

# air cargo update

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## REWIND

SwissWorld Cargo's multi logistics & cargo solutions

# Tech-driven airports to redefine future of aviation

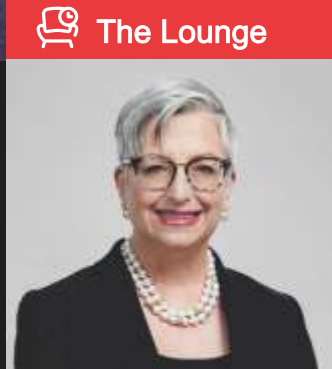
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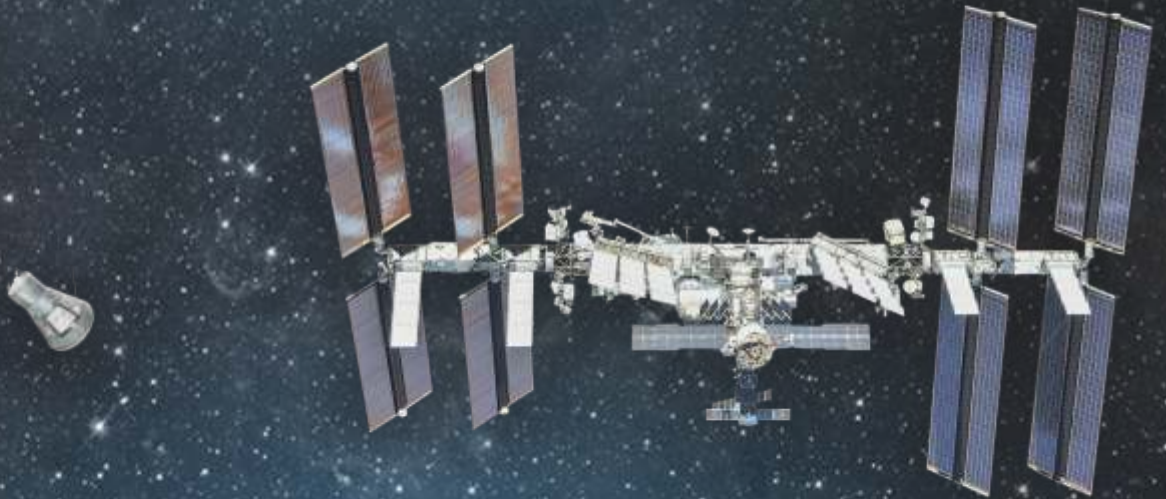
Carol B. Tomé  
UPS, CEO

Airlines

Airports

Logistics

# ARE YOU DIGITAL?



WITHOUT ECS

WITH ECS



best all

- VERBS be | consider with, deem with, judge with, think with, choose with, judge with, make up one's mind with, choose with, judge with, make up one's mind with
- ADJ. very little aim to give our guests the very best service
- ADV. I by far, easily This is by far the best restaurant in the town.
- PHRASE. at what is the class is best at method? for I'm only trying to do what's best for you.

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better all

1 comparative of 'good'

- VERBS be, feel, look, seem I get Cars are getting better
- ADJ. I make with the most make our lower class
- ADV. I consider with, deem with, think with, choose with, judge with, make up one's mind with
- PHRASE. I thought it better to tackle him out

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**QATAR**   
AIRWAYS القطرية

**CARGO**

Air Cargo Update is a platform to disseminate news and tackle issues in the global air freight industry with emphasis in the Middle East, South Asia and Africa.

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## Transition to the e-future

We're halfway through 2021, and the transition to the new digital normal amid the pandemic continues on different fronts.

The pandemic, it seems, is here to stay far longer than we've imagined despite the development of numerous COVID-19 vaccines. The Coronavirus has the capability to mutate multiple times, wreak havoc to its host body, even to entire communities, ill prepared to handle its menacing health impact.

Thankfully, humanity is slowly winning the fight against the pandemic. But much needs to be done, especially in the equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, to ensure everyone's safety and, ultimately, control the spread of the virus without resorting to adverse economic measures like prolonged lockdowns.

The hard-hit global aviation industry has begun restructuring its system to resume travel across continents. Key to its success are the airports which control and facilitate the seamless flow of travelers to different cities and countries.

In this edition, we look at how airports are empowering themselves with smart technologies to enhance operations while protecting passengers and keeping them secure at all times.

Traditional methods of screening passengers are gone. Airports and airlines now heavily depend on contactless apps, systems like biometrics and e-gates, smart equipment, among other things with unique security features, to facilitate and control the flow of passengers across borders.

About 97 percent of airlines are also working on mobile applications as all essential customer services become contactless. Visas and health certificates have also been digitalized using Blockchain technology and more innovative methods are soon to be adopted. So much that the global smart airport market size is expected to reach about US\$26 billion by 2025 and up to US\$232.88 billion by 2027.

We're fast transitioning to a more digitalized world. And like it or not, we have to blend and adopt with technology to survive. It's our lifeline to a future with a new sense of direction.

### Gemma Q. Casas Editor-in-Chief

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# DIY home improvement projects, gardening, farming and the arts for UPS's first female CEO



Talk about Home Depot and immediately, Carol B. Tomé's name comes to mind. She's the woman behind this home improvement retailer's huge success, growing it

from 400 stores to more than 2,200 globally with revenues of nearly \$100 billion.

The Wyoming-born financial expert first joined Home Depot, the largest home improvement retailer in the United States, supplying tools, construction products and services, as vice president/treasurer in 1995 when the company sought for expansion in Mexico.

In 2001, Tomé was promoted as Home Depot's Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and is widely credited for helping the company emerge from the 2008-2009 financial and housing crisis. She was among the highest paid CFOs in the country commanding a six-figure salary plus stock awards.

While still with Home Depot, Tomé was tapped to serve the Board of Directors of UPS from 2003 onwards. Last year, while relishing her free time after retiring from Home Depot, she was offered the job to lead UPS, one of the world's largest parcel delivery companies and a global leader in logistics with presence in more than 220 countries.

Tomé gladly accepted the offer, thus, becoming the first female and 12th CEO in UPS's 113-year history.

"UPS is a company with a proud past and an even brighter future. Our values define us. Our culture differentiates us. Our strategy drives us. At UPS we are customer first, people led and innovation driven," said the 64-year-old Tomé.

Under Tomé's leadership, UPS sailed through the pandemic seamlessly and achieved record high earnings. During the fourth quarter of 2020, UPS revenues jumped 21% to \$24.9 billion from \$20.6 billion during the same quarter in 2019.

Its first-quarter 2021 consolidated revenue reached \$22.9 billion, a 27% increase over the first quarter of 2020. Consolidated average daily volume increased 14.3% year over year. Consolidated operating profit was \$2.8 billion, up 158% compared to the first quarter of 2020, and up 164% on an adjusted basis.

The number speaks volumes about Tomé's successful formula in making things better and bigger for UPS despite being an outsider CEO.

A native of Jackson, Wyoming, Tome holds a Bachelor's Degree in Communication from the University of Wyoming and a Master's Degree in Finance from the University of Denver.

**She began her career as a commercial lender with United Bank of Denver (now Wells Fargo) and then spent several years as Director of Banking for Johns-Mansville Corporation. Prior to joining The Home Depot, she was Vice President and Treasurer of Riverwood International Corporation.**

She serves as a trustee or board member for a number of organizations including Grady Hospital Foundation, Atlanta Botanical Garden, Sovos Brands, Catalyst, and GIA Partners. She is also a member of The Committee of 200, The Buckhead Coalition, The Business Roundtable and The Business Council.

She's a busy bee, needless, to say. And in her spare time, she finds joy doing DIY restoration projects, gardening, farming and supporting the arts.

In a LinkedIn podcast interview, Tomé shares this career advice: "Go for your passion. What makes your heart sing? Go into it, lean into it. Every day should be a joyful day and just go where your passions are. Don't be too planful because if you're too planful, you'll miss out on opportunities that will present themselves to you. And my very favorite quote, in terms of just how to think about your career comes from Maya Angelou. She said, 'Don't make money your goal, instead do what you love and do it so well that people can't take their eyes off of you.' I just love that."



**Carol B. Tomé**  
UPS, CEO



## Emirates SkyCargo expands pharma cool chain infrastructure in Dubai

**DUBAI:** Emirates SkyCargo is further strengthening its temperature sensitive pharma and vaccine handling capabilities in Dubai with the extension of its fully automated cool room with 94 airline pallet positions at its EU GDP certified dedicated pharma facility at Dubai International Airport.

The Dubai-based cargo carrier said the extended cool room will provide an additional 2600 square meters of temperature controlled environment (2-25 degrees Celsius) for the storage and handling of vaccines and other pharmaceuticals at Emirates SkyCargo's purpose built GDP certified facility.

The move reinforces the carrier's position as an industry leader for the air transportation of pharmaceuticals and providing additional capacity at its Dubai hub to meet the growing demand for transportation of COVID-19 vaccines. The new extension can hold an estimated 60-90 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines at one time.

Emirates SkyCargo said it has transported over 75 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines on more than 250 flights to over 60 destinations since late 2020.

"Emirates SkyCargo is proud to have flown over 350 tons of COVID-19 vaccines around the world, delivering much needed support to communities that are still heavily impacted by the current wave of the pandemic. However,

we are always looking ahead and we anticipate that there will be an increase in demand to transport vaccines to developing nations during the second half of the year. Already, we have seen a ramping up of COVID-19 vaccine volumes that were transported over the last few weeks in line with increased manufacturing. We expect to reach the 100 million doses milestone well before the end of this month," said Nabil Sultan, Emirates Divisional Senior Vice President, Cargo.

"The last six months have been a valuable and mutual learning experience for Emirates SkyCargo and as well for pharmaceutical manufacturers and our logistics partners. We have been able to apply these learnings to make the process of vaccine transportation faster and more efficient, providing a valuable boost to the next phase of COVID-19 vaccine transportation, as well as for other temperature sensitive pharma products in the future," added Sultan.

Emirates SkyCargo was one of the first air cargo carriers to begin extensive preparations during the early stages of the pandemic for the transportation of COVID-19 vaccines.

## time:matters significantly expands Sameday Air service between Europe and US via Paris

**NEU-ISENBURG:** Time-critical logistics expert time:matters says it has significantly expanded its Sameday Air service between Europe and the US via Paris with access to additional direct flights between the continents.

time:matters is known for guaranteed transport of time-critical shipments up to 38 kilograms chargeable weight, short handling and transit times from 120 minutes, as well as a high loading priority. Shipments can also be picked up and delivered upon request.

The company said customers now have access to more than 30 additional direct flights per week between Paris (Charles de Gaulle Airport) and 10 stations in the United States. Thereby, shipments reach Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, San Francisco and Washington D.C. v.v. as quickly as possible.

In addition, numerous feeder flights between nine European countries and Paris strengthen the logistics expert's network. From the 13 stations in Barcelona, Berlin, Budapest, Geneva, Gothenburg, Hamburg, Copenhagen, Madrid, Milan, Porto, Rome, Stockholm and Warsaw, highly urgent shipments will now be transported to Paris. The service is supplemented by flights within France from the six French metropolitan regions of Bordeaux, Nantes, Lyon, Nice, Marseille and Toulouse to Paris.

"We are pleased to offer especially our customers in the U.S., France and the



Alexander Kohnen

Benelux countries even more attractive and faster transport solutions via our comprehensive Sameday Air network with the numerous direct connections," explains Alexander Kohnen, CEO of time:matters. "In particular in these challenging times with tight air freight capacities, we support our customers in the best possible way to maintain their supply chains."

Above all, customers from the aerospace, mechanical engineering, electronics and automotive industries, as well as from the life science sector, will benefit from the new fast direct connections between Paris and the USA.

## CargoFlash's revenue accounting solution passes IATA's PASS standards



**DELHI:** CargoFlash Infotech says its next-generation revenue accounting software, nGen CRA (Cargo Revenue Accounting) System is now compliant with PASS (Postal Accounts Settlement System) developed by the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

PASS provides a platform to enable the use of common standards and automate the large volumes of airlines' postal billings and settlements that are usually processed bilaterally and manually thus, leading to multiple discrepancies, inefficiencies and higher expenses.

Similarly, the nGen CRA System, by CargoFlash, minimises manual intervention and error, generating automated invoice and accounting. Both airlines and postal operators will benefit from these standardised processes and an automated industry platform will be established to assist billing and settlement of transactions.

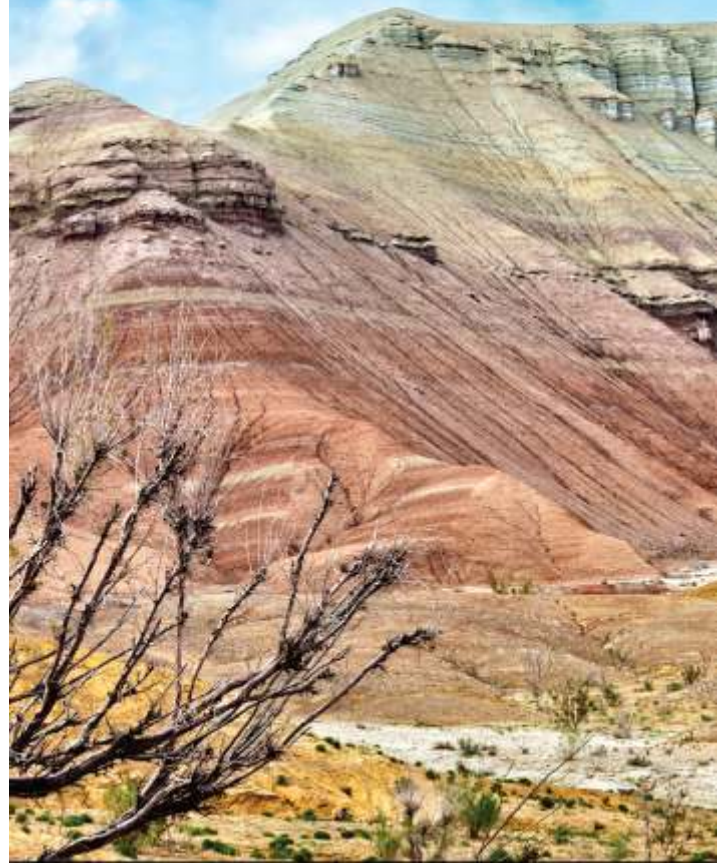
Through PASS, IATA has been working with the postal industry to find a solution for payments and discrepancies as PASS produces standard invoices to postal operators as well as automate invoicing and payment processes, facilitate the reconciliation process and enable online dispute resolution. Likewise, the next-generation Revenue Accounting system by Cargoflash integrates every accounting process and delivers real-time statistics. From invoicing to auditing, particulars are maintained accurately by nGen CRA System.

"PASS will allow direct collaborations between the airlines and postal companies, thus generating new business opportunities. Implementing the nGen CRA solution also plays a pivotal role in accurately establishing the revenue accounting by minimising invoice data error and preventing duplication. With postal (E-Commerce) services swelling, month-on-month, this compliance will be a great addition to our CRA module thus, giving us an edge for further development," said Lesley Cripps, Director-Sales, CargoFlash InfoTech.

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## DHL Global Forwarding, Freight says myDHLi online bookings up by 56%

**BONN, Germany:** DHL Global Forwarding Freight, the leading international freight specialist division of Deutsche Post DHL Group, announced it has added features and greater functionality for its digital customer platform myDHLi which posted a 56% growth on online bookings year-on-year.

It launched the new features of myDHLi, which include road transport via DHL Freight, save and edit option and new services, coinciding with the digital platform's first anniversary. The platform's global availability has been expanded from eight to 62 countries.

Online bookings and sales from myDHLi rose by +56% (yoy Q1/2020 to Q1/2021). To frame the success of speedy innovations along the digital transformation in logistics in general and myDHLi in particular, there will be an annual myDHLi Digital Summit, which was launched with the first event at the DHL Innovation Center in Troisdorf.

"For us, myDHLi translates digitalization into customer-centricity. That's why we put an enormous amount of work in the roll-out. Customers can easily book shipments through the platform that follows modern design principles while having full control



over the quotes through 360-degree visibility. By the end of 2020 we had 1,000 customers on the platform. Now, just four months later, we have reached a new high with 3,000 customers spread across 62 countries using myDHLi as of today," said Tim Scharwath, CEO Global Forwarding, Freight.

"In light of this successful launch to market, we will continue to expand the platform by adding more languages over time."

With a "customer first" approach, the Quote + Book functionality offers improved usability based on user behavior analysis and modern design principles. Customers can save at any point and resume later during offer validity.

"At the heart of myDHLi are the needs and experience of our customers," said Uwe Brinks, CEO DHL Freight. "In light of demand and feedback of the myDHLi users, we have decided to make myDHLi also available to our road freight customers, so they can benefit from the myDHLi features and services already available to our air and ocean freight customers."

All improvements to the platform follow defined guiding principles for the further development of myDHLi. This includes 360-degree visibility of shipments from start-to-finish, no matter which stage the shipment is at, a multi-channel approach, so that all information is available combined in one place, regardless of which channel a customer uses, and a signaling action process, so that customers can always see where to focus their attention.

Built-in popular social media features like Follow + Share simplify communications along the supply chain also enable customers to exchange information with their own clients, colleagues, and suppliers. Digitalization has always been a core business pillar of DHL Global Forwarding, Freight.

## 60,000 kilos of asparagus shipped to London as restaurants reopen

**HOUNSLOW:** AIG Cargo says it transported 59,249 kilos of asparagus to London Heathrow, between 11-19 April, as UK restaurants reopened for customers following many months of lockdown due to the pandemic.

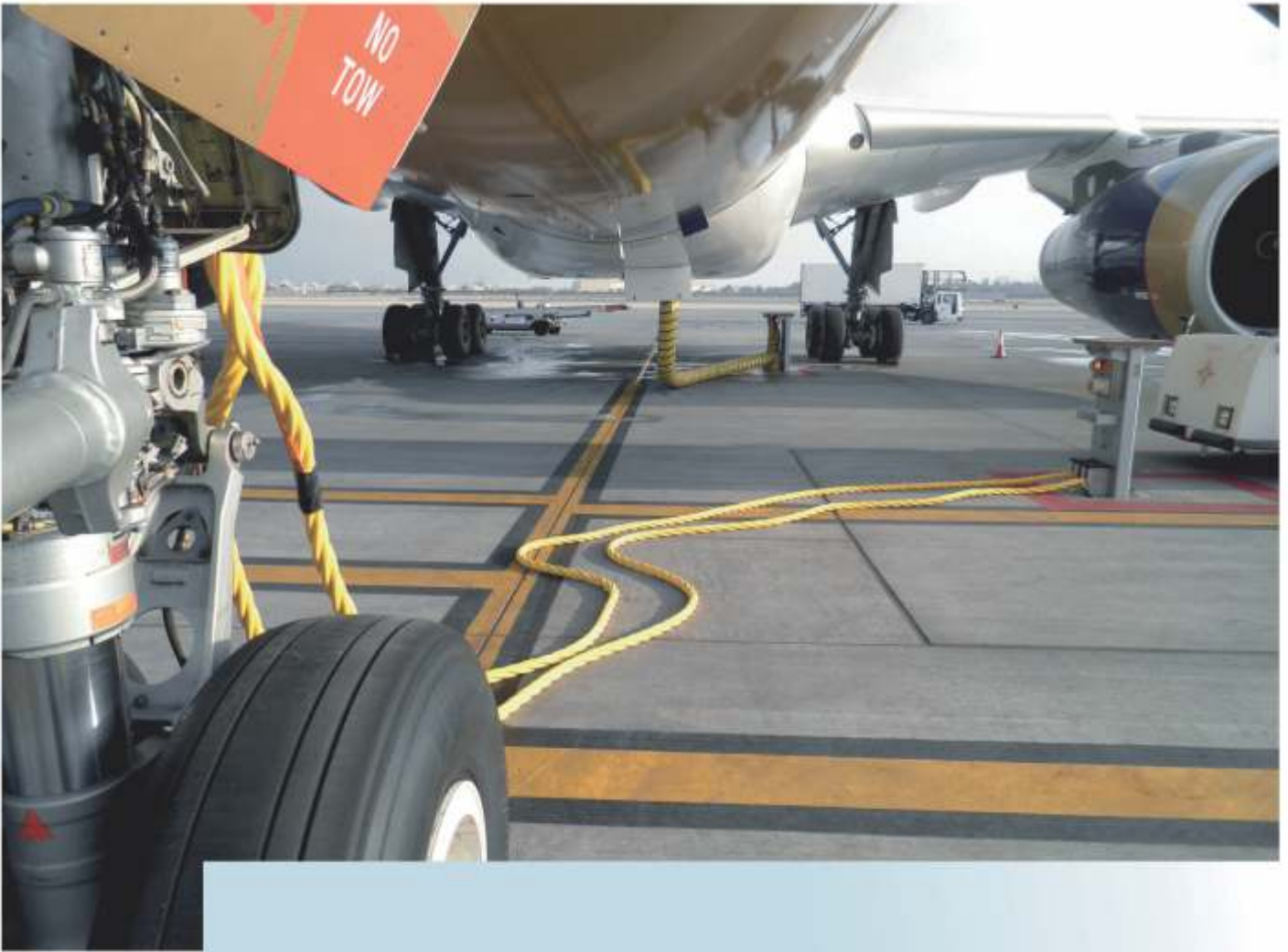
Between January to April this year, AIG also hauled 2,361 tons of asparagus between UK and Europe, up 86% compared to 1,270 tons shipped during the same period in 2020.

IAG Cargo's Priorities solution – its express solution (product) which offers the fastest publicized cut-off and delivery times of any air carrier – was used for many of the flights, highlighting the spike in demand for the vegetable and need for maximum freshness.

Madrid was another popular destination for asparagus during the period, with 1,282 tons delivered there. Again, IAG Cargo's dedicated Priorities facility came to the fore in providing a rapid service.

Overall, it is estimated that IAG Cargo has shipped 26.2 million servings of asparagus to date in 2021, a notable proportion of which was shipped via five charters dedicated to the vegetable\*.

"Every year IAG Cargo transports thousands of tons of food stuffs across the world, keeping varied and much-loved produce landing on restaurant plates and shop shelves. Due to unseasonably cold and wet weather in Europe, the recent surge in demand for asparagus has been met by producers in the United States and Latin America, with 43% of shipments coming in from Los Angeles Airport and 57% from Peru and Ecuador," said Pravin Singh, IAG Cargo Regional Commercial Manager for the Americas.



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## WFS wins ground handling contracts with 12 airlines in North America as aviation's Covid recovery gathers pace

**PARIS:** Worldwide Flight Services (WFS) has won ground-handling contracts with 12 airlines in North America, adding another 14,000 aircraft turns per annum to its growing operation in the region across 45 airports. All of the new contracts are for a three-year period.

"I want to congratulate our Senior Vice President Ground, Terry Trainor, and our entire ground handling team in North America for helping us gain these new contracts. Clearly, the airline industry and its suppliers have all suffered severe disruption over the past year, but these significant contract awards show positive signs of recovery, and we are ready to provide these airlines and their passengers with the highest standards



of service, safety and security at each of these locations across our network," said Mike Simpson, EVP Americas at WFS.

"During the spring break in March, we handled over 12,000 flights – almost on a par with the pre-Covid level – we are optimistic for a sustained recovery of the US aviation industry," he added.

WFS' ground handling network spans across 45 airports in North America and serves some 140,000 flights a year for more than 40 airline clients.

## CMA CGM Air Cargo expands commercial offer to Dubai, Beirut & Istanbul

**PARIS:** The CMA CGM Group, a world leader in shipping and logistics, is accelerating the development of CMA CGM AIR CARGO, its air freight division by adding three new destinations: Dubai, Beirut and Istanbul.

They will complement its existing Airbus A330-200F-operated services to and from Liège, Chicago, New York and Atlanta and bringing to seven its widening route network.

CMA CGM AIR CARGO launched regular connections between Liège (LGG) and Dubai (DWC) on May 19. Dubai is a hub ideally located at the crossroads between Europe, Asia and Africa, and it possesses all the latest infrastructure for handling goods requiring short transit times rapidly and reliably.

With its services to Dubai, the CMA CGM Group can also provide its customers with a combined Sea-Air offer comprising shipping, logistics and air freight. That will give them the benefit of an end-to-end, agile full-service offering.

"With the introduction of these three new destinations, CMA CGM AIR CARGO will be able to offer a broader range of services to meet our customers' needs. Strategically located at the crossroads between several continents, these new

destinations will help speed up CMA CGM AIR CARGO's development. As we demonstrated recently by shipping humanitarian relief from France to India, CMA CGM AIR CARGO enables the Group to deliver even more agile, full-service solutions to meet the most urgent needs," said Xavier Eiglier, Executive Vice President CMA CGM AIR CARGO.

**CMA CGM AIR CARGO also plans to start up regular services from Liège to Beirut (BEY) and Istanbul (IST) over the next few weeks. From its Liège base, CMA CGM AIR CARGO will offer rapid connection times between these new destinations and the United States.**

ECS Group, the world leader in commercial air freight services, will be in charge of selling capacity on CMA CGM AIR CARGO's services to all its destinations.

CMA CGM AIR CARGO represents a major new component of the CMA CGM Group in both operational and commercial terms. It is also a new milestone in the Group's strategic development, with the aim of providing Group customers with a complementary range of services covering both shipping and logistics.

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## Volga-Dnepr Group transports Sputnik V vaccines to Moldova, Mexico and India



**MOSCOW:** More than 25 tons of Russia's Sputnik V COVID-19 vaccines were transported aboard charter flights of Volga-Dnepr Group's carriers – AirBridgeCargo Airlines and ATRAN Airlines – to Kishinev (Moldova), Mexico City (Mexico) and Hyderabad (India).

The Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) in partnership with DHL Global Forwarding arranged the transportation of the vaccines shipped in less than two days through 144 thermo-containers as the countries struggle with the continued spread of the virus.

Tatyana Arslanova, Executive Operating Officer of Volga-Dnepr Group, said: "It is a great honour and responsibility to be entrusted with transportations of Sputnik V vaccines. All the flights have been organized in line with the current industry requirements and biosafety measures. Not only have we

been able to deliver several batches of vaccines lately but have also carried production lines which will upscale vaccine manufacture in various countries of the world."

The carriers within the Volga-Dnepr Group said they continue strengthening their expertise in vaccine and peripheral cargo transportations.

Apart from air freight delivery, the companies offer complex solutions covering documentation, road feeder services, packaging solutions for temperature-sensitive products, ground handling of special containers, multimodal logistics schemes and many other parts of cargo transportation.

## Air Cargo demand reaches all-time high in March



Willie Walsh

**GENEVA:** The International Air Transport Association (IATA) says air cargo demand in March reached an all-time high even outperforming pre-COVID levels with demand up 4.4%, the highest recorded since 1990.

IATA said global demand, measured in cargo tonne-kilometers (CTKs), was up 4.4% compared to March 2019 and 0.4% compared to February 2021. This was a slower rate of growth than the previous month, which saw demand increase 9.2% compared to February 2019. A weaker performance by Asia-Pacific and African carriers compared to February contributed to softer growth in March. Global capacity, measured in available cargo tonne-kilometers (ACTKs), continued to recover in March, up 5.6% compared to the previous month. Despite this, capacity remains 11.7% below pre-COVID-19 levels (March 2019) due to the ongoing grounding of passenger aircraft.

Airlines continue to use dedicated freighters to plug the lack of available belly-capacity. International capacity from dedicated freighters rose

20.6% in March 2021 compared to the same month in 2019 & belly-cargo capacity of passenger aircraft dropped by 38.4%.

IATA said demand for exports grew broadly in March. Delivery times for manufactured goods are increasing which normally indicates increased demand for air cargo in efforts to reduce shipping time.

"Air cargo continues to be the bright spot for aviation. Demand reached an all-time high in March, up 4.4% compared to pre-COVID levels (March, 2019). And airlines are taking all measures to find the needed capacity. The crisis has shown that air cargo can meet fundamental challenges by adopting innovations quickly. That is how it is meeting growing demand even as much of the passenger fleet remains grounded. The sector needs to retain this momentum post-crisis to drive the sector's long-term efficiency with digitalization," said Willie Walsh, IATA's Director General.





## Etihad Cargo expands partnership with Jettainer's new cool&fly service

these risks significantly. With their inhouse steering intelligence and global positioning network, rental trips including the positioning and return of cool ULDs can be optimized, resulting in a better availability of cool ULDs as well as cost savings for Etihad Cargo.

**FRANKFURT:** Jettainer, the global leader in unit load device (ULD) management services, has extended its long-standing management partnership with Etihad Cargo, the cargo and logistics arm of Etihad Aviation Group, to manage the carrier's cool containers.

Jettainer has managed and maintained the Abu Dhabi-based Etihad Cargo's ULD fleet since 2011. The companies expanded partnership kicked off on 1 May 2021.

Jettainer's cool&fly will further streamline Etihad Cargo's processes from ordering cool ULDs to global management and on-time delivery, leveraging additional efficiency gains from Jettainer's Temperature Control Competence Center within the airline's Abu Dhabi headquarters.

Beyond all standard containers and pallets, the steering of special containers, such as horse stalls, had already been added to the service offer. With cool&fly the scope has been extended once more.

Along with full cool ULD order management, steering and positioning, the global leader in ULD management also provides continuous monitoring and after-service management along the entire process.

The complex interaction between forwarders, shippers, airlines and container owners entails particular risks for highly sensitive cargo such as pharmaceuticals.

By controlling all interfaces from a single point, right at the heart of the United Arab Emirates' national carrier's operation, Jettainer says its ULDs minimize

"Jettainer has been an exceptionally reliable ULD management partner for Etihad Cargo for many years now. The expansion of the partnership delivers additional efficiency gains and cool&fly provides greater efficiency for the transportation of temperature-sensitive cargo which is especially paramount during the pandemic and in the long term. This plays a key role in the expansion plan of the PharmaLife and FreshForward product offering, ensuring customer satisfaction every step of the way," said Andre Blech, Director of Operations and Delivery at Etihad Cargo.

Thorsten Riekert, Jettainer's Chief Sales Officer, added: "The trust that our long-term partner has placed in us attests to our work and motivates us to continue offering outstanding services in the future too. With the efficient steering by our experienced team of experts in Abu Dhabi and by providing transparency across the entire supply chain, we fully support Etihad's growing cool-chain business and are able to offer significant additional value for our partner Etihad Cargo."

## Lufthansa Cargo acquires another Boeing 777F

**FRANKFURT:** Lufthansa Cargo says another brand-new Boeing 777F aircraft is being added to its highly efficient freighter fleet, bringing to 15 its total full-freighters for service to its customers before the end of this year.

"We are very pleased that we will be able to offer our customers additional freighter capacity in the future. The Corona crisis has impressively underlined how important these aircraft are for global supply," said Dorothea von Boxberg, Lufthansa Cargo's Chief Executive Officer.

The twin-engine Boeing 777F has a standard payload capacity of 103 metric tons with a range of more than 9,000 kilometers. It is the most efficient freighter in its class and significantly more silent



than previously operated three- or four-engine models.

Most recently, in March, Lufthansa Cargo announced the 14th aircraft of this type for fall 2021.



## Saudia Cargo to continue flying vital human organs for free

JEDDAH, KSA: Saudia Cargo will continue flying vital human organs to Saudi for free to help patients in and around the Kingdom and other Arab nations who need them to live.

The company has been at the forefront of this humanitarian and social mission since 2014 under its agreement with the Saudi Center for Organ Transplantation.

First called as the Jeddah Kidney Center, the transplantation center was established by Dr. Faissal Shaheen who currently sits as its director-general.

The center has done hundreds of kidney, liver heart, cornea, pancreas, lung and bone marrow transplants over the years.

Nabil Khojah, Saudia Cargo Chief Executive Officer, who signed the agreement on behalf of their company, assured dedicating all logistics available in transporting human organs in accordance with the international laws.



Saudia Cargo CEO Nabil Khojah, 4th left, with other executives from the center and the company.

Khojah said Saudia Cargo takes pride in its important role to carry sensitive human organs so that they can reach for Organ Transplantation Center to fulfill its noble mission.

He stressed that the company deals with sensitive cargo through its shipping services in accordance with international standards.

## Qatar Airways Cargo launches Pharma Express flights



DOHA, Qatar: Qatar Airways Cargo has launched additional Pharma Express flights from its hubs of Basel and Brussels to dedicated air cargo routes for pharmaceuticals. Basel and Brussels are two of the major pharmaceutical export hubs. "Air cargo is becoming increasingly sensitive and becoming a critical part of the supply chain. Our Pharma Express flights are designed to meet the needs of pharmaceutical companies and ensure the timely and safe delivery of their products."



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## Saudia Cargo kicks off 2x a week 'preighter' flights to Copenhagen

**JEDDAH:** Saudia Cargo kicked off, on Saturday 22 May 2021, its twice a week freighter flights using passenger planes to Denmark's capital Copenhagen, widening its route network in Scandinavia for pharmaceuticals and perishables.

Saudia Airlines B777-300 passenger planes with 140-ton payload capacity per flight are being utilized as "preighters" on the route scheduled for Wednesday and Saturday.

"We have seen a growing demand for air cargo in Denmark, Sweden and Norway. And we believe that Copenhagen, as a central location in the Scandinavian region, is an ideal route to capture business from all these countries," said Saudia Cargo Chief Cargo Officer Teddy Zebitz, himself a Danish. "For Denmark and Sweden, we're focusing on pharmaceuticals while in Norway, we're looking at transporting perishables like Salmon which the country is very well known for."

Delighted with the launch of the flights on the new route, Zebitz added: "Saudia Cargo is here to reconnect the world. Our freighters stand ready to timely and efficiently transport supplies to Copenhagen and between Scandinavia. Saudia Cargo's wide network across the Middle East, Africa and Asia, China and India in particular, will get the job done, help businesses rebound and save lives in this pandemic."

The new flights are seen to boost Scandinavia's import and export business amid continuing global recovery efforts in the post-pandemic era.

Saudi Arabia and Europe have robust bilateral trade relations boosted by regular cargo and passenger flights between them. Elsewhere in the Middle East, Europe is also highly valued for its pharmaceutical products, medicines, cars and trucks, tech products, machineries and equipment, food, among many other things.



Commenting on Saudia Cargo's new flights to Denmark's capital, Saudia Cargo Director Kenneth Fuhrmann, said, "We hope these new flights will yield to better business between the destinations and create more opportunities. Air cargo facilitates one-third of the global trade and we, at Saudia Cargo, take our role in transporting goods across the world very seriously. We will do the job safely and efficiently."

Copenhagen Airport quickly welcomed the news saying this is the first commercial flight from Saudia Cargo to the route and expressed hope that passenger flights will soon follow once restrictions are lifted.

"This is in fact the first commercial flight that Saudia Cargo is operating to and from Copenhagen and Denmark. With two weekly departures, we will not only be able to give the Danish market a good and quick connection to Saudi Arabia, but also to several international connections from Riyadh and Jeddah," said Johan Toreheim, Managing Director at Euro Cargo Aviation, the company's GSSA in Scandinavia.

## Europe to Europe ATRAN can now transport live animals in Europe



**MOSCOW:** Volga-Dnepr Group's express cargo carrier, ATRAN Airlines, has been issued the European AVI certificate allowing it to deliver live animals to, from and across Europe.

The certificate, valid through 2026, has been granted after a successful certification process that covered preparation and submission of

respective documents and acknowledgement of competence in live animals' air transportations in line with IATA LAR (Live Animals Regulations) and European Council Regulation (EC) 01/2005 dated December 22, 2004, Volga-Dnepr Group said.

"Transportation of live animals is a very delicate and responsible multi-facet process which should be handled only by authorized and trust-worthy stakeholders. With IATA LAR trained personnel, a joint experience which we share with Volga-Dnepr and AirBridgeCargo colleagues and a capable fleet of freighters we are ready to organize dedicated transportations of various kinds of animals, concentrating mostly on day-old chicks and horses right now," said Vitaliy Andreev, General Director of ATRAN Airlines.

ATRAN has been entrusted with live animals' transportations before, with the delivery of Przewalski's horses to Russia back in 2016 being one of the most significant ones.

Previously handling such requests through one-time permission, the company will now be able to process charter or scheduled request faster, thus, optimizing the whole process.

The company is set to support the AVI market with its fleet of Boeing 737 freighter which has just been enlarged with an additional Boeing 737-800BCF. Its technical capabilities powered by competence and experience will enable ATRAN to offer more solutions for its customers.



## Etiihad Rail teams up with Transportr to develop integrated digital logistics services

**ABU DHABI:** Etiihad Rail, the developer and operator of the UAE's national railway network, announced it has signed an agreement with Transportr, a leading company in digital freight services, primarily to streamline services in the country's logistics sector.

Their agreement yields to digital solutions such as ebooking, tracking, and multi-modal connectivity, providing a complete digital rail freight solution that complements Etiihad Rail's convenient and efficient digital services.

Ahmed Al Hashemi, Executive Director - Commercial at Etiihad Rail, said, "Our collaboration with Transportr falls in line with our wider aim of providing customers with smart technologies that enable a resilient and cost-effective supply chain. Through implementing international best practice in designing new digital solutions, we are reducing transport and storage costs, improving supply chain resilience, and providing future customers with seamless freight transport."

Alaa Hawari, General Manager of Transportr, added, "We are thrilled to be partnering with Etiihad Rail. The company's investment in its digital solutions is demonstrative of its wider holistic approach to implementing international best practice across the construction of the UAE's National Rail Network. This infrastructure will connect key centres of industry with urban and rural communities, sustaining trade, boosting national development, and delivering faster, safer, and more reliable services for businesses."

**Transportr**  **ETIHAD RAIL**

**Etiihad Rail collaborates with Transportr to develop integrated digital logistics services.**

Key benefits include:

-  **Complete digital rail** freight solution
-  **Reducing** transport and storage costs
-  **Improving** supply chain resilience
-  **Seamless freight transport** for future customers

The cooperation comes as part of Etiihad Rail's long-term digital innovation strategy in advancing cutting-edge technology for the rail sector, alongside the company's commitment to the UAE's digitization agenda.

## DSV Panalpina to acquire Agility's Global Integrated Logistics Business

**DUBAI:** Leading global logistics firm DSV Panalpina will acquire Agility's Global Integrated Logistics Business (GIL) under an all-share agreement deal between parties set to be concluded in the third quarter of 2021.

With which, Agility will become the second largest shareholder in DSV Panalpina with an approximate 8% stake in the combined company.

**The all-share transaction between the firms sets the following: DSV will issue 19,304,348 shares, representing approximately 8.0% of all post-transaction outstanding shares of DSV. Based on the DSV share closing price of DKK 1,299.5, and an exchange rate of DKK 1.00 = USD 0.163 and KWD = 0.049, the all-share transaction has an implied equity value of GIL of USD 4.1 billion (KWD 1.2 billion).**

The combination of DSV and GIL will fortify DSV's position as a leading global transport and logistics company with a combined pro forma revenue of approximately USD 22 billion and a combined workforce of more than 70,000 employees.

"This deal creates significant shareholder value and marks a new milestone in Agility's journey. Agility remains committed to the supply chain industry, and will become the second largest shareholder in one of the fastest-growing and most profitable logistics companies in the world," said Tarek Sultan, Agility's Vice-Chairman.

He added: "Agility will be exploring opportunities between DSV and its other businesses, with promising areas of future cooperation potentially including Agility's Logistics Parks business, Shipa group of companies, and technology ventures. Agility will remain an emerging markets leader, investor in emerging technologies, and champion of sustainable business."

Jens Bjørn Andersen, Group CEO of DSV,

said: "Agility's Global Integrated Logistics business and DSV are an excellent match, and we are proud that we can announce our agreement to unite. The combination of our two global networks will provide us with the opportunity to offer our customers an even higher service level."

"GIL's global network, industry competencies and strong market position in APAC and the Middle East complement DSV's network well and will support our long-term value creation ambitions. Our two groups of companies already share a culture of entrepreneurship and local ownership, and we look forward to welcoming GIL's talented staff to DSV," he added.

At completion, DSV will acquire 100% of GIL in consideration for issuing 19,304,348 new shares of 1 DKK/share to Agility. This will represent approximately [8.0] % of all post-transaction outstanding shares of DSV. The share issue will be according to existing authorisations given to DSV's Board of Directors.

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# Tech-driven

## airports to redefine future of aviation

By Gemma Q. Casas

**A**fter more than a year of forced shutdown due to the pandemic, airlines have resumed operations and borders across the world have reopened thanks to the roll-out of various COVID-19 vaccines despite the many logistical and financial challenges in equitably distributing them.

Travel between countries and borders are slowly picking up and airports and smart technologies are key to sustaining the momentum and the future of the global aviation industry.

Worldwide, passenger traffic dropped by more than 76% on average during the pandemic while other more severely affected areas saw it plunged by over 90% with all airlines forced to shut down.

With social distancing and contactless activities now the new normal, airports have to fast-track the adoption and implementation of automated biometric contactless technologies such as facial recognition and e-gates.

### *Smart technology will define future airports*

At the recently concluded three-day 20th edition of Airport Show Hybrid+, the largest post-pandemic gathering for the aviation industry held in Dubai and the world's largest B2B airport industry exhibition, officials and experts underscored the importance of smart technologies in keeping global travel alive.

Major General Khalifa Ibrahim Al Saleis, Chief Executive Officer, Security Industry Regulatory Agency (SIRA), said there will be no place for traditional airports to operate without advanced and smart technologies in the future stressing the necessity for airports of the future to enhance security and facilities enabled with smart devices.

Delivering the keynote speech on Future Technologies Enhancing Airport Security at the Global Airport Leaders Forum (GALF) co-located at Dubai's Airport Show 2021, he said Dubai airports welcomed 89.1 million travelers in 2019 out of the 8.8 billion people who traveled during the period.



The global trade body Airports Council International (ACI) estimate the number of travelers to reach 19.7 billion by 2040 which will require more simplified travel procedures while maintaining safety and security for all passengers and airports.

"We all know that security emigration and health check procedures which make long hours of delay are necessary and cannot be avoided. Smart airports are the future of air travel because of the smart devices provided to reduce waiting queue, waiting time, reduction in queue for passport control, security check and at duty-free and other outlets," Major Al Saleis said.

"Smart counters resulted in reducing waiting time, waiting queues, waiting time for passport control, security check, and duty-free and other outlets. In 2018 and 2019, it was recorded that 78 percent users of these services were economy class passengers, which helped avoid crowding and reduction in waiting time at the terminal. The use of smart phone application for travel procedure, such as printing boarding pass, advance ticket booking, reduced the waiting time at the airports achieved social distancing," he added.

He said the use of advance technology, smartgate and smart tunnel, introduction of digital passport supported by biometric technology speed up the travel procedure. The use of smartgate at Dubai airport reduced the time for completing travel procedures at the immigration and passport control to 15 seconds. While smart tunnel reduced the process by 9 seconds.

The digitalization of visa and certificates using blockchain technology and digital encryption makes it very difficult to tamper with the documents, especially when it is linked with biometric and fingerprint identification technology, Major Al Saleis noted.

Across the world, contactless technology is defining passenger experience at an increasing number of airports across.

### **The global smart airport market size is expected to reach about US\$26 billion by 2025, according to a research study and it is projected to reach US\$232.88 billion by 2027.**

About 97 percent of airlines are working on mobile applications as all essential customer services become contactless. Automated biometric boarding gates are considered a priority by 58 percent of airlines, and are a focus of 64 percent of airports for both border checks and flight boarding.

Biometrics remain the focus for investment with 64 percent of airports aiming to roll out self-boarding gates using biometric and ID documentation by 2023 as well as touchless technology.

Touchless technology will help minimize the spread of viruses and reduce the interaction between passengers and staff through contactless check-in, security processes, inflight entertainment and food and beverage pre-ordering.

Essentials for travel now include contactless kiosks, Passenger Reconciliation System (PRS), contactless payments at the airport and mobile apps.

#### ***New fast-track passport control service in Dubai***

Major General Mohammed Ahmed Al Marri, Director General, General Directorate of Residency & Foreign Affairs - Dubai (GDRFA-D), credited the wise leadership of the UAE government for its proactive approach and foresight in enhancing public service through innovation and smart technologies.

"Recently, we launched a new fast-track passport control service that uses face and iris-recognition technologies. The new biometric systems deployed at 122 smart gates at arrival and departure terminals in Dubai airports enable passengers to complete passport control procedures between 5 and 9 seconds depending on the movement and steps of the passenger. This system contributed to enhancing travelers' confidence in the emirate, as

About 97 percent of airlines are working on mobile applications as all essential customer services become contactless.

Automated biometric boarding gates are considered a priority by 58 percent of airlines, and are a focus of 64 percent of airports for both border checks and flight boarding.

Biometrics remain the focus for investment with 64 percent of airports aiming to roll out self-boarding gates using biometric and ID documentation by 2023 as well as touchless technology.



such precautionary measures in light of the pandemic formed a safety umbrella for them," Gen. Al Marri said.

He highlighted the UAE's efforts in protecting and securing all its ports of entry while providing an exceptional seamless experience for travelers.

"Without the determination of the UAE's wise leadership and its continuous endeavor to establish the country's leadership in providing happiness and security for all, it would not have been possible. Today's aviation sector today is considered one of the most critical sectors that achieved a quantum leap over the past years, as it is considered a major engine for economic growth in the world," he said.

Dubai is anticipating to welcome more tourists this year as the UAE hosts Expo 2020 Dubai, the first global expo to be held in the Middle East and North Africa, which will run from 01 October 2021 to 31 March 2022.

Gen. Al Marri assured Dubai is fully prepared to welcome visitors intending to participate in Expo 2020 Dubai, saying, "We assure everyone that Dubai is fully prepared and ready to receive visitors to the Expo in October this year...We at the GRDFA Dubai are working to provide all facilities for issuing visas and residency stamping for international participants and exhibitors in Expo 2020 Dubai and giving everything that contributes to the success of this event in cooperation with all concerned parties."

### **2021: Year of Transition**

UAE General Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA) Director General Saif Al Suwaidi said signs are pointing to a significant air travel demand in the second half of 2021 and sustainable recovery in air operations.

"I am confident that together we will continue our efforts to make 2021 to be a year of transition for sustainable recovery and growth. Today, despite the catastrophe and the vaccination rollout and increase in supply of vaccines globally more passengers are expected to return to travel and the UAE expects even more," said Al Suwaidi in his welcome address at the Air Traffic Control (ATC) Forum and Global Airport Leaders Forum (GALF) co-located with the three-day Airport Show 2021 in Dubai.

In 2019, the UAE contributed to around 2.2% (in top 30 countries) in terms of worldwide international flights despite its small population. The country was also heavily relied on by other nations in transporting goods between continents through its robust logistics and air cargo industries.

Al Suwaidi noted the UAE immediately communicated with airports and airlines and formed several internal and national bodies to adjust and adopt safety certification to maintain an acceptable safety and security standards and support the global aviation industry.



"On the aviation safety and security front we have adapted publishing and adopting an unprecedented facilities and provisions and techniques to ensure continuity of services to maintain safe operation of our aircraft, airports and air navigation infrastructure," he said. "From the time the total suspension of the non-essential operations was started in March 2020, we have started working and planning for the recovery during the peak of the pandemic."

Ismaeil Al Balooshi, Assistant Director General Aviation Safety Affairs, UAE GCAA, said the UAE community is back to normalcy thanks to an effective vaccination strategy.

"Retail and recreation is an indicator for community normalization. Our recovery will be surging when other states will open up with the UAE, and we are all eyeing at normalcy for 2021. Countries have opened their borders, but with more entry conditions. It is a hopeful situation towards recovery," he noted.

### **Stronger Together**

His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President of Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, Chairman of Dubai Airports and Chairman and Chief Executive of Emirates Airline and Group, who opened the 20th edition of the Airport Show said, "The aviation industry has a history of successfully bouncing back from crises and the Covid-19 pandemic is no different. The setback is temporary and we will again be on the tracks of transformation. The overwhelming response to the Airport Show is an indication of the aviation world's strong confidence in Dubai and its global efforts."

Like the previous editions, the Airport Show 2021 has three co-located events: Global Airport Leaders Forum (GALF), Airport Security Middle East, Air Traffic Control (ATC) Forum along with and the Women in Aviation (WIA) General Assembly.





The event welcomed the participation of more than 95 exhibitors from 21 countries, 100-plus Hosted Buyers from over 20 countries and 36 exhibitors at five country pavilions by Switzerland, Germany, Italy, France and the UK.

The event's organizer, Reed Exhibitions, said the numbers are overwhelming given the prevailing travel restrictions across the globe following the 21st century's second pandemic and the massive impact it has on the airports and airlines businesses on the planet.

Adding, the response to the Airport Show is a clear indication of a possible journey of the aviation industry on the road to recovery and its unfaltering confidence and tremendous efforts to revive and restore the lost business levels and the growth momentum.

France's Pavilion had 10 companies participating highlighting innovations and smart solutions in technologies. Before the pandemic, the French airport sector has a turnover of €63.5 billion globally. In France alone the sector consists of 530 companies employing about 100,000 people.

Italy's pavilion was the largest at the event with 24 companies participating through the collaboration of the Italian Trade Agency (ITA), the Embassy of Italy to the United Arab Emirates and the Employers' Association for Italian engineering, architectural and technical economic consulting organizations (OICE).

Amedeo Scarpa, ICE Director, Dubai, described the UAE and Italy's bilateral trade relations as robust and expressed hope for brighter prospects in the future.

"The fact that trade fairs have resumed, and that Italy has more exhibitors than any other country this week, is an immensely important sign. The construction and infrastructure sectors have always played a fundamental part in Dubai's market, and the UAE's," said Scarpa.

"Across the public and private sector, there are over 30,000 active projects, and as the country has already launched into its post-pandemic phase, it's an honour to initiate direct channels of communication with Emirati contractors and foster collaborations with Italian companies, including small and medium-sized ones in the fields of design, engineering, construction and software services, that are connected to activation and operation airport hubs in the UAE. Working with the vital support of our Embassy and the Consulate General, the ICE is hoping to reactivate these business channels," he added.

Italy's Ambassador to the UAE, Nicola Lener, said: "The partnership

established between the OICE and ICE at the Airport Show Hybrid+ 2021 further confirms how vital internationalisation is within the engineering, architecture and technical-economic consultancy. As a highly strategic sector, it completely directs and activates the entire Italian chain of infrastructures and related services."

### Hope and Optimism

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) forecasts some 2.8 billion people to travel this year with the opening of the borders.

IATA, which represents 290 airlines accounting for over 82 percent of the total global air traffic, says people have not lost their desire to travel, and that travel has returned to its near-normal levels in several places where the travel restrictions have been removed. It had been earlier expected that the Arabian Gulf airports would handle 450 million passengers annually once travel returns to its previous levels.

Key decision-makers from major airports in the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia (MENASA) have come to the Show in search of exploring and acquiring the newest products and services for their facilities for enhancing and safer passenger facilitation.

"There have been strong positive signs of recovery all over the world. Hopefully, 2021 will be a better year for the aviation/airport industry. The new standard for services at the airport will be seamless and contactless. The aviation industry will regain the lost momentum soon, especially in Dubai which is always ready to overcome all type of challenges. emaratech is showcasing this year a complete paperless/seamless experience to ease the passenger's journey towards a safe flight and circulation within the airport," said Thani Alzaffin, Group CEO, emaratech.

Ali Salim Al Midfa, Chairman of Sharjah International Airport Authority, said expects gradual return in the aviation industry in the region after experiencing exceptionally challenging times due to the Covid-19 pandemic. He called for the strengthening of communication and cooperation in the industry to share plans and ideas and learn about the newest technologies.

IATA continues to urge governments to make data-driven decisions to manage the risks of COVID-19 when reopening borders to international travel. Strategies without quarantine measures can enable international travel to restart with a low risk of introduction of COVID-19 to the travel destination, it noted.

"Data can and should drive policies on restarting global travel that manage COVID-19 risks to protect populations, revive livelihoods and boost economies. We call on the G7 governments meeting later this month to agree on the use of data to safely plan and coordinate the return of the freedom to travel which is so important to people, livelihoods and businesses," said Willie Walsh, IATA's Director General.

IATA had since teamed-up with Airbus and Boeing to demonstrate potential methodologies to manage the risks of COVID-19 to keep populations safe while restarting global connectivity. Aviation, including manufacturers, effectively manages and mitigates risk every day to keep air travel safe. Using these skills, Airbus and Boeing have developed data-driven risk-management models to understand the impact of various options.



# Qatar Airways Cargo creates a movement to 'rewild' the planet



Transporting wild animals back to their natural environment for free at the request of wildlife protection bodies is a promise made by Qatar Airways Cargo as part of its “Rewild the Planet” initiative under Chapter 2 of the airline’s WeQare sustainability program, de Bruijn further explained.

**T**he earth has been around for more than 4.5 billion years. Alongside its human population of over 7.9 billion are tens of billions of animals and plants that co-exist with each other for better or worse.

**Scientists estimate the world to have more than 8.7 million species of animals and plants. But nearly just 2 million of them have been identified and it could take a thousand years to catalogue them all.**

Yet despite this reality, about a million of these species are threatened with extinction within the next few decades mainly due to human activities.

And nowhere is this more apparent than among wild animals. We're seeing more and more of them getting extinct – Bengal and other species of tigers, white rhinoceros, elephants, black rhinoceros, beluga whales, dolphins, etc.— with the rapid loss of their habitat across continents, poaching, climate change, among other issues.

Join the Rewild Initiative

Kirsten de Bruijn, Senior Vice President Cargo Sales & Network Planning at Qatar Airways Cargo, said wildlife extinction is a global issue that needs a strong collaboration among airlines, cause-oriented organizations, governments and other stakeholders to become successful.

"Wildlife extinction is a serious issue confronting us today. There's a need for us to repopulate the world with wildlife and plants. They are vital to the health of our planet," de Bruijn told Air Cargo Update in a video interview. "We are inviting other airlines to join Qatar Airways Cargo's "Rewild the Planet" initiative. We need their help in saving wild animals



from extinction. We are creating a movement."

Transporting wild animals back to their natural environment for free at the request of wildlife protection bodies is a promise made by Qatar Airways Cargo as part of its "Rewild the Planet" initiative under Chapter 2 of the airline's WeQare sustainability program, de Bruijn further explained.

In April, Qatar Airways Cargo flew for free seven lions rescued by the Ukraine-based NGO Warriors of Wildlife to nature reserves in South Africa where they are now free and well cared for.

It took the airline six months of hard work to do the job, involving more than 50 staff from different departments.

The Kouga and Swinburne nature reserves in South Africa welcomed three lions, one lioness and three cubs on April 29. This involved a three-day trip from Kiev to Doha and Johannesburg so that the lions could walk on grass for the first time in their lives. All are in good health.

**Transporting wild animals requires close cooperation between the specific services involved within Qatar Airways Cargo and the NGO staff. The NGO staff looks after the animals' well-being during the entire journey. Handlers from the Qatar Airways Cargo's Live Animals facility are present at every stage. Naturally, the NGO was authorized to stay with the lions in special holding areas to maintain a constant link with them.**

These lions have lived in captivity for years. They will never be able to adapt in the wild. They will spend the next few months in a protected area in which they will simply learn to explore nature. They will then be transferred to a much larger nature reserve where they will be protected and taken care of for the rest of their lives.

WeQare

De Bruijn said Qatar Airways Cargo is deeply committed to the Rewild the Planet initiative and assured that animal rescue NGOs are welcome to seek the airline's assistance.

Transporting rescued wild animals require specialized logistics apart from the high costs involved in caring for them while being airlifted to different sanctuaries. Thankfully, Qatar Airways Cargo's WeQare program, takes care of these.

One of the leading global brands in air cargo, Qatar Airways Cargo is also well known for transporting live animals through its specialized QR Live product.

The airline has a state-of-the-art live animal facility at its hub at Hamad International Airport in Qatar's capital Doha to adequately care for every species of live animals it transports.

"We have 4,200 square meters of air-conditioned live animal facility in Doha. We also have a dedicated team of animal specialists who are on call 24/7," said de Bruijn. "We have dedicated holding areas for different types of animals. We have stalls for horses and kennels for pets."

Indeed, Qatar Airways Cargo has built a sturdy system and infrastructure to protect every species in its care whether on land or on air.



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## Rewind: SwissWorld Cargo's multi logistics & cargo solutions

Air Cargo Update took a bold step to enter this niche publication more than 20 years ago. It was a remarkable journey of ups and downs as the air cargo industry swung back and forth to the demands of the day punctuated by today's unforeseen Coronavirus pandemic impact.

To mark our historic journey, we'll bring you some of our best features from the past, the movers and shakers of airfreight, their insights and decisions that shaped the industry.

In this edition, we'll share with you our interview with Ashwin Bhat, then the head of SwissWorld Cargo, who extensively spoke about the company's comprehensive logistics and cargo solutions, carrying the goods the Swiss way.



# Swiss Carrying c



Ashwin Bhat  
Head of Swiss WorldCargo

# WorldCargo - Cargo the Swiss way

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Swiss WorldCargo, the airfreight division of Swiss International Air Lines (SWISS), offers a comprehensive range of logistics solutions for transporting high-value and care-intensive consignments to more than 130 destinations in over 80 countries. Headquartered at Zurich Airport, Swiss WorldCargo has been widely touted as a reliable and innovative service provider within the Lufthansa Group. Founded in 2002, Swiss International Air Lines created its airfreight division Swiss WorldCargo the same year.

The Zurich-based airline appointed Mr. Ashwin Bhat as its head of cargo division in October 2015. A veteran in the air cargo industry, Mr. Bhat, an Indian national had joined the Swiss in 1999. Ever since, he had donned several roles within the company, including being the head of Area Management for Asia, Middle East and Africa in 2010.

We spoke to Ashwin Bhat on an array of topics. Excerpts from an interview:

**Which are the main regions and countries you provide freighter services to? Are you looking to foray into newer**



**regions in the near future?**

Swiss WorldCargo does not provide full freighter services; as the air cargo division of Swiss International Air Lines, our focus is to market the belly hold capacity of the SWISS fleet. The freight segment is very important to SWISS; in fact, it is only the co-loaded cargo that makes the operation of wide body aircraft really profitable.

We offer a comprehensive range of logistics solutions for transporting high-value and care-intensive consignments to some 130 destinations in over 80 countries. Our extensive network of air cargo services is supplemented by daily truck connections between key business centres.

**Swiss WorldCargo recently took delivery of the first of its nine new Boeing 777-300ER aircraft. How will this provide improved airfreight services and enhanced environmental performance on the long-haul operations. When do you expect delivery of the remaining aircraft?**

The new long-haul twinjet will enable us to offer more of our high quality quality airfreight services between Zurich hub





COVER STORY

and destinations such as New York JFK, Hong Kong, Montreal, Los Angeles, Bangkok, São Paulo, San Francisco and Tel Aviv (see deployment plan below).

The routes on which we are first deploying the Boeing 777-300ER have a very high load factor, so we are increasing the freight capacity of a fully-occupied passenger flight to almost 24 t (+15%). But weight is not the only key factor in airfreight operations, so we have also placed particular emphasis on the configuration of the cargo hold. Compartments 1 and 2 are temperature-controlled – which makes the B777 precisely the aircraft we want.

The youngest – and biggest – member of the SWISS fleet won't just extend our service offer to our customers: it will also enhance the environmental performance of our long-haul operations, as it produces substantially lower carbon emissions and is impressively low-noise.

The first of the nine aircraft which will be deployed in the SWISS fleet in 2016-17 was delivered at Zurich on 29th January; the first intercontinental cargo operations took place on 21 January on flight LX14 from Zurich to New York JFK.

**The B77W at a glance**

- 9 new Boeing 777-300ER aircraft in the SWISS fleet
- 6 more in 2016, 3 more in 2017/2018
- A bigger belly hold: 24,5t of cargo capacity
- A wider range: 14,490 km with maximum payload
- More respect for the environment: Reduced CO2 emissions and noise

| REG    | DELIVERY   | IN OPERATION |
|--------|------------|--------------|
| HB-JNA | 29.01.2016 | 21.02.2016   |
| HB-JNB | March      | 29.03.2013   |
| HB-JNC | April      | 27.04.2016   |
| HB-JND | May        |              |
|        | June       | 29.05.2016   |
| HB-JNE |            | 27.06.2016   |
| HB-JNF | July       | 26.07.2016   |

**Swiss WorldCargo has just taken the lead in IATA's e-AWB 360 campaign to speed up process implementation of switching to electronic air waybills (e-AWB) to all destinations and customers at numerous airports using the 'single process' concept. Elaborate on the same.**

Swiss WorldCargo is fully committed to making the e-AWB a success. And this commitment is underlined by our participation in the e-AWB 360 campaign. As envisaged under the campaign promoted by IATA to accelerate process implementation, the new e-AWB, using the 'Single Process' approach is offered to all destinations and to all customers at a number of airports



Amsterdam Schiphol (AMS) became the first such 'e-airport' on 1 January, joined by Paris (CDG) on 1 February, and by Zurich (ZRH), Dubai (DXB), Singapore (SIN), London (LHR) and Milan (MXP and SWK) on 1 March. Additional key airports will follow in subsequent months.

At Swiss WorldCargo we have a holistic approach when it comes to paperless cargo and we work extensively with regulators, freight forwarders, ground handling agents and other key stakeholders worldwide to achieve a paperless and more secure supply chain: In Zurich, for instance, we were the first airline to adopt the eCSD 'Electronic Consignment Security Declarations' which complements the paperless acceptance of air cargo.





**Do you operate On Board Courier (OBC) services?**

Since 2014, we have been offering an OBC service in cooperation with global on board courier specialist Chapman Freeborn.

**Elaborate on the understanding Swiss WorldCargo shares with Lufthansa Group in terms of providing quality airfreight services to its customers**

As an integral part of Swiss International Airlines and thereby the LH group, we have a very collaborative relationship with other group companies. Each of us brings our unique vision, strategy and strength, which we use to learn and benchmark in order to continuously improve our services to our customers.

**As a European carrier, how much of competition do you face from the Gulf region carriers?**

As with others in this industry, we face our share of competition from carriers from different regions in the world, not just the Gulf carriers.

**What are the company's growth strategies for the coming years?**

As stated earlier, 2016 and 2017 will see a growth in the range of 10 to 15% due to integration of 777 a/c's into our fleet. In addition to the capacity growth, we are also working on further enhancing our service and product portfolio. Even in a sluggish market environment, there are segments which show growth and where we believe Swiss WorldCargo capabilities and offering will be appreciated e.g. pharma and life science segment.

Airfreight is a people's business and one of the factors where we will continue differentiating to its competition is through the people aspect. Swiss WorldCargo has defined that one of our key strategic success factors is going to be the people; we will be investing in further developing the skills and knowledge of our teams in order to further improve our engagement with our customers.

**How will you rate Swiss WorldCargo's achievements ever since you took over on October 1, 2015. Any new product innovations introduced worth mentioning?**

It would not be appropriate to judge one owns performance and achievements; hence I would let our customers and staff judge and issue my report card. Regarding product innovation as stated earlier, a number of plans, which we would communicate in the months ahead.

**What are your future projections for the air cargo industry?**

2016 is continuing where 2015 ended. The uncertainty and sluggish market conditions will continue where capacity will outgrow demand.



# MAN introduces EcoStyle:

## A new telematics solution suite for customers in MEA region

EcoStyle combines powerful technology to help customers  
enhance their earnings and savings by as much as 15%





MAN Truck & Bus unveiled this year its powerful enterprise grade telematics solution for customers in the Middle East-Africa (MEA) region—EcoStyle.

With dynamic solution suite, MAN says EcoStyle is designed to support improved levels of fleet efficiency & safety, and reduce environmental impact. This model has been fine-tuned through millions of hours in service, and combines powerful technology to help customers enhance their earnings.

MAN said the introduction of this solution is part of its digitalisation initiatives that provide customers with key operational information, allowing them to monitor fuel consumption, driver performance, and much more.

Dashboards provide full visibility of the information that matters at a glance, or users can delve deeper through a rich suite of reports and views.

“Over the years, MAN vehicles have become reference for reliability and efficiency. However, our customers are constantly looking at ways to achieve greater operational efficiency with the aim to increase their earnings. With the MAN EcoStyle, we are confident that customers will get to gain more from their vehicles,” said Joerg Mommertz, Senior Vice President, Head of Sales Area Middle East, Africa & Latin America (MEA&LA), MAN Truck & Bus.

MAN Truck & Bus says it has partnered with Microlise, a UK-based company that has developed and tested this solution suite.

EcoStyle lets customers track their vehicles in real-time. This has been enabled by integrating with Google Maps. Customers can get detailed information about each vehicle in their fleet and get street level view.

Noel Macaron, Head of Truck Sales, Sales Area MEA&LA, MAN Truck & Bus, said, “The attractive proposition is that MAN EcoStyle can be purchased for new man vehicles or even retro-fitted to existing ones. This telematics solution can help customers gain significant advantage in their business.”

Through monitoring, debrief and regular coaching in good driving practice, customers can realise savings of 5% to 15% in fuel costs within their fleet. Information such as harsh cornering, speeding and harsh braking can be monitored, giving customers the data that they can use to coach their drivers in best practice. In addition, improved utilisation can help to improve fuel efficiency still further.

**The Sales Area Middle East, Africa and Latin America is geographically and economically the most heterogeneous and most challenging Sales Area. Through its offices in Munich and Dubai, the Sales Area supports 31 importer partners and customers spread over 72 countries in four continents. It also includes the NSC in South Africa and eight CKD production sites. Sales Area MEA&LA is working to establish MAN as a leading and reliable partner in the commercial vehicle business.**



# Volta Zero to debut in Germany this month



Following the German roadshow, the full-electric Volta Zero will make its global public debut at the Innovation and Technology in Logistics live event, ITT Hub, at Farnborough International Exhibition Centre in the UK from 30 June to 1 July.



Volta Trucks, a start-up full-electric goods vehicle manufacturer and services company, announced the world's first purpose-built full electric 16-ton commercial vehicle known as Volta Zero will make its customer debut in Munich and Frankfurt, Germany from 14-25 June 2021.

Earlier, the company announced Volta Zero's debut in Italy. This follows successful French and Spanish events where over 600 individual customer demonstrations of the Volta Zero have taken place and concludes the first stage of its mainland European customer tour.

With offices in Sweden, France and the UK, Volta Trucks and is partnering with a number of global leaders in the supply chain for the development and production of the Volta Zero.

The Volta Zero will be displayed in Munich in conjunction with Volta Trucks customer, Petit Forestier, and in Frankfurt with partner, DB Schenker. The company said interested customers can book a demonstration of the Volta Zero at [www.voltatrucks.com/de](http://www.voltatrucks.com/de)

Following the German roadshow, the full-electric Volta Zero will make its global public debut at the Innovation and Technology in Logistics live event, ITT Hub, at Farnborough International Exhibition Centre in the UK from 30 June to 1 July.

"I'm delighted at the customer reception that the Volta Zero has received across Europe. Its zero emission full- electric powertrain supports customer's decarbonisation and sustainability ambitions, and our ground-up approach to design without the legacy constraints of the internal combustion engine helps us deliver a safer and more comfortable working environment for drivers," said Carla Detrioux, Business Development Director of Volta Trucks.

"When combined with our Truck as a Service offer, fleet operators can deliver safety, sustainability, and profitability in their operations. I'm looking forward to introducing the Volta Zero to our German customers and showing them how it can seamlessly integrate into their operations," she added.

**The Volta Zero is the world's first purpose-built full-electric 16-tonne vehicle designed for inner-city logistics, reducing the environmental impact of freight deliveries in city centres. Designed from the ground up with an operating pure-electric range of 150 - 200 kms (95 – 125 miles), the Volta Zero will eliminate an estimated 1.2M tons of CO2 by 2025.**

**The Volta Zero was designed for electric from the outset, which facilitates a step- change in vehicle, driver and pedestrian safety. Thanks to the removal of the internal combustion engine, the operator of a Volta Zero sits in a central driving position, with a much lower seat height than a conventional truck.**

**This combination, plus a glass house-style cab design, gives the driver a wide 220-degrees of visibility, minimising dangerous blind spots. The prototype Volta Zero was launched in September 2020, with the first vehicles expected to be operating with customers in late 2021.**



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## Ethiopian Airlines starts vaccinating staff against COVID-19

prioritized priority. All employees will get the second dose of the vaccine four weeks after they take their first dose.

"I am happy to announce that we have imported COVID-19 vaccination for our Group employees. Safety is always our top priority and vaccination of our employees will enhance the safety of our colleagues and customers onboard and on the ground. Vaccination of employees will increase passengers' confidence to fly with us," said Ethiopian Airlines Group CEO Tewolde GebreMariam.

"We will continue to implement all mandated safety measures and the vaccination will supplement those preventive measures. This is a big milestone in our fight against the pandemic and we hope to welcome our passengers with fully vaccinated employees in flight and on ground," he added.

Ethiopian has set-up its own COVID-19 testing and isolation center for staff to prevent the spread of the virus and to ensure employees' wellbeing and safety. It also launched a high-end COVID-19 testing lab at its main hub, Addis Ababa Bole International Airport.

**ADDIS ABABA:** Ethiopian Airlines Group began vaccinating on 14 May its employees against COVID-19 as it continues its mission of transporting passengers and essential cargo, primarily vaccines, across the African continent and beyond.

Ethiopian has so far transported more than 27 million COVID-19 vaccines to over 24 countries.

The vaccination drive was done with the help of the Ethiopian Medical Center which is equipped with the latest facilities to give the service in its temporary vaccination center at the Ethiopian Aviation Academy.

Frontline employees with direct contact with customers and partners are

## Air Arabia posts AED34 million net profit for Q1 2021



**SHARJAH:** Air Arabia (PJSC), the Middle East & North Africa's first and largest low-cost carrier, reported earning AED34 million for the first quarter of 2021 despite the pandemic's continued adverse impact on the global aviation industry's financial and operational performance.

Air Arabia said its total net profit from January to March 2021 reached AED34 million, 52 percent less than the corresponding 2020 figure of AED71 million. In the same period, the airline posted a turnover of AED572 million, 37 percent less the first quarter of last year.

More than 1.3 million passengers flew with Air Arabia between January and March 2021 across the carrier's five hubs while the airline's average seat load factor – or passengers carried as a percentage of available seats – during the first three months of 2021 maintained a high average and stood at 77 percent.

Air Arabia managed to register a profitable first quarter despite COVID-19 pandemic continuous impact on the industry's bottom-line. According to IATA, international passenger traffic fell more than 80% in first quarter 2021 compared to pre-pandemic as travel restrictions tightened in the face of continuing concerns over coronavirus spread.

Sheikh Abdullah Bin Mohamed Al Thani, Chairman of Air Arabia, said: "We are proud that Air Arabia managed to post another profitable quarter despite the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the aviation industry worldwide. This is a testament to the carrier's robust business and its management team. Although the tightened restrictions on air travel continued in first quarter of this year, the gradual resumption to selected destinations combined with cost control measures adopted by the carrier helped to deliver profitability during the first quarter of this year."

He added: "The impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the global aviation industry remains material and of a changing nature, nonetheless, we have full confidence in the fundamentals and the strength of the aviation industry worldwide as well as the crucial role air travel will play in supporting regional and global economic recovery."

While flight resumption during the pandemic remains subject to restrictions and changing travel regulations, Air Arabia managed during the first quarter of this year to resume operations to a selected number of destinations across its five hubs in the UAE, Morocco and Egypt. The limited resumption of flights across various markets helped support the first quarter financial and operational performance.

"While we remain hopeful that air travel restrictions will ease with the increasing rate of vaccination drives across key markets, Air Arabia remains focused on adopting further measures to control costs and support business continuity during this period while we continue to resume operations where possible," Al Thani noted.



## Emirates restarts flights to Venice, ups services to Milan

**DUBAI:** This summer say hello to Turkey's Riviera, Bodrum, or the famed city of Trabzon on the Black Sea coast northeast of the country via flydubai.

The Dubai-based airline announced it will have flights to the two beautiful coastal cities during its seasonal summer routes for passengers from Dubai.

There will be two weekly flights to Bodrum from 04 June until 01 September. While flights for Trabzon will run from 13 May through 01 September. The carrier, which operates to Sabiha Gokcen International Airport in Turkey, will also operate to Milas-Bodrum Airport (BJV) and Trabzon Airport (TZX).

Jeyhun Efendi, Senior Vice President, Commercial Operations and E-commerce at flydubai, said adding the two cities to their summer routes will give passengers more options to see beautiful places within the region.

"We recognize that since the pandemic it has not been possible for our customers to travel as much as they would have liked. Adding Bodrum and Trabzon to our seasonal schedule will provide passengers with more options to travel this summer. We have steadily grown our network to more than 75 destinations and we will continue to launch flights to more destinations in the region as restrictions ease. Flights are available to book on flydubai.com," said Efendi.



This summer will see the number of destinations on flydubai's network reach 78 points. This includes seven points in Russia as well as flights to popular destinations including Baku, Bucharest, Colombo, Maldives, Minsk, Tbilisi, Tel Aviv, Tirana and Zanzibar.

Emirates will codeshare on flights to Bodrum and Trabzon, offering travelers more seamless connections through Dubai's international aviation hub to 155 destinations between both the Emirates and flydubai networks including Australia, China, Indian Ocean, Japan, South Asia and the United States.

flydubai's passenger experience has been redesigned to enable travel in a safe environment. It has also introduced an extended multi-risk travel insurance that includes COVID-19 cover to offer passengers greater peace of mind when travelling.

Passengers are required to make sure that they are up to date with the regulations from the IATA Travel Centre for their whole journey and follow the guidance issued by the authorities.

Flydubai said flights can be booked from its official website (flydubai.com), App, the Contact Centre in Dubai at (+971) 600 54 44 45, the flydubai travel shops or through its travel partners.



## flydubai to operate 3x weekly flights to Naples from 01 July

Naples, a much-anticipated destination on the flydubai network."

**DUBAI:** Global low-cost carrier flydubai announced it is resuming its operations to Naples, Italy from its hub in Dubai with three weekly flights from 01 July and to four-weekly service from 01 August.

Offering passengers from the UAE more options and less restrictions for travel this summer, the Dubai-based carrier noted a quarantine-free travel corridor has been established between Italy and the UAE since 02 June.

A negative COVID-19 test result will be required 48 hours before departure from the UAE. On arrival in Italy, all passengers over the age of two years will be required to take a rapid antigen test. The safe travel corridor with Italy is the latest in a series of agreements signed by the UAE including those with Bahrain, Greece and Serbia.

Hamad Obaidalla, Chief Commercial Officer at flydubai, said: "We are pleased to see more countries opening up for safe tourism and is a step in the right direction to speed up recovery and boost travel this summer. This is a good sign that confidence in travel is returning and the efforts taken by stakeholders in the tourism industry to safeguard every step of the journey will benefit our passengers. We look forward to restarting our flights to

Commenting on the announcement, Jeyhun Efendi, Senior Vice President, Commercial Operations and E-commerce at flydubai, said: "We are excited to offer our passengers convenient travel options to some of the most popular holiday spots in Europe including Mykonos and Santorini. Naples is another popular destination for the summer and a great starting point to discover the beauty of the Amalfi coast. flydubai has made these European destinations more accessible for passengers from the UAE and the GCC and we look forward to restarting our operations to Catania in the coming few weeks."

Flights to Bodrum and Trabzon in Turkey will start from 04 and 24 June respectively. The carrier will commence flights to Sharm El Sheikh in Egypt from 15 June and to the Greek islands Santorini and Mykonos from 18 June. flydubai will also restart its operations to Batumi in Georgia and Tivat in Montenegro from 25 June and both destinations offer UAE residents visa on arrival.



## Saudia Cargo and Liege Airport sign commercial partnership agreement thru 2023



Liege Airport CEO Frédéric Jacquet, left, with Hassan Zaki Al-Dessi, Saudia Cargo's Executive Director, Operations Performance.

**LIEGE & JEDDAH:** Saudia Cargo and Liege Airport have recently signed a commercial partnership agreement which is seen to boost cargo flights and volumes between them utilizing the cargo carrier's vast global network and increasing operations in Europe.

Saudia Cargo is well-known for its premium air cargo shipping services for all types of cargo specifically its bespoke products for pharmaceuticals, e-commerce and live animals. Strategically based in Jeddah, the business capital of Saudi Arabia, the cargo airline is also a member of SkyTeam Cargo, the

largest alliance of cargo carriers worldwide.

In a statement, Liege Airport said Saudia Cargo sees the airport's potential in increasing its regular cargo operations in Europe as well as for charter flights.

Commenting on the signing, Liege Airport CEO Frédéric Jacquet said: "This contract cements the role Liege Airport plays in the center of global logistics. Saudia Cargo has been operating with us since last year with intensified connections to/from the US, Africa and the Middle East. This leading air cargo company has signed a partnership with Alibaba Group's logistic arm, Cainiao, and our airport will remain a crossroad for world trade operations. We look forward to establishing a strong relationship with such a reputable airline."

Hassan Zaki Al-Dessi, Saudia Cargo's Executive Director Operations Performance, for his part said: "This partnership aligns perfectly with the airline's business goals, and we are thrilled to extend our commercial partnership to further strengthen our position in the European arena and highlight Liege Airport's strong presence in the global logistic network."

**SINGAPORE:** Tasman Cargo Airlines recently launched its scheduled freighter services between Singapore and Australia, becoming the first Australia-based freighter operator with operations at Changi International Airport.

The airline operates five weekly services on a Melbourne-Darwin-Singapore (bi-directional) route using a B767-300F aircraft. In 2020, Australia was Changi Airport's fourth largest air cargo market, with airfreight throughput reaching over 134,000 tons for the year

Chartered by express integrator DHL Express, the new service facilitates increasing cross-border e-commerce cargo flows across DHL's global and Southwest Pacific network through its South Asia hub in Singapore. Online shopping in Australia hit an all-time high in 2020 with purchases growing 57 percent year-on-year.

"We are pleased that DHL Express has continued to enhance its hub at Changi to facilitate quick and reliable cargo shipments. This new service will further strengthen Singapore's position as the leading international freight gateway for Australia and is especially important to serving essential supplies and growing e-commerce demand during the pandemic," said Lim Ching Kiat, Changi Airport Group (CAG)'s Managing Director of Air Hub Development.

Tasman Cargo Airlines is DHL Express' 10th airline partner at Changi. This new development follows

## Tasman Cargo Airlines commences freighter services between Singapore and Australia



DHL's recent intercontinental network expansion with AeroLogic, AirBridgeCargo Airlines and Kalitta Air. DHL's South Asia hub is strategically located in Singapore, and the facility at Changi Airfreight Centre serves as an important logistics hub and conduit for DHL's Southwest Pacific customers looking to expand their reach to the rest of Asia Pacific, the United States and Europe.

There are now over 100 weekly flights mounted by DHL's airline partners through Changi Airport.

Sean Wall, Executive Vice President, Network Operations & Aviation, DHL Express Asia Pacific said, "Australia is growing as an important market for DHL as local businesses continue to adapt, innovate and adopt e-commerce practices for their business needs. To cope with rising shipment volume and ensure we continue to provide timely deliveries to our customers, we have swiftly responded by adding flights connecting Australia to the rest of the world. Our robust network complemented by strong partner airlines will play a vital role in supporting businesses as they expand their international footprint and presence."

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## Turkish Airlines increases daily flights from Dubai and launches new campaign

**ISTANBUL & DUBAI:** Turkish Airlines increased this month to three flights a day its service between Dubai and Turkey as it launched its new promotional campaign on the route.

Flying to more countries than any other airline with more than 300 destinations worldwide, Turkish Airlines said its new flights between Dubai and Istanbul aim to

serve holiday planners looking to escape the summer heat. Wide-body aircraft will be used in all flights.

The airline said tickets for Economy Class are starting at AED 1595 while Business Class tickets are starting from AED 10775 for the campaign period scheduled to end on 18 June 2021. The tickets purchased during the campaign are valid for travel through February 28, 2022.

The passengers travelling from UAE will not be required to submit a negative PCR test result if they submit a document issued by the relevant country's official authorities stating they have been vaccinated at least 14 days before entry to Turkey and /or have contracted the Covid-19 and were cured within the last 6 months. Passengers may visit Turkish Airlines website to have more details.

The airline also launched its Newark route, starting its flights on 22nd May 2021. Newark is the 10th USA destination in the extensive network of the flag carrier. Other new destinations launched include Vancouver, Canada and Turkistan, Kazakhstan.

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## Boom Supersonic to build 15 net-zero carbon planes for United Airlines

**CHICAGO & DENVER:** Denver-based aerospace company Boom Supersonic will build 15 "Overture" aircraft for United Airlines with option to purchase 35 more, the companies disclosed.

**Under their agreement, once Overture meets United's demanding safety, operating and sustainability requirements, it can exercise its option to buy 35 more Overture planes, the first large commercial aircraft to be net-zero carbon from day one, optimized to run on 100% sustainable aviation fuel (SAF).**

Overture is slated to roll out in 2025, fly in 2026 and expected to carry passengers by 2029. United and Boom said they will work together to accelerate production of greater supplies of SAF.

"United continues on its trajectory to build a more innovative, sustainable airline and today's advancements in technology are making it more viable for that to include supersonic planes. Boom's vision for the future of commercial aviation, combined with the industry's most robust route network in the world, will give business and leisure travelers access to a stellar flight experience," United CEO Scott Kirby said. "Our mission has always been about connecting people and now working with Boom, we'll be able to do that on an even greater scale."

Capable of flying at speeds of Mach 1.7 – twice the speed of today's fastest airliners – Overture can connect more than 500 destinations in nearly half the time.

Among the many future potential routes for United are Newark to London in just three and a half hours, Newark to Frankfurt in four hours and San Francisco to Tokyo in just six hours.

Overture will also be designed with features such as in-seat entertainment screens, ample personal space, and contactless technology. Working with Boom is another component of United's strategy to invest in innovative technologies that will build a more sustainable future of air travel.

"The world's first purchase agreement for net-zero carbon supersonic aircraft marks a significant step toward our mission to create a more accessible world," said Blake Scholl, Boom Supersonic founder and CEO. "United and Boom share a common purpose—to unite the world safely and sustainably. At speeds twice as fast, United passengers will experience all the advantages of life lived in person, from deeper, more productive business relationships to longer, more relaxing vacations to far-off destinations."

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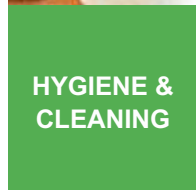
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## DP World announces changes in leadership in the UAE

**DUBAI:** After revealing robust financial results for the year-end of 2020 and an encouraging start to 2021, DP World turns a new page with changes in management leadership in the UAE.

Abdulla Bin Damithan has been appointed Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of DP World, UAE Region and Jafza. He takes the reins from Mohammed Al Muallem who has been promoted to Executive Vice President of DP World.

"In my new role, alongside my accomplished colleagues, we aim to expand DP World, UAE Region and increase our contribution to Dubai and the country. I am looking forward to utilizing my experience in the company to create unparalleled solutions that support sustainable socio-economic growth, and also to cement DP World's position as a leading smart trade enabler," said Abdulla Bin Damithan, CEO & Managing Director, DP World, UAE Region and Jafza.

During his 20-year long career at DP World, Bin Damithan has held leadership positions with increasing responsibilities, the most recent being Chief Commercial Officer for the UAE Region. As an accomplished leader in the maritime and logistics sector, he has led different aspects of the



Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem



Mohammed Al Muallem



Abdulla Bin Damithan

business to commercial success. This includes Ports & Terminals, Parks & Zones and Trade Enablement solutions.

Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem, Group Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, DP World said: "DP World has been integral to Dubai's economic success story, contributing more than a third of gross domestic product. Jebel Ali Port and Jafza account for nearly a quarter of all foreign direct investment into Dubai, and support 135,000 jobs. I am confident that the leadership of Abdulla Bin Damithan will take DP World, UAE Region to the next level of growth. I would like to thank Mohammed Al Muallem for his pioneering work and look forward to continuing to work with him closely."

Having served the company for over 38 years, Mohammed Al Muallem is known for his passion for the business and immense knowledge that has proved invaluable to the success of DP World. Following his promotion to Executive Vice President, he will work closely with the Chairman of DP World providing executive leadership to the company globally. He will also be responsible for DP World's marine-based assets in the UAE, including Dubai Drydocks World, Dubai Maritime City (DMC) and P&O Marinas.

"As I assume this new position, I would like to thank Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem for having the confidence in me. I would also like to express my gratitude for the support the wise leadership of Dubai has shown us through the years. This has further helped us achieve great success in the emirate and contribute to its thriving economy," said Al Muallem.

## UK freight association elects new national chair and vice-chair

**LONDON:** Rachel Morley has been elected National Chair of BIFA – the British International Freight Association – while Charles Hogg will serve as Vice Chair. Both will serve a two-year term.

Morley, Regional Manager Western Europe at OIA Global, has been Vice-Chair for the past two years. She was appointed a director of BIFA in 2017 and chairs the trade association's Midlands region. She succeeded John Stubbings as the National Chair. Sir Peter Bottomley, MP, remains as BIFA



Rachel Morley

president.

Hogg, Commercial Director of Unsworth Global Logistics, who has been elected as Vice-Chair, currently chairs BIFA's Maritime, Road and Rail Policy Group.

BIFA Director General Robert Keen comments: "In welcoming Rachel and Charles into their new roles, I wish to express my appreciation for the contribution made by John Stubbings over many years; and pleasure that Sir Peter has agreed to continue in office.

"Rachel and Charles' wide-ranging



Charles Hogg

experience and senior roles in successful freight forwarding companies will ensure that BIFA and its members will benefit greatly from these new appointments.



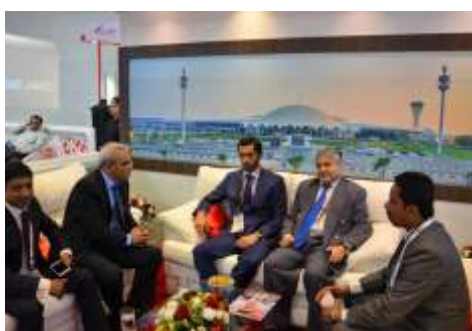


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# Upcoming Events



## MRO Middle East 2021

MRO Middle East returns to a live event in 2021 with refreshed format, focusing on content & networking. The 2021 event will highlight the latest innovation in key areas including sustainability, digitalization and workforce as well as investigating the best strategies for industry recovery through its new Go Live! Theatre feature. Alongside the show floor theatre, there are expanded networking and lounge areas to enhance attendees' ability to reconnect in person, whilst also adhering to new health & safety protocols.

**15-16 June 2021 | Dubai World Trade Center, Dubai**

## 148th Slot Conference

The Slot Conference (SC) is a working conference. Regularly attracting over 1200 delegates, from over 230 airlines and representatives of over 85 schedules-facilitated or fully coordinated airports this twice-yearly meeting is one of IATA's largest events.

As part of the slot process, the purpose of this voluntary assembly of both IATA and non-IATA airlines worldwide is to provide a forum for the allocation of slots at fully coordinated airports (Level 3), and for the reaching of consensus on the schedule adjustments necessary to conform to airport capacity limitations (Level 2). The goal of the conference is for airlines and airports to obtain the slots that will give them the best possible schedule to offer their customers.

**15-17 June 2021  
Vancouver Convention Centre**

## TIACA Executive Summit 2021–San Francisco

With the "2 + 2" event in San Francisco, transport logistics Americas together with TIACA Executive Summit offer 2 days of conference program with enough time for networking plus 2 days of innovation journey to the trendiest impulse generators in Silicon Valley.

No region in the world continues to stand more for inventiveness in the digitalized world. What can logistics learn from this, how must supply chain management adapt to it in the future? But also: which digital trends can I implement for my own company? Get inspired and connect with your fellow executives!

Visit <https://www.aircargoforum.org/conference/2plus2> for more info.

**21-24 September 2021  
San Francisco, California, USA**

## 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 & sustainability.

**12-14 October 2021 | Turkey, Istanbul**

## 33rd IATA Ground Handling Conference

The IATA Ground Handling Conference (IGHC) is the premier annual ground handling industry conference in the world bringing together over 750 delegates representing the whole industry: 30% airlines, 60% ground service providers and airports, 10% manufacturers and solution providers; 60% commercial and 34% operational/safety positions represented, and; 50% executive management, 49% middle management.

This major trade event gives exclusive access to industry intelligence and developments among attendees.

**15-18 November 2021  
Prague Congress Center, Czech Republic**

## Dubai Airshow 2021

Dubai Airshow is set to return for its 17th edition on 14-18 November 2021. Welcoming experts from commercial and business aviation, defence and military, aircraft interiors, air traffic management, maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO), space and air cargo, the show will serve as an ideal platform for re-thinking strategies, navigating uncertainty and scaling up operations to ensure the smooth re-establishment of the industry in general.

A range of new features for Dubai Airshow have been confirmed, which include a strong focus on cutting edge technologies used in the aviation industry. The new Technology Showcase will provide a platform to exhibit the latest tech and will also include key conference programmes on topics such as 5G, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence (AI) and blockchain.

**14-18 November 2021  
DWC, Dubai Airshow Site**



# EIA looks forward to welcoming you in 2021

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.



**Erbil International Airport**

[www.erbilairport.com](http://www.erbilairport.com)



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