

# air cargo update

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## Air cargo industry rises to COVID-19 pandemic challenges

### The Lounge



**Ahmed Ismail Behbehani**  
Chairman, Kuwait Aviation Show  
Organizing Committee



### Global News

*Turkish Cargo increases freighter flights*



### Feature

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MEDIA FZE LLC

PO Box: 9604, SAIF Zone, Sharjah - UAE  
Tel: +971 6 557 9579, Fax: +971 6 579569,  
info@7dimensionsmedia.com  
www.7dimensionsmedia.com

### Chief Editor

**Gemma Q. Casas**  
gemma@7dimensionsmedia.com

### Contributors

**Nirmala Rao**  
**Ayesha Rashed**  
ayesha@aircargoupdate.com

### Sales & Marketing

**Israr Ahmad**  
israr@7dimensionsmedia.com

### Tousif Ahmed

tousif@7dimensionsmedia.com

### Head Operations

**Mohammad Karimulla**  
karimulla@7dimensionsmedia.com

### Creative Director

**Mohammed Imran**  
imran@7dimensionsmedia.com

### Photo Journalist

**Wasim Ahmed**  
wasim@7dimensionsmedia.com

#### WORLDWIDE MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES

France, Belgium, Monaco, Spain:  
Aidmedia, Gerard Lecoeur; Tel: +33 (0) 466 326 106; Fax: +33 (0) 466 327 073

India:  
RMA media, Fareedoon Kuka;  
Tel: +91 22 5570 3081; Fax: +91 22 5570 3082

Taiwan:  
Advance Media Services Ltd, Keith Lee;  
Tel: (886) 2 2523 8268; Fax: (886) 2 2521 4456

Thailand:  
Trade and Logistics Siam Ltd, Dwight A Chiavetta;  
Tel: +66 (0) 2650 8690; Fax: +66 (0) 2650 8696

UK, Ireland, Germany, Switzerland,  
Austria: Horseshoe Media, Peter Patterson; Tel: +44 208 6874 160

## Dire consequences

Countries across all continents continue to reel from the impact of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) crippling many healthcare systems that were otherwise regarded as robust.

In Italy for instance, overwhelmed with COVID-19 cases, saw more than 17,669 deaths as of early April and infections rising to more than 139,422, the highest in Europe.

With many cities and countries in lockdown to prevent the spread of this global pandemic, its inevitable economic consequences are now being felt.

In the United States, now the epicenter of the pandemic that first attacked Wuhan in China's Hubei province, has more than 432,000 cases as of early April with over 14,000 fatalities. The number could rise as more people are tested. With that comes job losses for about 47 million Americans, according to experts.

The global shock is being felt in every corner of the world with some analysts saying a global recession is inevitable.

The World Bank says developing economies in East Asia and the Pacific (EAP) will feel the brunt of COVID's economic impact, which will lead to an increase in the poverty rate and households linked to affected sectors will suffer more.

And there appears to be one way to deal with the crisis: Contain the spread of infection until it reaches its peak just like what happened to China. Weeks after taking the drastic lockdown measure, Wuhan is now back to normal or a semblance of such if you will.

Containing the pandemic requires resources and reliable air transport support to move vital medical supplies, equipment and even basic necessities for people who are locked down. This requires a strong air cargo industry which countries can rely on to meet their needs at this time of crisis.

Restrictive global industry regulations, however, make it difficult for many carriers to actively engage in flying cargo, apart from expensive costs associated with it.

The time calls for these antiquated global policies to be examined and amended to make it easier for these air freight carriers to move goods seamlessly under special circumstances. Times are changing and we must adopt to survive.

### Gemma Q. Casas

#### Editor-in-Chief

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# The Kuwaiti journalist turned entrepreneur with close to 600 miniature planes

A walk into Ahmed Ismail Behbehani's office is like going to a museum of sort with his massive collections of vintage and modern air planes as well as priceless historical photos.

His walls festooned with countless photos taken with heads of states, dignitaries, celebrities, global icons and even royalties like Queen Elizabeth, Prince Charles and the late Princess Diana on different times when they visited the tiny but oil rich country of Kuwait in the Middle East.

Behbehani is no doubt an influential man in his own right with privileged access to historical moments shaping the country's political and economic relations with other countries across the world, which he rightfully earned after championing the cause to promote freedom of speech in Kuwait and promoting the country's economic interest in neighboring markets in the region.

His media career began in 1979 at Kuwait University when he launched the academic community's first campus paper. After earning his degree, he ventured into the newspaper industry but struggled to obtain a publishing license in Kuwait.

Determined to have an independent newspaper in Kuwait, Behbehani obtained a publishing license in London, have the paper printed in Bahrain and distributed the copies across GCC.

"They don't give license to the media at that time so I got my license in London. We had the paper printed in Bahrain and then distributed the copies in the Gulf," Behbehani, the editor-in-chief of the widely-read Al Khaleej Newspaper, shared to **Air Cargo Update**.

After his successful venture in the media, Behbehani was elected in Kuwait's parliament and served the Kuwaiti people to the best of his abilities.



**Ahmed Ismail Behbehani**  
Chairman, Kuwait Aviation Show  
Organizing Committee

After trying politics, Behbehani decided to delve more into entrepreneurship and today owns one of the biggest high-end automobile dealership in Kuwait as well as a media and events company that produces aviation shows across the Middle East, mainly in Egypt.

The aviation shows that he produces resulted in a hobby of collecting different planes and models, some of them already considered vintage like the 52-year-old G2, a gift from a travel agency owner.

"My first plane was a toy which I got more than 40 years ago," recalled Behbehani, the Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the Kuwait Aviation Show. "Today, I would say I have more than 576 planes, some of them are already vintage."

Behbehani said he finds joy in collecting different aircraft and relishes the fact that aviation connects businesses, people and communities across the world.

"I love planes," said Behbehani who is also into selling private aircraft.

The Kuwait Aviation Show 2020, under the patronage of HH Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, drew thousands of people across Kuwait apart from connecting companies related to aerospace and aviation to potential investors and buyers.

Behbehani said producing such required a lot of resources and dedication from staff and volunteers whom he thanked for making it possible amid Kuwait's quest to diversify its oil-based

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# Turkish Cargo increases freighter flights



***Turkey's top air freight says increasing the frequencies of its flights will avoid delay in delivering cargo and much needed supplies across continents which are experiencing lockdown in key areas to avoid the spread of the virus.***

**ISTANBUL:** Turkish Cargo says it's increasing its freighter flights across its route destinations to keep up with the demand for the movement of goods as the world reels from the impact of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Turkey's top air freight says increasing the frequencies of its flights will avoid delay in delivering cargo and much needed supplies across continents which are experiencing lockdown in key areas to avoid the spread of the virus.

The company added it's now making plans to utilize all of its freighters in full capacity with the belly of commercial passenger planes not being used due to travel restrictions. Turkish Cargo is a critical partner of Turkey's export-reliant industries.

"Albeit the unusual change of demand, continuing to serve as the solution partner for the Turkish manufacturers and exporters by also complying with the restrictions imposed by the national authorities and the precautionary practices

implemented by the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Turkey, Turkish Cargo will start to serve for cargo transportation purposes by making use of the aircraft available in its fleet, in addition to its current cargo freighter capacity, which was increased to 25 from 13 during the last 4 years," Turkish Cargo said in a statement.

It added, its decision to mobilize its cargo fleet in full capacity is in line with the call of the International Air Transport Association to keep the movement of goods to save lives and support economies reeling from the impact of the virus.

This month, Turkish Cargo announced it has expanded its direct cargo flight network to Latin America by adding Quito, the capital of Ecuador to its global destinations.

Apart from being an important cultural and financial center, Quito is also an important export and import hub in Latin America. Locally, Quito means the center of the earth. The city is located 2,800 meters above sea level and has a rather constant and cool climate due to its altitude and proximity to the equator.

Quito is world famous as one of the most prominent flower producers in the world. It is also home to some of the most developed textile, metal and agricultural industries. Its most notable exports include coffee, sugar, cacao, rice, bananas and palm oil.

Turkish Cargo, the fastest growing global air cargo carrier, says it will operate two flights a week on the Quito route using Boeing 777F freighters. The first flight was launched on March 7 via the Istanbul – New York – Quito – Curaçao - Maastricht (ISL-JFK-UIO-CUR-MST) line.

Reaching 127 countries on its extensive flight network, including 89 direct cargo flight destinations and more than 300 destinations, Turkish Cargo is now the preferred brand in the air cargo industry, highly regarded for its efficient fleet, modern infrastructure, operational capabilities as well as specialized crew and teams.



## Ethiopian Cargo extends reach to 74 destinations, offers charter flights amid pandemic



**ADDIS ABABA:** Ethiopian Cargo & Logistics Services says it's extending its reach to 74 destinations worldwide and will accept charter flights to Africa and anywhere in the world to carry much needed medical supplies as countries grapple to fight the Coronavirus pandemic.

The largest cargo operator in Africa, Ethiopian Cargo, successfully delivered medical supplies which include COVID-19 testing kits, masks and protective suits donated by Alibaba Group Founder Jack Ma to African countries with support from Ethiopian Prime Minister Dr. Abiy Ahmed.

Ethiopian Cargo said it has transported more than 45,848 tons of cargo in March in response to the pandemic. The shipments include pharmaceuticals, medical supplies and healthcare products carried with 86 charter flights using B777

freighters, each with a capacity of 100 tons.

"Agility being a key part of our competencies, we have recalibrated our cargo operations and networks in light of the current demand in air cargo business," said Tewolde GebreMariam, Ethiopian Group CEO. "We are carrying medical supplies in both scheduled and charter flights using the cabin and belly-hold of our passenger aircraft besides our cargo fleet."

"Despite the grim situation the world is grappling with, we feel heartened by the small contribution we are making to curb further loss of lives by carrying critical medical supplies where they are needed the most. I would like to thank my colleagues at Ethiopian Cargo & Logistics Services who are working 24/7 to provide air cargo service the world needs critically in this difficult time," he added.

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## Tracking of ULDs through Blockchain to save industry \$400 million

**GENEVA:** SITA and trade association ULD Care hope to bring new efficiency to the air cargo industry by exploring the use of Blockchain to digitally track and record change of custody of airline cargo containers or Unit Load Devices (ULDs) across their journey which could potentially save the industry up to \$400 million annually.

By eliminating inefficiency, embedding always-on tracking of ULDs and abandoning redundant paper systems, the use of blockchain is expected to save the industry \$400m a year in improved efficiency, fewer losses and prevention of damage. It also offers a wide range of authentication and trust-based benefits, reducing the risk of tampering, cybercrime, trade-based money laundering, fraud, and illicit trade.

"Air cargo represents only 1% of all global trade in terms of volume but accounts for 35% of the total trade value and the inefficiency is significant. A container traveling from Shanghai to Long Beach could take up to 30 days to finish its journey, but the true travel time on sea or road is only around 15 days, with the remaining time spent on back-office and paperwork. The use of

blockchain could revolutionize that process," said Bob Rogers, Vice President and Treasurer, ULD Care.

Today more than 800 million ULDs are in use by airlines yet the system used to track these ULDs has only been partially digitalized and relies on incomplete data sharing and record keeping.

The proposed blockchain system improves efficiency by making use of all data points across the air cargo journey and provides a platform that aggregates and processes the ULD data in a trusted and secure way.

***The PoC will extend and upgrade the current ULD interlining platform to include non-airline third parties such as ground handlers via open APIs and a new modern interface. The results will transform the industry by lifting the veil on a myriad of previously unknown factors like damage reports. Knowing the location of all ULD's (and therefore cargo) at all times means companies can accurately track where loss or damage occurs and recover the costs without dispute.***

For any given shipment there can be up to 12 custodian companies monitoring and tracking the cargo, with many relying on paper documents making the process cumbersome and undermined by trust and transparency issues. Blockchain presents a near-perfect solution to address these industry pain points with huge time and cost-saving potential.

"We are looking at blockchain very closely and we're excited to test the potential of the technology to transform the air cargo industry. Beyond cargo and across the air transport industry we see huge potential for blockchain to address common challenges. The biggest obstacles standing in the way of a seamless passenger journey and truly efficient air travel, are the siloed processes across the many stakeholders, including airlines, airports, ground handlers and control authorities. They act as significant speed bumps at every step of the way," explained Matthys Serfontein, President of Air Travel Solutions for SITA.



## Emirates suspends flights but keeps cargo operations going

**Dubai:** Emirates has suspended all of its flights globally from 25th March until it's feasible to fly again, except for 13 high demand destinations, while cargo operations are kept going as the world continues to fight the global coronavirus pandemic.

Emirates Group also announced dnata's operations will be significantly reduced, with some stations facing temporary closures due to low demand for its services. And that it will implement salary reduction for the majority of its employees for the next three months but will not cut jobs.

Emirates said it will continue to serve 13 routes—the UK, Switzerland, Hong Kong, Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Australia, South Africa, USA, and Canada—after receiving requests from governments and customers to support the repatriation of travelers.

"The world has literally gone into quarantine due to the COVID-19 outbreak. This is an unprecedented crisis situation in terms of breadth and scale: geographically, as well as from a health, social, and economic standpoint. Until January 2020, the Emirates Group was doing well against our current financial year targets. But COVID-19 has brought all that to a sudden and painful halt over the past 6 weeks," said HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman and Chief Executive of Emirates Group.

Sheikh Ahmed said the airline, one of the biggest and busiest in the world, cannot viably operate passenger services until countries re-open their borders.



"By Wednesday 25 March, although we will still operate cargo flights which remain busy, Emirates will have temporarily suspended most of its passenger operations. We continue to watch the situation closely, and as soon as things allow, we will reinstate our services," he said.

Cargo, a vital component of Emirates Group, will continue to operate to maintain vital links for economies and communities across the world to transport essential goods, including much needed medical supplies and pharmaceuticals.

The Emirates Group says it has undertaken a series of measures to contain costs, as the outlook for travel demand remains weak across markets in the short to medium term. This includes:

- **A freeze on all non-essential recruitment and consultancy work**
- **Working with suppliers to find cost savings and efficiency**
- **Encouraging employees to take paid or unpaid leave in light of reduced flying capacity**
- **A temporary reduction of basic salary for the majority of Emirates Group employees for three months, ranging from 25% to 50%. Employees will continue to be paid their other allowances during this time. Junior level employees will be exempt from basic salary reduction**

Presidents of Emirates and dnata – Sir Tim Clark and Gary Chapman – will take a 100% basic salary cut for three months

"These are unprecedented times for the airline and travel industry, but we will get through it. Our business is taking a hit, but what matters in the long run is that we do the right thing for our customers, our employees, and the communities we serve. With the support and unity that we have seen from our employees, partners, customers, and other stakeholders, I'm confident that Emirates can tackle this challenge and come out stronger," said Sheikh Ahmed.

## flydubai suspends flights to over 90 destinations



**DUBAI:** State-owned budget airline flydubai has suspended its flights to over 90 destinations in 47 countries from 26 March through 9 April as a direct consequence of the Coronavirus pandemic that continues to impact countries across the world.

The airline says passengers whose flights were affected can seek for a rebooking or request for refund.

"If you were booked to travel on a flydubai flight that has been cancelled, please go to the "Manage Booking" tab on flydubai.com where you will be able to rebook or request a refund to flydubai voucher," it says in a statement.

The airline said customers can also call the flydubai **Contact Centre on (+971) 600 54 44 45**, send an email to [letstalk@flydubai.com](mailto:letstalk@flydubai.com) with "Change my booking" in the subject line or send a private message on Facebook. They can expect reply on social media in one week and a reply by email within 30 days.

## Saudia Cargo keeps operations to ensure uninterrupted flow of goods



**JEDDAH:** Taking proactive steps to ensure uninterrupted flow of goods, particularly medical supplies in and out of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Saudia Cargo announced its cargo operations are continuing on safe destinations.

Saudia Cargo CEO Omar bin Talal Hariri said the steps come in line with the official decisions, which excluded all cargo operations from suspension imposed on other business activities as part of the precautionary measures the Kingdom has taken to prevent a Coronavirus outbreak.

“We have high-level coordination with all related parties as per the recommended precautionary measures the Saudi health authorities have taken, which permitted the cargo operations and the flow of goods to run uninterrupted,” Hariri explained.

All cargo flights to Europe will continue through Frankfurt and Liège stations in addition to Dhaka station. Work at these stations is run as scheduled in order to mitigate the impact of the imposed suspension aimed at preventing the spread of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

The decision suspending passenger flights as a preventive measure has made the Saudia Cargo operate a number of additional cargo flights to Dubai and other destinations because all cargo operations on passenger aircraft came to a complete halt.

“The Saudia Cargo staff work around the clock as part of the company’s national responsibility and regional role in enhancing logistics during these circumstances which the whole world is going through,” said Hariri.

The Saudia Cargo, he stressed, always acts based on the official decisions, instructions and directives so that it can ensure an alignment between meeting the humanitarian needs and protecting the public safety. Cargo flights will continue to operate on humanitarian and commercial basis and cover certain key commercial and safe ports and cargo stations around the world.

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## American Airlines utilizes grounded passenger aircraft to move cargo



**FORT WORTH, Texas:** American Airlines says it's now using its currently grounded passenger aircraft to move cargo between the United States and Europe to ensure the world's goods continue to get where they need to go.

The airline also recently transported its first shipment of COVID-19 test kits from Raleigh-Durham International Airport to Chicago O'Hare Airport.

Using a Boeing 777-300, the first cargo-only flight departed from Dallas Fort Worth International Airport (DFW) March 20, landing at Frankfurt Airport (FRA) March 21. The plane has 14 cargo positions for large pallets and can carry more than 100,000 pounds. The four scheduled flights this weekend are expected to be booked to capacity and transport medical supplies, mail for active U.S. military, telecommunications equipment and electronics that will support

people working from home, and e-commerce packages.

"We have a critical role to play in keeping essential goods moving during this unprecedented time, and we are proud to do our part and find ways to continue to serve our customers and our communities," said Rick Elieson, President of Cargo and Vice President of International Operations. "Challenging times call for creative solutions, and a team of people across the airline has been working nonstop to arrange cargo-only flight options for our customers."

American says air cargo has always played a key role in times of crisis, delivering lifesaving medical supplies and materials to keep the world's infrastructure intact. In the face of the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, this role has never been more important as the world relies more on e-commerce to support basic needs during quarantines and social distancing.

The airlines' role is deemed a critical infrastructure industry by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Domestically, American continues to carry cargo on all of its planes.

## TIACA calls on governments to exempt air cargo from travel bans

**MIAMI:** The International Air Cargo Association (TIACA) has joined forces with the International Air Transport Association (IATA) to exempt the air cargo industry from travel bans to provide people with basic necessities, including medical supplies, in the continued global fight against the Coronavirus pandemic.

TIACA Secretary General Vladimir Zubkov said their group has joined the ICAO Technical group on joint actions related to COVID-19 which also include WHO, IATA, ACI and GEA as members.

"TIACA sees its role in the ICAO Technical Group as using ICAO's mechanism to reach out to governments and remind them that air cargo is a significant contributor to the global economy and international trade, and that it plays a very important role in preventing and battling the disastrous effect of coronavirus," said Vladimir Zubkov, TIACA Secretary General.

In the current major crisis, air freight is essential for the

transport of food, basic necessities and health-related products – in other words, everything necessary for people to survive. The global economy also needs air freight to continue to supply businesses and factories.

But Zubkov said multiple financial issues are emerging with the growing role of the air cargo industry such as; Leasing payments for expensive aircraft; Salaries, energy supplies, and payments to service providers and equipment providers; Taxation; Difficulties arising from uncoordinated travel bans, restrictions imposed on crew movements, airport slots and route changes, etc.

TIACA urges governments to exempt the movement of cargo from any bans. "We support IATA's appeal to have air cargo recognized as vital in the fight against COVID-19 and for action to be taken – in particular, removing all travel restrictions on air cargo operations and taking all necessary measures to allow air cargo to continue to circulate around the world," said Steven Polmans, TIACA Chairman.

# IATA's De Juniac says 'Keeping cargo flowing will save lives'

**GENEVA:** The International Air Transport Association is calling on governments around the world to exempt air freight from the global travel restrictions saying "Keeping cargo flowing will save lives" as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to take its toll worldwide.

More than 185,000 flights have been cancelled as of January since the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak hit the Chinese city of Wuhan. The virus had since spread to more than 162 countries, infected nearly 190,000 and killed as many as 7,477 as of March 17.

**"Over 185,000 passenger flights have been cancelled since the end of January in response to government travel restrictions. With this, vital cargo capacity has disappeared when it is most urgently needed in the fight against COVID-19. The world's fleet of freighter aircraft has been mobilized to make up this capacity shortfall. Governments must take urgent measures to ensure that vital supply lines remain open, efficient and effective," said Alexandre de Juniac, IATA's Director General and CEO.**

"Air cargo carriers are working closely with governments and health organizations around the world to safeguard public health while also keeping the global economy moving. Today, as we fight a global health war against COVID-19, governments must take urgent action to facilitate air cargo. Keeping cargo flowing will save lives," he added.

IATA pointed out since the pandemic began air freight carriers have been providing vital support to affected areas, delivering much-needed medicines, medical equipment (including spare parts/repair components), and in keeping global supply chains functioning for the most time-sensitive materials.

This has been done through dedicated cargo freighter operations, utilization of cargo capacity in passenger aircraft and with relief flights to affected areas.

IATA said air cargo is also instrumental in transporting food and

other products purchased online in support of quarantine and social distancing policies implemented by states. But the dramatic travel restrictions and collapse of passenger demand have severely limited cargo capacity.

The trade body said governments must see air cargo as an essential part of the fight against COVID-19 and take the following actions: exclude air cargo operations from any covid-19-related travel restrictions, to ensure life-saving medical products can be transported without disruption; ensure that standardized measures are in place so that air cargo can continue to move around the world with minimal disruptions; exempt air cargo crew members, who do not interact with the public, from 14-day quarantine requirements; support temporary traffic rights for cargo operations where restrictions may apply; remove economic impediments, such as overfly charges, parking fees, and slot restrictions to support air cargo operations during these unprecedented times.



Alexandre de Juniac



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## Chapman Freeborn sees surge on cargo flight demands between US & Europe amid suspension of commercial flights



**GATWICK:** Air charter broker Chapman Freeborn is seeing a surge on cargo flight demands between Europe and the United States in the wake of America's decision to suspend passenger flights to the European Union zone, including the UK to curb the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

"We have seen a surge in requests for cargo into the

United States from across Europe. In fact, with the grounding of many passenger fleets, we have seen an increase in cargo demand across the board," said Kim Borggaard, Chapman Freeborn Scandinavia General Manager.

"Wherever possible, we're working with clients to consolidate cargo and sell capacity at an affordable rate. It's times like these that Chapman Freeborn's global office is a huge benefit – we can transport smaller movements by utilizing capacity on booked part-charters," he added.

Chapman Freeborn said commodities such as food items, pharmaceutical goods, medical supplies, consumer goods, among many others, that would have typically travelled as belly freight on board passenger aircraft have now entered the ad-hoc cargo market, further tipping the balance of capacity/demand.

The capacity issue is exacerbated by the fact that many cargo aircraft are already dedicated to easing the current demand in Asia. Chapman Freeborn says it has worked tirelessly over the past weeks to formulate a solution that adds real value to the industry together with its subsidiary Magma Aviation.

The two companies have secured nine weekly rotations on board their in-house fleet of B747Fs aircraft from the EU to the US. This is in addition to the direct aircraft availability via Avia Solutions Group sister companies, Bluebird Nordic, Smartlynx, Avion Express and Klasjet.

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## Imperial establishes innovation fund with Newtown Partners focused on disruptive startups

deploying emerging technologies and business models in key geographical and logistics service areas," says Vinny Lingham, co-founder and General Partner of Newtown Partners.

As the fund manager, Newtown Partners has adopted a hands-on approach that will see it working closely with portfolio startup companies that the fund invests in. Additionally, the innovation fund is operationally separate from Imperial, ensuring portfolio startups are not hamstrung by corporate red tape, while still being able to unlock the synergistic benefits of having Imperial as an investor and market access provider.

As is typical in corporate venture capital, the fund has the objective of generating attractive financial returns together with a strategic underpinning relevant to the core business of Imperial.

"By adopting a pragmatic approach to disruptive innovation, we are well-positioned to identify how Imperial's business will change over the next few years, and enable them to not just weather the inevitable disruption to their industry, but to leverage this change for competitive advantage," notes Llew Claasen, co-founder and Managing Partner of Newtown Partners.

To maintain its position as a major industry player, Imperial required an entrepreneurial partner that not only specialises in investing in early-stage startups, but one that also has strong emerging market knowledge, access to the Silicon Valley network and thought leadership, and a deep understanding of what these startup businesses require to succeed.

**JOHANNESBURG:** Major international logistics industry player, Imperial, has teamed up with venture capital firm Newtown Partners to launch a corporate venture capital (CVC) fund focused on investing in disruptive startups in the logistics industry, with an initial investment of \$20 million.

The fund will identify, invest in, and nurture disruptive, innovative technology startups that present high-growth potential in the global supply chain and logistics technology stack, according to Imperial.

"Imperial operates in an environment that is constantly exposed to disruptors and one where innovation is critical. Partnering with Newtown Partners on this innovation fund helps position us ahead of future competitors, enabling a strategic response to emerging technologies and business models," explains Mohammed Akoojee, CEO of Imperial.

As an early-stage venture capital firm, Newtown Partners will support Imperial's strategic investment in key areas set to disrupt its business in the next five to 10 years. "This programme will contribute to the long-term success of the organisation by identifying and leveraging startups

## Rhenus expands presence in America

**HOLZWICKEDE/MIAMI:** Rhenus Group opened its new logistics warehouse in Miami in March, part of its expansion plans and new regional headquarters in the Americas.

Rhenus' 15,000-square-foot warehouse in Florida offers solutions

for the consumer electronics, industrial telecommunications, high-tech, high-fashion and retail supply. It is also designated as a foreign trade zone and comes with 59 loading gates.

The warehouse, which is in close proximity to Miami International Airport and just a few kilometers from the port, is

IATA certified air freight forwarder, licensed ship book Ender shippers, including bonded warehouses certified cargo scanning device and Foreign Trade Zone.

"Our new regional headquarters in Miami is both the North and South America operate," said Jörn Schmersahl, CEO of Rhenus Air & Ocean Americas. "Miami is not only the gateway to Latin America. The location of the site is strategically located to offer in the Americas our services and to act as an interface between Europe and Asia."

The Rhenus Group, a leading, global logistics service provider with an annual turnover of EUR5.1 billion, has offices in 660 locations worldwide.





## CEVA expands presence in Bangladesh with 2 new offices

**MARSEILLE, FRANCE:** CEVA Logistics says it has opened its own offices in Dhaka and Chittagong, two major cities in Bangladesh, described as one of the fastest growing markets in South Asia.

The global logistics company says it has been operating in Bangladesh for the past 17 years for its multinational and local customers through a valued network partner but the time has come for it to have its own offices in Dhaka and Chittagong, the country's second largest city and main maritime gateway.

CEVA said the decision was fueled by the country's continuing economic expansion and increasing demand for exports. Through these offices, CEVA said it will offer a full range of freight management solutions including Purchase Order management, CFS (Container Freight Station), Customs brokerage, project management and other value-added services.

Bangladesh, currently the third-largest economy in South Asia, is expected to grow the fastest in the region (7.2%) in 2019-20 FY, according to World Bank projections. A solid macroeconomic framework, political stability, implementation of planned public infrastructure projects and ongoing reforms to improve the business environment, underlie this projection.

"Bangladesh is strategically located to support trading with multiple regions. It has developed a mature and stable market of exports with the US, Europe, and China. Our vision is to add greater value and increase service options to the market, notably the textile and garment industries, in addition to the increasing new higher value chain verticals of electronics, technology and healthcare. We look forward to developing our service profile in line with the increasing demands of our customers," said Russell Pang, Managing Director Emerging Markets (Bangladesh, Cambodia, Laos & Myanmar) - CEVA Logistics.

## Germany's Schüco leases 14 warehouses at SAIF Zone



**Saud Salim Al Mazrouei, Director of SAIF Zone & Dr. Jörg Westphal, Executive Senior Vice President at Schüco International KG, in the presence of Ammar Alul Managing Director at Schüco Middle East & Stephan Weiss, Operations Manager at Schüco Middle East**

**SHARJAH, UAE:** German company Schüco International KG which develops and sells system solutions for windows, doors and facades, has signed a contract with the Sharjah Airport International Free Zone (SAIF Zone) to lease 14 warehouses to support its operations in the region.

Schüco, which operates in more than 80 countries with a turnover of EUR1.670 billion in 2018, is going to have its regional operations headquartered at SAIF Zone.

The 14 warehouses cover a total area of 8,400 sqm, making Schüco the single company in the free zone with that much space.

The deal was signed by Saud Salim Al Mazrouei, Director of SAIF Zone and Dr. Jörg Westphal, Executive Senior Vice President at Schüco International KG, in the presence of Ammar Alul Managing Director at Schüco Middle East and Stephan Weiss, Operations Manager at Schüco Middle East and a number of senior officials from both sides.

"Schüco's decision to open a new branch in Sharjah is yet another global testament to the competitive advantages that we offer to investors looking forward to availing our growing investment opportunities in the real estate sector," said Al Mazrouei.

"Thanks to the wise vision of H.H. Dr. Sheikh Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, the emirate of Sharjah has grown to become an ideal destination for setting up businesses owing to the emirate's sophisticated infrastructure, logistics services, growth-stimulating environment, strategic location and the availability of numerous investment opportunities," he added.

Westphal lauded the investment facilities provided by SAIF Zone saying would enhance the company's services to the region with high-quality products.

**The 14 warehouses cover a total area of 8,400 sqm, making Schüco the single company in the free zone with that much space.**

# EIA looks forward to welcoming you in 2020

Located seven miles from the city centre, the airport, with its 4,800 metre runway is able to offer comprehensive facilities for passenger and cargo services.

Building on changes in 2019, EIA will offer the quickest cargo processing facilities in Iraq thanks to a wide ranging process review and investment in new technology. Full cold chain facilities are on offer to shippers alongside record clearance times.

You will find EIA and its partner in cargo and passenger handling, Dnata, willing and able to meet your cargo needs.

We look forward to welcoming you to Northern Iraq and the region of Kurdistan. It is the business gateway to the country.



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# Air cargo industry rises to COVID-19 pandemic challenges

*Trade officials are asking governments to provide a package of measures to ensure seamless air cargo operations, including fast track procedures to obtain overflight and landing permits, exempting flight crew members from 14-day quarantine, and removing economic impediments.*

BY GEMMA Q. CASAS



As the world continues to grapple against an invisible enemy, the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), which has infected more than 1.7 million and killed over 100,000 as of early April, countless frontline health workers, along with those in certain industries like air cargo, take mounting risks to deliver vital health, food and other supplies for billions of people locked in this pandemic crisis.

The World Health Organization (WHO) said new cases are still emerging in every country and territory across the world since the virus was first discovered in Wuhan, China more than three months ago, despite preventive measures that include locking down cities and even whole countries. This meant the supply-chains must keep going to sustain the needs of the world at this difficult time.

The International Air Transport Authority (IATA) said since the COVID-19 crisis began, air cargo has been a vital global partner in delivering much-needed medicines, vaccines, pharmaceuticals, medical supplies like ventilators, masks & PPE (personal protective equipment), mortuary body bags, medical equipment, including spare parts/repair components, medical oxygen, among others, to hospitals and clinics across the world to treat victims infected with the virus.

"We call on countries to work with companies to increase production; to ensure the free movement of essential health products; and to ensure equitable distribution of those products, based on need," said WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus at a media briefing after the G-20, which Saudi Arabia currently chairs, convened a teleconference recently.

Moving medical cargo is particularly crucial in Italy, Spain, France and the UK, which were all hit hard by the virus, straining their healthcare facilities and medical supplies to the maximum.

Italy suffered the worst worldwide with more than 17,669 deaths and over 139,422 COVID-19 cases as of early April. Its health services are on the brink of collapse, overwhelmed with patients. It recently received desperately needed doctors, supplies and equipment from China, Moscow and Cuba, which wouldn't have been possible if air cargo flights were not allowed.

The United States, now the epicenter of the pandemic with more than 368,000 cases recorded as of the first week of April, is also struggling to cope with the pandemic that has caused food shortage, medical supplies and job losses for more than 10 million Americans.

## **An indispensable global partner**

The air transport industry accounts for more than 52 metric tons of goods transported across the world in a given year. That's about more than 35% of global trade by value but less than 1% of world trade by volume, which translates to some \$6.8 trillion worth of goods annually.

These statistics dramatically fell this quarter with airline flights suspended across the world to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The pandemic's disruption on the global supply chain also led to a fall in demand with deeper cuts on cargo capacity for freighter planes and lost belly-hold capacities for passenger flights.

***"The situation of the airline industry remains grave. As you know, we have been working from a scenario of severe travel restrictions lasting for three months. That will cut industry revenues by \$252 billion in 2020 compared to 2019," said Alexandre de Juniac, IATA's Director General and CEO, noting that the dimension of the crisis is beyond what the industry has experienced in the past.***

While the cargo sector remains in operation, it's struggling to meet demand due to restrictions on aviation rules that varies in different countries.

"The one part of the industry that continues to operate is the cargo sector. And it is struggling to meet demand. Passenger operations have been reduced so drastically that there is just not the capacity in the system to meet even the reduced levels of air cargo. And, as I have said before, this includes vital medical shipments on which people's lives depend," said De Juniac.

"Airlines are being creative in mounting cargo operations as charters and even using passenger aircraft. As we all know, aviation is a highly regulated industry. And on top of the "normal" process of obtaining traffic rights and landing permissions, in the current situation we were also seeing cargo crew being delayed by quarantine restrictions designed for commercial passengers," he added.

Among the many issues that air cargo carriers face includes the ever-changing environment of travel restrictions and government orders that significantly challenge the movement of crew and the operation of freight flights itself.

## **EU clears roadblocks in Europe**

Recognizing the importance of keeping the movement of goods despite the pandemic, the European Union had cleared "roadblocks" for air, land and sea cargoes.

EU President Ursula von der Leyen said the unobstructed transportation of goods is crucial to Europe, especially in this time of crisis, so the EU has issued practical advice to member states on the border crossing regulations involving freight carrying goods.

"Especially in times of crisis, we are all dependent on ensuring that basic supplies are available to the population," said Von Der



Leyen. The EU had since called on its member states to support air cargo operations with new guidance to follow to keep essential medical and food supplies flowing continuously.

“Continued and uninterrupted air cargo services are vital for the economy and for fighting COVID-19, and European and global supply chains depend on them being operated unhindered. Air cargo should therefore be able to continuously deliver critical products such as food, medical supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE), and other products which are vital for the functioning of sensitive supply chains,” the Commission said.

### ***Emirates SkyCargo delivers***

Keeping up its role of sustaining communities and businesses, the cargo arm of Emirates airline, Emirates SkyCargo, says it continues to deliver vital medical and food supplies across global markets despite the crisis.

***Among its recent valued cargo delivered are 500,000 COVID-19 testing kits to Sao Paulo, Brazil from Guangzhou, China transported via Dubai. It also shipped close to 200 tons of medical supplies such as hand sanitizers and protective face masks from Hong Kong to Sydney and pharmaceutical supplies to Karachi, Pakistan.***

An Emirates Boeing 777 freighter also transported close to 100 tons of relief materials, including hospital equipment to Milan. Some 55 tons of highly temperature-sensitive pharmaceuticals were also flown to New York from Mumbai.

Between March and April, Emirates SkyCargo said it will be operating nine freighter flights to Budapest as part of a charter to transport supplies such as face masks and equipment to Hungary.

Additionally, the freight carrier operated special flights from Pakistan and India to bring in more than 150 tons of perishables to Dubai. Dedicated cargo flights from Cairo and Nairobi transporting perishables to Dubai and onwards to other

destinations within the Middle East were also operated.

“In these trying times, we more than ever stand by our commitment for Emirates SkyCargo to act as a global conveyor belt for the transport of much needed commodities such as food and medicines and also for flying in equipment, machinery and other components which are vital for

business continuity across essential industries,” said Nabil Sultan, Emirates Divisional Senior Vice President, Cargo. The company had recently modified its network and schedule for cargo operations and is now utilizing the lower deck capacity of its widebody Boeing 777 passenger aircraft to increase its cargo capacity.

Emirates SkyCargo also had temporarily shifted all its cargo handling operations at Emirates SkyCentral DWC to Dubai International Airport (DXB) to streamline costs and operations effective 1 April.

“Additionally, in order to consolidate operations and reduce costs in this new scenario, we have also temporarily shifted all our cargo handling operations to Dubai International Airport (DXB). Taken together, we are making sure that we react more quickly to requests coming in from every part of the globe from our customers,” said Sultan.

### ***Turkey & Turkish Cargo***

Turkey is among countries reaching out to those deeply affected by the virus. It recently has health supplies to Italy and Spain, two of the worst hit nations in Europe, using a Turkish Military A-400M cargo plane.

Bosnia and Herzegovina were also assured by Turkey to receive medical and professional assistance, including support in the procurement of essential goods, as they fight the spread of Coronavirus.

Turkish Cargo, the country's national air freight carrier, is also busy transporting essential goods and medical supplies across the country and elsewhere. It says it will deploy 155 flights per week for cargo freighters out of Istanbul in addition to 60 flights per week for passenger aircraft used for cargo operations.

Turkish Cargo says it intends to bridge the gap in the air transport industry amid the continued global travel ban to meet the world's crucial demands for essential medical supplies and basic needs. The company is internationally certified to handle pharmaceuticals and life sciences and is known for its modern facilities and highly-trained personnel.

Several strong new measures were implemented in Turkey recently to curb the spread of the virus. Recep Tayyip Erdogan,



the nation's president, ordered a curfew restricting members of the public under age 20 (born after Jan. 1, 2000) from leaving their homes unless absolutely necessary.

He also announced a 15-day ban on vehicles leaving or entering 31 provinces, including Istanbul – home to nearly one-fifth of Turkey's population – as well as the urban centers of the capital Ankara, Izmir, Bursa, and Adana while the wearing of face masks in crowded areas, including stores, is now mandatory, reported the state news media Anadolu Agency.

Erdogan announced over a billion Turkish liras (nearly \$149 million) had been donated by over 300,000 people and institutions to Turkey's national solidarity campaign within just three days to help those who need assistance. The president himself donated seven months of his salary to the fund.

### ***Saudi Arabia vows to bounce back***



With its economy hit by the double blow of the coronavirus pandemic and dramatically lower oil prices, the Saudi government unveiled in late March a stimulus package of 120 billion riyals (\$32 billion) to keep businesses afloat amid the crisis.

The country, which has nearly 3,000 COVID cases as of April 7, says the measures are designed to ensure the safety of its citizens and residents and to address the adverse financial and economic impact of both the virus and oil-price decline.

***Saudia Cargo, the country's national freight carrier, had since taken proactive steps to ensure the continuity of all cargo and supply operations, particularly in hauling much needed medical supplies.***

### ***UPS & other major US airlines***

In the United States, President Trump's Coronavirus task force has tapped UPS to work with the US Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and State health agencies as well as companies across the public and private sectors to deliver vital health supplies.

UPS Chairman and CEO David Abney said UPS Healthcare's dedicated team with the company's global network of public-private partnerships "are creating a powerful combination for rapid deployment of protective equipment and test kits throughout the U.S., and around the world."

"UPS Healthcare has the expertise and experience to move vital, life-saving medicines, medical devices, diagnostic specimens and supplies everywhere they are needed," said Abney as he announced the stepped up collaboration with FEMA to provide supply chain services for the agency's distribution of PPE and necessary materials throughout the U.S., including respirators, N95 masks, and gloves for use by healthcare workers across America.

Apart from UPS, four other major passenger airlines – American, Delta, Southwest and United – have offered their services to bridge the gap in transporting medical supplies to the country as it grapples to fight the pandemic.

More than 432,000 Americans were already infected with COVID-19 as of early April with deaths totaling over 14,000. Health experts believe the pandemic could lead to more deaths and cases as it reaches its peak.

### ***Airbus, Lufthansa Cargo & Europe***

Airbus is also on a race to help in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. On April 3, an A350-1000 left Toulouse, France for Tianjin, China and returned to Hamburg the next day to deliver vital medical supplies.

The aerospace giant said it's been conducting special missions related to the pandemic since mid-March, including deploying an A400M and its Beluga fleet to transport shipments of masks between its European sites in France, Germany, the UK and Spain.

"I would like to pay tribute to all the Airbus teams, globally, supporting the fight against COVID-19. They're living our values in assisting those who are saving lives every day," said Guillaume



Faury, Airbus CEO, and vowed that Airbus will continue to support the fight against the Coronavirus pandemic wherever possible.

Apart from deploying its employees, their expertise and know-how and leveraging technology in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, Airbus has also started engaging in designing and manufacturing ventilators and 3D printed visors which are critical resources for hospitals.

France, one of the hardest hit countries in Europe, has ordered a billion face masks from China. The first batch landed in Paris on March 30 aboard the Russian flight carrier Volga Dnepr. Air France was also tapped to fly a portion of the shipment and so are other carriers.

French Health Minister Olivier Véran said France needs about 40 million face masks per week but it can only produce eight million on its own.

ECS Group, the global leader in the GSSA industry, meanwhile, paid tribute to the remarkable work of the teams at Global Services Handling (GSH), a French air cargo handling company based at Roissy Charles de Gaulle (CDG) airport in France.

"As in all sectors, we need to reorganize the way we work because of the crisis, with one further difficulty: remote working isn't possible with goods handling. Our staff levels are down by around 25% but we are continuing to operate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. We are 100% operational thanks to our extremely hard-working employees. Our priority is still to make sure that cargo leaves and arrives in total safety," said Pierre Perez, GSH's Managing Director.

Airlines are doing everything they can to offer more capacity: increasing the number of all-cargo flights, converting passenger flights into freighters, demonstrating greater flexibility, and more – which makes handling agents' vital players in ensuring the continuity of the supply chain. Without them, it would be impossible to receive and load cargo, which in turn would also make air freight forwarding impossible, Perez noted.

In Germany, Lufthansa Group utilized a passenger aircraft

between China and Frankfurt to carry highly urgent goods, mainly medical supplies in an effort to stave off medical supply shortage due to the pandemic.

Lufthansa Cargo said the required permits for the flight were issued in excellent cooperation with the foreign ministries and embassies of the People's Republic of China and the Federal Republic of Germany.

"Lufthansa Cargo is making every effort to strengthen security of supply by air. About half of the goods are normally transported in freighters, the other half in the bellies of passenger aircraft. Due to the far-reaching cancellations of passenger connections, valuable airfreight capacity is lacking. The Lufthansa Group and Lufthansa Cargo are therefore looking into the possibility of operating further flights exclusively for cargo transport on passenger aircraft," Lufthansa Cargo said.

### **Middle East & Africa**

Revenue losses are mounting in the Middle East & Africa with the continued travel ban amid the pandemic crisis.

Muhammad Al Bakri, IATA's Regional Vice President for Africa and the Middle East, called on the governments across the region to step up efforts to help the aviation industry.

The United Arab Emirates, along with other countries in the region like Saudi Arabia, Rwanda, Morocco and Angola, have already offered stimulus packages and relief but Al Bakri said more is needed which include: direct financial support; loans; loan guarantees and support for the corporate bond market, and; tax relief.

***"The air transport industry is an economic engine, supporting up to 8.6 million jobs across Africa and the Middle East and \$186 billion in GDP. Every job created in the aviation industry supports another 24 jobs in the wider economy. Governments must recognize the vital importance of the air transport industry, and that support is urgently needed. Airlines are fighting for survival in every corner of the world," said Al Bakri.***

The IATA official said failure by governments to act now "will make this crisis longer and more painful.

"Airlines have demonstrated their value in economic and social development in Africa and the Middle East and governments need to prioritize them in rescue packages. Healthy airlines will be essential to jump-start the Middle East and global economies post-crisis," he said.

"Some regulators are taking positive action. We are grateful to the Ghana, Morocco, the UAE, Saudi Arabia and South Africa for agreeing a full-season waiver to the slot use rule. This will enable airlines and airports greater flexibility for this season and greater certainty for summer. But there is more to do on the regulatory front. Governments need to recognize that we are in a crisis," he added.

IATA is specifically asking governments to provide a package of measures to ensure air cargo operations, including fast track procedures to obtain overflight and landing permits, exempting flight crew members from 14-day quarantine, and removing economic impediments (overflight charges, parking fees, and slot restrictions).

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said the world is heading to a deep recession this year and that countries must

unite and help each other in this difficult times.

"First, the outlook for global growth: for 2020 it is negative—a recession at least as bad as during the global financial crisis or worse. But we expect recovery in 2021. To get there, it is paramount to prioritize containment and strengthen health systems—everywhere. The economic impact is and will be severe, but the faster the virus stops, the quicker and stronger the recovery will be," said IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva following a conference call of G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in late March.

"The human costs of the Coronavirus pandemic are already immeasurable and all countries need to work together to protect people and limit the economic damage. This is a moment for solidarity..." she noted.

## COVID-19 Pandemic Impact in the Middle East and Africa

o **Saudi Arabia:** 26.7 million fewer passengers resulting in a US\$5.61 billion revenue loss, risking 217,570 jobs and US\$13.6 billion in contribution to Saudi Arabia's economy.

o **UAE:** 23.8 million fewer passengers resulting in a US\$5.36 billion revenue loss, risking 287,863 jobs and US\$17.7 billion in contribution to the UAE's economy.

o **Egypt:** 9.5 million fewer passengers resulting in a US\$1.6 billion revenue loss, risking almost 205,560 jobs and around US\$2.4 billion in contribution to the Egyptian economy.

o **Qatar:** 3.6 million fewer passengers resulting in a US\$1.32 billion revenue loss, risking 53,640 jobs and US\$2.1 billion in contribution to Qatar's economy.

o **Jordan:** 2.8 million fewer passengers resulting in a US\$0.5 billion revenue loss, risking 26,400 jobs and US\$0.8 billion in contribution to Jordan's economy.

o **South Africa:** 10.7 million fewer passengers resulting in a US\$2.29 billion revenue loss, risking 186,850 jobs and US\$3.8 billion in contribution to South Africa's economy.

o **Nigeria:** 3.5 million fewer passengers resulting in a US\$ 0.76 billion revenue loss, risking 91,380 jobs and US\$0.65 billion in contribution to Nigeria's economy.

o **Ethiopia:** 1.6 million fewer passengers resulting in a US\$0.3 billion revenue loss, risking 327,062 jobs and US\$1.2 billion in contribution to Ethiopia's economy.

o **Kenya:** 2.5 million fewer passengers resulting in a US\$ 0.54 billion revenue loss, risking 137,965 jobs and US\$1.1 billion in contribution to Kenya's economy.

Source: IATA





## BREAKBULK MIDDLE EAST 2020 Growing from strength-to-strength

**W**ith two-thirds of cargo destined for GCC states arriving at UAE seaports, the country's maritime importance in the seamless movement of goods in the region has never been better.

H.E. Dr. Abdullah Belhaif Al Nuaimi, the UAE Minister of Infrastructure Development and Chairman of the Federal Transport Authority (FTA) for Land and Maritime, said the UAE continues to nurture major developments in the maritime sector and events like Breakbulk Middle East 2020 held in Dubai on February 25-26, 2020 is essential in spurring regional growth.

"As maritime is comprised of a number of components of the industrial supply chain, project development that stems from this year's event will be vital for sustainable growth. The UAE currently accounts for 35% of investment in the maritime region, and we have invested over AED 157 billion into expanding local ports here," Al Nuaimi noted.

"These efforts have been made in an attempt to bolster the entire Middle Eastern maritime infrastructure, and we look forward to seeing the steps that are taken in making this ambitious vision progressively come into fruition."

Breakbulk Middle East 2020 drew the participation of 103 exhibitors and 1663 companies from 72 countries and welcomed more than 3,000 visitors, mostly decision-makers representing the Middle East's cargo owners, government ministries, private sector oil & gas companies, global-scale EPCs, among others.

H.E. Eng. Ahmed Al Khouri, Director-General of the FTA for Land and Maritime UAE, commented at the opening ceremony, the UAE continues to advance world transport, particularly in the maritime industry.

"The industrial supply chain is extensive and Breakbulk Middle East has once again done a tremendous job of uniting and

displaying its strength in full force. With the UAE fueled by our desire to strategically advance world transport and trade activity, feedback that is produced via interaction between key industry players will be invaluable," he said.

### **Breakbulk Masters**

At this year's BBME, Breakbulk Masters made its Middle East debut with major EPCs, manufacturers, and oil companies taking part such as ABB, Abengoa, ADNOC, AECOM, Andritz, Baker Hughes, Etihad Rail, Fluor, Gazprom Neft, GE Gas Power, Lamprell Energy, Linde, McDermott, Petrofac, Siemens, Sumitomo, TechnipFMC, Tecnicas Reunidas, Vallourec.

***Organizers said Masters is an exclusive global network of senior project cargo players representing transport, logistics, and procurement professionals and freight owners. The goal is to bring them together with freight handlers and logistics service providers for learning and networking.***

This year's event also included a governmental panel titled "Regional Outlook and Growth Opportunities for the Breakbulk Industry" with major carriers and freight forwarders reporting upswings in demand for specialist freight handling services in the Gulf States and the wider Middle Eastern region.

"A wide-range of large-scale projects and investments are taking place within the Middle East. This pertains to oil and gas projects, increased interest in renewable energy and major infrastructure projects. In essence, cargo carrying contract opportunities are poised to keep rising throughout the region and this is highly beneficial for the UAE and entire GCC. Breakbulk Middle East provides an effective platform for industry leaders to align their objectives accordingly," said Al Nuaimi.

The governmental panel is the first of its kind with topical issues like the Belt and Road discussed. Senior government officials from the region also addressed upcoming project opportunities to enhance the region's capabilities and in turn, the collective breakbulk industry.



### **Women in Breakbulk**

Keen to highlight the enormous contributions of women in the breakbulk industry in modern-day history, organizers also hosted a panel discussion for them where they shared their experiences and aspirations to make a difference in this male-dominated sector.

One of the panelists narrated how she managed to win over a significant market share in Bangladesh in the marine lubricant industry with hard work and dedication.

Another panelist shared how her company tossed in their full support to her work making her succeed. "Yes, you have a different mindset (as a woman) but you can do whatever you want," she said.

Organizers collaborated with WISTA (Women's International Shipping & Trading Association) Arabia – UAE, an international networking organization that supports women at the management level in maritime and AWIMA (Arab Women in Maritime Association), an IMO (International Maritime Organization) mandated assembly focused on encouraging and empowering Arab women for the segment.



Speaking on this mutual cooperation, H.E. Eng. Hessa Al Malek, Executive Director of Maritime Transport at the Federal Transport Authority for Land and Maritime, and President of AWIMA stated, "The primary mission of AWIMA is centered around enhancing the national and regional recognition of Arab women as resources for the maritime industry. The UAE seeks to carry out a pioneering role among the countries of the world in all fields. Thus, ensuring the cultivation of female development within all industries, with a particular focus on maritime, is essential to support the country's economy. Active contributions from key industry players at industry enhancing events such as Breakbulk Middle East will pay great dividends in the grand scheme of the country's long-term goals."

More and more companies are rooting for women in more senior roles in the once male-dominated industries like logistics, freight, air cargo and aviation. The contention is that they bring more productivity, diversity, thus, help push for more growth.

### Nurturing talent

Organizers also gave 122 students and young professionals the opportunity to learn industry basics across a half-day session, then tour the exhibition floor as part of Breakbulk's commitment to nurture talent at a grassroots level.

Helping their development was the Day's third sessions "The Exciting World of Ship Chartering", led by Fusion Academy of Excellence Director Krishnan Subramaniam where the attendees were offered the basics of chartering, career entry points, qualifications, certifications, and career paths for industry novices.

***"The Education Day is a key feature of Breakbulk Middle East. It isn't just for young up-and-comers either. Education never stops, so we're proud to offer deep insights and best practice learnings from around the industry," said the organizers.***

One of the Education Day's standout sessions was chaired by Captain Sahar Rasti, CEO of SJR General Group who shared her immense knowledge, aspirations, and experiences as the first Emirati Female Captain working in the maritime sector.

A key takeaway from Capt. Rasti's talk was the importance of being self-motivated – something critical in such a patriarchal society like the Middle East. Breakbulk Middle East 2021 returns to Dubai on 9-10 February next year.

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# With AXYARD, Lab1886 and Daimler Trucks automate the operation of snow-clearing vehicles

*Self-driving snow-clearing trucks  
are seen to ease work on logistics  
and agriculture sectors*



***Depending on the snow conditions, the vehicle's lane is determined and adhered to with centimetre precision. In this way, the roadway is precisely cleared along gravel beds. The automated control of the clearing devices as well as the clearing strategies were developed in cooperation with the device manufacturer Aebi-Schmidt.***



**E**xtrême weather conditions affect the movement of people, production of goods and the delivery of vital supplies to different places. Winter is a particular challenge with so much snow to be cleared on roads and fields without compromising the safety of truck drivers.

Thankfully, major companies in the land transport industry continue to innovate and offer solutions for the most pressing issues they face.

Two self-driving Mercedes-Benz Arocs in Immendingen in Germany is one innovation aimed at addressing snow-related problems during winter.

A joint project of Lab1886, the innovation unit for new business models within Mercedes-Benz AG, and Daimler Truck AG, the inventor of the truck, has now become a product that can be used as a solution for various customer requirements in sectors such as on-site logistics and agriculture.

Lab1886 and Daimler Trucks, together with Fraport AG, demonstrated the operation of self-driving snow-clearing vehicles in non-public closed areas for the first time in October

2017 as part of a pilot project on the site of the former Pferdsfeld air base. The in-house operation in Immendingen, which has now been started, is based on the findings of this project.

### ***Self-driving Mercedes-Benz Arocs clear snow in Immendingen***

Vehicles are being tested under extreme conditions at the new large-scale test site in Immendingen. For this purpose, the approximately 20 hectares of test areas must always be free of snow, ice and water. To ensure this every day at the start of the tests in the morning, two self-driving Mercedes-Benz Arocs are in use overnight. Trained specialists supervise the trucks on site.

Depending on the snow conditions, the vehicle's lane is determined and adhered to with centimetre precision. In this way, the roadway is precisely cleared along gravel beds. The automated control of the clearing devices as well as the clearing strategies were developed in cooperation with the device manufacturer Aebi-Schmidt.

Automated snow removal is one of many applications of



AXYARD, the technology product jointly developed by Lab1886 and Daimler Trucks.

### ***The AXYARD technology***

The name AXYARD stands for automated solutions (A=automated) that are used in various use cases (X) in closed terrain (YARD). AXYARD's approach is to automate Mercedes-Benz trucks by equipping them with sensors and ECUs.

This allows them to complete predefined routes on closed terrain and be digitally conducted, monitored and orchestrated in a central control system - completely driverless.

"With AXYARD, we offer an innovative complete solution for commercial customers. We help them to optimize processes on their premises and to make their operations more efficient. The highlight of our new product is the wide range of applications of the technology: Whether in port and storage operations or in large-scale agricultural operations, to name but two examples, the use of AXYARD increases productivity," said Susanne Hahn, Head of Lab1886 Global.

***At the heart of AXYARD technology is the vehicle interface "Remote Truck Interface" (RTI): With the Remote Truck Interface (RTI), vehicle functions can be operated remotely and data can be exchanged. This also works in a network of several vehicles.***

The vehicles are equipped with a high-precision GPS location (DGPS, differential GPS) and have state-of-the-art "vehicle-to-vehicle" communication ("V2V" communication). Due to the interaction of the innovative interface RTI as well as the control and remote control unit, an extremely fast and not least secure data exchange between vehicles and the infrastructure of the test site takes place.

To make this work in real time, a complete data exchange takes place every 0.1 seconds between the vehicles and the main control unit of the RTI.

### ***Automated driving at Daimler Trucks***

Dr. Christian Ballarin, Head of Advanced Engineering for Driver Assistance Systems, Autonomous Driving and Connectivity at Daimler Trucks: "We focus on two specific use cases for automated driving: regular use of the highway and motorway, as well as on journeys in cordoned-off areas, such as "gated areas", e.g. with automated snow clearing vehicles on the site of the former Pferdsfeld air base and now on the test track in Immendingen or at the Brazilian sugar cane harvest."

With regard to automated driving in regular motorway traffic, Daimler Trucks offers the Mercedes-Benz Actros, the Freightliner Cascadia and the FUSO Super Great as the world's first manufacturer of semi-automated vehicles (SAE Level 2) ex-factory.

At the same time, the Autonomous Technology Group at Daimler Trucks is driving the development of highly automated trucks (SAE Level 4). The aim is to bring this technology into the series by the end of the decade. The testing on public highways in the USA, which started in autumn 2019, is an important step in this direction.

### ***A wide range of applications from agriculture to logistics***

Driverless systems have many advantages: Automation can increase productivity and save fuel. This makes them interesting for industries such as agriculture and logistics.

In addition to the use in the snow in Immendingen, automated trucks from Mercedes-Benz have also been reliably helping to harvest sugar cane in everyday use in the Brazilian sugar cane harvest since 2018. (Source: [www.daimler.com](http://www.daimler.com))



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# Virgin Atlantic cuts flights by 80% due to Covid-19 pandemic



**Employees forced to take 2 months unpaid leave to avoid job losses**

**CEO Shai Weiss has also extended his 20% pay cut to the end of 2020, with the Executive Leadership Team agreeing a decrease of 15% for the same period.**

**LONDON:** With so many major cities across the world, including some European countries on lockdown, Virgin Atlantic says it will reduce its flights per day by 80% effective March 26 and by as much as 85% from April while its staff will be forced to take eight weeks unpaid leave over the next three months to reduce the airline's base operating costs without resorting to job cuts.

Virgin Atlantic said the measures are necessary to ensure its survival amid the lingering negative impact of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) on global aviation and tourism. The airline's cargo carrier, Virgin Atlantic Cargo, says its service teams are contacting customers who have cargo booked about this development.

The World Health Organisation declared the outbreak a global pandemic on Wednesday 11 March, as cases continue to rise. An increasing number of countries are now closing their borders – most significantly, the US, where a travel embargo from the UK comes into force on Tuesday 17 March.

Though this was expected, it has accelerated the sharp and continual drop in demand for flights across Virgin Atlantic's network, meaning immediate and decisive action is needed.

"The safety and wellbeing of our people and our customers is always our number one priority. Today, Virgin Atlantic will put drastic measures in place to ensure cash is preserved, costs are controlled, and the future of the airline is safeguarded," Virgin Atlantic said in a statement.

"Owing to restrictions to international travel, the airline is reducing services to focus on core routes, depending on customer demand. This will be subject to constant review as the situation evolves. Our London Heathrow – Newark route will be permanently terminated with immediate effect," it added.

The situation is deteriorating at pace and the airline has seen several days of negative bookings, driven by a huge volume of cancellations as customers choose to stay at home. Significantly, the European Commission has announced a suspension of the 'use it or lose it' slot rules until 30 June 2020, enabling the airline to consolidate schedules and ground aircraft immediately.

Apart from forced leave, Virgin Atlantic is also offering its employees a one-time voluntary severance package and a sabbatical leave of 6-12 months.

The airline is also deferring annual pay increases until review in January 2021; reducing employer pension contribution for a period of one year; continuing to offer an

enhanced company sick pay policy, however, with terms reduced to 12 weeks full pay.

CEO Shai Weiss has also extended his 20% pay cut to the end of 2020, with the Executive Leadership Team agreeing a decrease of 15% for the same period.

Furthermore, Virgin Atlantic has appealed to the British Government for clear, decisive and unwavering support for the UK aviation sector, comprising: Emergency credit facilities to a value of £5-7.5bn, to bolster confidence in the industry, and to prevent credit card processors from withholding customer payments and Slot alleviation for the full summer 2020 season, enabling airlines to match supply to demand – reducing costs and preventing unnecessary flying and corresponding CO2 emissions.

"The aviation industry is facing unprecedented pressure. We are appealing to the Government for clear, decisive and unwavering support. Our industry needs emergency credit facilities to a value of £5-7.5bn, to bolster confidence and to prevent credit card processors from withholding customer payments," a spokesperson for the airline said.

"We also need slot alleviation for the full summer 2020 season, so we can match supply to demand – reducing costs and preventing unviable flying and corresponding CO2 emissions. With this support, airlines including Virgin Atlantic, can weather this storm and emerge in a position to assist the nation's economic recovery and provide the passenger & cargo connectivity that business and people across the country rely on."

## Air Canada decides to move time-sensitive cargo amid pandemic

**MONTREAL:** Air Canada has begun using its aircraft for passengers to operate cargo-only flights to Europe, with other flights planned for Latin America and South America, to move time-sensitive shipments, including medical supplies to fight COVID-19 pandemic and goods to support the global economy.

Air Canada does not operate cargo aircraft, instead its Air Canada Cargo division manages and markets excess belly space on the airline's regular passenger flights for shippers operating worldwide. But Tim Strauss, Vice President of Cargo at Air Canada, said air transport is a vital link to sustain the global economy and support the fight against the pandemic.

He said Air Canada will expand its cargo program within Canada, including remote communities using Air Canada Express Lift, working with various governments to assess the demand and assist in moving relief goods from multiple markets within the country.

"Air Canada Cargo has long served as a vital link in global supply chains and with the disruption arising from the COVID-19 pandemic our capabilities are



more important than ever. Although we have announced very significant temporary capacity reductions and our passenger flights are largely dedicated to bringing Canadians home, Air Canada's aircraft and our expertise in handling cargo are valuable assets that we can use to move medical supplies and other essential goods to keep the world economy going," said Strauss.

The first cargo-only flights departed from Toronto in late March for Frankfurt, London and Amsterdam, all important business centers and connection points for onward cargo shipments. The flights were operated using Boeing 787 aircraft capable of carrying 35 tons of cargo, the equivalent of about 80 grand pianos.

Shippers and freight forwarders using the service are charged a flat rate for both directions and Air Canada Cargo is also introducing a fractional program, so shippers who do not require a whole aircraft can book space. The arrangements with the shippers and freight forwarders contain clear provisions to ensure that these essential goods are being sold at fair market rates and to authorized suppliers.

## LATAM flies 19 international special flights to help passengers return home

**SANTIAGO, CHILE:** LATAM Airlines Group says it has operated 19 international repatriation flights between March 19 and 21 and more are scheduled for later dates to fetch stranded passengers across Latin America and other parts of the world.

"We are proud to have brought home more than 10,000 passengers from 21 cities around the world. Given the measures taken by governments due to the spread of COVID-19 and the closure of borders in several of the Latin American countries where we operate, we must suspend these efforts for now. We are together and we will fly back higher than ever," LATAM Airlines said.

LATAM Airlines said it continues to work with different governments to obtain special operating permits to transport passengers who are unable to return home due to the global Coronavirus (COVID-19) health crisis and noted that it has provided an online form on [latam.com/coronavirus](https://www.latam.com/coronavirus) for passengers to register. It is also contacting passengers as the date of their special repatriation flights approaches.



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## Qantas Group grounds over 150 planes

**SYDNEY:** Australia's national carrier, Qantas Airways, will ground more than 150 planes as it cuts international flights by 90 percent and domestic flights by 60 percent from March 31 through May 2020.

Qantas Group says with the Federal Government now recommending against all overseas travel from Australia, regularly scheduled international flights will continue until late March to assist with repatriation and will then be suspended until at least the end of May 2020. But noted essential domestic, regional and freight connections will be maintained as much as possible.

The Group said more than 150 aircraft will be temporarily grounded, including all of Qantas' A380s, 747s and B787-9s and Jetstar's B787-8s. Discussions are progressing with airports and government about parking for these aircraft, it added.

Majority of the 30,000 Qantas and Jetstar employees will be forced to take a leave at least until the end of May 2020 to cushion the negative impact of COVID-19 pandemic to the airline industry. Given the current extraordinary circumstances, a decision has been made to defer payment of the shareholder dividend announced on 20 February from 9 April until 1 September 2020.

"The efforts to contain the spread of Coronavirus have led to a huge drop in travel demand, the likes of which we have never seen before. This is having a devastating impact on all airlines. We're in a strong financial position right now, but our wages bill is more than \$4 billion a year. With the huge drop in revenue we're facing, we have to make difficult decisions to guarantee the future of the national carrier," said Qantas Group CEO Alan Joyce.

"The reality is we'll have 150 aircraft on the ground and sadly there's no work for most of our people. Rather than lose these highly skilled employees who we'll need when this crisis passes, we are instead standing down two-thirds of our 30,000 employees until at least the end of May," said Joyce. "This is a very hard set of circumstances for our people, as it is for lots of parts of the community right now."

## Delta secures \$2.6B credit facility to enhance liquidity amid COVID-19 impact



**ATLANTA:** Delta Air Lines says it has entered into a \$2.6 billion secured credit facility to enhance its liquidity as it manages through an unprecedented decline in air travel demand due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The company is also drawing \$3 billion under its existing revolving credit facilities.

Delta says in order to preserve liquidity, it has suspended its capital return program, including the company's stock repurchase program and the Board's suspension of future dividend payments.

"The growing need to protect Delta's future has led to difficult decisions across our business that are impacting all of our stakeholders," said Delta CEO Ed Bastian. "Maintaining ample liquidity during this crisis is critical to the essential service that Delta provides in America's transportation infrastructure as well as the jobs of more than 90,000 Delta people across the country."

The airline has also reduced its international capacity by 20-25% and domestic capacity by 10-15%. It has also instituted a company-wide hiring freeze and offered employees voluntary leave options.

For balance sheet and cash flow, Delta has also made the following decisions:

- **Deferring \$500 million in capital expenditures**
- **Delaying \$500 million of voluntary pension funding**
- **Suspending share repurchases**

Delta has an investment-grade balance sheet, providing ready access to capital markets and bank financing. It recently announced the issuance of \$1 billion of secured aircraft debt at a blended rate of 2.09 percent and intends to use the proceeds to fund \$1 billion of scheduled debt maturities in March. The airline has approximately \$20 billion of unencumbered assets, including \$12 billion in aircraft.



## Copenhagen Airport uses 2 runways as aircraft parking

Copenhagen Airport (CPH) has temporarily converted its two runways as parking for aircraft.

**COPENHAGEN:** With 70 percent of passenger traffic down at the Danish capital due to novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Copenhagen Airport (CPH) has temporarily converted its two runways as parking for aircraft.

CPH said passenger traffic is expected to drop further over, thus, it will just keep a single runway open for use in operation for departures and arrivals. The Scandinavian carrier SAS is among the primary users of the airport but like other airlines its operations had been adversely affected by virus.

The airport said a number of airlines need temporary parking for their aircraft until they can resume operations.

"We expected a high double-digit number of aircraft to be parked at Copenhagen Airport before long. All take-offs and landings will use runway 22L/04R," said CPH.

The airport said its main focus for now will be on managing arriving aircraft carrying Danish citizens who have heeded the government's advice to come home as soon as they can, and to help authorities manage assignments relating to the newly introduced border control.

CPH operates Denmark's largest shopping center with 91 shops and restaurants across all its terminals. But they too will be temporarily closed with only a handful of shop and restaurant concessionaires staying open to serve passengers at the airport over the coming period.

CPH said is also considering to furlough some 1,500 employees over the coming weeks, making use of the wage compensation package presented by the Danish government & labor market parties. CPH employs about 2,600 while shops at the airport, the airlines and the handling companies employ between 22,000 and 23,000 people between them.

"We're currently attempting to manage an entirely unusual and grave crisis situation for the airport. In addition to what we can do ourselves to reduce our operations, we welcome the solution presented by the government and the labour market parties involving wage compensation for employees. It enables us to navigate the situation by taking a longer-term view and making a dedicated effort to avoid redundancies, while the crisis persists," said Copenhagen Airport CEO Thomas Woldbye.

## AOA warns UK airports may shut down within weeks without government intervention

Impact of  
the COVID-19  
pandemic.

**LONDON:** The Airports Operators Association in the United Kingdom warned some airports may shut down within weeks without government intervention on the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

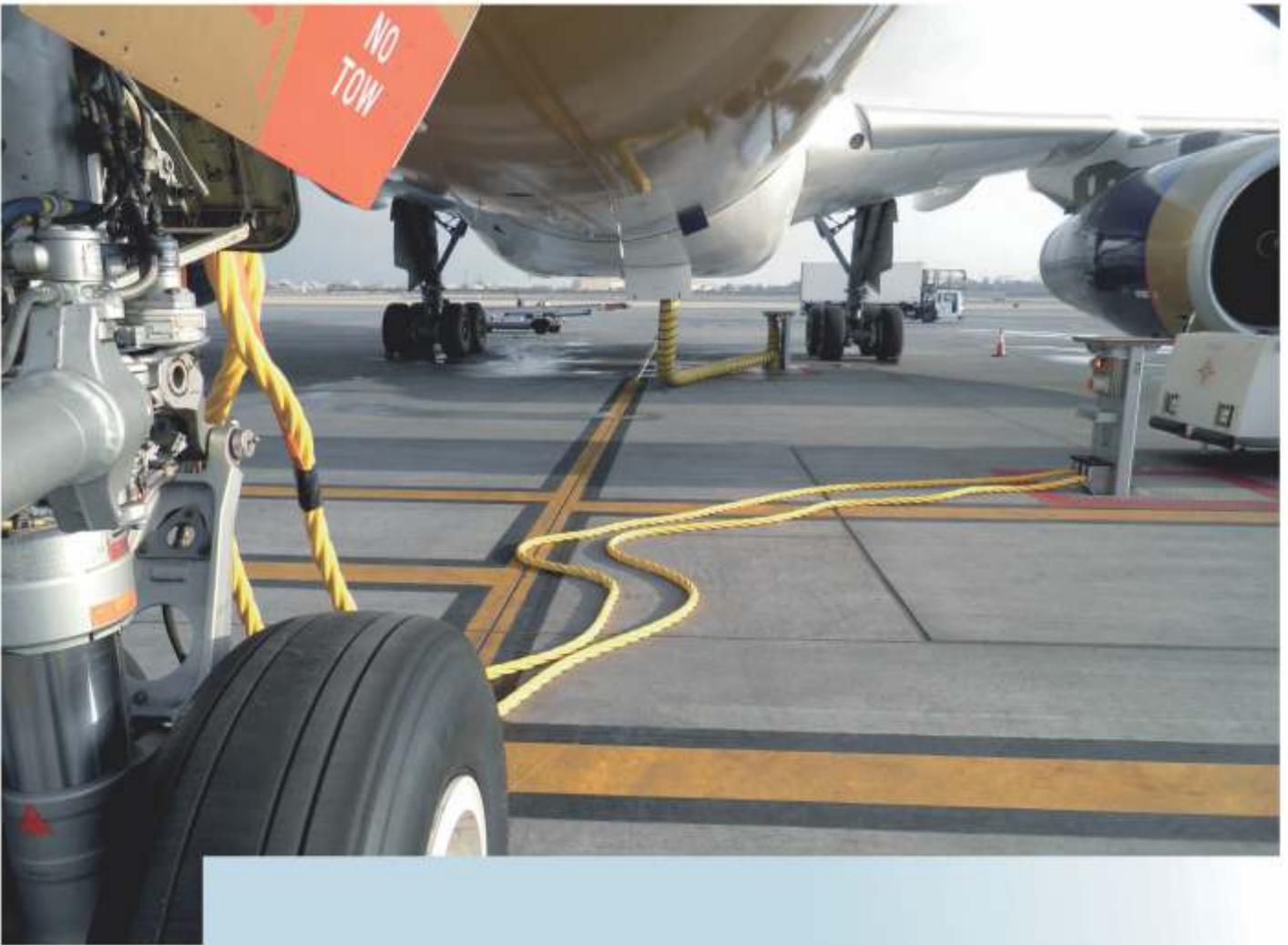
"Governments across the world are supporting their national aviation industries, as many parts of the global travel industry have come to a halt. As some airlines call on the UK Government to act similarly, we are clear that airports will shut down in weeks unless urgent action is taken to support the industry," warned the Chief Executive of the Airport Operators Association Karen Dee.

"The UK's airports are critical national infrastructure, fulfilling a vital public service, and are on the frontline of the COVID-19 outbreak. It is essential that airport businesses remain operating and are able to weather this storm, so that they can provide the connectivity which drives growth, employment and prosperity after the crisis has abated," she added.

The association's chief executive said as travel bans proliferate and passengers are unwilling to fly, airports suffer, among other businesses linked with the global aviation industry.

"UK airports are taking immediate and drastic action to cut costs and are scaling back investments in light of the situation. Due to the fixed costs of operating airports, the Government will need to provide additional support," she said noting that the UK government must be prepared to provide/organize emergency financing to ensure the survival of the country's airports.

"For the sake of the UK economy it is essential for the UK Government to catch-up to its peers across the continent and provide support to the sector and the wider economy through financing, guarantees, grants and tax relief. Finally, to help kickstart aviation again once the pandemic is retreating, the government should suspend Air Passenger Duty for six months."



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## Etihad Airways to move all Beijing flights to Beijing Daxing International Airport



**ABU DHABI:** UAE national carrier Etihad Airways will transfer all its flights to and from Abu Dhabi and Beijing, and its flights to and from Beijing to Nagoya, Japan, to the new state-of-the-art Beijing Daxing International Airport (PKX) effective June 1, 2020.

Robin Kamark, Etihad Aviation Group Chief Commercial Officer, said the move is part of Abu Dhabi Airports sister-partnership agreement with Beijing Daxing International Airport signed last October.

"Since launching flights between Beijing and Abu Dhabi 12 years ago, we have experienced huge growth in China's tourism and aviation markets, and enjoyed strong demand from business and leisure travellers, and cargo, assisted by direct services, codeshare partners, the mutual visa-exemption policy between the two nations implemented in January 2018, and the great joint efforts put into promoting bi-directional routes," said Kamark noting that the move is also seen to further reinforce the UAE's commitment to the China market and enhancing the two countries' bilateral relationship.

"Whilst the spread of COVID-19 has posed a major challenge for all airlines serving China, with a massive drop in demand on key

routes, we remain optimistic that the situation will improve by the summer and we continue serving Beijing from Abu Dhabi presently, demonstrating our unwavering support and commitment to our Chinese partners and the China market as a whole," he added.

Maarten de Groof, Chief Commercial Officer, Abu Dhabi Airports, said Etihad Airways is among the first airlines in the region to serve the Beijing Daxing International Airport.

"Our sister-airport partnership with Beijing's brand-new airport reflects the importance of our long-standing relationship with the Chinese airport sector. Such cooperation and the ever-growing popularity of Abu Dhabi as a destination has enabled this transfer of flights to Beijing's new airport and we look forward to continue working with Etihad and our Chinese colleagues to enhance our partnership at all levels in the years ahead," he said.

The daily flights will continue to be operated by the technologically advanced Boeing 787 Dreamliner, featuring the airline's innovative, award-winning cabin designs and products, complemented by its acclaimed service and hospitality.

## Riyadh restricts entry of neighboring GCC nationals to 3 airports



**RIYADH:** Saudi Arabia has restricted the entry of nationals from the UAE, Kuwait and Bahrain to its three major international airports in a bid to prevent the spread of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) to its shores.

The Emirates news agency WAM, citing a statement from the Saudi Press Agency (SPA), said citizens from those countries will only be permitted entry through the King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, King Abdulaziz International Airport in Jeddah and King Fahd International Airport in Dammam.

Entry through land ports between the Kingdom and those three countries will be confined to commercial trucks only, it added. WAM reported an official source at the KSA Ministry of Interior said the decision is part of efforts to stop the spread and eliminate the virus, and protect the health of citizens and expatriates.

Saudi has 171 confirmed COVID-19 cases as of March 18. The country had since donated \$10 million to the World Health Organization to support its humanitarian mission against the spread of the virus that had already infected more than 202,000 and killed more than 8,000 worldwide as of mid-March.

# FAI works 24/7 to meet critical Covid-19 demands

FAI said it's currently operating at maximum capacity and its work includes both medical evacuations of infected patients and repatriation flights of unaffected healthy individuals from all corners of the globe.



**NUREMBERG:** Germany's leading air ambulance specialist and special mission operator, FAI rent-a-jet AG, says it has been working round-the-clock to help evacuate those in need amid the world's continued fight against the spread of the Coronavirus.

FAI said it's currently operating at maximum capacity and its work includes both medical evacuations of infected patients and repatriation flights of unaffected healthy individuals from all corners of the globe.

"We are working hard to fulfil all requests coming in 24/7 for repatriation and medevac flights as rapidly and as efficiently as we can and will continue to do so as long as is practically possible. We deeply regret that we can't help everybody immediately. The demand is such that we currently have a backlog of three days," said Siegfried Axtmann, Chairman and Founder of FAI Aviation Group.

FAI says it's averaging around six missions per day with its 10-strong fleet of five Learjet 60s, four Bombardier Challenger 604, and one Global Express air ambulance aircraft. Additionally, it is supplementing its fleet with its executive charter fleet of businessjets.

**FAI is the world's largest fixed wing air ambulance jet operator by revenue, logging far above 10,000 hours per year flying air ambulance missions. The company's fleet is based at its Headquarters at Albrecht Dürer International Airport in Nuremberg. The air ambulance division specialises in air support in hostile areas for the world's largest NGO. It typically averages three intercontinental medical evacuations per day for its global client base.**

Following its recent purchase of two portable self-contained isolation units, EPI-Shuttle, FAI can transport infected patients without any risk for the flight or medical crew. All medevac missions are accompanied by a trained dedicated medical team, for pre-flight temperature screening, and the availability of medical/nursing care in flight as required.

FAI said it has enlisted the support of all its 70-strong team of pilots to perform duties and that its biggest challenge remains scheduling given entry restrictions now in place in many countries around the world many of which are not allowing entry for crew rest and pre-positioning.

## Embraer leads tech collaboration to create equipment and solutions vs COVID-19 pandemic

**SAO PAULO:** Brazilian aerospace conglomerate Embraer is collaborating with some companies and research centers to create technologies that can increase the availability of necessary equipment and solutions to fight the Coronavirus pandemic in Brazil.

Embraer said this includes manufacturing parts for the ventilator and respirator industry, the replacement of imported components for ventilators, the development of high-efficiency filtration systems for transforming regular hospital beds into intensive care beds and studies for the development of simple, robust and portable respirators aimed at rapid implementation and availability.

A group of professionals has already been leading initiatives in support of a respirator factory in Brazil, with a plan to start the production of parts next week, in response to the emergency demand for this equipment. Embraer, in cooperation with partner organizations, has already completed the technical and production capacity analysis required to meet the identified needs.

In partnership with the Albert Einstein Hospital, located in São Paulo, Brazil, Embraer is also working to provide technical support for the development of biological air filter systems for air-quality control, which can convert regular hospital beds into intensive care beds.

Using highly efficient filters for absorbing air particles, already utilized in air conditioning systems on aircraft, the objective is to provide this solution to hospitals with immediate needs. Another work front is dedicated to analyzing the manufacturing of control valves and flow sensors for another respirator industry in the country, in addition to adapting an existing respirator model for use in combating COVID-19.

Embraer said it will keep monitoring the situation to find ways to contribute by utilizing its expertise integrating complex systems for the benefit of the society in this worldwide cooperation to combat COVID-19.



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## Shailendar Kothari is new Managing Director for Jettainer Americas Inc.



*Shailendar Kothari*

**FRANKFURT/DELAWARE:** Shailendar Kothari was named the new Managing Director of Jettainer Americas Inc. which includes branches in Dallas, Chicago, Miami, New York and Los Angeles.

In his new role which took effect on March 1, Kothari is responsible for the company's operational activities, as well as business and market opportunities in the Americas.

After graduating from the University of New Delhi, Kothari gained his first experiences in the aviation industry as Operations Officer at Pan American World Airways and Deutsche Lufthansa in New Delhi.

Later, he was employed as a Senior Ramp Supervisor at Oman Aviation in Muscat. His Lufthansa Group career began in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, in 1993, where he became Manager for Flight Operations. After one year as Deputy Regional Manager South East Asia in Singapore from 2000 to 2001, Kothari took the responsibility as Regional Director Logistics for the Greater China region.

From December 2006 to September 2014, he was Head of Operations Asia Pacific & Middle East. In 2014, Kothari moved to Frankfurt to head Production Procurement, where he was responsible for worldwide procurement of Lufthansa Cargo

warehouses, aircraft and GSSA services, as well as MRO, MHS and ULD contracts.

From 2017, as Director for Global Category Management, he took the responsibility for the Group companies' procurement of all warehouses, aircraft handling services and logistics.

"With Shailendar Kothari, we have been able to win an internationally recognized cargo expert, who has extensive operational and strategic experience and knowledge. He is well networked within the aviation and airfreight industry worldwide," says Thomas Sonntag, CEO at Jettainer GmbH. "I am delighted that Mr. Kothari will represent Jettainer Americas Inc. for North and South America and will successfully lead the company's business."

## Air France KLM Martinair Cargo names Gertjan Roelands as new SVP for Sales and Distribution



*Gertjan Roelands*

**THE NETHERLANDS:** Air France KLM Martinair Cargo has promoted Gertjan Roelands as Senior Vice President of Sales & Distribution, in-charge of all global commercial activities, including digital services.

Roelands, 44, has a Master's Degree in Business Economics from the Erasmus University in Rotterdam. He joined KLM in 1999 and gained commercial and operational experience in various managerial positions at KLM, Air France-KLM and its Cargo division. He succeeds Christophe Boucher who was appointed EVP of Air France Cargo.

In his current position, Roelands is responsible for the Area Europe at Air France KLM Martinair Cargo, leading the market organizations in Europe.

He previously held managerial positions at various passenger division departments, including pricing & revenue management, sales at KLM Netherlands and Global Sales at Air FranceKLM.

Before joining Cargo in 2015, Mr. Roelands was vice president Commercial for Africa & Middle East at Air France-KLM.

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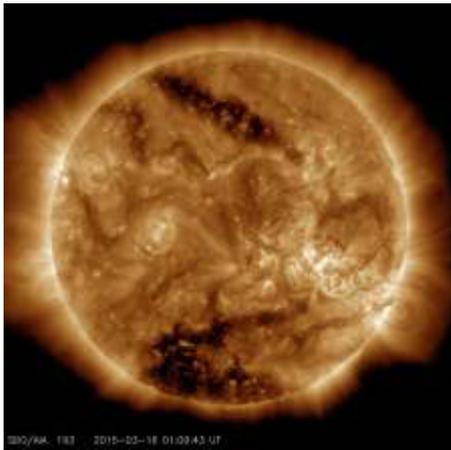
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# Technology



## 10 things we've learned about the sun from NASA's SDO this decade



NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO) marked its 10th year in space in February 2020. The spacecraft has kept a constant eye on the Sun, studying how it creates solar activity and drives space weather, that impact the entire solar system, including Earth.

Here are a few highlights of SDO's accomplishments since its launch on the outer space on February 11, 2010.

**1. Fantastic Flares:** SDO has witnessed countless astounding flares — giant outbursts of plasma released from the solar. In its first year and a half, SDO saw nearly 200 solar flares. Scientists said around 15% of the flares had a "late phase flare" that would follow minutes to hours after the initial flare.

By studying this special class, scientists gained a better understanding of just how much energy is produced when the Sun erupts.

**2. Solar Tornadoes:** In February 2012, SDO captured images showing strange plasma tornados on the solar surface. These tornadoes were found to have been created by magnetic fields spinning the plasma. They could rotate at speeds up to 186,000 miles per hour whereas Earth tornadoes only reach speeds of 300 miles per hour.

**3. Giant Waves:** The churning sea of plasma on the solar surface can create giant waves that travel around the Sun at up to 3 million miles per hour. Scientists suspect these waves are driven by coronal mass ejections, which spew clouds of plasma off the surface of the Sun into the solar system.

**4. Combustible Comets:** Over the years, SDO has watched two comets fly by the Sun. In December 2011, scientist watched as Comet Lovejoy managed to survive the intense heating as it passed 516,000 miles above the solar surface. Comet ISON in 2013 didn't survive its encounter. Through observations such as these, SDO has provided scientists with new information about how the Sun interacts with comets.

**5. Global Circulation:** Having no solid surface, the entire Sun is continually flowing due to the intense heat trying to escape and the rotation of the Sun. Moving about at the mid-latitudes are large-scale circulation patterns called Meridional circulation. SDO's observations revealed that these circulations are much more complex than scientists initially thought and are linked to sunspot production.

**6. Predicting the Future:** The Sun's outpouring of material from coronal mass ejections, or CMEs, and the solar wind speed across the solar system. When they interact with Earth's magnetic environment, they can induce space weather, which can be hazardous to spacecraft and astronauts.

**7. Coronal Dimmings:** The Sun's wispy superheated outer atmosphere — the corona — sometimes dims. Scientists studying coronal dimming have found that they are linked to CMEs, the main drivers of severe space weather events that can damage satellites and harm astronauts. By linking coronal dimming to the size of CMEs, scientists hope to be able to study the space weather effects around other stars, which are too distant to directly measure their CMEs.

**8. Death and Birth of a Solar Cycle:** With a decade of observations, SDO has now seen nearly a

complete 11-year solar cycle. Starting near the beginning of Solar Cycle 24, SDO watched as the Sun's activity ramped up to solar maximum and then faded to the current ongoing solar minimum. These multiyear observations help scientists understand signs that signal the decline of one solar cycle and the onset of the next.

**9. Polar Coronal Holes:** At times the Sun's surface is marked by large dark patches called coronal holes where extreme ultraviolet emission is low. Linked to the Sun's magnetic field, the holes follow the solar cycle, increasing at the solar maximum. When they form at the top and the bottom on the Sun they're called polar coronal holes and SDO scientists were able to use their disappearance to determine when the Sun's magnetic field reversed — a key indicator of when the Sun reaches solar maximum.

**10. New Magnetic Explosions:** At the end of the decade in December 2019, SDO observations enabled scientists to discover a whole new type of magnetic explosion. This special type — called spontaneous magnetic reconnection (versus previously observed more general forms of magnetic reconnection) — helped confirm a decades-old theory. It also may help scientists understand why the solar atmosphere is so hot, better predict space weather, and lead to breakthroughs in controlled fusion and lab plasma experiments. (Source: NASA)

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# Upcoming Events



## Airport Show Dubai | Airport Security ATC Forum

The 20th edition of Airport Show features two co-located events and introduces a new theme, "Passenger Experience"—which will focus on highlighting technologies that are setting new standards in making airport processes more passenger driven and efficient.

As the world's largest annual airport exhibition event, Airport Show 2020 is a place to meet and network with key industry leaders and high-level policymakers in setting to shape the future of the global airport and aviation industry.

**26-28 October 2020 | DWTC, Dubai, UAE**

## Cargo Connect

The Cargo Connect conference and exhibition provides a platform for the international logistics & supply chain industry to meet in the Middle East, a strategic hub for global trade.

Join the leading airports, airlines, freight forwarders, cargo operators and technology providers to network, learn and explore future innovations.

**November, 2020 | Dubai, UAE**

## Air Cargo Forum 2020

TIACA's biennial event that brings together thousands of airfreight decision-makers & supply chain operators from across the globe, Air Cargo Forum 2020, will take place November 10-12, 2020 in Miami, Florida, USA & will be hosted by Miami Airport. The event will be held at the newly renovated Miami Beach Convention Center located in the heart of South Beach.

**10-12 Nov 2020 | Miami Beach Convention Center  
Miami, Florida**



## World Cargo Symposium

WCS is the largest and most prestigious annual event of its kind and the only one to bring together key stakeholders from the entire air cargo supply chain. Join over 1,000 air cargo leaders and more than 40 exhibitors, for this action-packed event which features plenary sessions, specialized tracks, workshops and executive summits, tackling aspects related to technology & innovation, security & customs, cargo operations and sustainability.

**9-11 Mar 2021 | Turkey, Istanbul**

## Air Cargo Europe

forums and presentations of innovative ideas, products and services ideal for today's fast-paced digital world.

Now on its 9th year, Air Cargo Europe is integrated with the four-day transport logistic Munich event.

**9-12 May 2021 | Messe Munchen | Munich, Germany**



## transport logistic Munich

This four-day event gives visitors a complete look at the entire process chain of the transport and logistics sector. Expect more and more exhibitors from Germany and all around the world present their innovative products and services and an extensive program of related events and conferences.

An ideal platform for knowledge transfer and networking in the global logistics industry, the 2019 event drew 2,374 exhibitors from 63 countries and about 64,000 visitors from 125 countries.

**9-12 May 2021 | Messe Munchen | Munich, Germany**

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