



# Volga-Dnepr Group

The Wings of Russia for oversize  
and heavy cargo

## The Lounge



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CEO, Alaska Air Group



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**Soviet Union's legacy**

This month marks the 105th anniversary of the culmination of the Russian Revolution instigated by the Bolsheviks or the majority, eventually successfully toppling the Imperial Government by October 1917, ushering in the era of the Soviet Union or the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics made up of 15 states—Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belorussia (now Belarus), Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kirgiziya (now Kyrgyzstan), Latvia, Lithuania, Moldavia (now Moldova), Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

Promoting science and technology became an integral part of the Soviet Union's national politics and identity for decades. That even after its dissolution in 1991, some former Soviet states have managed to stand out and build successful industries related to science and technology.

In the air cargo industry, it's hard to miss the Soviet's legacy on marvels of engineering. There's the world's largest air cargo plane, Antonov An-225, built by Ukraine, which hasn't been duplicated. And Russia's Ilyushin planes which are designed to airlift oversize and heavy cargo.

Amid the continuing tensions between Russia and Ukraine, the world recognizes the contributions of these two former Soviet states in moving oddly-shaped and extraordinarily heavy cargo to support various industries and people across the world that needs their services and expertise.

In this edition, we'll focus on Moscow-headquartered Volga-Dnepr Group, which has been a global leader for the movement of oversize, unique and heavy cargo for all types of terrains and weather.

Its fleet includes 12 Antonov An-124—the world's heaviest gross-weight production cargo plane, the second heaviest operating cargo aircraft after Antonov An-225, designed to deliver heavy machinery to remote or poorly served areas, and; Ilyushin-76, which was originally built to be used as an emergency response transport for civilian evacuations as well as for humanitarian aid and disaster relief, now largely used as commercial freighter for ramp-delivered cargo, specifically for oversized or heavy cargo.

This and more in this edition of **Air Cargo Update**.

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

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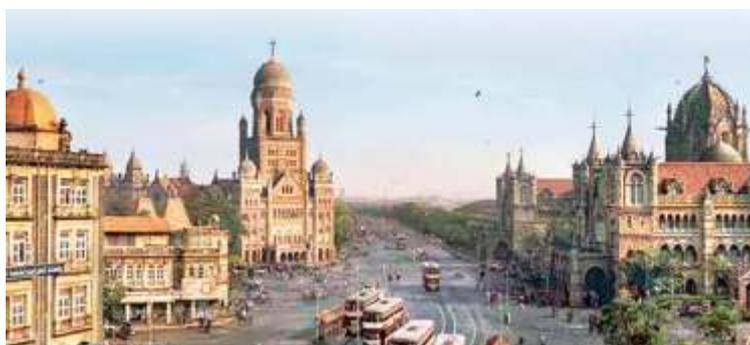
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**Ben Minicucci**  
CEO, Alaska Air Group

**Assume that you're the head of a major international airline, and every day, you have to deal with different major decisions in your line of business. With that comes the challenges as well emanating from your operations that span across the globe.**

Sure, you have different department heads to handle everything that comes within their responsibilities. But ultimately, they will depend on your sound judgment and business acumen to deal with all situations. And that requires a lot for your mental health.

So, how do you take care of your brain to keep it sane and healthy in the midst of difficult decisions to make, mundane daily challenges and a future to build for the business? You meditate.

That's exactly what Ben Minicucci, the Chief Executive Officer of Alaska Air Group, the parent company of Alaska Airlines and Horizon Air. The two airlines carry approximately more than 45 million passengers a year on 1,300 daily flights to 115 destinations throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico and Costa Rica.

## Transcendental Meditation 2x a day for 20 minutes for this busy CEO

Under Ben's leadership, Alaska Air Group has maintained growth despite the difficult times and had created an airline that people love. And to Ben, doing transcendental meditation twice a day for 20 minutes gives him clarity of thoughts, balance and calm.

In a blog posted on Alaska Air, Ben was asked, "Rumor has it, you're trained in mindfulness or practice meditation. How does that play a role in your life and as a leader?"

To which he replied, "I've been really diligent about it, especially in the last six months. I actually took a course in transcendental meditation, which is an easy type of meditation. And I do it twice a day for 20 minutes. What I love about it is it calms me down.

"These jobs can get really stressful, and it helps me find balance. The second thing that I love is it gives me clarity of thought. So, as you're bouncing from one topic to another, one meeting to another, it helps give me clarity so I can be the best for those I work with and focus on what's important. I am actually addicted to it now. When I don't do it, I find that maybe I'm not at my best. So, it's really helped me."

And he could have found the perfect relief for a tough job like his. The brain is a complex organ that controls our thoughts, memories, emotions, touch, motor skills, vision, breathing, temperature, hunger and every process that regulates our body, need some "me" time, various studies have shown.

A UCLA study showed long-term meditators had better-preserved brains as they age as opposed to those who don't. Yale University found that mindfulness meditation decreases activity in the default mode network (DMN), the brain network responsible for mind-wandering and self-referential thoughts – a.k.a., "monkey mind." And John Hopkins says mindfulness meditation has the ability to reduce symptoms of depression, anxiety, and pain.

Ben joined Alaska in 2004 as staff vice president of maintenance. Before joining Alaska, he spent seven years serving in a variety of roles at Air Canada's technical operations and, ultimately, vice president of heavy maintenance. He served in the Canadian Armed Forces for 14 years prior to joining the private aviation sector.

Ben holds a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the Royal Military College of Canada. He's currently on the board of directors for Alaska Air Group, Washington Roundtable, and the University of Washington Michael G. Foster School of Business Center for Leadership & Strategic Thinking.

### **Ben's Firsts & Favorites:**

#### **First job in aviation: The Canadian Armed Forces.**

First time on an airplane: "I was about 10 when I visited my grandparents in Italy. I can't remember what type of aircraft or airline but remember sitting by the L1 door and it was very noisy."

**Favorite travel destination:** Hawaii.

**Must-pack item for any flight:** Workout clothes.

**Favorite sport:** Cycling trips with friends. "We've been to Corsica, we've been to Italy, France, Spain – I just love doing big weeklong bike trips around the world."

**One thing people are surprised to learn about you:** "My taste in movies. I love to laugh, and I love movies that are silly – like Will Ferrell movies. Everything from 'Talladega Nights' to 'Wedding Crashers' to 'We're the Millers.' A lot of people think I'm into sophisticated stuff, but I just want to watch movies that make me laugh." **Source: [www.blogalaskaair.com](http://www.blogalaskaair.com)**

## Qatar Airways Cargo insources Spain operations starting this month

**DOHA, Qatar:** Qatar Airways Cargo has initiated steps to insource its entire operations in Spain this month as its commercial activities in the country grows on a larger scale, the cargo carrier announced.

With the help of ATC Aviation Services, S.L., its partner in Spain for over 16 years, the transition is moving forward.

Qatar Airways Cargo advised its customers in Spain to contact [spainreservation@es.qatarairways.com](mailto:spainreservation@es.qatarairways.com) for any inquiries as all its previous contact addresses pertaining to ATC Aviation Services will be replaced. "To secure a smooth transition, customers are kindly requested to include both, ATC's current and the new Qatar Airways Cargo addresses in all e-mail communication between 24 January and 31 January."

Robertino Veltman, Vice President Cargo Europe at Qatar Airways, thanked ATC Aviation for its continued support to Qatar Airways Cargo, saying, "Qatar Airways Cargo extends its sincere and grateful thanks to ATC Aviation Services, S.L., which, over the past 16 years, has helped to build our Spanish footprint to what it is today: Qatar Airways Cargo is Spain's number one air cargo service provider for the several past years."

"It is because our operations have now grown to such a large scale, that Qatar Airways Cargo feels the time is right to insource its commercial and customer service activities across Spain. Through meticulous planning and close and professional collaboration with ATC Aviation Services, S.L., we are aiming for a smooth transition so that business continues to run as normal. Our customers can look forward to many familiar contacts in the new Qatar Airways Cargo teams, and simply need to change over to the new central e-mail address in the interim," he added.

Qatar Airways Cargo offers regular flights into and from Madrid (MAD), Barcelona (BCN), Zaragoza (ZAZ), and Malaga (AGP), while customers can also benefit from services offered at offline stations in Alicante (ALC), Bilbao (BIO), Vitoria (VIT),



and Valencia (VLC). These network points and capacities will remain and also will be bookable online via WebCargo by Freightos, the airline said.

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## Air France KLM Martinair Cargo and Envirotainer intensify partnership towards more sustainable air transport of pharmaceuticals



**STOCKHOLM/SCHIPHOL:** Envirotainer, the global market leader in secure cold chain solutions for air transportation of pharmaceuticals and Air France KLM Martinair Cargo (AFKLMP Cargo), the leading airline in pharmaceutical logistics, have announced their collaboration on more sustainable transportation of pharmaceuticals.

Air France KLM Martinair Cargo has approved the newly introduced Envirotainer Releye® container and is in the process of implementing it in its booking system as part of its product portfolio. The Releye provides outstanding environmental performance, delivering up to 90% reduction in CO2 emissions compared to available passive solutions, based on life-cycle analysis.

Envirotainer will reduce the impact of the use of its containers on the environment by investing in Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF). SAF offers a cleaner alternative for conventional jet fuel.

SAF is produced from sustainable feedstock, such as cooking oil, animal waste or solid waste from homes and businesses. It reduces CO2 emissions by up to 85%,

when compared to conventional jet fuel. The reduction occurs throughout the entire lifecycle of producing and using sustainable aviation fuel compared to that of fossil fuel.

"We are very happy that a close partner of ours since many years keeps delivering top quality service and secures that the pharmaceutical industry, together with us, provides further capacity of latest technology," said Don Harrison, Head of Global Key Accounts, Airlines at Envirotainer.

Marcel Kuijn, Global Head of Pharmaceutical Logistics at AFKLMP Cargo, noted, "We really appreciate our long-term partnership with Envirotainer. Sustainability and Pharmaceuticals are among our strategic focus areas. That is why this initiative is of such great importance to us." Envirotainer Sustainability context.

In 2020, Envirotainer revised its Sustainability Strategy, based on Agenda 2030 and the UN Global Compact. Its target of being climate neutral was reached in 2020 and the company has since then CO2 emission neutral in Scope 1, 2 and 3, excluding use-phase, as the first company in the industry.

AFKLMP Cargo, meanwhile, continues its numerous sustainability projects, which include using SAF, upgrading its fleet costing EUR2.5 billion, among others.

## WFS grows partnership with Polar Air Cargo with new LAX handling contract



**PARIS:** Worldwide Flight Services (WFS) says Polar Air Cargo, a global leader in time-definite, airport-to-airport scheduled air cargo service, has expanded its cargo handling partnership with WFS in North America through a new long-term contract at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX).

As of December 2021, WFS is providing full warehouse handling services for the more than five million kilos of cargo carried each month by Polar's all-Boeing freighter fleet ex-LAX. Polar is a joint venture of Atlas Air Worldwide Holdings and DHL Express. WFS also manages

handling for Atlas Air's scheduled and ad-hoc freighter service from Los Angeles.

The latest agreement with Polar, covering one of the biggest stations in Polar's U.S. network, reflects WFS' strong relationship with the airline. Polar has significantly grown its footprint at LAX through the addition of a second warehouse totaling more than 230,000 sq ft.

WFS already provides handling services to Polar Air Cargo at its hub in Cincinnati, as well as in Dallas/Fort Worth, Miami, New York JFK, Seattle and Toronto airports.

"Our partnership with Polar Air Cargo is strategically important to WFS in North America, and globally. We are proud to be winning new station contracts on the strength of our performance at other major airports across Polar's network," commented Guido DiGiandomenico, Vice President of Sales for WFS in North America.

"In Los Angeles, thanks to the hard work of our local WFS team, we have earned a solid reputation for providing quality cargo handling services in what is a challenging marketplace. We look forward to supporting Polar's continued growth at this very important west coast gateway."

As the world's largest air cargo handler, WFS currently manages 235,000 sq ft of warehouse space at LAX, where Polar Air Cargo now joins its existing portfolio of leading international airline customers.

WFS' general cargo handling volumes in Los Angeles now exceed 22 million kilos per month.



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## ECS Group's Cargo Digital Factory and Wiremind Cargo join forces and launch CargoTech

**PARIS:** As the pandemic rages on, highlighting the importance of digitalization across all process in the air cargo industry, ECS Group, a global leader in the GSSA industry, and Wiremind Cargo, a leading French software and data-science company, announced they are collaborating to focus on intelligently digitalizing the airfreight sector.

Their partnership yielded to the launch of CargoTech which is anchored on the four tech pillars of ECS Group—the new augmented GSA concept, comprising commercial, technology, sustainability and new abilities.

Based in Paris, France, Cargo Digital Factory, ECS Group's in-house solution developer, and Wiremind's newly established dedicated cargo business unit will collaborate to digitalize as many air cargo processes as possible.

Existing Cargo Digital Factory products such as its APOLLO BI & Reporting System, PATHFINDER Track & Trace solution, and QUANTUM pricing support system, and Wiremind Cargo's shipment volume evaluation & flight planning system SkyPallet, form the basis of CargoTech's product portfolio.

The two divisions will jointly innovate and design additional digital solutions to expand the standard product portfolio, as well as tailor individual products for all actors of the cargo supply chain: airlines, GHAs, GSAs, and freight forwarders.

"ECS Group and Wiremind have been business partners since June 2018. ECS became a customer of SkyPallet in its early days and we helped enhance the product as a key user. We both share a common vision and ambition to digitalise the industry in a way that removes complexity and manual work and focuses completely on the user experience. We believe that whatever can be digitised should not remain manual but are also aware that not everything can be automated. ECS Group offers solutions for both scenarios. Whatever requires human expertise is covered by our New Abilities portfolio, whereas CargoTech takes care of automating and digitalising routine processes to reduce costs and optimise revenues while fostering innovation," Cedric Millet, ECS Group Chief Strategy & Digital Officer, explains.

"Under the CargoTech umbrella, we will enhance and develop digital products both for the benefit of our existing ECS Group customers, as well as for all other airlines in the world. Our solutions are modular, and customers can subscribe to one or several products as required."

Nathanaël de Tarade, board member at Wiremind and CEO of Wiremind Cargo, noted, "Our intensified collaboration with Cargo Digital Factory will enable us to deliver more quickly on our vision of becoming a leading provider of end-to-end software solutions to the air cargo market. Not only will we be taking SkyPallet to the next level, but we will also be introducing new products to the market that we are developing together."

## va-Q-tec opens subsidiary in India as it pursues global expansion



**Würzburg, Germany:** va-Q-tec has opened a subsidiary in Mumbai, India as part of its global expansion project and amid growing demand for its temperature-sensitive products.

The company said India has the second largest population in the world (2021) and is considered one of the main producers of pharmaceutical products like medicines and vaccines which require temperature-sensitive containers to safely transport them.

This presents a particular challenge given India's sometimes poorly developed logistics infrastructure and varying climate zones. Due to their outstanding passive technology, va-Q-tec's advanced thermal boxes and containers have been recognized for many years in the temperature-controlled supply chain market as a safe, reliable

solution ideal for these types of challenges.

India's economy has been growing steadily for many years, but the pharmaceutical industry has disproportionately taken off as it is strongly supported by the government. The country is considered as one of the world's largest producer of pharmaceuticals, including drugs and vaccines, supplying up to 60% of the world's supply, va-Q-tec pointed out.

The country's pharmaceutical market grew to \$55 billion in 2020, with potential for more and expected growth to \$65-70 billion by 2024, the company added. Through the three TempChain Service Centers in Hyderabad and Mumbai, which have been operating there for several years, va-Q-tec's solutions have already been in use by several well-known companies.

Modern pharmaceuticals, such as Corona mRNA vaccines, in most cases require stable temperatures in various ranges between -70°C and +8°C. This is often a major challenge, especially in a country like India, which spans a range of climates from alpine to the humid and hot outdoor temperatures of the tropics.

## Turkish Cargo moves all operations to SMARTIST, its new mega-cargo facility in Istanbul



single roof at the Istanbul Airport. Thanks to SMARTIST, our new home with all of its processes equipped with autonomous and robotic systems, we as Turkish Cargo, the air cargo bridge of Turkey, are now ready for the future more than we have been ever before."

### **4 million plus tons**

SMARTIST, designed to serve as the biggest industrial building under a single roof at Istanbul Airport, has an annual load capacity of 4 million tons with its land area of 340,000 square meters upon completion of all phases.

The facility, equipped with smart technologies such as Augmented Reality, Automatic Storage Systems, Robotic Process Automation and Unmanned Ground Vehicles, will take the unique service quality of Turkish Cargo much further in respect of operational speed and quality.

The mega facility will also highlight the intercontinental location of Istanbul and serve as a gate that is excellent for the trade between the East and the West. Thus, it will be ensured that Istanbul becomes the logistics center in the world by directing a major portion of the air cargo traffic in the world to the new Hub at the Istanbul Airport.

### **Relocation of 4125 equipment of 80 various types**

As part of the ultimate relocation operation, monitored simultaneously by the senior executives of Turkish Cargo, TGS and the moving company at the Relocation Control Center established at the Ataturk Airport, 160 services were performed by 50 trucks.

During the operation, whereby the trucks covered a distance of approximately 16,000 kilometers, corresponding to the distance between Turkey and New Zealand, 4125 equipment of various types, owned by TGS and Turkish Cargo, were relocated from the Ataturk Airport to the Istanbul Airport.

### **Goodbye Ataturk Airport**

Turkish Cargo bid farewell to Ataturk Airport, its home for many decades and the hub for Turkish Airlines for 89 years, with fond memories and prospects for a brighter future at its new home.

ISL-KRT (Ataturk Airport-Khartoum, Sudan) flight number TK6455, an Airbus 330F aircraft, was Turkish Cargo's last plane to depart from Ataturk Airport.



**ISTANBUL, Turkey:** Global air cargo carrier Turkish Cargo has officially moved and consolidated its operations at SMARTIST, its new mega-cargo facility at Istanbul Airport, one of the world's biggest airports.

The move means the airline will have a wider flight network across all continents with its main hub now in Istanbul. When Istanbul Airport was opened in 2019, Turkish Cargo continued its freighter operations from the Ataturk Airport while slowly making use of its new space.

But this month, Turkish Cargo finally relocated its entire cargo operations to SMARTIST, the new hub for Turkey's air cargo logistics industry. The massive relocation was done within 72 hours.

Commenting on this development, Turkish Cargo Chief Cargo Officer Turhan Özen, said: "With SMARTIST, our new home, we are ready for the future more than we have been ever before."

He noted, "During the last three years, we carried out a highly substantial operation in both of our hubs. While we made use of our freighters at the Ataturk Airport, we benefited from our passenger aircraft and the paxfre\* capacity at the Istanbul Airport. We performed approximately 30,000 flights, 23,000 of which were performed by making use of our freighters and 6,000 of which were by paxfre, and we transported more than 4 million air cargo shipments, 2.5 million tons of which were transported from/to the Ataturk Airport and 1.8 million tons of which were transported from/to the Istanbul Airport.

"Now, we are gathering the air cargo operations which we have been carrying out triumphantly on "dual hub" basis without compromising our service quality, under a



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## DB Schenker and Lufthansa Cargo welcome Lenovo on their CO2-neutral flights

collaboration with DB Schenker and Lufthansa Cargo. For all businesses and individuals, adopting programs that improve sustainability is incredibly important and we are delighted about this new partnership.”

DB Schenker and Lufthansa Cargo started the world’s first regular SAF-covered full charter air cargo connection between Frankfurt and Shanghai in April 2021 and extended the joint mission throughout the entire winter flight schedule. The CO2 released during combustion in the engine is only the CO2 removed from the atmosphere during the photosynthesis phase of the plants that were utilized to produce the oils SAF is refined from.

By opting for the SAF based way of transportation offered by DB Schenker in cooperation with Lufthansa Cargo, Lenovo saves around 20 tons of conventional kerosene per flight and, thus, 62 tons of greenhouse gases (CO2e Well-to-Wheel) weekly. In addition, the around 16 tons CO2e resulting from the production and transport of the SAF (upstream emissions) are offset by compensatory measures. Overall, full carbon neutrality is achieved.

“Our joint effort with DB Schenker to avoid CO2 emissions is continuously growing stronger. An increasing number of customers realizes that we need to work together across industries to achieve our shared goal. Only together, we can make a real difference. With our SAF-covered flights, we are doing pioneer’s work,” Ashwin Bhat, Chief Commercial Officer at Lufthansa Cargo, noted.

**FRANKFURT, Germany:** Another major global player has joined DB Schenker and Lufthansa Cargo on their way towards greener supply chains with global hardware technology provider Lenovo agreeing to use Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) for its regular cargo flights between Shanghai and Frankfurt.

The carbon-neutral freighter flight is the only regular full charter connection worldwide which is 100 percent covered by SAF which is produced out of renewable waste and residue raw materials such as used cooking oils. The transported Lenovo products include laptops, notebooks, and PCs for both private and corporate clients.

“Our unique SAF full charter flights help corporates to make their shipments more sustainable. Lenovo is a major customer for this game-changing initiative and an example how shippers are keen for real change towards greener transports. We look forward to seeing further companies who would like to prioritize decarbonizing their supply chains together with us,” said Thorsten Meincke, Global Board Member for Air & Ocean Freight at DB Schenker.

Gareth Davies, Head of Global Logistics at Lenovo, said: “Sustainability is critical to our business and mission of delivering smarter technology for all. We are proud that we are further enhancing our solutions through this

## TrueNoord leases ATR72-212F cargo aircraft to Slovenian operator-Amelia International

**Dublin/Amsterdam:** In a new re-marketing transaction, TrueNoord, the specialist regional aircraft lessor, announced it has entered into a new four-year operating lease agreement with Amelia International, part of the Regourd Aviation Group.

The ATR72-212F (MSN 461) cargo aircraft was previously leased by ASL Airlines Ireland. It will be transitioned into Amelia International’s regional fleet and be based in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

Slovenian airline Amelia International is a specialist in ad-hoc charter and regular regional flights in Europe and Africa. It gained its AOC in 2012 and is today operating a fleet of 14 aircraft, composed of Embraer 135/145 and ATR42/72. On top of the airline business, Amelia International also specializes in airworthiness consulting for regional aircraft and operates several line-maintenance stations. MSN 461 will be Amelia International’s first cargo aircraft.

Matija Krajnc, Managing Director of Amelia International, said it was a logical step for an airline that prides itself on an entrepreneurial approach to develop cargo capabilities.

“Leasing the ATR72-212F from TrueNoord enables us to build upon Amelia Group’s fully integrated aeronautics services to fast-track our cargo expansion. We aim to offer our cargo clients the same professional and reliable service that we are known for in passenger operations from our bases in Europe and Africa.”

Maarten Griff, Sales Director – Africa, Middle East and CIS at TrueNoord, welcomed



Amelia International to the Company’s lessee portfolio, saying, “We look forward to working with the experienced team at Amelia to support the airline’s new cargo operations. There are increasing opportunities for nimble, cargo-converted turboprops around the regional airport network in Europe and Africa as e-commerce continues to expand rapidly. Operators, like Amelia International, want to combine fast-turnaround of cargo loads with economical operations for maximum flexibility and profitability. We would like to thank our partners NTE Aviation, LLC and Airplane Delivery for the support they have provided in this transition.”



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# Amsterdam Airport Schiphol records increase in cargo throughput in 2021

**Amsterdam, the Netherlands:** Amsterdam Airport Schiphol's total cargo volume for 2021 increased by 15.7% to 1.66 million tons compared to 2020 following the restructuring of its cargo department.

Last year, inbound cargo volumes increased by 15.2% to 869,241 tons in 2021 compared to 2020, and outbound cargo volumes also increased by 16.1% to 798,063 tons during the same period.

The top three destinations for cargo by tonnage were Shanghai, China, Chicago, USA, and Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

In 2021, freight volumes were shipped in two categories of flights: full freighters, which accounted for 67% of total volumes, and passenger flights at 33% of total volumes.

Outbound cargo to the Asian region from Schiphol increased by 8.7% to 259,615 tons in 2021 compared to 2020, while inbound traffic from the region also went up by 4.9% to 279,822 tons.

The outbound North American market increased by 22.1% to 184,398 tons, with inbound traffic from here growing by 24.9% to 126,299 tonnes.

Cargo inbound from Latin America increased by 11.4% to 114,714 tons and outbound traffic to the region went up by 15.4% to 84,116 tons.

The figures for European outbound traffic increased by 17.4% to 100,246 tons, while inbound cargo increased 30% to 138,395 tons.

The Middle East market also told a positive story, with inbound cargo from the region up 16.2% to 117,328 tonnes, and outbound cargo up 30% to 125,229 tonnes.

Outbound traffic to Africa increased by 4.2% to 44,458



tonnes, with inbound traffic increasing 21.9% to 92,683 tonnes.

The main factors attributable to the growth observed in 2021 were the return of sufficient slot availability at the airport and high demand. New carriers, such as Vietnam Airlines, and returning airlines, such as MASKargo, have also been welcomed at Schiphol in 2021.

The end of 2021 saw some difficulties in terms of overall operational capacity at Schiphol owing to the high demand and capacity challenges experienced by the global air freight sector at large, but Schiphol has ensured improvement and swift problem-solving by setting up a taskforce with the supply chain partners that are situated at Schiphol Zuidoost. "The 2021 figures are encouraging in light of the ongoing challenges of Covid on the operating environment," said Anne Marie van Hemert, Head of Aviation Business Development. "Last year, the cargo team formed a new Aviation Business Development Division, putting all airline and cargo commercial and operational business in a single department and introducing new faces."

"The newly established team has focused on accelerating our Smart Cargo Mainport Program and ensuring faster handling of export cargo, resulting in Digital Pre-notification for all ground handlers at Schiphol as the new standard.

"Going forward, the team will focus its efforts on securing Automated Nomination as the new standard, with sustainability a key driver behind this and all of our digitalization initiatives."

A refreshed overall cargo strategy has been devised by Schiphol Airport for 2022 to tackle the challenges ahead, including capacity shortage, landside congestion, sustainability, security for valuable cargo, enforcement of smart Customs policies and digitalization.



# Cargolux unveils brand new customer portal

step in its wide-ranging sales digitalization transformation aiming to enhance customers' experience throughout their interaction with the company. The online portal offers transaction options for all customer profiles, from international groups to local independent forwarders.

"With this new portal, Cargolux is moving closer to an omni channel connectivity experience for customers. The portal offers tailored quoting and booking in a few clicks and we are confident that this handy and timely solution will be highly appreciated by our customers," said Mathieu Weber, VP Digital Sales & Marketing.

Forwarders based in Europe who are interested in Cargolux's services can easily apply for access through my.cargolux.com. Cargolux said it is looking forward to welcoming customers on this new portal and further expanding its digital sales offer in the future.

**LUXEMBOURG:** Cargolux Airlines has launched a new online customer portal, offering access to a seamless and transparent quoting & booking tool, building on the functionalities developed for the API.

Europe's leading all-cargo airline said the interface will enable customers to log on, request an instant spot quote according to personalized criteria, as well as having full visibility of allocations, thereby enabling for the selection and booking of the best option.

Cargolux said the introduction of this portal is the latest

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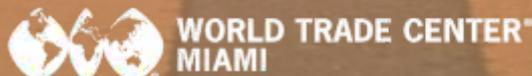
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## Brussels Airport's Animal Care & Inspection Center CEIV Live Animals certified



**BRUSSELS, Belgium:** Less than two years after the inauguration of the Brussels Airport Animal Care & Inspection Center (ACIC), it has now received the coveted IATA Center of Excellence for Independent Validators (CEIV) Live Animals Certificate, an important recognition of the investments made and of the efforts of the team to provide a top-notch facility and service,

Brussels Airport invested in a brand-new ultramodern Animal Care & Inspection Center which opened its doors in June 2020. The aim was to set the standard on a European level and ensure that considerable attention is paid to the comfort of all live animals being transported.

With over 2000 m<sup>2</sup> of covered space, the Animal Care and Inspection Center is exclusively designed for the handling of live animals and offers the required capacity for the import, export and transit of live animals. With a strong focus on animal welfare, the building is equipped with the latest climate control system and adaptive lighting, ensuring the animals reside in optimal conditions.

Sam Quintelier, Business Development Manager Cargo at Brussels Airport, said: "With our investment in this new and

modern facility we wanted to set a new standard for animal welfare. We strive for great service and quality for all our customers, so we are proud of this recognition for our Center and the whole ACIC team."

**Earning this recognition required the ACIC team to set up and implement a quality management system, be fully compliant with IATA's Live Animals training requirements, and demonstrate proficiency in managing live animal handling processes in conformance with IATA's standards. The close cooperation with the Brussels Airport cargo team and the Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain significantly contributed to the successful outcome.**

Ann Goovaerts, ACIC Supervisor, noted, "This certificate is a seal of approval for the standard of excellence we are setting for handling live animals. We hope that our passion and dedication for animal safety and welfare will inspire other players within the industry and encourage them to safeguard the wellbeing of all animals during transportation."

Despite the pandemic, the center has welcomed many animals over the past two years, ranging from dogs to horses, alpacas to reptiles, including insects.

ACIC, which is operated by dnata, also offers a pension facility, enabling travelling passengers to have their pet (cats and dogs only) cared for in the best conditions.



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Our new Helicopter Policy, Drone Policy, MRO Policy and Flying Training Organization Policy stand as testimony towards our commitment to streamline and promote the entry of Indian industry into opportunities that the Civil Aviation sector has to offer. I look forward to seeing all the stakeholders at Wings India 2022 and celebrating this incredible growth story of the Indian Civil Aviation sector.



**Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia**  
Hon'ble Minister of Civil Aviation  
Government of India



**Gen. (Dr.) V. K. Singh (Retd.)**  
Hon'ble Minister of State,  
Ministry of Civil Aviation,  
& Minister of State, Ministry of Road,  
Transport and Highways,  
Government of India

**A**s India continues to emerge towards playing a dominant role globally, its aviation sector cannot be overlooked. This sector acts as a growth multiplier including economic output, jobs and trade enabled through better connectivity and has proved to be one of the largest contributors to the 'Make in India' initiative. WINGS INDIA 2022 is Asia's largest event on Civil Aviation, providing a congenial forum catering to the rapidly changing dynamics of the sector, focusing on new business acquisition, investments, policy formation and regional connectivity. With all measures taken, for Indian Aviation, "the sky is the limit". I wish Wings 2022 will be a huge success.

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## Hope Consortium and UNICEF to send 65 ultra-cold freezers to Africa to support vaccine distribution efforts in the continent



**ABU DHABI, UAE:** HOPE Consortium and UNICEF have entered into an agreement to support delivery of 65 ultra-cold freezers to Africa aimed at supporting COVAX in its global vaccine distribution efforts in the continent, the Emirates news agency WAM reported.

The freezers are necessary for COVID-19 vaccines requiring ultra-cold storage and to enable African nations to efficiently absorb incoming vaccine supplies recently donated by the United States of America.

**The delivery stands as a testament to the HOPE Consortium's commitment to contribute to the global fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. Facilitated by HOPE Consortium partners and other logistics providers, the shipment will reach 21 African nations, including Benin, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Eswatini, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Mauritania, Niger, Sao Tome, and Zambia.**

"The UAE remains committed to doing our part to mitigate the effects of the pandemic by helping countries overcome the logistical and technical challenges associated with the delivery of large-scale vaccination programmes. Our partnership with UNICEF plays a vital role in helping implement an effective global response to COVID-19, particularly within Africa. We are proud to support international efforts such as COVAX by dedicating the unique services of the HOPE Consortium," said Sultan Mohammed Al Shamsi, UAE Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation for International Development Affairs.

The COVAX mission seeks to ensure that vaccine supplies are equitably distributed to the world's population. However, many nations face logistical limitations in their capacity to receive and safely store the temperature-sensitive vaccine supplies.

To that end, the 65 ultra-cold freezers are a necessary preparatory strategy to enhance cold chain capabilities within recipient countries in anticipation of incoming deliveries of vaccines requiring storage at ultra-cold temperatures.

Etleva Kadilli, Director of UNICEF's Supply Division, noted, "These deliveries of ultra-cold freezers mark an important step towards equitable access to

COVID-19 vaccines. This critical infrastructure will boost the capacity of African countries to scale COVID-19 vaccine roll-out and will also support the management of other vaccines that may require ultra-cold storage temperatures. UNICEF is pleased to work with partners like the HOPE Consortium to support governments to strengthen health systems for the COVID-19 response and beyond – making them resilient for the future."

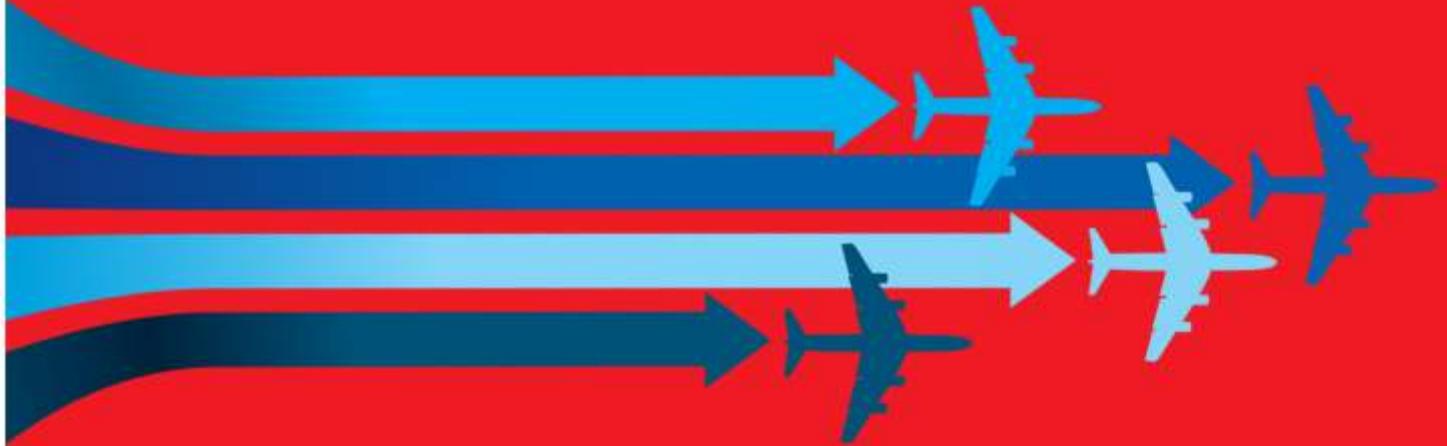
Capt. Mohamed Juma Al Shamisi, Chairman of the Executive Committee, the HOPE Consortium, and Group CEO, AD Ports Group, stated, "Abu Dhabi's strategic location as a medical and life sciences hub coupled with the HOPE Consortium's ultra-cold chain capabilities make us a natural partner to support COVAX's global mission. Since no one is safe until everyone is safe, it is imperative to ensure that all nations across the world possess the capabilities required to store and administer a wide array of vaccines globally available. By working with UNICEF, Etihad and our logistics partners together, we are committed to do our part in helping establish the necessary cold chain infrastructure needed to deliver hope and the necessary supplies to communities in need and help chart a path towards a lasting recovery."

The HOPE Consortium, along with its partners, has developed one of the most extensive end-to-end vaccine supply chains, capable of delivering millions of vaccines from the point of manufacture to the point of immunization in support of its global efforts against the pandemic.

In addition, it has developed a vaccine hub in Abu Dhabi that can accommodate over 120 million vaccines at temperatures of +8 C to -30 C at any time, and hosts the UAE's largest 'Freezer Farm,' which can store over 11 million vaccine doses requiring the ultra-cold temperature of -70 C. This is a major area of expertise where the HOPE Consortium brings together global leaders in logistics, technology, and supply chains.

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## CEVA Logistics becomes team partner of Scuderia Ferrari and logistics provider for Ferrari racing activities



**MARSEILLE, France: CEVA Logistics, part of the CMA CGM Group, announced it's now the new official logistics partner of Ferrari to support its racing activities and will also serve as a Team Partner of Scuderia Ferrari, the most successful team ever in Formula 1.**

Under their new multi-year partnership, CEVA Logistics, which aims to become one of the Top 5 logistics players in the world, will provide all logistics support services for the Scuderia Ferrari cars and equipment for Grand Prix events, as well as for the GT racing series and other Ferrari Challenge events.

As Team Partner of Scuderia Ferrari, CEVA Logistics will have its logo featured on the new 2022 Scuderia Ferrari single seater, as well as on team trucks and driver and pit crew equipment and apparel. Scuderia Ferrari's new 2022 F1 car is set to be unveiled on Feb. 17. In addition to the brand exposure from the Formula 1 series, CEVA Logistics will be visible in other series, including GT racing.

The Scuderia Ferrari team has been participating in all Formula 1 world championships since 1950 and holds the record for the most Grand Prix

victories, having won 239 races and 16 World Constructors' Championships.

Formula 1 events regularly receive television viewership in the hundreds of millions each year. In addition, according to Nielsen Sports, the global racing series is expected to reach one billion interested people in 2022, growing by 20 percent (73 million) last year in 10 of the motorsport series' key markets, which were Brazil, China, France, Germany, Italy, Russia, South Korea, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Ferrari has chosen CEVA Logistics and its leading global network to ensure road and sea shipments for its cars and equipment to race sites around the world. The Official Logistics Partner agreement covers both F1 and GT racing series.

In addition, CEVA will support car and equipment shipments to Scuderia Ferrari event destinations, as well as manage spare parts shipments in Europe and the global distribution of retail material. The 2022 Formula 1 world championship includes 23 global events beginning on March 18 in Bahrain and ending on Nov. 20 in Abu Dhabi.

As part of its efforts towards decarbonization, CEVA currently offers customers alternative fuel options including biofuel, LNG and biomethane in ocean cargo, sustainable aviation fuels for air cargo, and biofuels or even electric vehicles for ground transport.

Those initiatives echo Formula 1's trajectory towards sustainability. Since 2014, Formula 1 cars have been powered by hybrid engines. Starting this year, Scuderia Ferrari's F1 engines will be powered by a 10 percent-ethanol fuel. By 2026, the race cars will be using biofuels, and by 2030, Formula 1 aims to be Net zero carbon.

## CarbonCare and CARGO START team up to fight climate change

**ROME/ZURICH:** CARGO START Srl, the leading digital service provider based in Italy, has signed an agreement for the interfacing of its airport-to-airport tracking solution StarTracking with the CO<sub>2</sub>-emission calculator developed and operated by the Swiss organization CarbonCare.

From February onwards, the company said users of StarTracking will be able to benefit from special conditions to access CarbonCare's solution for the certified calculation of the greenhouse gas emissions generated by their air cargo shipments.

Subscription to this innovative service enables freight forwarders to visualize the carbon footprint of every single shipment on Airport-to-Airport level, directly on the StarTracking platform. Calculations related to the

entire shipping process, on Door-to-Door level, are accessible with just one click via the CarbonCare platform.

CarbonCare also provides detailed reporting and data archiving functions, that allow monitoring the performance and planning the necessary measures to reduce the environmental impact. Moreover, CarbonCare allows choosing among a variety of compensation projects via the Swiss-based organization MyClimate.

"When it comes to the future of logistics, investing in technological innovation and sustainability are two sides of the same coin," said Emanuele Vurchio, General Manager of CARGO START. "With our solutions, we commit to improving transparency and visibility in the air cargo industry and the agreement with CarbonCare allows us to meet our customers' increasing need for a more reliable monitoring of their carbon footprint."

Peter Somaglia, co-founder of CarbonCare, added, "We are confident that CARGO START's strong focus on innovation can further support CarbonCare in raising awareness when it comes to the transparency of emissions and in having a significant and long-lasting impact to fight climate changes."



# Volga-Dnepr Group

## The Wings of Russia for oversize and heavy cargo

“When it comes to project cargo transportations, which are usually taking place somewhere in less equipped areas and airports, there are no better freighters in the world than An-124 and Il-76 as they are 100% self-reliant in loading and offloading thanks to internal system of cranes and ramp. That said, we do not need special airport equipment, as opposed to Airbus and Boeing planes, to proceed with effective loading/offloading of XL shipments and our experienced and qualified loadmasters are always here to come up with the right technical solution to streamline handling operations.” -- Fedor Novikov, Marketing Director at Volga Dnepr Group

By Ayesha Rashid

**V**olga Dnepr Group has been known to be the world leader in carrying unique, oversize and heavy cargo, successfully creating a niche market for the Russian airfreight industry since 1990, a year before the former Soviet Union disintegrated and collapsed.

According to the Moscow Defense Brief, over the past 18 years, the Group has transported gigantic excavators and yachts, missile launchers, airplanes and helicopters, elephants and whales, entire mini-factories, power plants, among other unique cargoes.

The main subsidiary of the Group, Volga-Dnepr Airlines, operates a fleet of 12 Antonov AN-124 and five Ilyushin IL-76 for international charter services of oversized and heavy cargo. AirBridgeCargo (ABC), another subsidiary, specializes on scheduled cargo operations while ATRAN Airlines focuses on short-and medium-haul flights. Together, these cargo carriers are known as the “Wings of Russia.”

In 2008, Volga-Dnepr delivered Kibo, the Japanese Experiment Module for the International Space Station (ISS), from Japan to the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. It is the largest single ISS module.

The airline recently completed a series of charter flights for over 12 million COVID-19 kits, in collaboration with UK-based freight forwarder JAG-UFS, the test kits were carried from



Shanghai to China to Billund in Denmark with an average load of 72 tons per flight. The flights were carried out on behalf of the Danish government.

Amid the pandemic, the airline experienced disruption of scheduled operations and a significant influx of charter operations.

**With 30+ years of experience and expertise in this area they were able to adjust to the current situation and guarantee intact supply chains to their customers worldwide. The pandemic has also served as a trigger to introduce more diversified product portfolio for their customers—scheduled cargo operations, charter cargo operations, long-term charter programs and ACMI.**

As the market opted for longer-term commitments such product range was highly appreciated. Throughout 2021 the airline analyzed the market situation, and it

became clear that customers are also interested in integrated logistics solutions through 'one-stop-shop' experience.

Fedor Novikov, Marketing Director at Volga-Dnepr Group, explains to Air Cargo Update the company's unique role in transporting oversize and superheavy cargo, dominating the global market for this niche mission for years now.

### Integrating other services

Volga-Dnepr has historically been active in the heavy and oversize air cargo market transporting unique project cargoes worldwide. However, amid the pandemic they have significantly strengthened their positions in such segments as healthcare and humanitarian prioritizing COVID-19 shipments over other projects cargo to help people live healthier and safer lives.

"When it comes to project cargo transportations, which are usually taking place somewhere in less equipped areas and airports there are no better freighters in the world than An-124 and Il-76 as they are 100% self-reliant in loading and offloading thanks to internal system of cranes and ramp. That said, we do not need special airport equipment, as opposed to Airbus and Boeing planes, to proceed with effective loading/offloading of XL shipments and our experienced and qualified loadmasters are always here to come up with the right technical solution to streamline handling operations," Novikov explained.

Last year, amid the pandemic, Volga-Dnepr expanded its services to include a more integrated logistics solutions for its growing number of customers.

"In 2021, we have realized that our unique expertise and experience could expand beyond air freight and started offering more integrated logistics solutions, embracing first- and last-mile, warehousing, customs clearance, trucking delivery. These are the first steps but we have seen strong support from our customers and will follow this trajectory to offer value-added services," said Novikov.

"However, Boeing 747 with its nose-door loading capabilities and wide side cargo door is also an ideal choice when we talk about transportations to more developed airports with sufficient infrastructure. This is especially the case for super long pieces, likes of pipes, or jet engines to mitigate AOG situations, or equipment for chip production," he added.

Among its recent achievements, Volga-Dnepr has transported COVID-19 and ancillary out-of-gauge equipment, among them production line for vaccines.

Throughout 2021, the Group has also operated a number of charter flights with firefighting equipment to help nations in their battle against wildfires, transportation



**Fedor Novikov**  
Volga-Dnepr Group Marketing Director

with satellite equipment to provide high-speed internet coverage, supported our customers in their COVID-19 transportations (tests, masks, vaccines, ancillary goods, etc.).

### ***New logistics solutions***

Volga-Dnepr Group consists of three independent airlines - Volga-Dnepr Airlines, AirBridgeCargo Airlines, and ATRAN airlines, with supporting businesses in leasing, insurance, MRO, trucking, and training areas.

The Group provides efficient integrated logistics solutions to the market by using its unique fleet of the ramp and non-ramp aircraft and operating charters onboard An-124, Il-76 for oversized and super-heavy cargoes, onboard Boeing 747F, Boeing 777F and Boeing 737F for general and special cargoes, including temperature-sensitive, dangerous goods, oversize and heavy, live animals, e-commerce; scheduled flights for all types of cargo in accordance with the existing network onboard B747F, Boeing 777F and B737F; and providing customized logistics solutions for oversize and heavy cargo, embracing all stages of the transportation process – consulting, design &

manufacture of special loading frames, packaging advice, and support, organization of multi-modal services, obtaining of airport permits and approvals, ground handling arrangements.

The Group is constantly evolving its services to meet the growing demand for dedicated deliveries of healthcare, high-tech, aerospace, e-commerce, automotive, and other industries with a special focus on customized solutions.

“In 2021 we have decided to expand the scope of our services embracing integrated logistics solutions – first and last mile, terminal handling, warehousing, transportation, customs clearance, design solutions, etc. With more than 30+ years of operations, expertise, and competence, we feel positive that our value-added services will be in demand among our existing and potential customers,” said Novikov.

### ***Cargo Supermarket Strategy***

Cargo Supermarket is Volga-Dnepr’s unique concept which offer one-stop-shop experience to their customers worldwide. Basically, it means that the customer could address with his/her cargo request and be sure to receive the most cost-effective logistics solution which might cover scheduled or charter operations onboard diversified freighter fleet (An-124-100/150, Il-76TD-90VD, Boeing 747-400ERF/8F, Boeing 777F, and Boeing 737F).

**“On top of that, we complement our air freight services with Engineering and Logistics consulting which covers multi-modal delivery, customs clearance, warehouse management, design and manufacture of special loading equipment and other key logistics components,” said Novikov.**

**Cargo Supermarket is Volga-Dnepr’s unique concept which offer one-stop-shop experience to their customers worldwide.**

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“This is a very competitive advantage given that in today’s fast-paced world, customers value time and having the ability to save it and avoid multi communication through e-mails, online booking forms, telephone calls, etc., is something our customers appreciate.

“Apart from Cargo Supermarket concept and a package of integrated logistics solutions we guarantee that we speak one language with our customers which means having local specialists with global vision and understanding. We have been expanding our regional teams, strengthening their knowledge as per industry requirements and current certifications.”



## 2022 and beyond

According to Novikov, the air cargo industry has been the bright spot and enabled uninterrupted supply chains amid logistics chaos of 2021.

**“We are optimistic about 2022, although it is still early to talk about full recovery, which is expected to be reached only by 2024, in 2022 there will be 60%-recovery of passenger operations as they were back in 2019. IATA is predicting a rather modest growth of 4% growth of cargo volumes.**

“However, we do not expect this year to be easier than previous two as we are still facing logistics challenges, but we feel better prepared today and have been able to adjust to the current situations. We look forward to expanding our scope of services embracing new areas, investing in new equipment and infrastructure, attracting new talents to ramp up our ambitious growth.”

**He noted that the world currently relies heavily on air cargo operations which will be boosted by the following:**

- E-commerce demand which keeps on growing given closure of brick

& mortar shops, restrictions in some countries on shops' working hours, and overall changes in buying behavior as consumers shifted from offline to online shopping.

- Demand for high-tech goods will drive the growth not only through increase in sales of work & leisure devices but also semiconductors and lithium batteries, widely used in electronic goods and Evs.
- Lack of capacity due to slow passenger operations' recovery.
- COVID-19 influence with resurgence of the epidemic in certain countries, this might foster local PPE demand.
- Vaccine distribution will stimulate high-quality cargo operations.
- Demand for vaccine-related cargo – injection syringes, vials, production equipment, others.

For now, the “Wings of Russia” is busy hauling different types of cargo across all continents, ensuring that both its chartered and scheduled flights arrive safely and on time, as the world races against time to recover from the onslaught of the pandemic.

*Edited by Gemma Q. Casas*



# Volga-Dnepr: A leader in oil & gas equipment transportation

**V**olga-Dnepr Group is also known best known for its remarkable performance in transporting equipment in the oil and gas industry, both in Russia and globally.

Using its fleet of An-124-100 and IL-76, technical expertise and highly-skilled staff, customers are assured of timely delivery of their equipment, thus, contributing to seamless production of oil and gas.

Volga-Dnepr has already served all major oil and gas companies worldwide such as British Petroleum, Exxon Mobile, Chevron-

Texaco, Calgary Overseas, Canadian Oxy Offshore International, LUKOIL. A bright example of new technologies implementation for special cargo services is the cooperation between Volga-Dnepr and British Petroleum. In 1996, transportation of oil equipment to Columbia by the Russian airline's aircraft resulted in the commencement of oil exploration there before the scheduled time.

Within a year and a half, 120 flights were performed for British Petroleum including high-mountain and hardly accessible regions with over 11 thousand tons of the total equipment dispatched. Such logistic solutions are new to the world aviation and industrial exploration. Experts said Volga-Dnepr logistic services allowed its customers to obtain material benefits.

Among the Group operations performed in 2007-2008 are the following: the delivery of an asphalt plant from the United States to Russia; transportation of a huge rotor (67 tons) from Italy to China; delivery of a power station (90 tons) from the United States to Kuwait. In 2008 the dispatch of a printing device from Germany to Japan was a new world record of a single cargo piece transportation (40 tons) on the IL-76TD aircraft.

Through the Group's endeavors, An-124-100 Ruslan and IL-76 aircraft became part of the international logistics incorporating production units located across the world.



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# GLOBAL AIR CARGO

industry posts  
stellar  
performance  
in 2021

Demand up by nearly  
19% but supply chain  
challenges remain



## GENEVA, Switzerland: The global air cargo demand went up by 18.7 percent in 2021 compared to 2020, year-on-year, making it the industry's second best performance (behind 2010's 20.6% gain) since the International Air Transport Association began monitoring cargo output in 1990.

IATA said the growth outpaced the 9.8% rise in global goods trade by 8.9 percentage points. Economic conditions continue to support air cargo growth noting that the recent surge in COVID-19 cases in many advanced economies has created strong demand for PPE shipments, which are usually carried by air, it added.

Challenges, however, still confront the industry, particularly in the supply chain, due to labor shortages, partly due to employees being in quarantine, insufficient storage space at some airports and processing backlogs continue to put pressure on supply chains.

"Air cargo had a stellar year in 2021. For many airlines, it provided a vital source of revenue as passenger demand remained in the doldrums due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. Growth opportunities however were lost due to the pressures of labor shortages and constraints across the logistics system. Overall, economic conditions do point towards a strong 2022," said Willie Walsh, IATA's Director General.

"December saw a relief in supply chain issues that enabled an acceleration of cargo growth. "Some relief on supply chain constraints occurred naturally in December as volumes decreased after peak shipping activity ended in advance of the Christmas holiday. This freed capacity to accommodate front-loading of some Lunar New Year shipments to avoid potential disruptions to flight schedules during the Winter Olympic games.



Willie Walsh

**IATA said the growth outpaced the 9.8% rise in global goods trade by 8.9 percentage points. Economic conditions continue to support air cargo growth noting that the recent surge in COVID-19 cases in many advanced economies has created strong demand for PPE shipments, which are usually carried by air, it added.**

"And overall December cargo performance was assisted by additional belly-hold capacity as airlines accommodated an expected year-end boost to travel. As shortages of labor and storage capacity remain, governments must keep a sharp focus on supply chain constraints to protect the economic recovery," Walsh noted.

### **2021 Regional Performance**

Strong variations were evident in the regional performance of air cargo in 2021 compared to 2019. North American carriers were the strongest performers, reporting an annual increase in international demand of 20.2%. Middle East and African carriers also reported double digit growth in





## international demand in 2021 (10.6% and 11.3%, respectively) compared to 2019. Asia-Pacific and European carriers saw international demand rise 3.6% in 2021 compared to 2019. And Latin American carriers were the only ones to record a contraction in international demand of 15.2% compared to 2019.

**Asia-Pacific airlines** reported a rise in international demand of 3.6% in 2021 compared to 2019 and a fall in international capacity of 17.1%. In December airlines in the region posted an 8.8% increase in international demand compared to 2019. Demand for goods manufactured in the region remains strong, including PPE. International capacity remained constrained in December down 10% compared to the same month in 2019.

**North American carriers** posted a 20.2% increase in international demand in 2021 compared to 2019 and a growth in international capacity of 0.2%. The region was the only one to record a growth in capacity in 2021 compared to 2019. In December carriers in the region posted an increase of 20.5% in international demand. The region's carriers continue to benefit from strong consumer demand for goods. International capacity grew 6.2% compared to December 2019.

**European carriers** reported a 3.6% increase in international demand in 2021 compared to 2019 and a fall in capacity of 17.4%. In December airlines posted an increase in international demand of 6% compared to 2019. International capacity was down 5.9% in December 2021 compared to pre-crisis. European carriers have been significantly affected by supply chain and airport congestion and localized capacity constraints.

**Middle Eastern carriers** reported an increase in international demand of 10.6% in 2021 compared to 2019 and a fall in international capacity of 10.1%. Growth decelerated towards the year-end, partly driven by a downward trend in volumes on the large Middle East-Asia route. In December airlines in the region recorded a 5.7% increase in international demand compared to December 2019. International capacity decreased by 9.2% in December compared to the same month in 2019.

**Latin American carriers** reported a decline in international demand of 15.2% in 2021 compared to 2019 and a fall in capacity of 30.2%. Airlines registered in Latin America had a challenging year, as several were engaged in lengthy restructuring processes. That said, the restructuring processes are coming to an end, and December's performance was the best of the year, with carriers in the region reporting a 2.9% decline in international demand compared to December 2019. This was a significant improvement on the 13.4% decline the previous month. Capacity remained heavily constrained in December, down 26.1% on pre-crisis levels.

**African airlines** saw international demand grow 11.3% in 2021 compared to 2019 and a fall in international capacity of 14.6%. Growth in the region has been dynamic for most of the year, driven by the strength of the Africa-Asia route. In December, international demand grew by 7.6% with international capacity falling 19.4% as compared to the same month in 2019.



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# Ford brain research could hold the key to more quickly identifying when drivers switch off at the wheel

Ford is working with neuroscientists to develop a faster and more effective way to detect when drivers are tired, distracted or not concentrating. Driver fatigue may be a contributing factor in up to 25 percent of fatal and serious road incidents.



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**Global motor company Ford is pioneering a new brain research that could ultimately lead to a faster and more accurate way to detect when a driver is starting to switch off behind the wheel.**

**Driver fatigue is a serious concern in the global trucking industry because of truck drivers usually do long-haul drive to transport goods between cities and borders.**

Alerting drivers who are tired or distracted far earlier could help keep drivers, passengers and other road users safe, with driver fatigue cited as a contributing factor in up to 25 percent of fatal and serious road incidents. A survey shows that 40 per cent of drivers in Europe do not follow the recommended practice of taking a break every two hours on long journeys.

"The brain processes huge amounts of information when we are driving, but that may change as driver assistance technologies do some of the driving for us. Drivers also get tired and their minds can wander. Identifying more quickly when this happens could be of critical importance," said Stefan Wolter, research engineer, Research and Advanced Engineering, Ford of Europe.

Working with neuroscientists, Ford is hoping that by identifying the brain responses that reveal lapses in concentration, it may then be possible to match the scans to their physical manifestations – such as changes in heart rate or breathing. Should a loss in concentration become apparent, for example if a change in heartbeat variability was detected via wearable technology, the vehicle could then alert the driver.

### **Unique research project**

As driver assistance technologies offer increasing levels of support to those behind the wheel, it remains crucial drivers stay alert and do not become overly reliant on assistance technologies.

Ford is conducting this research on mapping brain patterns to driver's reactions with Uniklinik RWTH Aachen, in Germany. The testing involves participants completing a driving simulation while their brain activity is scanned by an MRI



machine. A specially positioned mirror enables the participants to see the simulation on the screen.

The scenario, designed using gaming technology, involves a three-lane motorway at night where a vehicle in the middle lane brakes suddenly and the participant has to take over and move the car to the left or right, using a handheld device. The participants are also prompted by engine sounds to indicate which lane it is safe to move to.

The MRI machine scans the brain before and during these actions, while the researchers measure how quickly the participant reacts and if they make the right decision, and monitor changes to heart rate, breathing rate and other physiological measures.

"We believe that by capturing this data we could one day be able to generate unique physiological driver fingerprints so that drivers of the vehicles of the future can be prepared to react and to intervene immediately in case it is required," said Professor Klaus Mathiak M.D. Ph.D., head of Psychoneurobiology and lead consultant for Psychosomatic Medicine, Uniklinik RWTH Aachen.

For more than a decade, a coffee cup symbol displayed in the dashboard cluster has highlighted to Ford drivers that they may be showing signs of fatigue and should take a break. Now, this unique research project could take driver monitoring an important step further and help ensure a smooth transition to driving vehicles with advanced driver assistance features.

Based in Dearborn, Michigan, Ford also manufactures trucks and is considered one of the largest international heavy duty truck manufacturers in the world. The company produces a range of vehicles including tractors, construction trucks and distribution trucks weighing over 16 tons.

Ford Trucks combine more than half a century of design and production experience with expertise in market-specific product development, to engineer the main components of its vehicles, including the all-new engines. The company currently operates across Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Russia and the CIS. Source: [www.media.ford.com](http://www.media.ford.com)



# Driver Fatigue and Road Accidents Factsheet



Driver fatigue is a serious problem resulting in many thousands of road accidents each year. It is not possible to calculate the exact number of sleep related accidents but research shows that driver fatigue may be a contributory factor in up to 20% of road accidents, and up to one quarter of fatal and serious accidents.

These types of crashes are about 50% more likely to result in death or serious injury as they tend to be high speed impacts because a driver who has fallen asleep cannot brake or swerve to avoid or reduce the impact.

Sleepiness increases reaction time (a critical element of safe driving). It also reduces vigilance, alertness and concentration so that the ability to perform attention-based activities (such as driving) is impaired.

The speed at which information is processed is also reduced by sleepiness. The quality of decision-making may also be affected.

It is clear that drivers are aware when they are feeling sleepy, and so make a conscious decision about whether to continue driving or to stop for a rest. It may be that those who persist in driving underestimate the risk of actually falling asleep while driving. Or it may be that some drivers choose to ignore the risks (in the way that drink drivers do).

## *Crashes caused by tired drivers are most likely to happen:*

- On long journeys on monotonous roads, such as motorways
- Between 2am and 6am
- Between 2pm and 4pm (especially after eating, or having even one alcoholic drink)
- After having less sleep than normal
- After drinking alcohol
- If taking medicines that cause drowsiness
- After long working hours or on journeys home after long shifts, especially night shifts

A study conducted by a traffic safety foundation in the US investigated the relationship between the amount of sleep a driver has had and their likelihood of a collision. The study, being the first of its kind, looked at US road data in the form of the National Motor Vehicle Crash Causation Survey, in order to assess the contributory factors of the crash and how much sleep the driver had had recently.

This information was used to compare how much sleep drivers who had been involved in crashes caused by their own unsafe action or error had with how much drivers involved in crashes where this is not the case had. The key findings were that the risk of a collision is significantly increased as drivers have less and less sleep, when compared to drivers who had slept for 7 hours in the last 24 hours.

For example, those who had slept for between 5 and 6 hours had 1.9x the collision rate, and those who had slept for 4 hours or less had 11.5x the collision rate. These results show just how dangerous a lack of sleep can be, and how even one or two hours of sleep can make a huge difference in determining a driver's collision risk. Source: The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents

## flydubai adds AIUla to its network in Saudi Arabia and resumes operations to Yanbu



**DUBAI, UAE:** flydubai recently launched flights to AIUla, an unseen wonder of the world and home to Saudi Arabia's first UNESCO World Heritage site, Hegra, becoming the first UAE carrier to operate the route from Dubai.

This comes as the airline resumed its operations to the port city of Yanbu from 24 February with three flights a week, growing its network in the Kingdom to six points including Dammam, Jeddah, Madinah and Riyadh.

Flights to Yanbu International Airport (YNB), also known as Abdul Mohsin bin Abdulaziz International Airport, began on 24 February with a three times weekly service. Flights to Prince Abdul Majeed bin Abdulaziz Airport (ULH) will start on 02 March 2022 and will operate twice a week from Terminal 2, Dubai International (DXB).

"We are pleased to be able to offer passengers from the UAE and our network the opportunity to visit and explore one of the world's most beautiful and untouched destinations. We are also looking forward to the resumption of our operations to Yanbu in the Al Madinah Province. flydubai is dedicated to further strengthening the

cultural, trade and tourism ties between our two countries by making travel more accessible. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the authorities for their ongoing support," said Hamad Obaidalla, Chief Commercial Officer at flydubai.

Sudhir Sreedharan, Senior Vice President, Commercial Operations (UAE, GCC, Subcontinent and Africa) at flydubai, added: "We are looking forward to the start of our twice weekly service to AIUla from March. This route will be popular for our passengers from the UAE, as well as for travelers from the GCC, Russia and Central Asia. AIUla offers passengers great options for seeking immersive cultural and historical experiences as well as outdoor adventure activities, especially in the cooler winter season."

AIUla opened to global travelers for the first time in 2020 and visitors can now explore and view the remains of a remarkable and rich historical and archaeological site. AIUla offers visitors a journey through a living museum of the preserved Nabataean tombs of Hegra, sandstone outcrops, historic dwellings and monuments, both natural and man-made, that hold 200,000 years of largely unexplored human history.

## Ethiopian Airlines brings back B737 MAX in operations

**Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA:** Ethiopian Airlines brought back in operations Boeing's B737 MAX on 01 February, nearly three years after a tragic plane crash using the model that eventually forced airlines and regulators to ground its use globally.

Ethiopian Airlines has four B737 MAX in its fleet and 25 on order, some of which are due for delivery this year.

The B737 Max flight had on board Ethiopian government officials, the airline's Board Chairman and executives as well as Boeing's ambassadors, some journalists and passengers.

Ethiopian Group CEO Tewolde GebreMariam said the decision to bring back to the skies the B737 Max was anchored on the US Federal Aviation Administration's assurance and other international aviation regulatory bodies that it is safe to use.

"Safety is the top most priority at Ethiopian Airlines and it guides every decision we make and all actions we take. It is in line with this guiding principle that we are now returning the B737 MAX to service not only after the recertification by the FAA (Federal Aviation



Administration), EASA of Europe, Transport Canada, CAAC, ECAA and other regulatory bodies but also after the fleet type's return to service by 36 airlines around the world," said GebreMariam.

"In line with our initially stated commitment to become among the last airlines to return the B737 MAX, we have taken enough time to monitor the design modification work and the more than 20 months of rigorous recertification process and we have ensured that our pilots, engineers, aircraft technicians and cabin crew are confident on the safety of the fleet. The airline's confidence is further showcased by flying the top executives and the board chairman and other top government officials on the first flight," he added.

In March 2019, an Ethiopian flight using B737 MAX crashed in a field six minutes after take-off killing all 157 passengers and crew. The same model crashed in Indonesia five months earlier killing 189 people.

Fearing passenger safety, airlines worldwide grounded all planes of the same model prompting Boeing to reexamine its system which was found to have flaws. Airlines in the US, Europe, China, Australia, Japan and Indonesia had returned the B737 MAX to the skies after the flaws were corrected in line with international safety standards.

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## Emirates cleared to resume all US flights



**Dubai, UAE:** As a result of telecommunication operators delaying the roll-out of 5G networks around US airports, the US Federal Aviation Administration and Boeing have issued formal notifications that lift the previous restriction on aircraft operations, enabling Emirates to safely restore full scheduled operations to all its US destinations by 21 January 2022.

The airline reinstated its Boeing 777 operations to Chicago, Dallas Fort Worth, Miami, Newark, Orlando and Seattle on 21 January.

**Emirates services to Los Angeles, New York JFK, and Washington DC remain unimpacted. Flights to Boston, Houston and San Francisco, on which the airline had temporarily deployed A380 aircraft on 20 and 21 January, will return to Boeing 777 operations on Saturday 22 January.**

The airline also operates Boeing 777 freighter aircraft to Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Columbus and Aguadilla, carrying exports and essential cargo such as food and life-saving medicines and pharmaceuticals.

Earlier this week, Emirates suspended its services to some US destinations based on the FAA advisory and Boeing recommendations on possible interference between the 5G antennas and aircraft systems, as safety of operations is the top priority.

"We apologize for the inconvenience caused to our customers by the temporary suspension of flights to some of our US destinations. Safety will always be our top priority, and we will never gamble on this front. We welcome the latest development which enables us to resume essential transport links to the US to serve travellers and cargo shippers. However, we are also very aware that this is a temporary reprieve, and a long-term resolution would be required. Emirates will continue to work closely with the aircraft manufacturers and relevant regulators to ensure the safety and continuity of our services," said Sir Tim Clark, President Emirates Airline.

"We'd like to thank our customers for their patience and understanding, and express appreciation to our teams and partners who have worked round the clock to minimize impact on customers and help us return to service quickly."

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## AnadoluJet launches Sharjah-Istanbul flights

**ISTANBUL, Turkey:** AnadoluJet, the regional carrier of Turkish Airlines, launched in December its direct flight service between Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates and Istanbul.

AnadoluJet says it will operate four flights a week (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Sunday) between Sharjah and Istanbul Sabiha Gökçen. The airline has offered discounted tickets for the routes which guests can change until 31 May 2022 if purchased before 31 March 2022.

Founded in 2008 to meet the air transport demand in Turkey's domestic market, AnadoluJet has expanded its operations to international routes in 2000. With a fleet of 52 aircraft, it serves 65 routes on domestic flights and 84 routes on international flights, according to its website.

Turkey is fast becoming a popular tourism destination for many expatriates in the UAE eager to explore nearby countries despite the threat of the pandemic.



## SmartLynx Airlines expands fleet with 2 Boeing 737 MAX

SMBC Aviation Capital is one of the world's leading aircraft operating lease companies and will be the first lessor to support SmartLynx with 737 MAX 8 type aircraft.

Barry Flannery, Chief Commercial Officer, SMBC Aviation Capital said: "We are delighted to sign this deal with our new customer SmartLynx which will support the expansion of their fleet in to the Boeing 737-Max aircraft family. This deal shows that there is continued growing demand from customers for SMBC Aviation Capital's young, fuel efficient narrow body aircraft and highlights our continued commitment to supporting our customers' adoption of the latest generation, most environmentally friendly aircraft types."

The first two 737 MAX 8 units will be introduced to the SmartLynx fleet in April, with further type additions planned later in the Summer of 2022.

**MĀRUPE, Latvia:** The privately-owned SmartLynx Airlines begins 2022 with a significant milestone—leasing two Boeing 737-MAX 8 aircraft from SMBC Aviation Capital.

Latvia's leading ACMI and charter operator said the new aircraft will be leased to meet the growing demand from European and overseas markets.

SmartLynx said such strategic expansion into the Boeing aircraft family will the airline to build a reliable fleet that will ensure the provision of even greater and more versatile products and services. Additionally, the longer range of the Boeing 737 MAX 8 opens new market opportunities for SmartLynx Airlines and its customers.

"As SmartLynx Airlines continues to modernize its fleet, there's no doubt that the Boeing 737 MAX 8 is the right aircraft for us, and we were pleased to work with SMBC to make it happen," said Zygimantas Surintas, CEO of SmartLynx Airlines. "Not only will these aircraft allow us to expand our services and the markets we can cover, it will also allow us to ensure even better-quality service and unmatched technical reliability."

## Airport Show-2022 to focus on 'digital' airports as technologies continue to be game-changer in post-pandemic era

### Airport technologies market to grow to US\$13 billion by 2022

**Dubai, UAE:** Innovative technologies and products providing a wider degree of agility and flexibility for airports emerge as travelers gradually return to the skies despite the lingering Coronavirus pandemic.

From biometric-based checks, self-boarding and real-time bag-tracking to digitalized air traffic management, airports have kept up competing by continuously adopting cutting-edge technologies for a completely frictionless travelling experience.

In this year's Airport Show, a diverse range of technologically advance and innovative products will be showcased at the event's venue, the Dubai World Trade Center (DWTC) from 17-19 May 2022.

**Digital queuing and biometric has been viewed as a priority to be implemented to modernize every component of the journey at airports which are expected to allocate up to six per cent of their revenues each year to spend on Information Technology until 2024 on transformative projects and infrastructure upgrades aimed at improving operational efficiency and preparing themselves to handle passengers whose numbers will reach 8.2 billion in 2037 and 20.9 billion by 2040.**

His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President of Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, Chairman of Dubai Airports, Chairman and Chief Executive of Emirates Airline and Group, and Patron of Airport Show, said: "The Airport Show has provided over the past two decades products and services to create most advanced aviation facilities in the world."

Airports are being increasingly becoming destinations and trying to improve the passenger experiences through utilizing new technologies to gain their confidence and satisfaction. They are fast-tracking security controls and boarding gates and grasping the opportunity to better operational processes and through different solutions, including



the deployment of innovative products and services post 21st century's second pandemic that has derailed their pace of growth. Airports are realizing IT, automation and digital transformation play an important role in efficiency, safety and customer experience.

The coronavirus pandemic has enhanced the seamless passenger flow and a contactless journey. The technologies and solutions have been in part accelerated by the pandemic but are also part of the long-term transformation underway, according to Billy Shallow, Director, Innovation and Technology at Airports Council International (ACI World) whose members operates over 1953 airports in 176 countries.

An IATA Global Passenger Survey across 153 countries revealed passengers expect technology to give them more "personal control over their travel experience" and greater automation of airport processes like security and border control which they called the "biggest pain points". The annual expenditure on airport security systems alone is set to top US\$12.67 billion by 2023.

The global airport technologies market is expected to grow to more than US\$13 billion at an annual growth rate of almost 5% through 2022. According to Frost & Sullivan, airport IT spending is to touch US\$4.63 billion by 2023. The smart airports market is projected to grow to US\$6.4 billion by 2025.

Firas Abu Ltaif, Exhibition Manager at Reeds Exhibitions, said: "The aviation industry needs to prepare itself for the boom period in the near future. Airports and airlines across the world are now on their way to recovery. After a decade of consistent and robust growth in global passenger traffic, the pandemic halted the surge in airports, causing total passenger numbers for that year to drop sharply to a level not seen in the world's airports since 1997."

According to ACI, airports will be spending US\$2.4 trillion until the year 2040 to maintain, upgrade, expand and modernize airport infrastructure to deal with any conditions in the future similar to the challenges faced during the pandemic.

The Middle East region alone will need to spend about US\$151 billion for the expansion and modernization of airports. The co-located events will be ATC Forum, Airport Security Middle East, Global Airport Leaders Forum (GALF) and Women in Aviation (WIA) Forum, Airport Passengers Experience Conference and the Future GSE Summit.



## SAIF Zone ends 2021 with milestones, securing its position as major investment hub in the region

Saud Salim Al Mazrouei

**SHARJAH, UAE:** The Sharjah Airport International Free Zone Authority (SAIF Zone) says 2021 ended with more business growth, strengthening its position as a major hub for trade, industry, and logistics services in the Middle East.

Under the directives and vision of H.H. Dr. Sheikh Sultan bin Muhammad Al Qasimi, Supreme Council Member and Ruler of Sharjah, the Sharjah Airport International Free Zone Authority has grown the leased and invested lands in the free zone to 263,000 sq ft, varying from lands to warehouses, for global companies from India, Britain, Spain, Belgium, and others.

The Zone's varied services include customs clearance, sophisticated infrastructure, state-of-the-art facilities with air-conditioned and furnished executive suites, pre-built warehouses in various sizes with adjacent office space, and lease lands for unrestricted private development.

Other incentives include 100% foreign ownership of businesses, 100 % repatriation of capital and profits, and 100 percent corporate or personal income tax exemptions, 100% import and export tax exemptions.

"Last year, we have reinforced our digital system by adding new features and services, which boosted the investor confidence in the Authority and improved the ease of doing business. This is in line with the aspirations of the wise

leadership of Sharjah and the government's directions to adopt best practices and build an advanced digital system, in which the Authority works around the clock to serve investors and provides integrated and seamless services to save customers effort and time," said Saud Salim Al Mazrouei, Director of Sharjah Airport International Free Zone Authority.

Advanced Armour Engineering (AAE), a British-owned and managed steel fabrication company, has rented additional land in the Zone worth more than AED 20 million (about USD5 million) as part of its expansion plans.

Concord Enviro FZE, an Indian company operating in the treatment and recycling of industrial wastewater and seawater desalination, has leased additional 130,000-sqft plots of land to set up new facilities to cope with the increasing demand of the local and regional markets for the latest industrial wastewater recycling products produced by the company in multiple sectors, including pharmaceutical industries, textiles, distillation industries, tanneries, steel industries, yeast, paints, dyes, cement, food and beverages, paper, electrical industries, and others.

Also in the same year, SAIF ZONE has signed an investment agreement with TORRECID, under which, the Spanish group will lease three state-of-the-art warehouses stretching over an area of 20,000 square feet, making it the group's first headquarters not only in the UAE but also in the GCC countries. WAM



Jeff  
Lennon

## Vision Box VP says biometric technologies and automation key to reviving global travel industry

times, Lennon highlighted Vision-Box's work with clients around the globe, saying, "The US, Canada and Australia have done a great job with having a digital process in place. The UK along with the UKVI, have been ahead of the curve in enabling digital gates, meaning you don't need to present a physical visa at a border.

"The EU next year will have digital stamping of passports and electronic visas. There are already a lot of measures in place and many countries are now equipped to enable travellers to access borders with very little physical paperwork."

With the new Omicron variant posing a concern for countries and travelers, Lennon asserted the travel sector will need to enable safe contactless travel.

"The travel sector has been reeling under the pressure of COVID-19 and its variants for nearly two years now, and what has been clear is that the world will continue to deal with some form of the virus for at least the next couple of years. The Omicron variant is probably a challenging one as it appeared just before the start of the holiday season and the new year. What the sector needs here is to demonstrate the preparedness to safely enable seamless and less-intrusive travel, while at the same time building consumer confidence to return to airports, board aircrafts and venture out onto their destinations," he said.

"Contactless biometric based technologies are the key here – both for consumers to regain confidence and for airports and airlines to effectively manage crowds and cut down bottlenecks created by the additional paperwork. By implementing touchless automated technologies, passengers can confidently walk into the airport and speed through the processes, from check-in to boarding, without the need to interact with another person.

To help airports, airlines, and border forces safely operate during COVID-19 and beyond, Vision-Box has been implementing seamless and automated biometric control solutions for clients including London Gatwick, the UK Home Office, New York JFK, AirAsia, Kuala Lumpur International Airport, Emirates Airline, Dubai International Airport and Schiphol.

## Qatar Airways orders 777-8 freighters from Boeing costing \$20 billion

**WASHINGTON, D.C.:** Boeing [NYSE: BA] has launched the new 777-8 Freighter and expanded its market-leading 777X and freighter families of jetliners with an order for up to 50 aircraft from one of the world's largest cargo carriers, Qatar Airways.

Qatar Airways will be the 777-8 Freighter launch customer with a firm order for 34 jets and options for 16 more, a total purchase that would be worth more than \$20 billion at current list prices and the largest freighter commitment in Boeing history by value. First delivery of the new freighter is anticipated in 2027.

The order supports hundreds of U.S. suppliers from across 38 states, will sustain more than 35,000 U.S. jobs, and provide the American economy with an annual estimated economic impact of \$2.6 billion during the contract's delivery period.

**Featuring advanced technology from the new 777X family and the proven performance of the market-leading 777 Freighter, the 777-8 Freighter will be the largest, longest-range and most capable twin-engine freighter in the industry. With payload capacity nearly identical to the 747-400 Freighter and a 25% improvement in fuel efficiency, emissions and operating costs, the 777-8 Freighter will enable a more sustainable and profitable business for operators.**

At the White House, Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo, His Excellency Ambassador Sheikh Mishaal bin Hamad Al Thani, Director of the White House National Economic Council Brian Deese, and Boeing President and CEO Dave Calhoun joined the formal signing by Boeing Commercial Airplanes President and CEO Stan Deal and Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive Akbar Al Baker who reaffirmed the airline's commitment to the 777X family with the record-breaking 777-8 Freighter deal.

"Boeing has a long history of building market-leading freighter aircraft and Qatar Airways is honored to have the opportunity to be the launch customer for the 777-8 Freighter, an aircraft which will not only allow us to further enhance our product offering for our customers, but also help us meet our objectives to deliver a sustainable future for our business," said Al Baker. "Today marks a great day in the ever-building



and strong relationship between Qatar Airways and Boeing. We certainly push Boeing hard to deliver upon our expectations, and the team at Boeing consistently strives to meet and exceed our expectations, giving the opportunity for us to be here today to launch the most significant new freighter aircraft for a generation."

"We are delighted to launch Boeing's next great cargo airplane – the 777-8 Freighter – with Qatar Airways, one of the world's largest cargo carriers and our partner since the airline began operations nearly 30 years ago," said Deal. "Our team is ready to create an airplane that will serve them well for many decades. Qatar Airways' selection of the efficient 777-8 Freighter is a testament to our commitment to provide freighters with market-leading capacity, reliability and efficiency."

"We are proud that 90% of the global dedicated freighter fleet is made up of Boeing airplanes. With global supply chains under pressure and high demand for e-commerce, the performance and capabilities of the fleet is more important than ever."

Boeing is designing the 777-8 Freighter, the newest member of the 777X family, to maximize efficiency and environmental performance. The widebody family features engineering design improvements and innovative technologies, including a new carbon-fiber composite wing and new fuel-efficient engines. With a range of 4,410 nautical miles (8,167 km), the 777-8 Freighter has a maximum structural payload of 118 tonnes, allowing customers to make fewer stops and reduce landing fees on long-haul routes.

Boeing will build the 777-8 Freighter in its Everett, Wash., factory. The company has invested more than \$1 billion into the Everett site to support 777X production and sustain thousands of local jobs for decades to come.

As part of today's agreement, Qatar Airways will convert 20 of its 60 777X family orders to the 777-8 Freighter. Qatar Airways is also ordering two current 777 Freighters – Boeing's best-selling freighter of all time – to capitalize on the buoyant air cargo market. Customers from around the world have ordered more than 300 777 Freighters since the program began in 2005.

Boeing and Qatar Airways also signed a Memorandum of Understanding for a firm order of 25 737-10 aircraft and purchase rights for 25 additional airplanes. The total value of this 737-10 commitment is nearly \$7 billion at current list prices. The largest model in the MAX family, the 737-10 seats up to 230 passengers in a single-class configuration and can fly up to 3,300 miles. The fuel-efficient jet can cover 99% of single-aisle routes around the world.

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## TIACA appoints jury for the 2021 Air Cargo Sustainability Awards



**MIAMI, Florida:** The International Air Cargo Association (T I A C A) has appointed a group of six industry leaders, visionaries, and sustainability champions to review and evaluate the 2021 TIACA Sustainability

Awards submissions.

The Awards, run in partnership with one of the leading industry IT solutions providers CHAMP Cargosystems, is now in its third edition. It aims to recognize outstanding businesses and industry initiatives to make air cargo more sustainable. There are two categories being judged, one for Start-Up/Small Business and the second for Corporate and established businesses.

### The jury composition:

- **Chris McDermott, Chief Executive Officer, CHAMP Cargo Systems**
- **Jaisey Yip, General Manager, Cargo & Logistics Development, Changi Airport Group**
- **Liana Coyne, Director, Coyne Airways**
- **Andrea Tang, International Trade Lawyer, FIATA**
- **Patricia Varela, Assistant Manager Operations Innovation & Change Management, IATA**
- **Hendrik Leysens, Vice President, Global Operations, Cargo, Swissport**

These jurors are tasked with independently evaluating the submissions as to whether the proposed project maximizes the

goals of sustainability that will positively impact the air cargo industry. The jury will then select three of the Start-up/Small Business submissions as finalists and one Corporate submission as the 2021 Corporate Air Cargo Sustainability Award winner.

"We are delighted to be the sponsor for the TIACA Sustainability Awards for the fourth consecutive year. For the sake of future generations, we all have a responsibility to lessen our impact on our planet, so it is encouraging to see the increased awareness of sustainability is now placing it high on everyone's agenda. These awards have highlighted some brilliant sustainability initiatives in the past. We, therefore, look forward to reviewing this year's applications with great interest, and as further evidence of the air cargo industry's ongoing commitment to this important subject," said Chris McDermott, CEO of CHAMP Cargosystems, the Exclusive Sponsor of the Awards.

The three finalists in the Start-up/Small Business category will be asked to share their initiative with the audience during the Executive Summit in San Francisco, March 22-25. The audience will then participate in the decision as to which initiative will receive the first-place prize of \$10,000 and the two runner-up prizes of \$2,500 each.

The winner in the Corporate category will be announced ahead of the event and recognized for their efforts in making air cargo more sustainable.

"It is exciting to see the level of innovation that has been presented in this year's 2021 Air Cargo Sustainability Awards submissions. We have received submissions that have different focuses, such as new energy sources, digitalization, carbon neutrality, temperature protection and packaging, just to name a few. I am sure it will be challenging for our jury to select the winners. We have to thank Champ Cargo Systems for their continued support as the exclusive sponsor of this award, without them we would not be able to formally recognize these efforts," said Steven Polmans, TIACA Chair.



**Mohammed Esa**

**PARIS, France:** Worldwide Flight Services (WFS) has appointed Mohammed Esa as Senior Vice President,

## WFS appoints Senior Vice President, Group Commercial Business Development & Strategy

relationships across various industry sectors, and overseeing the deployment of new and emerging technology solutions.

He previously also served as Agility's Chief Executive Officer & SVP of UAE, Oman & Bahrain, and as the company's VP Sales for the Asia Pacific region. Before joining Agility, he spent 13 years at Emirates Airline, based in Dubai, in Finance, Operations & Business Development roles.

Group Commercial Business Development & Strategy.

Esa, as he's known to friends and colleagues, brings 30 years of global leadership experience in commercial and operational roles in the transportation and logistics industries, having spent the last 18 years at Agility Logistics, most recently as SVP Global Business Development & Global Lead Digital Customer Solutions.

In this role, he was responsible for shaping and executing Agility's commercial strategy, building long-term customer

At WFS, Esa's mission is to develop and oversee the implementation of WFS' commercial development strategies to ensure a fully integrated commercial approach to drive future growth. He will also help to identify and develop new lines of business and focus on the development of digital solutions which support WFS' customer experience and organic growth.

"Esa is a tremendous addition to WFS' already-strong commercial team. His business skills gained from such a successful career in the airline and forwarding industries, alongside his knowledge of international management cultures, and understanding of how digitization is driving customer relationships and business growth, will be a great asset in the delivery of WFS' global commercial strategy. He will be a strong contributor to the next phase of our growth," said Barry Nassberg, Group Chief Commercial Officer at WFS.

In his new role, reporting to Barry Nassberg, Esa will operate from the WFS Group headquarters in Paris, with regular travel across the company's global network.

## Etihad Cargo reinforces the premium product delivery with specialised managerial appointments

**Abu Dhabi, UAE:** Etihad Cargo, the cargo and logistics arm of Abu Dhabi's Etihad Aviation Group, has significantly enhanced delivery of its eight-strong premium product range with the appointment of a specialised managerial team for cool chain products, Mail and eCommerce, Live animals and equine, and high value products.

"Etihad Cargo's premium products and services account for 30 percent of operations. Each of these products receive a specialised service to ensure the product is delivered to the highest industry standards" explained Martin Drew, Senior Vice President Sales and Cargo, Etihad Aviation Group. "The renewed emphasis on premium products reflects Etihad Cargo's desire to provide clients the highest possible service level which will ensure long-term relationships as the air cargo partner of choice."

Nasir Sajwani will now head up delivery of the carrier's FlightValet, which manages the global transportation of high-value vehicles across the globe, FlyCulture, the tailored service for the secure and discreet transportation of rare and valuable artworks and musical instruments, and SafeGuard - the dedicated secure transportation service for valuable cargo.

Fabrice Panza, Product Manager, continues to lead Etihad Cargo's cool chain products including its award-winning PharmaLife which uses specially designed, temperature-controlled equipment and specific processes to ship pharmaceuticals around the world as



quickly and as safely as possible while complying with the highest industry compliance standards, and FreshForward which simplifies the movement of fresh fruit, vegetables, dairy, fish, meat, and flowers.

Both products leverage Etihad's extensive experience which has seen it be the first Middle Eastern carrier to be awarded IATA's Centre of Excellence for Independent Validators (CEIV) certification in Pharmaceutical Logistics and the first regional airline – and second globally – to gain the IATA CEIV Fresh certificate which verifies it as a centre of excellence for perishable logistics.

Ram Vignesh is now managing Etihad Cargo's AirMail and eCommerce products while Arun Nair leads the carrier's LiveAnimals and SkyStables, products for the specialised and safe transportation of animals and horses respectively.

Etihad Cargo's premium products operate across the carrier's global network which spans Africa, America, Asia, Australia, Europe and the Middle East from its hub in Abu Dhabi.



## Seko Logistics promotes Char Dalton as Chief Legal Officer & Chief of Staff

**ITASCA, Illinois:** SEKO Logistics has promoted Char L. Dalton to Chief Legal Officer & Chief of Staff to focus on the realization of the company's long-term growth objectives.

Dalton will report directly to SEKO's President & CEO James Gagne with her new role supporting the CEO with execution of strategic initiatives across all portfolio companies.

Dalton joined SEKO Logistics in 2014 as Director, Legal after five years as

Corporate Legal Counsel at NNR Global Logistics. She has held the post of General Counsel, Vice President at SEKO for the past seven years, managing legal issues for the company's worldwide entities, as well as maintaining responsibilities for the Human Resources and Compliance teams. Her global legal work for SEKO incorporates corporate governance, commercial transactions, litigation management, contracts, and other legal affairs for the organization, with a core focus on business facilitation and risk mitigation.

She also serves as Corporate Secretary for the Board of Directors and is an active participant in the legal community, including her role as President (Elect) for the Association of Corporate Counsel, Chicago, as well as her participation and leadership in a variety of other community and volunteer initiatives.

"SEKO is entering a new phase of growth which will be greater than any time in our history. Our Chief of Staff and Chief Legal Officer is going to play a pivotal role in enabling us to implement our vision and achieve our annual goals, and I couldn't be happier that Char has accepted this responsibility," said Gagne.

As Chief of Staff, Dalton's responsibilities include building and leading the daily operations of the Executive office and working collaboratively with the C-suite team to ensure goals are met. She will lead cross-functional strategic initiatives, facilitate special projects, and ensure action items are executed on behalf of the CEO - acting as an information funnel, filter, and facilitator with internal and external stakeholders, and ensuring alignment with the priorities of the organization.

She will also manage key relationships and build a process to track and nurture key stakeholders, investors, and clients, while serving as a thought partner and strategic advisor to the CEO.

"I could not be more excited for this opportunity, and to be a part of the future growth strategy at SEKO," said Dalton. "It is a really exciting environment to be a part of, and I am honored to step into the new leadership role of Chief Legal Officer and Chief of Staff. The future is bright for SEKO and I am confident we will continue to exceed expectations for our clients, our employees and our shareholders."



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# Upcoming Events

## Expo 2020 Dubai, UAE

Minds, Creating the Future', Expo 2020 will be the world's most impactful global incubator for new ideas, catalyzing an exchange of new perspectives and inspiring action to deliver real-life solutions to real-world challenges.

Running from 1 October 2021 to 31 March 2022 and coinciding with the 50-year anniversary of the founding of the UAE, Expo 2020 will bring the world together, creating an open, global dialogue that looks to the future. Millions of visitors from across the globe will be invited to join the making of a new world, as they discover life-changing innovations that will have a meaningful, positive impact on both people and planet.

Ongoing till 31 March 2022  
Dubai Exhibition Center, Dubai



UAE Pavilion

## MRO Middle East

MRO Middle East brings the commercial aviation aftermarket under one roof. The two-day exhibition welcomes senior level attendees from airlines, MROs, OEMs, lessors and suppliers to grow their network, explore new technology and learn from experts at the Go Live! Theater.

For the first time in 2022, all attendees will have the ability to network with the entire audience via the networking app. Using the Grip platform, registrants will gain access prior to the show to build their profile browse the attendee lists and exhibitors as well as book meetings for the event days.

Taking place at Dubai World Trade Center, Sheikh Saeed Halls 2 & 3, the event is once again co-located with Aircraft Interiors Middle East (AIME).

**22-23 February 2022**  
**Dubai World Trade Center**

## 2nd Global Airports Aviation Forum

Held in conjunction with MRO ARABIA and MIDDLE EAST GROUND HANDLING, the 2nd Global Airports Aviation Forum is the ideal platform for the Middle East, Africa and South Asia's aviation authorities to connect and collaborate with international industry leaders, experts and stakeholders to create the most advanced aviation facilities in the world.

**9-10 March 2022**  
**Riyadh Int'l Convention & Exhibition Center, Riyadh, KSA**

## Messe München's transport logistic and TIACA's air cargo forum come to the US in 2022

TIACA's Executive Summit and Messe München's transport logistic Americas Forum come together at the 2-day conference March 22-23, 2022 at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco. With the innovation journey to Silicon Valley the second highlight is scheduled March 24-25, 2022. Get inspired and discover future trends to move your business forward. In parallel transport logistic, the leading international exhibition for Logistics, Mobility, IT and Supply Chain Management now finds an additional home in the booming Florida metropolis in the south of the USA. transport logistic Americas and air cargo forum Miami thus compliments the worldwide coverage of the successful trade show concepts organized by Messe München. The combination of both brands offers a central platform for connections, most notably to USA, North and South America, as well as to other continents.

**March 22-25, 2022 in San Francisco (ACF)**  
**November 08-10, 2022 in Miami**

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## Air Cargo India 2022

With 74 exhibitors, 2354 visitors and 478 delegates in the previous event, Air Cargo India stands as one of the promising platforms for the air cargo industry.

This year's event will have insightful conferences and discussions on the latest topics concerning the air cargo industry, along with air shipper forums and panel discussions.

**31 May-02 June 2022 | Grand Hyatt, Mumbai**

## Logistics Congress 2022

Next year's Logistics Congress hosts "Supply Chains in Science and Practice 2022" organized in cooperation with the European Logistics Association ELA. The congress brings together all parties in any way whatsoever connected to logistics: logistic, transport, and production companies; suppliers of IT solutions; educational institutions, and national authorities.

**06-08 April 2022**  
**Grand Hotel Bernardin – Portorož, Slovenia**

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