new peak figures and started 2019 scaling new heights. Its Chairman and CEO Klaus Dittrich said at the beginning of the year: "Messe München is in a splendid economic position. So we are looking forward all the more to a remarkable year of fairs in 2019."

The company organized 201 events worldwide in 2018 participated by over 2.8 million visitors and about 53,000 exhibitors.

At the beginning of 2019, Messe München repaid the loan of around EUR520 million granted to it in 1996 by its main shareholders, the Free State of Bavaria and the City of Munich for the construction of the exhibition center.

"For Messe München, this means that we now strengthen our equity capital and can be debt-free in 20 years," said Dittrich in a statement. For the City of Munich and the Free State of Bavaria, this repayment is "a considerable inflow of funds" that goes to benefit its citizens.



DHL launches Saloodo! for the first time outside of Europe in Dubai



DUBAI: DHL has launched Saloodo! in the Middle East to provide a digital platform connecting shippers and transport providers for road freight needs within the United Arab Emirates.

First launched in 2017 in Germany, the digital freight platform start-up Saloodo! combines DHL's logistics flexibility with digital innovation. Since its introduction, the service has grown to involve more than 18,000 shippers and over 7,000 carriers with more than 250,000 trucks travelling to over 25 European countries.

"Customer satisfaction is the driving force of every commercial decision that we make and digitalization underpins our approach to continually deliver on

that. Saloodo! has enjoyed much success in Europe and we believe that it will plug the digital gap in logistics technology to accurately match shippers' needs and transport providers' offerings in the Middle East as well," said Tobias Maier, CEO of Saloodo! in the Middle East.

Saloodo! simplifies road freight processes by matching shippers to transport providers, introduces transparency with its tracking, quoting tools and straight-forward reporting system, and enhances efficiency by optimizing routes, cargo and time.

With this, carriers can maximize their truck load for greater efficiency and look to reduce their carbon footprint – which is in support of

DHL's aim to reduce all logistics-related carbon emissions to zero by 2050. All contractual relationships will be organized via the existing local DHL entity thereby providing trust and peace of mind to carriers and shippers alike.

"Even though the UAE is one of the largest logistics markets in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), there remain untapped opportunities with economic diversification and several road infrastructure investments underway. Equally, DHL's deep expertise in the region and wide portfolio of service offerings will support the successful deployment of Saloodo! in the UAE, and ultimately in the Gulf region," Maier noted.

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GLOBAL NEWS

Air France KLM Martinair Cargo and WebCargo launch industry's first real time air cargo eBooking



Zvi Schriever and Marcel de Nooijer

SCHIPHOL: In industry first, Air France KLM Martinair Cargo and WebCargo by Freightos launched real-time air cargo eBooking with instant pricing and capacity that can save shippers, airlines and forwarders tons of money and time.

Air freight pricing and booking that takes place offline costs the industry billions in changing fees, untapped capacity, and manual labor, sometimes turning the sales process for an hours-long flight into a process that extends days, AFKLMP Cargo noted.

With the new digital connectivity it introduced, AFKLMP Cargo said forwarders can now instantly view live rates, assess capacity availability, and secure cargo bookings on specific flights in real-time on the world's largest air freight platform, WebCargo, ensuring improved transit times and significant cost savings for airlines, forwarders and shippers, as well as improved capacity utilization.

Last month, pilots conducted between Panalpina, a top global air freight forwarder, WebCargo and Air France KLM Martinair Cargo, ushered in a new era of digital sales for the leading air carrier. Real-time eBookings will be launched in a number of countries and gradually expanded.

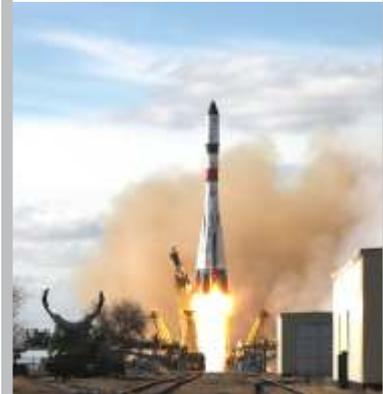
"Air France KLM Martinair Cargo is committed to be a leading player in transforming our industry online. Our

online platform myCargo exemplifies our ambition 'to be easy to do business with'. Our latest partnership with WebCargo by Freightos provides our customers and partners a convenient and fast digital interface to our products and services, and it stipulates time and again that our strategy 'be there, where the customer is', is the right one," said Marcel de Nooijer, Executive Vice President of Air France-KLM Cargo & Managing Director Martinair Holland NV.

Markus Muecke, Global Head of Air Freight Procurement and Product Management at Panalpina, added: "Online quotation and booking are key features of Panalpina's goal to make air freight more efficient for our customers. WebCargo's support of instant dynamic pricing and ebooking with one of our preferred partners, Air France-KLM, means faster operations and, more importantly, improved service for our customers."

According to WebCargo CEO Manel Galindo, "Air France-KLM is one of the world's largest airline groups, which has developed unparalleled digital capabilities stemming from a commitment to offering best-in-class customer service. As a recent benchmarking study we conducted confirms, Air France-KLM Cargo is one of the cargo industry's leaders bringing freight online. We're proud to play a role in their success."

Russia to launch 2 more space cargo ships



MOSCOW: Russia is scheduled to launch two more unpiloted space cargo ships this year after successfully launching the first one in April, the Russian State Corporation for Space Activities (Roscosmos), said in a statement.

Russia launched Progress MS-11, the unpiloted cargo resupply spacecraft to the International Space Station (ISS), out of the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan via the Soyuz-2.1a carrier rocket.

The space cargo traveled for three hours and 24 minutes to reach ISS. It carried over 2.5 tons of fuel, condensed air and oxygen, water, food and other cargoes necessary for the operation of the station in manned mode, Roscosmos said.

Two more cargo ships of the Progress type will be launched this year on July 31 and Dec. 20, respectively, Moscow said.

The US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) said in a separate statement it will also launch space cargo ships at ISS this year.



Rwanda seeks to become a regional cargo and passenger hub in East Africa



KIGALI: Continuing to rise from its tragic genocide past where some 800,000 people were killed 25 years ago in one of the world's worst ethnic conflicts, Rwanda says it's aiming to become a regional aviation hub in East Africa for both passengers and cargo.

Jean de Dieu Uwianganye, Rwanda's Minister of State in charge of Transport in the Ministry of

Infrastructure, said the country is planning to build an airport city with an economic free zone, a theme park and entertainment park.

"We are looking at Rwanda as a regional hub, not only with focus on passenger traffic but also for cargo. We are looking at the development of an airport city to be managed in close coordination with a special economic zone, a theme park and an

entertainment park," Uwianganye said at the 7th Africa Airport Expansion Summit held in late February in Kigali, the capital city of Rwanda.

The official said Rwanda could be turned into a major aviation hub in the region to boost global business opportunities among Africans.

The focus area is to turn Rwanda into an aviation hub of the region by offering up to date and attractive air transport services, with the best air transport infrastructure and a more competitive national carrier, he said.

Apart from Kigali International Airport, Rwanda is currently building the Bugesera International Airport which can accommodate up to 2 million passengers a year with provision for growth of up to 4.5 million.

The state-run RwandAir currently has a fleet of 12 aircraft serving 26 destinations across the continent, the Middle East, Europe and Asia. Air cargo volumes in Rwanda are steadily growing. From 8,000 tons in 2016, it grew to about 16,900 tons in 2018.

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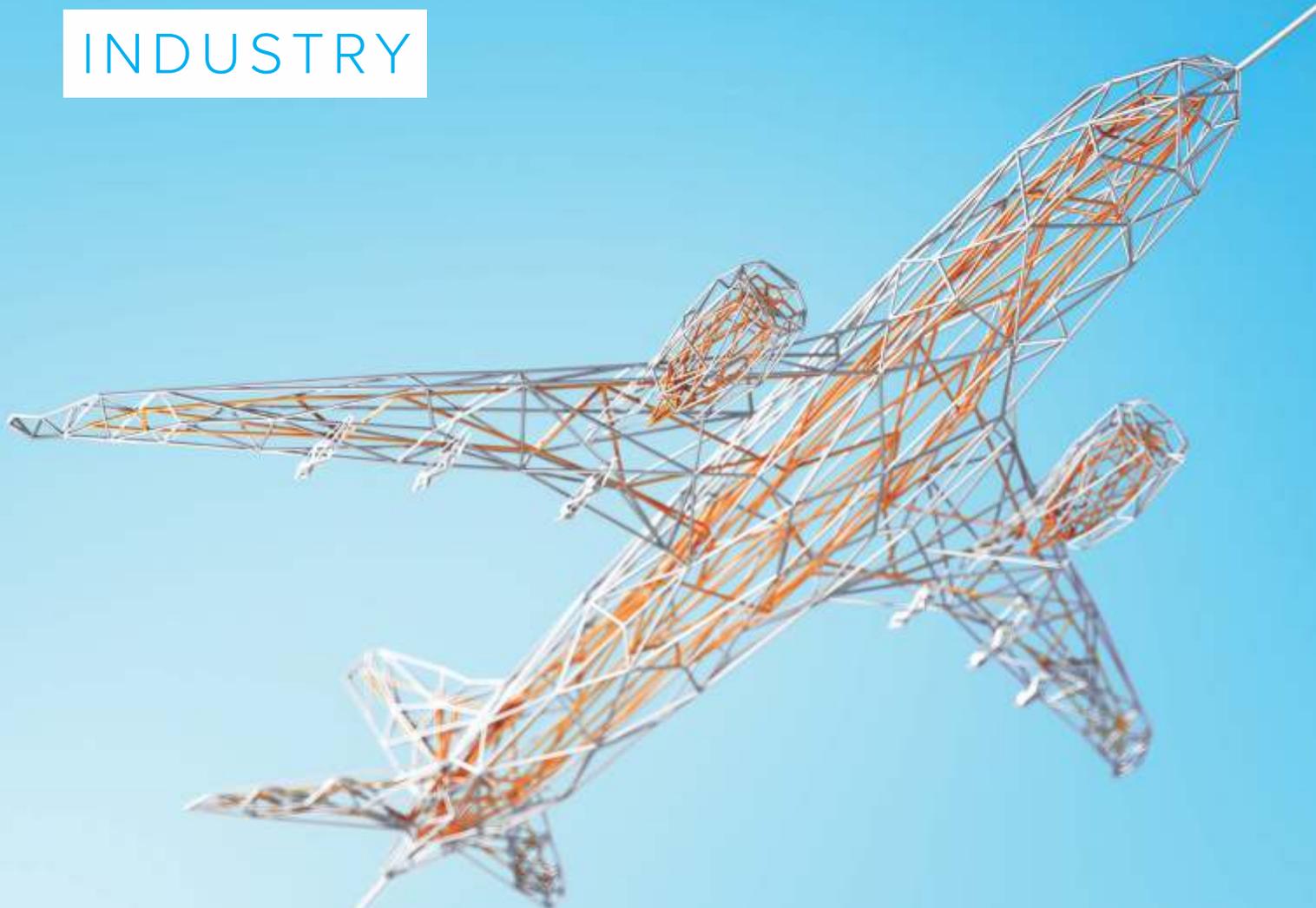
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Rhenus introduces option for greener aircraft via 'RHEGREEN'

BERLIN: The Rhenus Group took over the South African freight forwarding and logistics specialist, World Net Logistics (WNL), headquartered in Johannesburg, as the company positions its own network in the region.

In addition to having a dense network of business sites in South Africa, the company also has several branches and partners in Asia and Germany. The takeover is still subject to approval by relevant cartel authorities.

The World Net Logistics Group not only involves WNL in South Africa, but also the national companies known as WNL Germany with business sites in Bremen and Frankfurt/Main as well as WNL Asia with companies in Hong Kong, China, Malaysia, Taiwan, Thailand and Singapore.

The core business activities of World Net Logistics involve air and sea freight operations. One major focus lies in providing air freight connections between South Africa



and Germany as well as maritime links between South Africa and China, Germany and Great Britain.

WNL also has its own vehicle fleet for overland services as well as warehouse capacity in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban and East London. WNL's customers mainly come from the automotive, electronics, health care, FCMG and retail sectors.

"The takeover of World Net

Logistics marks an important step for us in establishing a network in South Africa and other African countries. WNL's presence in Asia and Europe also strengthens our global network with additional intercontinental connections. We are confident that we will grow further together and that within the Rhenus Group, WNL will continue to develop sustainably," says Tobias Bartz, a Rhenus Board member.

CEVA taps new sea-rail route between China and Europe



SHANGHAI: CEVA Logistics North Asia has successfully launched a new multimodal mode of transportation between China and Europe via the Xiamen sea-rail route cutting travel time further to move goods.

Located in southeast mainland China, Xiamen is a hub city geographically located for sea and rail transportation. It connects China's surrounding coastal countries via the Belt and Road to reach the West. Multimodal transport reinforces trade

and economic growth across the region.

Cooperating with Xiamen International Railway Service (XMIRS), CEVA Logistics started a block train all the way to Duisburg, Germany. With the transit in Xiamen, sea freight consolidated from Asian countries can easily take the "Belt and Road" express to the West.

"Depending on the origin cities in Asia, it will take 16-17 days at a minimum to reach the destination in

Europe via Xiamen. More block trains will be operated as demand grows. I am convinced that the countries and cities along the Belt and Road will benefit from the advantage of this seamless transportation mode, which in turn will attract more domestic and foreign enterprises' attention to Xiamen," said David Wu, General Manager at XMIRS.

"In addition to our recently setup regular trucking service between China and Europe, multimodal (Sea-Rail) transport is another mode to connect East and West, which saves more than 10 days compared with sea transport alone. We hope to further drive our partnership with XMIRS by opening new Wednesday block trains and regular Saturday block trains for South China and Asian customers' alternative transportation needs. We are convinced that our Xiamen multimodal transport service will grow and develop in the near future," said Kelvin Tang, Director of Road and Rail at CEVA Logistics North Asia.



LOGISTICS NEWS

FedEx expands tuition free college program at University of Memphis



MEMPHIS: An additional 2,500 FedEx Logistics and FedEx Trade Networks employees across the US would be eligible to finish their college education at University of Memphis free of charge through the expansion of the Learning Inspired by FedEx (LiFE) program.

Introduced last year, LiFE is a unique initiative providing eligible FedEx Express Hub employees in Memphis, Indianapolis, Los Angeles, Oakland, Calif., and Newark, N.J. – and now U.S.-based FedEx Logistics and FedEx Trade Networks employees — the opportunity to earn a bachelor's degree tuition-free through the University of Memphis online program, UofM Global. As long as students remain in good academic standing and meet eligibility requirements, tuition expenses are directly billed to FedEx.

"The opportunity to expand LiFE to FedEx Logistics and FedEx Trade Networks employees is a testament to the compelling program benefits realized by hundreds of FedEx Express employees already enrolled in courses," said Dr. Richard Irwin, executive dean of UofM Global and Academic Innovation.

Since the program's launch, more than 3,000 employees have submitted interest forms and 2,109 have enrolled in one of the three journey pathways: High School Equivalency, LiFE Prep Academy or degree-required courses.

The LiFE Prep Academy offers self-

paced, online course work and tutoring to employees who do not meet the traditional entry requirements for the University of Memphis, providing them a way to earn college admission as well as college credit.

"The LiFE program supports our talent development and diversity and inclusion priorities, and we believe the program will benefit team members across the nation," said Thanh Anderson, vice president of Global Support Services at FedEx Logistics.

FedEx has long offered college tuition reimbursement programs for employees, but the LiFE program takes it a step further. The program is also a recruiting tool for Memphis-based FedEx, which employs large numbers of permanent, part-time workers to load and unload planes and process packages at hubs including Memphis International Airport.

Apart from LiFE, FedEx also founded in 2003 the FedEx Institute of Technology, an advanced technology and research organization that serves as the gateway to the research infrastructure and innovation capabilities of the University of Memphis.

It serves as a catalyst for interdisciplinary research and innovation in emerging technologies by supporting multiple research innovation clusters and is a unique public-private partnership among Fortune 500 companies.

Expo 2020 Smart Customs Channel launched



DUBAI: Dubai Customs has launched a smart channel dedicated to Expo 2020 Dubai, providing customs services to exhibitors taking part in the global event.

The 'Expo 2020 Smart Customs Channel' provides exhibitors with customs services via their smart mobiles and devices around-the-clock, to help them finalize their customs transactions easily. The channel relies on advanced systems, including risk engine, iDeclare, and the B2G channel which serves UPS, Expo 2020's logistics arm.

"We make sure our initiatives and projects dedicated to support Expo 2020 reflect our progress that we reached in facilitating trade," said Ahmed Mahboob Musabih, Director of Dubai Customs.

"We use the latest technologies and Artificial Intelligence, AI, applications as part of a nationwide vision of turning Dubai into a global economic hub and a strategic link between regional and international markets, and in support of Dubai Silk Road project; one of nine projects published by His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, that aim to develop the quality of life and guarantee a better future for generations," he added.

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Blockchain aviation potentials explored

First ICAO Blockchain Aviation Summit and Exhibition held in Abu Dhabi as industry mulls Blockchain Technology's application on commercial aviation, cargo manifests, among others...



Aviation experts and professionals thoroughly discussed for three days in April the potentials of Blockchain on aviation which will strongly impact the movement of people and goods in the coming years.

The First ICAO Blockchain Summit and Exhibition was held on April 2-4, 2019 in Abu Dhabi, under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, co-sponsored by the UAE General Civil Aviation Authority, GCAA, and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). Some 800 delegates from 90 countries participated in the event.

Blockchain literally means just a chain of blocks which mixed with technology in today's digital age meant distributed, decentralized ledger stored in a public database resistant to modification. Simplified, the records or transactions between the parties are referred to as "blocks" linked via cryptography with each

block containing cryptographic hash of the previous block, a timestamp and transaction data, in an open or public database known as the "chain."

Global air traffic volumes are anticipated to double within the next 15 years and increases in the number of aircraft and flights translate to increased ground, passenger, ticketing, and cargo handling activities, and a parallel expansion of the associated tracking, documentation, approval, and certification requirements, noted ICAO, a specialized body of the United Nations.

ICAO said the application of Blockchain technology can be envisioned for almost all areas of the aviation system where complex and safety critical records are managed and updated, such as personnel licensing, aircraft maintenance, operational approvals, or cargo manifests and even traveler identity.



// This summit is a pivotal point towards the adoption of the Blockchain technology by the aviation sector that will help in overcoming the challenges that hinder the sustained development of this crucial sector. The level of participation we have witnessed in the event is a testimony to the commitment of the aviation industry towards a sustainable growth of the civil aviation system while maintaining security and safety worldwide."

Saif Mohammed Al Suwaidi, Director-General
UAE General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA)

While offering many benefits, the integration of the technology would nonetheless present many challenges, and could cause fundamental changes in the structure of today's aviation systems, experts agreed.

"The aviation system today relies mostly on human agents or intermediaries to assume validation activities, and so we can foresee that the integration of blockchain processes in support of a State's aviation safety oversight system, for example, would likely require substantial adjustments to related regulations, procedures, and responsibilities," explained Dr. Olumuyiwa Benard Aliu, ICAO Council President.

The ICAO official continued there are risks involved like cyber security, among others, but Blockchain is something that could also bring benefit to civil aviation customers and operators. The key, he said, is a strong collaboration between states and stakeholders to prevent any coordinated global cybersecurity threats against the civil aviation industry.

"Blockchain has the potential to virtually exclude loss, distortion, or forgery of vital log data in all aviation sectors where certificates are issued and controlled," Dr. Aliu said. "It can ensure the integrity of the ever growing certification-based system which is integral to aviation, with the potential to increase efficiency while reducing errors, and therefore, enhancing both safety and security."



UAE and Aviation

Accounting for nearly 50 percent of the Arab aviation industry, the UAE continues to lead the region in commercial aviation and air freight sector with potential for more growth.

Saif Mohammed Al Suwaidi, Director-General of the UAE General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA), said the estimated total investment in the UAE's aviation sector amounts to AED1 trillion. This investment includes improvements to airport infrastructure and a fleet of 884 commercial aircraft, reflecting the UAE's position as a significant competitor in the international aviation sector.

Not resting on its laurels, the UAE is still aiming to increase its air traffic and airspace capacity by re-planning internal routes to extend to neighboring countries as well as by introducing a new navigation management system by 2020 which is designed to generate annual financial savings of over AED50 million for airline companies.

At the summit, Al Suwaidi said tackling the potentials of Blockchain Technology is working towards a sustainable growth for the civil aviation industry without compromising security and safety.

"This summit is a pivotal point towards the adoption of the Blockchain technology by the aviation sector that will help in overcoming the challenges that hinder the sustained development of this crucial sector. The level of participation we have witnessed in the event is a testimony

to the commitment of the aviation industry towards a sustainable growth of the civil aviation system while maintaining security and safety worldwide," Al Suwaidi said in his speech.

"Ensuring cooperation between government entities, the international aviation industry partners and the multitude of stakeholder is an important cornerstone in overcoming challenges. Today, the UAE is proving again its commitment towards promoting cross border cooperation, through the creation of interactive platform getting Blockchain gurus, the aviation industry and government agencies together to collaborate and share knowledge and information," he added.

In 2018, the aviation sector contributed 15 percent to the UAE GDP. GCAA recorded some 69,467 flight movements during the same period. Since the construction of UAE airports, more than 1.4 billion passengers had been served and the government anticipates that figure to rise to 2 billion in less than five years with aviation industry's continued growth.

The UAE is hosting for the first time in the Middle East and North Africa Expo 2020 Dubai which is expected to draw as much as 25 million tourists during its 6-month duration—October 20, 2020 through April 10, 2021—where more than 190 countries are participating with the theme "Connecting Minds. Creating the future."



ZIA Cargo

Russia's new modern gateway

By Gemma Q. Casas



“

ZIA CARGO can handle any type of cargo, including oversize, thermosensitive, dangerous, valuable goods and live animals, without restrictions....It has enormous growth potential. For example, we are the only enterprise in our region that can potentially offer cargo transportation by air, road, rail (the airport has access to a nearby industrial line connected with the Moscow Railway) and river transport (in the vicinity of the navigable Moskva River).



Globalization and economic liberalization continue to unfold in different ways in many parts of Russia nearly three decades since the collapse of the communist Soviet Union in 1991.

In the city of Zhukovsky, located about 40-km southeast of Moscow, whose economy is mainly anchored on aviation and scientific research, investments are pouring in mainly on the aviation and transport industries.

In 2016, the city opened a new airport—the Zhukovsky International Airport also known as the Ramenskoye Airport—owned and operated by Ramport Aero, a joint venture between the international holding company Avia Solutions Group and the Russian state corporation, Rostec. Ramport Aero is mainly engaged in airport construction, development and management with projects across Russia, Poland, Italy and Lithuania.

The fourth airport in Moscow after Domodedovo International Airport, Sheremetyevo Airport and Vnukovo Airport, the Zhukovsky Airport, which used to be a testing facility during the Cold War, is open for both classic and low-cost airlines and is designed to handle up to 12 million passengers by 2020.

In 2018, the airport which has the longest runway in Europe (5,400 m), paved the way for the opening of the Zhukovsky International Airport Cargo (ZIA CARGO) which mainly handles air freight and mails for Central Russia.

Flexible & limitless

Zhukovsky Airport's rapid development in terms of passenger traffic three years since its establishment creates opportunities for ZIA CARGO to grow and its long runway also enables the air freight company to receive and serve any type of aircraft without any take-off weight restrictions.

"ZIA CARGO is a cargo and mail handling operator located at Zhukovsky International Airport (Moscow Region, Russia), a new and rapidly-developing airport. One of the advantages provided by the airport is the longest runway in Europe (5,400 m). It allows us to receive and service any type of aircraft without any take-off weight restrictions," Evgeny Solodilin, CEO of ZIA CARGO, told **Air Cargo Update** in an email interview.

Though commercially driven, ZIA CARGO's main goal is to provide reliable means of air transport for Russia in general and foreign airlines and operators at Zhukovsky International Airport.

"Our number one task is to establish an efficient and reliable service provider for Russian and foreign airlines, both for the current partners of Zhukovsky International Airport, and the upcoming cargo operators and airlines," Solodilin explained.

"In fact, for companies from the European, Middle Eastern and Asian regions, ZIA CARGO is a new way to central Russia. And we will do our best to make this journey as convenient and simple as possible. It's not about market dominance. Our mission is to provide our

"For companies from the European, Middle Eastern and Asian regions, ZIA CARGO is a new way to Central Russia. And we will do our best to make this journey as convenient and simple as possible. It's not about market dominance. Our mission is to provide our potential customers with different options."

potential customers with different options," he added.

Strategically located in the economic center of Russia, ZIA CARGO is fast becoming an important component of business operators in Russia and other nearby countries in the central region.

"We are located in the economic center of Russia: statistics show that Moscow and the Moscow Region account for up to 80% of the runway and the volume of air cargo in Russia. This opens up wide possibilities for the development of the chosen business model," Solodilin said.

"The proximity of federal and regional highways, a developed system of warehousing and logistics center in the region and, of course, the airport's dedicated air zone, everything speaks in favor of Zhukovsky International Airport. I am certain that ZIA CARGO will eventually become an impactful player in the air cargo market of the region."

Transport & Logistics Hub

Encouraging passenger and cargo volumes on Zhukovsky Airport and ZIA CARGO's opening along with the long-term business plan for the city convinced Ramport Aero to invest an additional US\$35 million to fully transform it into a transport and logistics hub.

The project involves constructing a modern multimodal warehouse complex, a cargo terminal and an additional aviation apron for servicing cargo aircraft.

"The development of the transport and logistics complex will take place in several stages. Currently, total project investments amount to \$35 million. We will be able to double the production capacity of the complex by 2023 with the help of additional funds," explained Solodilin.

ZIA CARGO is designed to handle any type of cargo, including oversize, thermosensitive, dangerous, valuable goods and live animals, without restrictions, says Solodilin. The company's current expansion project which includes building an additional aviation apron (82,000 sqm) will enable it to simultaneously handle multiple freighters.



COVER STORY



"The project implementation will allow us to simultaneously service 4 cargo aircraft of the B747 type (or up to 6 aircraft of the B737 type). As of April 2019, these projects are 80% complete. The opening of the complex will take place in the second half of 2019," Solodilin explained.

ZIA CARGO is also envisioned to operate 24/7 and the construction of a modern cargo terminal is crucial to this.

"The infrastructure of the cargo terminal is designed to meet the modern requirements for efficient and safe storage and transfer of cargo. It will support 24-hour and precisely accurate tracking of cargo operations, including loading and unloading aircraft, organizing storage and subsequent & transportation of any cargo types," the company CEO noted.

Since its opening in 2018, ZIA CARGO had seen slow but steady increase on air freight volumes.

"2018 was the first year of ZIA CARGO's operation, so it may be too early for any concrete results. This was a period of much testing and training. Cargo handling is currently operating under the conditions of limited customs infrastructure: we are engaged in receiving and shipping domestic cargo that does not require complex terminal handling," said Solodilin.

"For the first year, we have already handled 5,000 tons of cargo. This figure may seem extremely insignificant in the grand scheme of things, but what we ultimately achieved is a five-fold increase in volume while using the same infrastructure. This year, with the new terminal's timely start of operation, 12,000 tons of cargo will be handled. And the full projected capacity of 100,000 tons per year will be achieved in 2022-2023," he added.

Growth in the horizon

Zhukovsky International Airport handled 1.16 million passengers in 2018, more than double its 2017 record of 425,500 passengers. But with the Russian government aggressively pushing to entice more domestic and international tourists to visit the country, it's envisioned to handle as much as 12 million passengers by next year.

Increasing cargo volumes with its growth was factored in, thus, the construction of a modern cargo terminal for ZIA CARGO was also put in place.

"The construction of a modern cargo terminal was originally included in the development plans of Zhukovsky International Airport, since the efficient operation of an international airport in a region as busy as Moscow and the Moscow Region is simply impossible without a cargo handling sector," shared Solodilin.

"The lack of specialized solutions is



◀ Evgeny Solodilin, CEO, ZIA Cargo

a serious limiting factor. In fact, the formation of the ZIA CARGO was the first step taken of the second stage of the development of Zhukovsky International Airport's ground infrastructure. The development of cargo transportation is a crucial part of the airport operation," he continued.

The multifunctional transport and logistics hub complex would tremendously increase cargo capacity at Zhukovsky Airport by as much as 100,000 (250 tons per day).

With total area of 9,200 sqm, the complex boasts of temporary storage warehouse, customs and other vital facilities like office areas, shipment tracking service, among many others.

"The cargo site will provide simultaneous reception and processing of shipments through six cargo gates: 2 for domestic lines, and

4 for international flights. The areas inside the terminal will be divided in a similar fashion. In addition to the cargo infrastructure, the building will contain offices of the partner organization and government services," said Solodilin.

Quality & value

With Zhukovsky considered as the Russian center of research and development in the aircraft industry, a significant part of cargo hauled in the area consists of aviation components, spare parts and equipment, but other types of general cargoes are also being transported on a regular basis with the city growing.

Solodilin said ZIA CARGO stands ready to offer its partners/customers a really good deal with high level of service.

"We are able to offer our partner a really good deal. And we are not talking about pricing policy only. Customers will be able to take advantage of the full support cycle. Various products will be offered. For example, the possibility of providing additional services within the logistics chain, especially the first mile and last mile services," Solodilin noted.

Adding: "We are also ready to offer integrators and major forwarders the

Time Advantage service that will allow for a unique advantage – a dedicated airside, which will help the customers with large cargo turnover to receive accurate and timely flight service strictly on schedule and devoid any risk of delay due to the air traffic."

ZIA CARGO, the CEO also stressed, offers a cargo package that involves hauling goods on air and land as well with the company's links to key modes of transportation in Russia.

"Cargo handling services will be provided in a single package: transportation via road and air, handling documents, customs clearance. If necessary, new enterprises will be created for these services, including a specialized track delivery company," he said.

"ZIA CARGO has an enormous growth potential. For example, we are the only enterprise in our region that can potentially offer cargo transportation by air, road, rail (the airport has access to a nearby industrial line connected with the Moscow Railway) and river transport (the airport is located in the vicinity of the navigable Moskva River). The key to success lies in studying the needs of the customers and offering individual solutions," he concluded.



Q&A with Dietmar Schmitz

All set for **CAMPUS GERMANY**



at Expo 2020 Dubai

**Commissioner General of the German Pavilion at Expo 2020
Dubai Appointed by Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic
Affairs and Energy**



EXCLUSIVE Q&A



In 2004, goods with a value of EUR3.55 billion were exported to the UAE. By 2015 the number had increased to EUR14.63 billion. Even though the number declined to EUR8.25 billion in 2018, the UAE is still one of the most important trade partners in the Middle East

In less than a year, Dubai will be at the forefront of the world's biggest trade show when it hosts for the first time Expo 2020. Some 190 countries have so far confirmed participation in the event which organizers expect to draw a record 25 million tourists during its six-month run—October 20, 2020 to April 10, 2021.

Financial experts say Expo 2020 and its legacy will generate around Dh122.6 billion to the UAE's economy through 2031, supporting nearly a million jobs and business activities in different industries like event management, services, construction, transport, storage, communication, retail, F&B and hotels.

Since the first World Fair now known as World Expo was started in 1851, it has introduced incredible inventions that defy human boundaries, benefitting millions all over the world—the TV, steam engine, the telephone, maritime engines, video conferencing, talking films, the skytrain, the monorail, wireless trams, among many others. What Expo 2020 Dubai will debut is anybody's guess.

Unlike conferences, trade fairs and summits that typically last just a few days, world expos of this magnitude have time and again will give nations ample time to generate awareness about their cultures, technological capabilities, products and other offerings. Expo 2020 Dubai, thus, becomes the single largest promotional event of any nation outside of its own borders.

National pavilions, however, don't come cheap with millions needed to build them keeping certain industries

like construction, logistics, air freight, shipping and others in the supply chain busy throughout the pre-expo phase.

A long time ally of the UAE, Germany was among the first countries to commit in Expo 2020 spending more than EUR50 million (AED226 million) for its own pavilion named CAMPUS GERMANY. The groundbreaking ceremony was held on April 16 at the site measuring 4,500 sqm, one of the largest pavilions at the Expo.

CAMPUS GERMANY will take visitors on a journey through the Energy Lab, the Future City Lab and the Biodiversity Lab with the ultimate goal of making them realize the importance of sustainable living. An invisible intelligent assistance system known as IAMU, which will accompany the visitors while visiting the pavilion, will make its world premiere at the event.

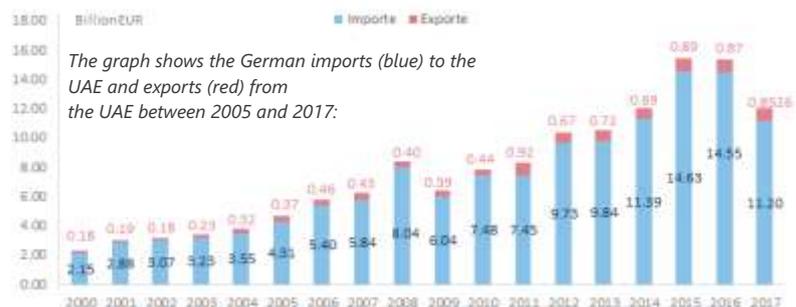
Dietmar Schmitz, Commissioner General for the German Pavilion, appointed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, shares his insights with **Air Cargo Update** on the UAE and Germany's diplomatic, political and economic times that seem to grow with strength each year and Expo

2020 Dubai's role in solidifying that relationship.

How would you describe the trade relations between Germany and the UAE in recent years? Please elaborate with figures if possible.

The German-Emirati business relations look back to a successful development for almost 20 years. In 2004, a strategic partnership was founded between Germany and the UAE. Every year numerous German delegations visit the UAE and German exhibitors participate in all important trade fairs mainly in Dubai, but also in other cities of the UAE. Strong cooperation has been established in the environmental, medical, and industry sectors, as well as in the field of training and education.

In 2004, goods with a value of EUR3.55 billion were exported to the UAE. By 2015 the number had increased to EUR 14.63 billion. Even though the number declined to 8.25 billion euro in 2018, the UAE is still one of the most important trade partners in the Middle East. Other transport equipment, aircraft and associated equipment, road vehicles and general industrial machinery are the most important goods imported to the UAE.



The graph shows the German imports (blue) to the UAE and exports (red) from the UAE between 2005 and 2017:

Source: GTAI, Eurostat



EXCLUSIVE Q&A



Dietmar Schmitz, Commissioner General of the German Pavilion, and Najeeb Mohammed Al-Ali, Executive Director at the Expo 2020 Dubai Bureau. **CAMPUS GERMANY**, the country's national pavilion at the mega-event will focus on sustainability.

to provide comprehensive information about our country's technical, industrial and cultural capabilities in an appealing and innovative way and to showcase potential solutions related to the Expo theme of "Connecting Minds, Creating the Future."

The Expo organizers have divided the site into three subthemes: mobility, opportunity and sustainability. Germany has decided to concentrate on the latter and is committed to this global sharing of ideas. Not only that, it is well-qualified to do so, having produced an abundance of strategies and ideas in its long history of innovation and environmental protection.

We understand that Germany will highlight sustainability at its pavilion. Please elaborate why this was chosen and the kind of industries that would be showcased at the event and their impact to the future.

Germany is a world leader in the field of sustainability. It is the place where sustainability was invented, where the energy revolution known as the "Energiewende" was born, and a place where science, industry and large parts of civil society are actively committed to securing a sustainable future. Sustainability is the subject of analysis, research, practice and development in Germany, which is what the title of the German Pavilion at EXPO 2020 Dubai sets out to convey: **CAMPUS GERMANY**.

With this event moving forward, what is your hope for the UAE and Germany's diplomatic, political and economic relations?

Germany is hoping for an even better mutual understanding and of strengthening the diplomatic, political and economic relations between Germany and the UAE – fulfilling the EXPO 2020 theme "Connecting Minds, Creating the Future".

SITC	2017	2018	YoY change
GRAND TOTAL	11,030	8,248	-25.2%
70 - OTHER TRANSPORT EQUIPMENT	3,893	2,171	-44.0%
792 - AIRCRAFT AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT	3,814	2,160	-43.4%
78 - ROAD VEHICLES	1,519	1,195	-25.5%
74 - GENERAL INDUSTRIAL MACHINERY	681	506	-25.5%
77 - ELECTRICAL MACHINERY	724	579	-20.1%
54 - MEDICAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS	402	394	-2.0%
71 - POWER-DRIVEN MACHINERY	104	102	-1.9%
87 - PROFESSIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS ETC.	307	275	-10.5%
72 - MACHINERY SPECIALIZED FOR PARTICULAR INDUSTRIES	259	214	-17.5%
89 - MANUFACTURES OF METALS	234	211	-9.9%
86 - ROSSINE OILS AND FRESHINGS AND PERFUME MATERIALS	140	204	47.1%

Source: GTAI, Eurostat
The graph above shows the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) of German imports to the UAE in billion euro:

How many Germans and German-owned businesses are currently based in the UAE?

Over 10,000 German expatriates are living currently in the UAE, mainly in Dubai and Abu Dhabi. An estimated number of up to 900 German companies run businesses in the UAE (both subsidiaries of German companies and German-owned companies). They have been extensively contributing to the region's development, especially in utilities, infrastructure, and industrial projects.

Besides prominent global players such as Siemens, SAP, BASF and well-known automotive brands Volkswagen, Daimler and BMW – just to mention a few – there are great deals of small and medium-sized enterprises offering high-tech

products and solutions to construction and industrial projects in the region.

SMEs represent the backbone of the German economy, and as specialists in technology and engineering they are considered as essential suppliers and subcontractors for these different kinds of projects.

Most German companies in the UAE, particularly in Dubai, use the location as a regional hub to distribute their goods and services to the whole Gulf region and beyond.

At Expo Dubai 2020, what can the public expect from Germany which has always been a leader in innovations and inventions?

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Dozens of new technologies and innovations at Dubai Airport Show 2019



Now laptops and liquids can stay in bags while being screened at airports with advanced screening system invented. AI-powered Smart Corridor now on trial in Dubai after successfully introducing Smart Gates. Unique loading system, baggage handling system with virtual reality and more will change the face and pace of airports across the world.

With speed and convenience among travelers paramount without sacrificing security, airports are strongly relying on new technologies and innovations to produce new solutions for today's modern-day travel experience.

At the recently concluded 19th edition of Dubai Airport Show, the world's largest airport exhibition, more than 50 new technologies and

innovations in the aviation industry were unveiled.

Smiths Detection unveiled Hi-Scan 6040 CTiX security screening system that uses computed Tomography technology for cabin baggage. The advanced detection capability offered by CTiX eliminates the need to remove electronic devices and liquids from hand baggage.

"This means passengers need not take out their laptops and bottles

with liquids while screening at the airports," said Tom Squier, Smiths Detections Managing Director for Middle East.

The company also showcased the next-generation portable desktop system, the Ionscan 600, to detect and identify trace amounts of explosives.

ADP Ingénierie, which is known for designing greenfield airports and maintenance, unveiled a Baggage



A panel discussion at GALF during the Airport Show 2019

Handling System (BHS) using virtual reality which gives airport operators virtual view of the end results of what they are designing.

The technology can be used for optimizing the existing systems, said Philippe Martinet, Deputy Managing Director, ADP Ingenierie.

This year, 20 companies participated under the Swiss flag, showcasing cutting edge technologies. Chris Watts, Consul General of Switzerland, said Swiss companies have contributed to the development of the region.

One of them, EuroPoles, unveiled a unique loading system, and signed a deal with Dubai Airports for the calling points systems and energy saving systems.

Nokia, meanwhile, showcased its innovative technologies, along with managed services for building highly reliable and secure mission-critical domestic as well as international aviation networking. These technologies help both airports and Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs) meet key regulatory and

unique network communications upgrade challenges.

“As ATC infrastructure forms a critical foundation for the aviation industry, one of the most important aspects is to ensure the support of legacy applications and services while moving toward an IP environment. Nokia has helped many ANSPs overcome these legacy application support issues with robust network solutions allowing seamless connectivity and reduced costs,” said Kamal Ballout, head of the TEPs MEA & Global Energy Segment, Nokia.

ITW GSE announced its launching its new battery powered Nissan leaf battery packs for GPUs (ground

power units) to support the green airports and a better working environment for the airport staff. A battery powered 400 Hz unit that will help airports reduce their carbon foot print, replacing their diesel powered GPUs by clean eGPUs.

“The challenges are congested airport, flexible infrastructures, carbon emissions control, noise, health and safety for operators in the ramp,” said David Feuga, Sales Director, Middle East and Africa, ITW GSE.

DFS Aviation Services showcased the PHOENIX WebInnovation System. This web-based cloud solution enables air traffic controllers to use PHOENIX tracker not only at their controller working position but also anytime and anywhere. The product targets ANSP's, airports and airlines as well as any other stakeholder involved in ATM.

“We believe that airports will have to tackle positive challenges like growth and expansion. We look forward to strengthening DFS



NEWS FEATURE

“

We believe that airports will have to tackle positive challenges like growth and expansion. We look forward to strengthening DFS Aviation Services in the UAE and Middle East market as a competent and reliable partner for ATM and consultancy.

Oliver P Cristinetti, General Manager, DFS Aviation Services.

Aviation Services in the UAE and Middle East market as a competent and reliable partner for ATM and consultancy,” said Oliver P Cristinetti, General Manager, DFS Aviation Services.

Saudi Ground Handling Services (SGS) said it's studying some projects outside Saudi Arabia, with different partners from these countries.

“With Vision 2020 and Vision 2030, we have lots of changes in the government to open up the tourism industry to make it attractive for foreigners. There are big expansion plans at the airports,” said Abdullah Marie Al Ghamdi, Director, Commercial, Saudi Ground Handling Services. “We are implementing a new system, InForm system, which will link manpower, rostering and equipment. It is an IT solution linking planning, equipment, manpower which will give real-time of equipment needed. This we are implementing in Jeddah and later will be used in other airports.”

Ground Handling Logistics of Saudi Arabia showcased their PRM (Passengers with Restricted Mobility) technology. PRM products and equipment give special care for people with special needs.

“We try to provide all equipment and system to make all the airports accessible for passengers with special needs,” said Yasser Kusibati, Chief Business Development, with Ground Handling Logistics.

Smart Dubai

Handling about 90 million passengers annually, Dubai International (DXB) remains the



world's top airport for international airports. Of the figure, a record 11.25 million used Smart Gates at all terminals, a top government official said.

Major General Mohammed Ahmed Al Marri, Director General of General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs (GDRFA-Dubai), said the number of passengers who used the Smart Gates at the airport increased from 5.5 million in 2017 to 11.25 million in 2018.

He said a number of technology-driven initiatives have been in place to facilitate the faster movement of passengers for completion of border control formalities at two international airports – Dubai International and Al Maktoum International – in the run-up to and during the Expo 2020 which will bring 25 million visitors to Dubai when it hosts the first Expo in the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia (MENASA).

The multimodal biometric Smart

Gates can identify a traveller by either their passport, Emirates ID, eGate card or a QR barcode generated via a Smartphone app. As many as 127 Smart Gates are available across all the terminals of Dubai International. Smart Gates were first introduced in 2013 at Terminal 3 of Dubai International. This helps in reducing the average transaction times to under 10 to 15 seconds.

Another Seamless Passenger Experience product is Smart Corridor which enables passenger to enter the corridor in a sequence and their Iris will be captured on the fly without the need to present any travel document or stand in queue for Iris capture.

Smart Corridor is currently under operational experiment at Terminal 3 Departure. Because of Artificial Intelligence (AI) capabilities and Iris recognition biometrics, officials are allowed recognition while the passengers are moving, wearing sunglasses or contact lens, and even



running – accurately and quickly.

Another government organization which has been fast deploying smart technology in its operations is Dubai Customs.

Dr. Hussain Al Fardan, Head of Innovations Centre at Dubai Customs and Chairman of Ideas Arabia, said Artificial Intelligence have been playing a crucial role in the drive towards making airport security better and better each passing day. More than 114 world-class innovations have been made so far by Dubai Customs, one of the earliest government departments in the emirate dating back to more than 100 years.

He explained the various initiatives of Dubai Customs including the world's first customs female inspection robot, an Android-based facility which it launched in 2015 at Dubai International T3.

The other initiatives include the world's first government AI Investors Application (AIIA), world's first Customs Smart Inspection Table, based on Machine Learning and the world's first government Open Innovation Smart Gate. This smart app made it one of the first government department in the UAE to transfer employees' imagination to reality using 3D Printing and Virtual Reality (VR).

Harald Jentsch, Head of Baggage Handling Solutions at Smiths Detection, a global technology company with presence in 50 countries, said when using the AI, the



Major General Mohammed Ahmed Al Marri, Director General of General Directorate of Residency and Foreigners Affairs (GDRFA-Dubai)

detection rate had been found higher than 90 percent and also equal or even better than the human capability.

He said the majority of European and Middle East airports were currently in the process of implementing European Civil Aviation Conference (ECAC) Standard 3-approved Explosives Detection Systems (EDS). The new standard is being implemented to detect higher levels of threats, while lowering operational false alarm rates (FAR).

The European Commission passed a legislative framework requiring all hold baggage screening (HBS) in Europe be equipped with ECAC Standard 3-approved EDS in the Europe by 2020 and 2022 in specific circumstances.

Upgrading from Standard 2 to Standard 3-approved systems requires redesigning and reconfiguring the Baggage Handling Systems (BHS). In many Standard 2 configurations, the first level of screening is handled by a standard X-ray system, while a more powerful,

Computed Tomography (CT) technology is used at Level 3. With the new mandate, Standard 3-approved machines will now be used right at Level 1.

Dubai Airport Show 2019 drew 375 exhibitors from 60 countries with record participation of 211 Hosted Buyers from 30 countries, up from last year's 180.

Next year's edition will be bigger by 1,000 sqm exhibition space which has been added to this edition's 15,000 sqm. Three new co-located events have been added for the next year edition: Ground Handling, GSE and Air Cargo.

Global Airport Leaders Forum (GALF), Aviation Security and Air Traffic Control (ATC) Forum will continue its journey of success in the 2020 edition. Reed Exhibitions Middle East, the organizers of Airport Show, said this year's much-anticipated show was a stupendous success taking into account different parameters, including the increased number of deals & strategic alliances signed between the participating companies and hosted buyers.



IVECO Trucks:

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IVECO is best known for manufacturing vehicles—special vehicles, light, medium and heavy duty trucks, military vehicles, buses and even engines—that can withstand any conditions, tailor-made based on market needs that can last up to two decades.

Talk about high-powered stylish or fast-racing cars and Italy instantly comes to mind. In the trucking industry, Italy also tops offering durability, fuel efficiency and innovative solutions for the daily needs of practically every industry.

One of the leading global trucking companies highly regarded for its innovative solutions is IVECO which stands for Industrial Vehicles Corporation, an Italian industrial vehicle maker based in Turin, Italy with more than 150 years of history, which in 1975 became a merger of Italian, French and German brands, owned by CNH Industrial Group which accounts for the sales of about 150,000 commercial vehicles annually across the world with approximately turnover of EUR10 billion.



In 1980, IVECO made global history when it built the first turbo diesel engine for heavy industrial vehicles. Four years later, it launched the TurboStar, a heavy on-road vehicle and in 1985, it introduced the first light diesel engine with direct injection.



In 1980, IVECO made global history when it built the first turbo diesel engine for heavy industrial vehicles. Four years later, it launched the TurboStar, a heavy on-road vehicle and in 1985, it introduced the first light diesel engine with direct injection.

Marco Torta, IVECO Area Manager for Gulf Area, Iraq and East Africa, a company veteran for the past 33 years, said he's proud to be part of a trucking firm that helps businesses save money and enhance productivity through innovative solutions for their daily needs.

"I joined IVECO 33 years ago. In 1993, I was assigned to Egypt where I stayed for eight years. In 2001, I was moved to Morocco and stayed there until 2005. Between 2006-2010, I was

stationed in Ethiopia. I moved back to Egypt in 2010. In 2011, I was entrusted to handle the UAE, East Africa, Cyprus and the Iraq markets," Torta shared.

"Our company is known for offering innovative solutions that help businesses grow by saving on fuel consumption, comfort for drivers and best of all safety," he added in an interview at their corporate office at Dubai Airport Freezone Authority (DAFZA).

IVECO is best known for manufacturing vehicles—special vehicles, light, medium and heavy duty trucks, military vehicles, buses and even engines—that can withstand any conditions, tailor-made based on market needs that can last up to two decades.

The Daily Hi-Matic

IVECO's New Daily Hi-Matic is the only vehicle in its segment to offer two engines optimized to deliver the best performance in every mission.

Its 2.3-litre F1A engine is now available in both light- and heavy-duty homologation, with rated power ranging from 116 to 156 hp while the 3.0-litre heavy-duty F1C engine offers three power ratings with increased performance ranging from 160 to 210 hp, as well as a Natural Power compressed natural gas version.

The Daily Hi-Matic Euro 5, which belongs to this family of vehicles, Torta explained, is best suited for all deliveries for all types of businesses. It is capable of carrying 3.5 to 7 tons.

It's available in chassis cab, single



TRUCKING



and crew cab, and also as van. The van has 20 cubic meters of capacity and best in class in this segment. It can be custom-built based on the market needs of its owners.

Generally, IVECO's Daily Hi-Matic can save up to 10% in fuel in urban missions and offers up to 10% maintenance cost reduction.

With a host of features, it stands out for its "fuel economy" feature which boasts of efficiency, responsiveness in transient conditions and the exclusive Class A Super Eco Low Rolling tyres specifically designed for the Daily and the new 220A (12V) alternator further contribute to the Daily's fuel efficiency.

It also has the new Tyre Pressure Monitoring System, which monitors tire pressure in real time so that it is always at optimal level, further improving fuel efficiency and safety. It is the only vehicle in its class to offer



Marco Torta, IVECO
Area Manager for Gulf Area,
Iraq and East Africa

"I joined IVECO 33 years ago. In 1993, I was assigned to Egypt where I stayed for eight years. In 2001, I was moved to Morocco and stayed there until 2005. Between 2006-2010, I was stationed in Ethiopia. I moved back to Egypt in 2010. In 2011, I was entrusted to handle the UAE, East Africa, Cyprus and the Iraq markets."



TRUCKING

this feature on both single and twin-wheel models. On top of this, the new, bigger oil sump, which was designed for long-distance missions, extends service intervals to 60,000 km.

The New Eurocargo

The New Eurocargo is IVECO's answer for a global call for more environment-friendly vehicles in the digital age. This multi-awarded model is built with fuel efficiency, new functionality and design, comfort for the driver, among other unique features.

About half a million customers in Europe, Africa, Middle East, Australia and Latin America have chosen this model which offers lower fuel consumption, versatility and durability.

“Eurocargo is very fuel efficient. It is based on European standards, thus, it is sustainable and offer low total cost of ownership and comfort for drivers,” said Torta.

Medium range vehicles are mainly used for missions such as urban distribution and municipal services: this is why Iveco has set performance improvement and fuel consumption reduction as a top priority.

With a range of eight engines, the new Eurocargo adopts two Iveco Tector 5, 4-cylinder, engine power between 220 and 280 HP optimized to suit the typical operating conditions of urban missions.

In addition to the steering wheel airbag and steering wheel controls, the new Eurocargo is available with all the key driving assistance systems, such as the Lane Departure Warning System (LDWS), Advanced Emergency Braking System (AEBS) and Adaptive Cruise Control (ACC). To improve safety and visibility when driving, LED Daytime Running Lights (DRL) have also been adopted as standard. Xenon headlights can be specified as an option.

The New Stralis X Way

The Stralis X Way raises the stakes in light off-road missions with the biggest payload in its segment.

The best engine technology delivers higher fuel

efficiency which ultimately leads to low maintenance costs, ergo, exceptionally low cost of ownership.

X Way is available with Euro III or Euro 5 engines, 8 – 10 and 13 liters, with power of 310HP up to 540 HP. It's available with mechanical or automated gearbox and now also with full automatic version.

The Stralis X Way offers 3 three types of cab: Active Day (AD), short cab with low roof, Active Time (AT), sleeper, medium roof and Active Space (AS), sleeper cab which was designed around the driver for long haul mission of the Stralis.

To satisfy the needs of this area, the X Way is designed with mechanical suspensions and can be supplied with single or hub reduction. Its wide choice of features and components, its structural strength and low kerb weight result in a vehicle that can be configured for an extensive variety of missions.

New Trakker

IVECO's new Trakker, the quarry and construction vehicle redefines the meaning of impossible and enables work on impenetrable, broken terrain, and tackle constant stresses with extraordinary performance.

“Difficult missions, insurmountable obstacles and insuperable limits? Yes we can do it with IVECO Trakker,” says Torta.

The New Trakker comes with the guarantee of cursor engines for maximum power and durability. It offers top quality of life on board too with three cab versions. And it raises productivity beyond limits while further reducing Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) and minimizing running costs.

This model is very well known in the region with IVECO selling more than 2000 units in the last 5 years.

The New Trakker is available in 2 -3 and 4 axle configuration, prime mover and chassis cab. Its cursor 13 engine is ideal for the most demanding applications in the toughest environments and most adverse conditions. Available on 410 and 450 HP versions, it delivers high torque at low engine speed thanks to its waste gate turbo system.





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Expo 2020 now on 40 Emirates planes



DUBAI: Vibrant Expo 2020 Dubai liveries are now carried on the sky on 40 aircraft of Emirates with the final A380 plane emblazoned in the distinctive orange “opportunity” decal rolled out in April.

The first decal was unveiled in 2017 on an Emirates Boeing 777-300ER. EXPO 2020 Dubai will be held between 20 October 2020 and 10 April 2021. The city is the first in the Middle East and North Africa to host the world expo.

His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman and Chief Executive, Emirates Airline & Group, commented on completion of the unique Expo 2020 liveries: “As we begin to gear up for Expo 2020 Dubai, we are proactively tapping into the power of Emirates’ network to spread awareness and capture the world’s attention around the themes of this global event with our mobility, opportunity and sustainability liveries.”

“Connectivity is the lynchpin that brings together new ideas, fosters global dialogue, and helps us

navigate through change. Emirates will play a key role in opening up opportunities for visitors to experience this truly global event, as it offers non-stop flights to Dubai from many of the Expo participating countries, and 70% of the 25 million people targeted to visit Expo 2020 are expected to utilise air transport,” he added.

The aircraft decals—based on a 4,000 year-old ring excavated at an archaeological site in Dubai—are made up of circles and hoops encircling a ring, in three distinct colors reflecting the sub-themes of Expo 2020 Dubai – amber tinged orange for ‘opportunity’, emerald green for ‘sustainability’ and cerulean blue for ‘mobility’. The Expo 2020 Dubai decals will remain on the 40 aircraft until April 2021.

Emirates says it will continue to grow passenger and cargo links to Dubai in the lead up to Expo 2020 Dubai. The airline currently has a state-of-the-art fleet of 270 aircraft, covering a network of over 150 destinations in 86 countries.

Turkish Airlines concludes 'The Great Move' to new Istanbul Airport

ISTANBUL: Turkish Airlines concluded in April its relocation from the Ataturk Airport, its home for 86 years, to the new Istanbul Airport dubbed as “The Great Move.”

Touted as currently the world’s biggest airport, the US\$12 billion Istanbul Airport officially opened on October 29, 2018, Turkey’s 95th Republic Day.

Turkish Airlines Chairman of the Board and Executive Committee M. İlkerAycı said Istanbul Airport also known as the “Monument of Victory” ushers in a new era in the country’s aviation history.

“Currently the biggest airport project of the world, this enormous facility will be the home of the resounding local and global growth of Turkish Airlines in future while becoming the most important driving force behind our growth with its state of the art physical capabilities and capacity,” he said.

The chairman said the new airport will allow the airline to continue with its global growth plans, open up new opportunities for its subsidiaries and thereby promote economic reforms in the country.

He credited Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan for supporting the national carrier and other reforms he initiated.



AIRLINES

Singapore Airlines and Garuda Indonesia expand codeshare operations



SINGAPORE: Singapore Airlines (SIA) and Garuda Indonesia have expanded their codeshare agreement giving customers more options when travelling between Singapore and Indonesia.

The two carriers first started codesharing in 2010 on each other's flights between Singapore and Denpasar (Bali). In 2014, the agreement was expanded to include flights between Singapore and

Surabaya.

"We are delighted to be further expanding our agreement with Garuda Indonesia to include more codeshare flights for our customers," said SIA's Senior Vice President Marketing Planning, Mr Tan Kai Ping. "Indonesia is a very popular tourism and business destination and we are pleased to make the country more accessible to travellers from all around the world. This reflects our

continuous efforts to work with our partners to offer more seamless travel experiences for our customers."

Garuda Indonesia Director of Commercial, Pikri Ilham Kurniansyah, added, "We are pleased to announce this partnership with Singapore Airlines which will further extend our network to Singapore as one of the busiest airport hubs in Southeast Asia. The codeshare agreement allows the passengers to benefit from the networks of both airlines to travel between Singapore and Indonesia with seamless connectivity and increase travel flexibility." SIA and Garuda Indonesia operate a combined total of 175 weekly scheduled services between Singapore and Indonesia.

SriLankan Airlines sets out plans to bounce back after terror attacks

DUBAI: SriLankan Airlines has set out a turnaround plan in a bid to help Sri Lanka's tourism industry recover from the damage resulting from a string of suicide terror bomb attacks on churches and luxury hotels across the capital Colombo on Easter Sunday that killed more than 350 people.

SriLankan Airlines CEO Vipula Gunatilleka said security is now at an all time high across the country, especially at the airport, with the air force taking control.

"The Middle East is among our most significant markets and we consider being at ATM and Dubai very important, which is why participated at full strength, despite the recent attacks in Colombo," said Gunatilleka. "We are determined not to let these setbacks discourage us and we will bounce back in style. Going forward, we will announce plans to enhance services to the region and improve our business class offerings as we aim for a bigger slice of the luxury travel market," Gunatilleka said at the

recently concluded Arabian Travel Market, the largest trade fair of its kind, held in Dubai.

He reiterated Sri Lanka's national carrier is focused on expanding its Middle East market share and reinforcing its offerings for the luxury and business traveller.

More than 2.5 million tourists from the Middle East made travel plans to the Emerald Isle in 2018 and with more than 5% originating from the GCC, SriLankan Airlines is currently evaluating how best to build on the 45 weekly flights it has to the region.

SriLankan Airlines' future plans include transforming the airline into a major hub-and-spoke network operator with a streamlined and



efficient hub in Colombo, servicing its own and alliance partner flights from and to Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Oceania.

The airline envisages an increase in fleet numbers and is also in the process of installing premium economy seating across its widebody fleet and plans to add four new Airbus aircraft over the next five years to enhance passenger and freight carrying capacity, eventually building up to a fleet strength of 34 by 2025.



FAI Aviation Group marks 30 years in the industry



DUBAI: FAI Aviation Group is celebrating its 30 years in the industry with resolve to further grow its presence in the Middle East and elsewhere in the world.

The Nuremberg-based FAI, Germany's leading global provider of mission-critical aviation services, offering fixed-wing air ambulance, special missions, charter and aircraft management, as well as full MRO services, has grown its fixed wing fleet from a single Citation 500 and two rescue helicopters (Eurocopter AS 350 and Airbus BK 117) to become Germany's largest business jet operator with 25 jets and over 13,500 hours logged in 2018.

FAI's air ambulance business has grown too and today FAI is a global market leader in air ambulance patient transport by jet aircraft, having logged more than 200,000 total hours of ambulance missions inside 30 years.

"Reaching 30 years is a great achievement for our company and I am very proud of how far we have come. The company's growth and success is testament to our commitment to safety, service and continued investment. It also highlights the importance of our tremendous team of people, now 200-strong, who have made our business what it is today. I look

forward to continuing to grow our business to meet the needs of our customers," said Siegfried Axtmann, FAI Aviation Group Founder and Chairman.

FAI has grown significantly since its inception in 1989 through the acquisition of a small repatriation business, focusing on the air ambulance market. That same year, FAI purchased a Cessna Citation 500 which was followed by the purchase of two Falcon 20's two years later. Going from strength to strength in 2004, the company expanded into special mission services in hostile areas for the world's largest NGO.

In 2011, with revenues in excess of €50m for the first time, the company inaugurated its new headquarters at Albrecht Dürer Airport in Nuremberg. It expanded again in 2012 with the launch of its dedicated MRO division, FAI Technik.

With current revenues in excess of €80m, it has expanded globally. It has offices in Dubai and Miami, FL and is a market leader in fixed wing air ambulance operations.

Last year, FAI was further strengthened by a significant minority stake investment by Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company (Mumtalakat), the sovereign wealth fund of the Kingdom of Bahrain, further opening up the Middle East market.

Air Arabia picks Honeywell for maintenance services and power units supply

DUBAI: Honeywell (NYSE: HON) has been selected by Air Arabia to extend maintenance services and supply auxiliary power units (APUs) for the airline's fleet of Airbus A320ceo aircraft.

The selection will see the two companies extend their decade long working relationship, and includes an agreement for Honeywell to continue to supply repair services to the airline.

"Three out of four A320 aircraft are fitted with our APUs, which is testament to the performance and reliability our products provide," said David Shilliday, vice president - Airlines, EMEA, Honeywell Aerospace. "The efficiencies that can be driven in fuel and maintenance speak for themselves, and our longstanding relationship with Air Arabia demonstrates our commitment to customer support and product knowledge."

The Honeywell 131-9A APU supplies compressed air to start the main engine, as well as air conditioning and electrical power on the ground and in flight. It is known for its reliability and lower maintenance costs over the course of the entire life cycle, resulting in significant fuel savings. The APUs are also fitted with the Predictive Trend Monitoring and Diagnostics Program, which reduces unscheduled removals due to unforeseen faults.

Honeywell was the first company to produce a gas turbine aviation APU in 1948 and continues its long history in APU production with the family of 131-series APUs, which have been in service for 100 million service hours.

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158 passenger flights per day at DWC as DXB runway gets upgrade



DUBAI: Dubai World Central (DWC) will see at least 158 passenger flights per day with some flights from Dubai International (DXB) rerouted to DWC as DXB's southern runway is closed for 45 days or until May 30, 2019 for a complete upgrade.

DWC will absorb affected scheduled, charter, cargo and general aviation operations during the runway closure at DXB which began on April 16.

During the 45-day period, DWC will see an average of 158 passenger flight movements per day operated by two charter carriers and 16 scheduled airlines which include flydubai, Wizz Air, Aeroflot, Indigo, SpiceJet, Gulf Air, Ukraine International Airlines, Ural Airlines, Nepal Airlines, Kuwait Airways and flynas.

The main visible difference for passengers will be a potential change in airports, although scheduling experts have optimized DXB's one runway operation to the point where there will be only a 29% reduction in the number of available seats. Thanks to the additional capacity provided by DWC, the number of flights across the Dubai Airport system will see a reduction of just 19% and a seat reduction of just 20%.

"The most significant change for passengers during the period will be

the need to confirm the airport that they travelling to or from. That said, we're confident customers and airlines will be impressed by the speed, efficiency and convenience of Dubai's second airport. It's a great opportunity to showcase DWC's newly expanded facilities that can now accommodate up to 26.5 million passengers annually and we're confident that it will shine," said Paul Griffiths, Dubai Airports CEO.

Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority will provide a fully integrated ground transportation solution for DWC with a regular bus service from key locations in Dubai and a dedicated fleet of taxis serving the airport offering discounts throughout the closure period.

Dubai Airports will also have a free express bus service operating between DXB and DWC every 30 minutes departing from DXB Terminals 1, 2 and 3. Customers will also be able to take advantage of the free shaded parking at DWC's 2,500 capacity car park.

During the DXB runway reconstruction phase, some 90 construction vehicles will enter and exit every hour transporting more than 18,500 truckloads of concrete, asphalt, materials and personnel. More than 1,900 employees will be involved in the project.

Athens Airport is first in Europe to use SITA's face scan as boarding pass

DUBAI: Greece's largest airport, Athens International Airport, is the first in Europe to use face scan as boarding pass by merely scanning their face at check-in and at security points through the SITA SMART PATH biometric facial solution.

Passengers flying with Aegean Airlines from Athens International Airport are being offered this faster, more efficient journey through the airport during the trial phase. Brisbane, Doha, Muscat, Orlando, Miami and Boston airports are already using this system while numerous other airports in Europe and US are expected to implement the solution in 2019.

When arriving at Athens Airport to check-in, passengers who utilize the trial service, scan their passport and have their photo taken. Once completed, passengers can then proceed to security where they can quickly be verified as a known traveler – without having to show a boarding pass. Passengers simply have their face scanned and then are offered a fast track through security.

"Passengers really appreciate the ease of using SITA's Smart Path trial. It has reduced the time taken to check in and verify passenger identity at security to only a few seconds. It will solve a key challenge for us by ensuring a steady flow of passengers to the security area. This is a service we would like to extend to other steps in the journey over time," said Alexandros Ziomas, Acting Director, IT&T Business Unit at Athens International Airport.



AIRPORTS

Bahrain Airport reaps record US\$51M net profit in 2018



MANAMA: Bahrain Airport Company reaped a record net profit of BD19.3 million (about USD51.222 million) in 2018 with increased activities and passenger traffic at Bahrain International Airport.

Gulf Air Group Holding (GFG) Chairman, His Excellency the Minister of Transportation and Telecommunications, Eng. Kamal bin Ahmed Mohammed said the 2018 figures represent a significant increase from 2017's net profit of BD12.9 million.

"With the company's solid financial position, increased business activity,

and a promising operating environment at BIA, we are confident that we can build on our success in 2019, continuing the aviation sector's contribution to the local economy in line with Bahrain's Vision 2030. The launch of the new Passenger Terminal Building later this year, which will increase BIA's capacity to 14 million passengers a year, is expected to generate even further growth across both aero and non-aero revenue streams," the minister said.

BAC, the operator of Bahrain International Airport, disclosed its latest financial performance at the

recently held GFG Board of Directors meeting.

The board lauded His Royal Highness the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa's commitment to develop Bahrain's economy, the aviation sector in particular.

BAC said 2018 also saw a surge in cargo traffic, which reflects BIA's ability to handle significantly larger volumes and reaffirms the Kingdom's position as an important regional logistics hub. In addition, the increased number of airlines operating out of BIA resulted in greater revenue from landing fees and heavy footfall through retail areas.

The main contributors to aero revenue growth were passenger service charges, at 56 percent of the total aero revenues, and landing fees at 19 percent. Growth in non-aero revenues is largely due to property and real estate income.

Leonardo seals EUR100 million deals in 2 airports

ROME: Leonardo has bagged two new contracts in airport logistics at Geneva Airport and Athens International Airport valued at more than EUR100 million, the company announced.

The projects will see Baggage Handling Systems (BHS) revamped at Geneva Airport, the second biggest airport in Switzerland with over 17 million passengers annually, and at Athens International Airport which has over 24 million business and leisure passengers every year.

In Geneva, Leonardo will plan, design and deliver a brand new facility which will carry out all of the airport's baggage handling, including at departures and arrivals, with a sorting capacity of over 5,200 bags per hour by 2023.

Bags will be tracked with automatic label readers which can recognize both

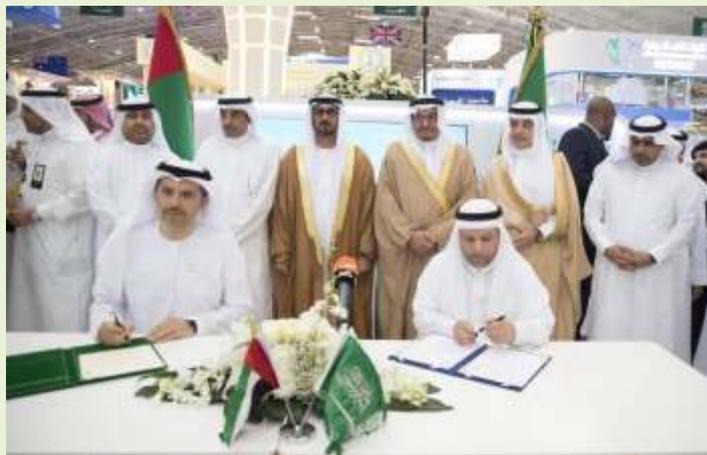


barcodes and printed characters. The project will include 8.5 km of conveyor belts, an Early Baggage System with a capacity of 2,400 bags, the entire control system which includes EasyAirport, Leonardo's Sorting Allocation Computer solution, and 2 MBHS (Multi-sorting Baggage Handling System) cross-belt sorters.

In Athens, a new "Transfer Baggage Facility" will be constructed and baggage infrastructure throughout the rest of the airport will be completely overhauled and extended by 2020. Leonardo will be responsible for managing the entire project, from design to system integration, as well as for the supply of all equipment including sorting machines and IT systems.

Leonardo's baggage handling solutions have already been chosen by customers all over the world to meet the needs of both medium-sized facilities and large hubs. These include Rome Fiumicino, Paris Orly, Zurich, Lyon, Bale-Mulhouse, Kuwait City and other airports in the Middle East and Asia.

UAE, Saudi Arabia sign MoU to develop digital education system



RIYADH: Saudi Arabia and the UAE have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to jointly develop a digital education system that will benefit their respective national development plans.

The Ministers of Education from the respective countries signed the MoU along with several Emirati universities signed twinning agreements with their Saudi counterparts.

The signing took place during the participation of an Emirati academic delegation in the 8th International Exhibition and Conference on Higher Education, IECHE, in the Saudi capital, Riyadh.

UAE Minister of Education Hussain Al Hammadi expressed his happiness at the advancing cooperation between the UAE and Saudi Arabia in the area of education, which he hopes will achieve their aspirations to create a modern education system that will serve their national development plans.

Saudi Arabia Minister of Education Dr. Hamad Al Sheikh highlighted the importance of the signing of the agreements, as well as the joint cooperation between the two countries in advancing their education sectors, including the digital education system, with the participation of Emirati higher education institutions, universities and colleges, as well as Saudi government and civil universities and colleges.

The UAE has one of the most advanced and comprehensive education systems in the Middle East with 95 percent literacy rate. It has led many research initiatives and projects across the region promoting literacy and higher education.

First image of black hole captured

A network of eight telescopes around the world has captured the first image of a black hole, some 500 million trillion km from the earth, located in a distant galaxy which scientists say measures about 3 million times the size of our planet.

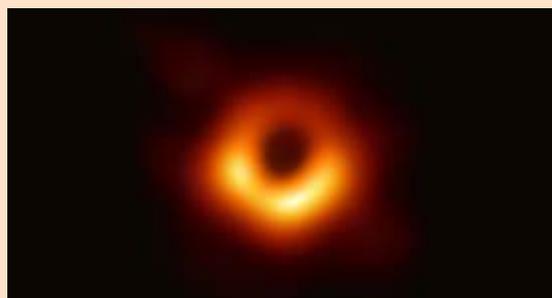
Professor Heino Falcke of Radboud University in the Netherlands who proposed the experiment said the black hole was found in a galaxy called M87, about more than 55 million light years away from the earth.

The picture captured by Event Horizon Telescope (EHT), a network of eight linked telescopes, shows an intense "ring of fire" surrounding a perfectly circular dark hole with a bright halo caused by superheated gas falling into the hole, scientists explained.

Dr. Katie Bowman, a 29-year-old computer scientist, led the development of an algorithm program that created the first image of the black hole.

Bowman, who began the algorithm three years ago as a graduate student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), says in her Facebook post "Watching in disbelief as the first image I ever made of a black hole was in the process of being reconstructed."

She was assisted by a team from MIT's Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory, the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics and the MIT Haystack Observatory for the project which opens a new era for astrophysics.





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and regions

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from 147 countries
and regions

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meetings
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EXECUTIVE MOMENTS

Turkish Cargo CCO elected to TIACA Committee



Turhan Ozen

ISTANBUL: Turkish Cargo Chief Cargo Officer Turhan Ozen has been voted to serve in the International Air Cargo Association (TIACA) Committee, the voice of the industry

aiming to enhance its global standards.

With vast knowledge about Balkan countries, the Middle East and Africa, as well as the surrounding regions of Turkey, Ozen has been leading Turkish Cargo, the fastest growing global air cargo brand since 2016.

Turkish Cargo is envisioned to handle 4 million tons of cargo annually at its new mega cargo facility with state-of-the-art technology at Istanbul Airport.

"Effective leadership is required to handle the customers' constantly diversifying demands accurately across the air cargo industry. I truly believe that my new membership duty of the TIACA committee will reinforce this leadership, and provide a positive contribution to development of the international air cargo industry," said Ozen.

Sebastiaan Scholte, Chairman of TIACA and CEO of Jan de Rijk Logistics, said: "Following opening of the stunning Istanbul Airport, Turkey has become a mega hub for air transportation between Europe and Asia. All steps taken and experiences gone through by Mr. Ozen for completion of this giant project will be invaluable for TIACA committee and its members."

ECS Board Chairman Schmoll makes historic first as GSSA board director in TIACA



Bertrand Schmoll

PARIS: In a historic first, The International Air Cargo Association (TIACA) has named one of its Board of Directors from the GSSA industry, ECS Group Chairman Bertrand Schmoll, strengthening further all stakeholders in the air freight industry in the global trade body.

The decision to appoint a representative of a GSSA to the board for the first time demonstrates the sector's dynamism and its significant contribution to the

development of the industry.

"I think that since we are representing the whole air cargo supply chain it is great to have such a high-profile GSA on board," said Sebastiaan Scholte, TIACA Chairman.

Schmoll who has been the driving force in the development and modernization of ECS thanked TIACA for the trust given him.

"The air freight industry is a real microcosm, with its own rules and customs and its wide range of stakeholders. An organization such as TIACA is the glue that holds us all together and allows us to move forwards together despite our sometimes-divergent interests," said Schmoll.

"Thanks to the remarkable work undertaken by TIACA, led by Sebastiaan Scholte, Steven Polmans and Vladimir Zubkov, our practices are being modernized and air freight is becoming more appealing. As such, it's a real honour for me to have been appointed to the TIACA Board of Directors, with whom I share the desire to bring efficiency, modernization and unity to the industry," he added.

With more than 30 GSSA acquisitions to his name and a carefully crafted expansion strategy, Schmoll has made a huge contribution to positioning ECS Group as a global market leader – as well as to the development of the GSSA sector and its activities.

American Airlines Cargo appoints new Europe sales director



DALLAS/FORT WORTH, TX: American Airlines Cargo has named Tim Isik as new Director, Cargo Sales – Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA).

Tim comes to us from the Passenger Channel Sales team, where he led American's leisure sales business across the UK, Ireland and Iceland. Prior to his work in Leisure Sales, he worked in Corporate Sales, managing some of American's most important strategic accounts as their local point of contact in the UK and Ireland.

Before joining the American team, he also worked for an experiential marketing agency, where he oversaw major product launches for global brands at the 2012 Olympics.

Tim is currently an active member of International Advisory Committee at the U.S. Embassy in London, and is a mentor on the Global Business Travel Association (GBTA) Ladders program. Tim received his degree in accounting and finance from Nottingham Trent University.

Airport Show 2019 | 29 April - 01 May | Dubai







UPCOMING EVENTS

air
cargo
update

Africa Aviation Conference & Exhibition

The Africa Aviation Conference & Exhibition will cover the full aviation and aerospace spectrum across the African continent with the main aim of increasing air connectivity among African nations and connecting Africa to the world and this process will be facilitated through pre-arranged meetings, interactive workshops, the exhibition itself and networking events.

**Mount Meru Hotel | Arusha, Tanzania
June 3-5, 2019**

Air Cargo Europe 2019

The international freight industry will once again gather for a high-profile conference and major exhibition in Munich, Germany in this year's Air Cargo Europe. Integrated with transport logistic, the world's leading trade fair for logistics, mobility, IT and supply chain management, the event will bring together close to 200 exhibitors from 37 countries.

**Messe Munchen, Munich, Germany
June 04-07, 2019**



Logistics Expo

The Logistics Expo is the event that brings together the companies, personalities and authorities most representative of the logistics sector of the Mercosur and it features an exhibit of the fleet and light vehicles for the distribution, logistics operators and freight forwarders, logistics real estate, legal agents, types of transportation, and much more.

**Talleyrand Costanera | Asuncion, Paraguay
June 5-6, 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**

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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