

# air cargo update

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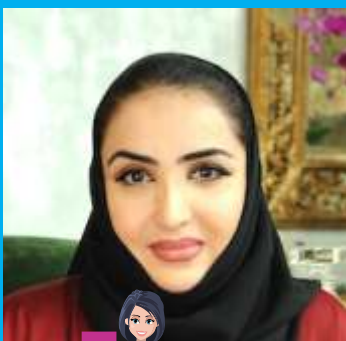


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Airlines

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

**DIRECTOR & PUBLISHER**

**Israr Ahmad**

israr@7dimensionsmedia.com

**ASSOCIATES PUBLISHER**

**Poonam Chawla**

poonam@7dimensionsmedia.com

**CHIEF EDITOR**

**Gemma Q. Casas**

gemma@7dimensionsmedia.com

**CONTRIBUTORS**

**R. Chandrakanth**

chandrakant@aircargoupdate.com

**STAFF REPORTER**

**Mohammed Irshad**

irshad@7dimensionsmedia.com

**SOCIAL MEDIA SPECIALIST**

**Harshad Hussain B**

harshad@7dimensionsmedia.com

**Ayesha Rashed**

ayesha@7dimensionsmedia.com

**HEAD OPERATIONS**

**Mohammad Karimulla**

karimulla@7dimensionsmedia.com

**CREATIVE DIRECTOR**

**Mohammed Imran**

imran@7dimensionsmedia.com

**PHOTO JOURNALIST**

**Deepu Raj**

deepu@7dimensionsmedia.com

**WORLDWIDE MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES**

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

RMA media, Faredoon Kuka;  
Tel: +91 22 5570 3081; Fax: +91 22 5570 3082  
Taiwan:

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

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

Austria: Horseshoe Media, Peter Patterson; Tel: +44 208 6874 160

**ULDs: The Unsung Heroes of Cargo**

Transporting cargo by air involves more than just hauling boxes to the aircraft. Their placement needs thorough analysis and precision. Depending on what's being transported, cargoes need careful packaging and storage systems to protect their integrity as the planes cruise in the skies at about 575-600 mph.

It's a complex process. More complex than guiding passengers to their seats on a plane and then letting them disembark at the airports of their final destinations.

For cargo to safely fly, whether it be live animals, general items, perishables, or temperature-sensitive pharmaceuticals, they need the so-called Unit Load Devices or ULDs.

ULDs are standardized containers and pallets that are used to group and restrain cargo and baggage on aircraft. They are designed to be quickly and easily loaded and unloaded and to protect the cargo from damage during flight.

ULDs play a vital role in aviation safety. They help ensure that cargo is properly secured and balanced, thereby, reducing risks of accidents and in-flight incidents. They also protect the plane's structure from damage and help reduce fuel consumption by optimizing the aircraft's load.

They also help reduce turnaround times and costs for airlines as cargo can be loaded and unloaded easily.

ULDs have been used since the 1960s but it wasn't until the 1970s that its use was standardized by airlines and manufacturers. And IATA did not formalize the use of ULDs until 2013, according to reports.

Today, ULDs come in different types and forms. It includes temperature-controlled boxes for perishable cargo, pharmaceuticals, and live animal stalls. It has also embraced digitalization with ULDs now empowered with tracing and tracking devices.

In this edition, we look at the evolution of ACL Airshop, a 40-year veteran in the ULD industry, leading innovations and new trends.

The importance of ULDs in aviation is undeniable and it will definitely grow as the industry curves its new path in the digital age.

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

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## The Lounge

### TRAVELING, SPORTS, AND FINDING SOLACE IN SIMPLE YET MEANINGFUL MOMENTS IN LIFE HELP THIS TOP CARGO EXECUTIVE BALANCE HIS WORK AND LIFE



**Maurice van Terheijden**  
Managing Director - EMEA

**M**aurice van Terheijden, Managing Director - EMEA at ACL AIRSHOP, reflects on his journey into the aviation industry, saying, "In my childhood, I was captivated by the airline industry. We would eagerly await my father's return from his business trips, and before picking him up at the airport, we would spend time on the outside deck, gazing at the airplanes."

He continues, "Despite initially aspiring to become an air traffic controller, I found myself entering on a different path. I pursued a degree in Bachelor of Logistics and Technical Transportation at Hogeschool Amsterdam. Surprisingly, I became deeply attracted to the air cargo sector, and I never looked back."

Maurice's extensive experience has taught him to embrace challenges with a "hands-on mentality."

He passionately asserts, "One of the most notable experiences was during the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami when we suddenly had multiple charters carrying relief goods destined for Asia."

His problem-solving philosophy is evident as he states, "We try to avoid saying 'no' to a customer. We are the problem solvers." This ethos extends to ACL Airshop.

Maurice possesses an innate ability to unwind. "I've been blessed with a disposition that allows me to relax easily." He goes on to share his relaxation activities, saying, "Whether it's spending weekends with my family, embarking on leisurely canal tours on a boat, or cheering for my daughter during her sports matches, I find rejuvenation in these simple yet meaningful moments," he explains.

He continues, "An active social life, replete with outings and gatherings with friends and family, further contributes to my

"Despite initially aspiring to become an air traffic controller, I found myself entering on a different path. I pursued a degree in Bachelor of Logistics and Technical Transportation at Hogeschool Amsterdam. Surprisingly, I became deeply attracted to the air cargo sector, and I never looked back."

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relaxation."

Having traveled the globe for both work and leisure, Maurice has discovered a wealth of diverse destinations. "Tibet, the jungles of Venezuela, Sossusvlei in Namibia, and the pristine beaches of the Maldives," he reminisces, "Each has left an indelible mark on me." His enthusiasm shines through as he adds, "Vibrant cities like Barcelona, New York, and Baku have also etched themselves into my memory."

Yet, one destination still beckons him with a sense of wonder: Chile. "I've longed to explore Chile," he reveals with enthusiasm. "Starting from the north in Arica, traversing the desert to Santiago de Chile, and culminating in the south at Patagonia, Argentina is a dream I hope to fulfill."

In his leisure hours, Maurice's sporting interests take center stage. "I derive immense pleasure from watching various sports, particularly soccer and Formula 1 racing," he enthuses. His passion for the live experience is evident as he shares, "Whenever feasible, I enjoy attending live events, savoring the energy that permeates stadiums during these contests."

Culinary exploration has been one of the joys of Maurice's extensive travels. "I have a deep affection for Thai and Japanese cuisines," he admits, his eyes sparkling with culinary delight. "Yet, I can also relish the familiar tastes of my grandmother's Dutch meals." An intriguing twist in his culinary preferences is his aversion to cheese, a surprising departure for a Dutchman.

For the younger generation, Maurice offers this profound advice: "Find something that truly ignites your passion, something you can commit to wholeheartedly." He passionately asserts, "While challenges are inevitable, dedicating yourself to something you love significantly enhances your chances of success."

He underscores the importance of cherishing every moment, both in work and personal life, with these heartfelt words: "Life is fleeting, so make the most of it, not only in your professional endeavors but also in the precious moments you share with family and friends."

Maurice's journey from childhood fascination to becoming a respected figure in the air cargo and aviation industry is a testament to his passion, determination, and steadfast commitment to finding solutions in the face of challenges. His advice to embrace one's interests, work passionately, and savor life's moments serves as an inspiring reminder of the possibilities that await the next generation.



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## Meet Nadia Abdul Aziz: The Emirati woman breaking barriers in the logistics industry

**N**adia Abdul Aziz is a pioneering force in the UAE logistics industry, breaking barriers and paving the way for women to succeed in this male-dominated field.

She is the President of the National Association of Freight and Logistics (NAFL), the Arabian Gulf's first national freight forwarders association established in 1992 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, to bring together in one body all the players in the country's freight forwarding, logistics and shipping industry.

Nadia is the first Emirati woman to hold a leadership position in the industry, and her dedication and hard work have made a significant impact.

Her journey in the logistics industry began after completing her bachelor's degree in marketing and advertising and her master's degree in business from the American University in Dubai. She continued to pursue further education and became a certified ISO Internal Auditor in 2001.

She started her career in the marketing department of DUBAL-Dubai Aluminium Company before joining UNASCO, a national freight forwarding company based in the UAE, where she quickly worked her way up to become the Managing Director and a major shareholder in



### Nadia Abdul Aziz

President  
National Association of Freight  
and Logistics (NAFL)

the company.

Nadia's unwavering commitment to the logistics and transportation industry is exemplified through her extensive involvement in various boards and committees. As the Chairperson of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport's (CILT) Women in Logistics and Transport for the Middle East region, she plays an instrumental role in empowering women and promoting gender diversity in the sector. Additionally, she holds several other key positions that showcase her dedication to driving the industry forward.

As the Managing Director and Partner at UNASCO, Nadia leverages her expertise and experience to steer the company's success and give back to communities. She is also an Executive Board Member of the Al Noor Training Center for Children with Special Needs, where she works tirelessly to support in various ways the nonprofit group's mission to educate, train and care for more than 250 children with special needs from about 31 countries.

Furthermore, Nadia's contributions extend beyond her immediate responsibilities. She is a member of the Dubai Land Transport Group Executive Board, playing a crucial role in shaping the transportation industry in the region. Additionally, she is currently serving her second term as the Chairman of the International Chamber of Commerce-Customs and Trade Facilitation Commission in the UAE, contributing to the development of policies and strategies that enhance trade facilitation. She is also an Executive Board Member for all the commissions of the International Chamber of Commerce at the federal level.

Nadia's two-term service from 2018-2022 as the Vice President of the Global Extended Board of the International Federation of Freight Forwarders Associations (FIATA) reflects her commitment to promoting best practices and standards in the global logistics and transportation industry. She was the first Emirati woman to serve on this board. Looking to the future, she aims to pursue a higher position within FIATA.

Nadia's leadership at NAFL has resulted in various initiatives promoting gender diversity and empowering women in the industry, including training programs, mentorship opportunities, and networking events.

She is committed to developing and promoting talent within the UAE, particularly among Emirati nationals, and has a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to support nationals in gaining entry into the logistics industry. As such, she works alongside government entities such as NAFIS, which focuses on Emiratisation in the private sector. Nadia's current focus is on training UAE nationals in the logistics industry and connecting them with opportunities in the freight sector.

Nadia envisions a future for the logistics industry that prioritizes collaboration, innovation, and empowering women. Through her unwavering dedication, exceptional work ethic, and remarkable leadership, she has paved the way for other women to thrive in the cargo and logistics industry. Her journey serves as an inspiration to women worldwide who aspire to overcome obstacles and make a difference in their respective fields.

Nadia's story underscores the importance of promoting and empowering women in logistics. Her message is clear: The industry needs more women with unique talents and perspectives to drive innovation and success. With proper education and confidence, women can excel in logistics just like Nadia Abdul Aziz.

**"As a leader in the logistics industry, my top priority is empowering women to reach their fullest potential, not just in logistics, but beyond. By providing essential tools, training, and creating a supportive work environment, we can break down barriers and pave the way for women to succeed. Let's leverage the UAE's supportive legislation and work together to create a bright and inclusive future for women in the logistics industry." – Nadia Abdul Aziz, President, National Association of Freight and Logistics-UAE Chapter**



## Qatar Airways Cargo launches SecureLift, the solution for valuable and vulnerable shipments

In 2022, the airline transported over 9,000 tons of valuable and vulnerable cargo, including electronics, banknotes, art shipments, and various sensitive commodities

**Doha, Qatar:** Qatar Airways Cargo recently launched its special product, SecureLift, which essentially allocates dedicated resources to cater to the specialized needs of valuable and vulnerable shipments while maintaining an enhanced standard of security and vigilance.

Conceived under its VISION 2027 and Next Generation strategy, SecureLift marks a significant milestone for Qatar Airways Cargo.

Products having a high declared value like precious metals, stones, gold bullions, banknotes, jewelry, or watches would fall under the Valuable category while commodities that carry a risk of pilferage like high-value electronics and newly launched products would fall under the Vulnerable category.

Key features include high loading priority, close monitoring of shipments, and inclusion of approved data loggers and shipment escorts, in addition to secure handling, transportation, and storage of the product. Valuable shipments would also be moved in specialized containers and boxes for the protection of the

product and kept in the strong room with restricted access providing added security.

The temperature inside the strong room is maintained between 20°C - 25°C. The expert SecureLift team is well-trained and plays a pivotal role by adhering to strict security protocols at every stage of the journey.

The cargo carrier achieved a remarkable track record having transported over 9,000 tonnes of valuable and vulnerable cargo in 2022, including electronics, banknotes, art shipments, and various sensitive commodities. This impressive volume underlines the carrier's expertise in handling cargo requiring special care with exceptional precision and attention to detail.

"SecureLift embodies our unwavering commitment to meeting the unique needs of our valued customers. This service redefines safety and security standards for high-value and vulnerable shipments, showcasing our dedication to excellence, safety, and cutting-edge solutions," said Miguel Rodriguez Moreno, Head of Cargo Products.

The carrier offers its customers an extensive network of more than 150 destinations as part of its scheduled services and can also provide part or full dedicated charters for SecureLift products to destinations not part of its network.

Digitalization is a key pillar for the world's leading cargo carrier and it enhances the service further as SecureLift shipments can now be easily booked through Qatar Airways Cargo's innovative online platform, the Digital Lounge, streamlining the booking process for customers.



**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia:** Ethiopian Cargo and Logistics Services, the largest cargo network operator in Africa, moved on 2 September its operations from Mexico City Airport (MEX) to the brand-new Felipe Ángeles International Airport (NLU).

Ethiopian Airlines Group CEO Mesfin Tasew said the cargo airline has been serving Mexico for the past six years and the relocation offers more possibilities.

"Our relocation to the Felipe Ángeles International Airport (NLU) brings with it a new chapter of possibilities. Central to this move is a state-of-the-art cargo terminal that boasts cutting-edge technology and modern facilities. This upgrade is a testament to our commitment to efficiency and excellence, enabling us to provide an elevated level of services to our valued customers," said Tasew.

Ethiopian Airlines has been operating to Mexico City twice a week using the B777F fleet which can handle up to 100 tons per flight. The airline will continue to serve Felipe Ángeles International Airport twice a week.

## Ethiopian Cargo moves operations to New Felipe Ángeles International Airport with enhanced facilities and capacity



Ethiopian is a key player in establishing trade routes that connect Mexico to the rest of the world and vice versa. Deploying its modern freighter aircraft, the B777-200F, Ethiopian Airlines operates in five cities in the Americas: Mexico City, Bogota, Santiago, Sao Paulo, and Miami.

Ethiopian Cargo and Logistics Services, one of the major strategic business units within the Ethiopian Airlines Group, covers more than 130 international destinations around the world with both belly hold capacity and 67 dedicated Freighter services.



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## Wiremind's digital innovation thrives on "Give and Tech"

**Paris, France:** Known for its innovative solutions for passenger transportation, air cargo, and sports & events industries, Wiremind continues to make a difference that benefits people and the world.

"Technology has always been a core part of Wiremind's DNA. Close to two-thirds of our team are engineers, many of whom have undergone a research project as part of their studies. It is both the desire to stay abreast of academic research as well as give back to the very academic institutions that enabled our team to develop, that has driven many of our university partnerships to date," said Charles Pierre, Wiremind Group Co-Founder and Chief Technology Officer.

"We are proud and honored to work with some of the world's leading institutions and minds in three vital fields: technology, engineering, and applied mathematics. Our university partnerships allow us to put theory and advanced research into practice to solve real-life business problems. Aside from the obvious gain for our customers, this joint approach benefits all involved parties.

"Wiremind enjoys the expertise of top academics, academic research efforts are stimulated by actual complex industry scenarios, and finally, we as a company are able to provide students with a career path and work experience. This helps position us as an employer of choice for talent in what is still such a competitive hiring environment."

More than half of Wiremind's annual new recruits have previously participated in internships with the company during their academic studies. All those embarking on work within Wiremind, are offered a comprehensive onboarding program covering the company's multiple facets. This provides them with a sound understanding of the industry context, and the processes and problems that Wiremind is attempting to solve through the application of its products.

Wiremind's university partnerships broadly fall into two categories: Research and Career.



Research partnerships are centered on a particular research subject. Postgraduate students join Wiremind during their studies, are assigned a Wiremind mentor (in addition to their academic professors) and are given access to anonymized data for use as part of their academic study. Current research examples include explorations into the application of advanced machine learning methodologies in the field of demand forecasting in collaboration with the University of British Columbia and Sorbonne University's LPSM faculty.

Another example of research is reinforced learning as a model for improved palletization processes within SKYPALLET, which we are also actively engaged in together with Sorbonne University's LPSM faculty.

Career partnerships are primarily focused on providing industry experience to students through internship opportunities which often materialize into full-time positions, following graduation.

Students interested in working with Wiremind are welcome to apply at the company's careers page. Academic institutions wishing to partner with Wiremind can email: [careers@wiremind.io](mailto:careers@wiremind.io).

## Globe Air Cargo China of ECS Group teams up with Royal Air Brunei Airlines to enhance air cargo operations in China

**Paris, France:** Globe Air China, part of ECS Group, has been designated as the General Sales Agent for the entire China effective 01 July 2023, aligning with existing cooperation in other countries.

Global Air Cargo China has since forged a partnership with Royal Air Brunei Airlines to enhance its air cargo operations in China. The airline primarily carries general cargo and eCommerce goods. Its projected tonnage for 2023 would reach 100 tons.

Currently, Royal Brunei operates a notable frequency of flights out of China, including 3 weekly flights from Beijing Airport (PKX) and 1 weekly flight from Hangzhou (HGH) with A320NEO aircraft, offering a combined weekly cargo capacity of around 7 tons.

Moreover, 2 weekly flights from and to Nanning Wuxu were launched on 27 August 2023, providing an additional weekly cargo capacity of around 4,400kg. The destinations served by Royal Brunei flights departing from Chinese airports, such as Beijing (PKX), Hangzhou (HGH), Shanghai Pudong (PVG), and Nanning Wuxu (NNG), connect to over 20 global destinations operated by Royal Brunei.

Managing Director of Globe Air Cargo China, Jean Chen, expressed her excitement about this new contract, stating, "We are proud to be a global GSA with a local focus, leveraging our team of experts, flexibility, and market-specific know-how to cater to the unique needs, strategies, and desired outcomes of our esteemed partners."

Royal Brunei is no stranger to the professional services provided by the ECS Group,



as it has already experienced seamless handling in various countries, including Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, Thailand, Vietnam, India, the United Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates, and the United States.

"We are pleased to partner with Globe Air Cargo China to further enhance our air cargo operations in China. With Globe Air Cargo China's expertise and local focus, coupled with Royal Brunei's extensive flight network, we are confident that this collaboration will create new opportunities and elevate air cargo services to greater heights," said Christina Chua Ngoh Boi, RB Acting Chief Commercial Officer.

Through this partnership, Globe Air Cargo China and Royal Brunei aim to strengthen air cargo operations in China, enhancing connectivity and facilitating the seamless movement of goods between China and the world.

## American Airlines Joins Embraer's Energia Advisory Group for Sustainable Aviation

**Brazil:** American Airlines has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Embraer to join the Energia Advisory Group, an expert team comprising airlines, lessors, suppliers, and aviation specialists. This collaboration will guide Embraer in developing sustainable aircraft for the future, emphasizing emissions reduction and commercial viability.

As the 2023 Eco-Airline of the Year according to Air Transport World, American Airlines is at the forefront of sustainability efforts in the aviation industry. The airline operates one of the youngest mainline fleets and the largest regional fleet among U.S.



network carriers. Its commitment to sustainability includes significant consumption of sustainable aviation fuel and investments in hydrogen-powered propulsion and infrastructure.

American Airlines will work closely with the advisory group and Embraer to define performance and design specifications for four Energia concept aircraft, ranging in size from 9 to 50 seats. These aircraft will employ electric, hydrogen, and hybrid propulsion technologies, contributing to the industry's goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.



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## Silk Way West Airlines makes its first commercial flight to Istanbul on its newly delivered Boeing 777F

**Baku, Azerbaijan:** Silk Way West Airlines, the leading cargo airline in the Caspian and Central Asian region, announced it made its first commercial flight to Istanbul with its newly delivered Boeing 777F aircraft.

SWW said the Boeing 777F is the world's largest twin-engine and most efficient and environmentally friendly freighter on the market. Its addition to its fleet will contribute to the airline's sustainability goals and ensure its commitment to reducing emissions.

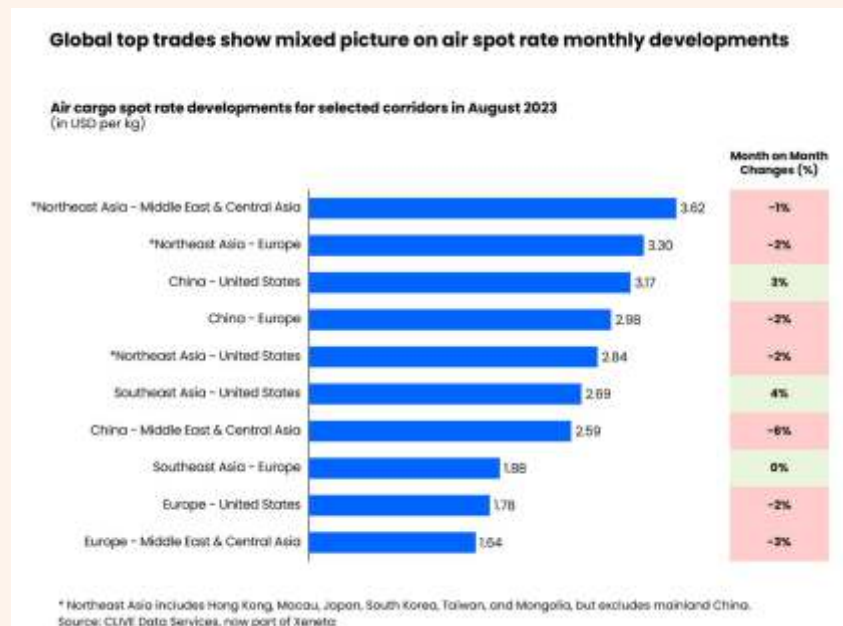
The new aircraft will replace the Boeing 747-400F that previously operated the Baku-Istanbul route, delivering a range of general cargo. By embarking upon this exciting journey with its new state-of-the-art aircraft, Silk Way West Airlines strengthens its position in the global air cargo market. The expansion marks a further step in Silk Way West Airlines' efforts to expand its international network to meet the increasing demand for cargo transportation.

"We are immensely proud to witness this momentous occasion as our new aircraft, the Boeing 777F, stretches its wings for the first time," said Vugar Mammadov, Vice-President of Silk Way West Airlines. "This marks the beginning of an exciting chapter for our airline, as we continue to uphold the highest standards of safety and



reliability while embracing the evolving landscape of cargo transportation. I am confident that our fleet renewal and expansion will further strengthen the company's leading position in the global airfreight market for the next 15-20 years."

## Air cargo demand growth 'may be a few quarters away' as August sees spot rates hit their lowest level in over three years



The data dampens some industry reports of a slight spike in demand in August, leading to hopes of a rise in volumes going into the final four months of the year.

"We are picking up signals that it could take another few quarters before we see more demand on a global level," said Niall van de Wouw, Chief Airfreight Officer at Xeneta. "August was very quiet, like July, and we see no meaningful signals from a qualitative or quantitative point of view of any kind of peak arising this year. There might be some early peak season charter requests floating around but they are backed up by very little demand. The (low) rates and the limited timeframe that the requestors are looking for a signal that they are not too concerned at the moment about getting the required capacity when they actually need it.

"The market seems to have levelled out, but still holds a lot of uncertainty, and not just for airfreight. There was also no peak for the ocean market, which typically precedes the airfreight market by a couple of months. There are even blank sailings scheduled ahead of the Golden Week period," van de Wouw added.

Average general airfreight rates in August dipped as low as USD 2.13 per kg in the first two weeks of the month, although this varies by trade corridor. Of 10 major trade lanes assessed in the past month, only China-United States and Southeast Asia-United States recorded growth, with air cargo spot rates up 3% and 4% respectively on these corridors.

**Oslo, Norway:** The global air cargo spot rate flattened to USD 2.19 per kg in August, its lowest level since the onset of the pandemic as another weak summer month saw a chargeable weight edge -1% lower for a fourth consecutive month, according to the latest weekly market analysis from CLIVE Data Services, part of Xeneta.

While shippers and forwarders continue to benefit from the overall decline of general air freight rates, rising jet fuel prices should concern an already contracted market, with the US Gulf Coast jet fuel spot price jumping 21% month-over-month.

August saw global air cargo capacity rise +7% year-on-year, while CLIVE's global dynamic load factor analysis, which measures cargo load factor based on both volume and weight perspectives of cargo flown and capacity available, climbed one percentage point about the previous month to 56%. But it is worth noting that the August global load factor continued to fall year-on-year, down 3% from last year's level. Softened global demand and the capacity surge were the main reasons behind this.

## DHL delivers Formula 1® to Singapore, the first race in Asia of the 2023 season



**SINGAPORE:** DHL, the Official Logistics Partner for Formula 1® since 2004, delivered in mid-September in Singapore the first race in Asia of the 2023 FIA Formula One World Championship.

The event in Singapore signaled the first flight for the new DHL x Formula 1® co-branded Boeing 777, arriving at Changi Airport. As the longest-standing global partner of Formula 1® and an industry leader in green logistics, DHL plays an important role in helping Formula 1 achieve its journey towards Net Zero by 2030. In addition to the Boeing 777, whose fuel-efficient technology reduces carbon emissions by 18% over legacy aircraft, DHL uses multimodal transport solutions, including overland and ocean freight. Moreover, DHL trucks are equipped with GPS to monitor fuel consumption and optimize routes.

"DHL and Formula 1 are committed in working together to reduce its impact on the environment, whilst continuing to

provide a safe and enjoyable event for fans," said Arjan Sissing, Head of Global Brand Marketing at DHL Group.

This year marked a significant milestone as DHL and F1 took green logistics to the next level by introducing 18 new biofuel-powered trucks specifically for the European leg of the season over the summer. The new trucks run on HVO100 drop-in fuel (hydrotreated vegetable oil), where each truck can reduce an average reduction of 83% in carbon emissions compared to standard fuels. DHL and F1 are continuously exploring new solutions to further reduce Formula 1's carbon footprint, including plans to incorporate sustainable fuels.

This season, the DHL Motorsports team will cover up to 150,000km, including six doubleheaders, two triple headers, and an inaugural race in Las Vegas. DHL helps transport broadcast equipment, car and team equipment, hospitality equipment, fuel, and tires.

As part of the Formula 1® festivities in Singapore, DHL displayed DHL-branded race car at Raffles Shopping Centre on 11-18 September. DHL also partnered with its long-standing charity partner, the Singapore Red Cross (SRC), for a fundraising activity held on 15-17 September.

## Kale Logistics Solutions raises \$30 mn in Series B Investment



**Maharashtra, India:** Global vertical SaaS logistics platform provider, Kale Logistics Solutions (Kale), has completed its Series B funding round, raising US\$30 million in capital led by Creagis Advisors LLP, a digital and tech focused private equity fund.

Kale said the funding round represents a significant milestone in its journey and positions it for rapid expansion and continued innovation, particularly in Europe and the Americas.

The company had earlier raised a Series A investment from Inflexor Ventures in 2020 and counts marquee founding angels Narendra Kale and Vipul Jain.

The investment will fuel Kale's mission to develop and deploy robust Cargo Community Systems to transform global logistics beyond regional boundaries. Vipul Jain, Chairman, Kale Logistics Solutions, said, "This is our second fundraising with an external investor, and we are happy to partner with Creagis because of the alignment of vision for the business, their record and understanding of the SaaS and tech products space globally. We are confident they will add value to the company as we shift gears towards a faster growth trajectory."

Prakash Parthasarathy, Managing Partner & CEO of Creagis, said, "The global logistics industry is undergoing a rapid digital disruption with a need for intelligent automation and end-to-end visibility through all nodes. This transformation is led by smart and centralized technology platforms. Kale, with its category defining Cargo Community Platforms and suite of SaaS solutions, is leading this disruption by digitizing and automating end-to-end cargo operations in airports and seaports. We are excited to support the company in their next phase of global growth and planned expansion in North America and Europe."

Amar More, Rajesh Panicker, and Vineet Malhotra, Co-founders of Kale Logistics Solutions, said jointly, "We are thrilled to partner with Creagis for our global expansion, leveraging their operational value add and SaaS experience. Together with our esteemed group of existing investors, we are well positioned for the next phase of growth. The current funding will empower us to accelerate our mission of connecting the different stakeholders of the logistics industry through our community platforms and empower them with several digital value-added services and enterprise systems to facilitate global trade."



**Paris, France:** Worldwide Flight Services (WFS), a Member of the SATS Group, says it has signed handling contracts with 20 global airlines since opening its first cargo terminal in India at the end of May.

The world's largest air cargo handler has begun a 15-year license to operate an international cargo handling operation at Kempegowda International Airport Bengaluru (BLR) in partnership with BIAL, Bangalore International Airport Limited.

New airline customers for WFS Bengaluru Private Ltd (WFSBPL) in India have signed contracts of between 3-5 years to benefit from the organization's international standards of safety, security, and service.

In Bengaluru, the third largest and fastest-growing cargo hub in India, WFS employs some 700 staff at two facilities, currently offering an annual throughput capacity of 120,000 tons. This will rise to 250,000 tons per annum following refurbishment. WFS is responsible for the development, operation, management, and maintenance of the operations, which include the only dedicated Cold Chain Facility at the airport.

WFS said it aims to use its design, build, finance, process reengineering, and development capabilities to optimize and grow cargo capacity in Bengaluru. It also has a two-phase plan to significantly increase the size of the Cold Chain Facility, initially doubling its capacity to 80,000 MT and, later, boosting throughput to over 150,000 MT per annum in acknowledgment

## WFS attracts 20 international airline customers within three months of opening its first cargo handling operation in India

of India's leading positive in the global pharmaceutical and healthcare markets.

To improve operational productivity, WFS has already introduced new forklift equipment and cargo tugs in Bengaluru, including new generation electric vehicles in support of its ESG global sustainability commitment. Other automation and digitization systems will also be adopted by WFS in India to increase productivity and operational visibility.

"After a great deal of planning and preparation, it was an honour for WFS to commence its first-ever operations in India in Bengaluru at the end of May and we are proud to have already won so many important airline customers. It is a tribute to our local teams, partners and stakeholders, as well as colleagues from other WFS & SATS stations around the world, who assisted in our launch, that we have achieved such a smooth operational transition," said Manish Agnihotri, CEO of WFS Bengaluru Private Limited.

"Our goal from the outset has been to bring our international cargo handling expertise into the Indian market and to add value for India's air cargo community stakeholders., we aim to play an important role in helping Bengaluru realise its air cargo growth ambitions," added John Batten, WFS' Chief Executive Officer EMEA.

Raveen Pinto, Vice President – Aviation Business, BIAL said: "BIAL is pleased to announce that WFS, a leading global company in ground handling and cargo services, has joined our airport community as one of the two cargo terminal operators. This partnership is exciting as WFS will leverage its international experience and best practices to enhance our airport cargo operations and make them more efficient and smoother. We are eager to grow and thrive together in the future as the preferred gateway of the region."

## Kalitta Air selects TrustFlight's innovative electronic technical log for air cargo operations

**Vancouver, Canada:** Leading global cargo airline Kalitta Air has chosen tech innovator TrustFlight to provide its innovative electronic tech log, reliability analytics, & fleet oversight tools to the airline's fleet of 29 aircraft & subsequent additions to its fleet.

Air cargo operators such as Kalitta Air use tech logs to record airframe usage and discrepancies for internal and regulatory oversight. As a global standard operating procedure, a log is



completed for every flight operation by civilian and military aircraft operators.

While most air freight carriers currently utilize paper-based reporting systems, Kalitta Air will deploy TrustFlight's digital tech log solution. In addition, it will implement TrustFlight's reliability analytics and fleet oversight tools to gain a real-time analysis of its fleet to optimize maintenance activities.

Christopher Barks, Director of Quality Control & Chief Inspector for Kalitta Air, said: "Implementing electronic logs enables us to benefit from increased operational efficiencies and maintain our reputation for reliable on-time performance worldwide. TrustFlight impressed us with the capability and ease of use of their systems alongside their knowledge of maintenance processes."

Karl Steeves, Director of TrustFlight said: "Kalitta Air is a pioneer in air cargo, globally recognized for its long history of success and operational acumen. They are well-positioned to transition to all-digital tech log record keeping. We're proud that they have entrusted TrustFlight for this task."





## Air Canada Orders 18 Boeing 787-10 Dreamliner Aircraft for Fleet Renewal

Montreal, Canada: Air Canada has confirmed its order for 18 Boeing 787-10 Dreamliner aircraft as part of its ongoing fleet renewal and fuel efficiency efforts. The first delivery is expected in late 2025, with the final aircraft arriving in Q1 2027. These new Dreamliners will replace older, less fuel-efficient wide-body planes in Air Canada's current fleet, furthering the airline's commitment to sustainability.

Air Canada's CEO, Michael Rousseau, emphasized the importance of enhancing the passenger experience, highlighting the Dreamliner's popularity among travelers. The 787-10 features a

new interior cabin design, advanced passenger comfort features, and impressive fuel efficiency, with up to 25% lower emissions per seat compared to its predecessors.

This fleet renewal aligns with Air Canada's broader strategy, including acquiring Airbus A220 and Airbus A321neo XLR aircraft and a purchase agreement for 30 ES-30 electric-hybrid aircraft. The order for 18 Dreamliners replaces a previous agreement for two Boeing 777 freighter aircraft. Air Canada currently operates around 240 aircraft across its mainline and Air Canada Rouge fleets.

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## WestJet Cargo Launches Inaugural Flights to Havana, Cuba

**Alberta, Canada:** WestJet Cargo announced it launched on 23 September its new cargo route to Havana, Cuba, marking the expansion of its first venture into the Cuban capital.

Operating one weekly flight on the YYZ – HAV route, WestJet Cargo offers 20-tonne cargo capacity per flight per week, addressing the growing demand for cargo transport in Canada.

WestJet Cargo is fully equipped to handle various cargo types, including General Cargo, Perishables, and select Dangerous Goods, ensuring secure and efficient cargo transportation to Havana.

This milestone underscores WestJet Cargo's dedication to expanding its network and delivering top-tier cargo services to Havana, Cuba.



## Gebrüder Weiss takes visionary solar car Down Under

using solar power alone.

The students have been working on the development and implementation of this solar car for nearly a year. Designed for durability and maximum energy efficiency, it is emblematic of a future in which the environment takes center stage. "Of course, we would like to win the race. But what is equally important to us is taking an active role in developing efficient, environmentally sound solutions," explains Alexandr Ebnöther, team manager at aCentauri. "With the support of Gebrüder Weiss, we can demonstrate that solar-powered cars and, by extension, sustainable mobility, are possible."

There is a particular focus at the moment on alternative drives at Gebrüder Weiss. For example, aCentauri's solar car is covering the first leg of its journey on the logistic company's zero-emission hydrogen truck.

Gebrüder Weiss regularly reports on the preparations and the progress of the cooperation via a dedicated landing page (<http://www.gw-world.com/sollarracing>) and various social media channels.

**Zurich/Lauterach:** From Zurich, Switzerland to Australia, a visionary solar car from the aCentauri Solar Racing Team of Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zurich (ETH), safely made it to Australia in time for the World Solar Challenge in October thanks to international logistics company Gebrüder Weiss.

To ensure that the high-tech vehicle can be on its mark on time at the other end of the world, Gebrüder Weiss says it delivered a customized mix of logistics covering land transport, sea and air freight.

"Our position as a global logistics company means we are a driver of intelligent transport solutions, actively shaping the mobility of tomorrow," says Frank Haas, Head of Corporate Brand Strategy & Communications at Gebrüder Weiss. "aCentauri's solar car is a trendsetter with the potential to revolutionize the transport sector, which is why we are supporting the team on their journey to Australia."

The World Solar Challenge will begin at the end of October 2023. This unique race sees 31 teams cover the vast 3,000 km from Darwin across the Australian outback to Adelaide

# CASPIAN AIR CARGO SUMMIT 2023

October 23-25, 2023 | JW Marriott Absheron | Baku, Azerbaijan

Caspian Air Cargo Summit 2023 is the largest and most comprehensive aviation event in the region, bringing the international air cargo market leaders to Baku. The ideal one-stop platform to find out about the latest developments. The event is now back after a four year hiatus.

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- Fireside chat Boeing
- Future of Cargo Aircraft
- Innovation in Logistics & Supply Chain
- The Sustainable Supply Chain – The Next Leap

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Silk Way Group



Wolfgang Meier,  
Silk Way West Airlines



Michael K. Sinnett,  
Boeing



Turhan Özen,  
Turkish Airlines



Wilson Kwong,  
Hactl



Steve Townes,  
ACL Airshop



Vitaly Smilianets,  
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Software



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## deugro commissions 9 charter flights between Thailand and the US to deliver pipe spools

**Houston, Texas:** An international team of air charter, project and transport engineering experts were mobilized by deugro USA, deugro Air Chartering and deugro Thailand to deliver pipe spools from Thailand to the United States.

deugro, a highly specialized global expert in freight forwarding and project logistics solutions, the nine charter flights carried a total volume of 213 metric tons (1,628 cubic meters). Its scope of work encompassed multimodal door-to-door transportation by various aircraft types and truck-trailer configurations from a production facility in eastern Thailand to a facility in the US.

Due to the critical schedule, deugro said it designed a complex air charter solution ensuring the shortest transit time. It allowed for choosing the airports of origin and destination as close as possible to the supplier and the plant site, while the flight schedules could be flexibly coordinated with the manufacturing plans.

Normally, such cargo would be shipped by ocean freight, or via expedited direct charter ocean freight in urgent cases. Expedited ocean freight was considered, but ultimately only the mode of transportation via air freight could meet the date needed for the cargo to be on site.

"With scarce capacities on the heavy lift air charter market caused by the war in the Ukraine, the biggest challenge was locating and securing aircraft that could not only be available at the right place at the right time, but which also allowed for loading the oversized equipment with extremely odd dimensions and complex shapes, with lengths of up to 36.6 meters, widths of up to 5.5 meters and heights of up to 4.4



meters," said Pavel Kuznetsov, Head of Air Chartering, deugro.

Besides the critical transportation of the cargo by aircraft, a variety of further preparations was essential to ensure the timely and smooth deliveries of the replacement components from the factory in Rayong Province to U-Tapao Airport, and then from George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston, Texas, USA to the facility after arrival, deugro noted.

This applied in particular to the extra-long spools with lengths of more than 36 meters, which together with the truck-trailer configurations used, resulted in total lengths of up to over 45 meters. To safely move and load these oversized components, appropriate loading and transport equipment had to be sourced and mobilized.

This included 80-metric-ton mobile cranes, main-deck loaders and various truck-trailer configurations. The client, a startup, was very pleased with deugro's work saying, "Success for this project can be measured by the fact that the cargo arrived on or before the site requirements and did so without any damage or safety incidents."

## Autonomous yard trucks to grow at a CAGR of 52.7% to 2030 as supply chain digitalization attentions turn to the warehouse yard

**New York:** Bringing yards up to speed with warehouse and transport digitalization is driving the adoption of established supply chain technologies to help track, allocate, and optimize assets in the yard.

According to global technology intelligence firm ABI Research, the installed base of Artificial Intelligence (AI) enabled cameras in the yard will reach 11.2 million globally by 2030, and the uptake of autonomous yard trucks will rise significantly at a global CAGR of 52.7% from 2022 to 2030.

"Yards surrounding warehouses, distribution centers, and manufacturing facilities are becoming the new stomping ground for established supply chain solution providers as they diversify into Yard Management Systems (YMS) and join a growing number of emerging companies focusing on automating yard trailer movements and live asset tracking. In a bid to digitalize and update yard operations, installments of yard systems, enabling tracking technologies, and autonomous tractors are expected to rise considerably in the short to medium term," explains Ryan Wiggin, Industry Analyst at ABI Research.

Blue Yonder, Körber, and FourKites are adding YMSs to their extensive software portfolio, joining more focused yard solution

vendors such as Kaleris and C3 Solutions.

To enable tracking and visibility of assets and workers in the yard, handheld devices and AI-enabled yard cameras will see increasing deployments in yards globally, growing at a CAGR of 13.0% and 14.8%, respectively, from 2022 to 2030. Established providers Advantech, Honeywell, and Zebra will lead the rise in handheld devices, while Blue Yonder, Peripass, and Robovision are pioneering AI-enabled yard camera systems.

Autonomous and teleoperated yard trucks remain nascent, but recent investment rounds, partnerships, and successful proof-of-concept (POC) projects indicate an interest and use case for the technology. Outrider, Phantom Auto, EasyMile, and Ferrride are some of the few companies doubling down on yard automation, with small-scale deployments paving the way for wider commercial uptake in the coming years.

"Advancements in AI are breaking down many of the limitations faced by technologies in outdoor environments. Advanced computing power helps to process data from camera feeds, identify trailers and equipment, and guide autonomous vehicles safely. Where certain technologies couldn't operate before, AI has helped unlock new use cases and will continue to drive solution adoption within yards," Wiggins concludes.

## Carousel Logistics teams up with Varamis Rail to electrify cargo route between England and Scotland

**Dubai, UAE:** DHL Global Forwarding, the market leader in freight forwarding and logistics, and EnviroServe, the largest e-waste recycling company in the Middle East and Africa (MEA) region, are jointly collaborating to revolutionize electric vehicle (EV) battery recycling solutions.

The companies said their ground-breaking partnership aims to establish a circular economy model for EV batteries, maximizing resource efficiency and minimizing waste generation. Danzas AEI Emirates LLC, the joint venture between DHL Global Forwarding and Al Tayer Group, will take the lead on this partnership.

Amadou Diallo, CEO of DHL Global Forwarding, MEA, commented: "With DHL's extensive expertise in supply chain and EnviroServe's specialization in EV battery recycling, we are well-equipped to address the unique challenge of the EV battery lifecycle. Together, we look forward to making a positive impact and shaping a cleaner, more sustainable future in the EV industry by creating a circular economy model."

The combined expertise of both companies will maximize resource efficiency and minimize the environmental impact associated with EV battery waste. As the region's first-ever EV and battery logistics hub, DHL EV Centre of Excellence will help enable the circular flow of EV batteries, by collecting used products for



recovery, linking markets, and providing transparency across the circular value chain.

EnviroServe's extensive experience in EV battery recycling will employ advanced processes to extract valuable materials from spent EV batteries, such as lithium, cobalt, nickel, and other rare earth metals, which can then be reused as raw materials in future production cycles.

Stuart Fleming, managing partner of EnviroServe, noted: "The regional market has been seeking solutions to compliant EV Battery disposal treatment, and this partnership with DHL provides the secure chain of custody for end-of-life EV batteries. It also reflects EnviroServe's commitment to continuing to offer robust, fully integrated environmental solutions, not only for EV Batteries, but the compliant treatment of any electronic and electrical waste. We are delighted to partner with DHL in providing their global and regional customers with circular logistics solutions."

## SmartKargo and Walmart GoLocal Team Up for Swift Delivery Solutions

SmartKargo specializes in providing an alternate delivery network for airlines, offering reliable two-day and next-day small package transportation options for e-commerce companies and small package shippers

GoLocal's delivery services, enabling retailers to ensure dependable small package deliveries to their customers.

SmartKargo's partnership with a major U.S. domestic airline enables shippers to offer transparent pricing and move packages coast-to-coast in just two days, and even next-day delivery, without the need for multiple distribution centers. By utilizing air transportation for the middle mile, retailers can improve margins and meet consumer expectations for fast delivery times.

Eliza Wendel, Senior Director at Walmart GoLocal, expressed excitement about accelerating how retailers and e-commerce companies fulfill customer orders with SmartKargo. Walmart GoLocal offers flexible, reliable local delivery solutions, and this collaboration aims to provide efficient next- and two-day delivery services.

Walmart GoLocal's white-label platform leverages Walmart's extensive retail and logistics expertise to offer same- and next-day delivery options, allowing retailers to adapt to changing consumer preferences while maintaining profitability.



**SmartKargo**  **Walmart GoLocal**

**SmartKargo, a leader in airline technology and logistics solutions, is joining forces with Walmart GoLocal, Walmart's white-label delivery-as-a-service platform, to enhance next- and two-day delivery services for retailers and e-commerce businesses. This partnership aims to leverage the speed of flight for efficient delivery.**

SmartKargo specializes in providing an alternate delivery network for airlines, offering reliable two-day and next-day small package transportation options for e-commerce companies and small package shippers. Their software-as-a-service solution is now seamlessly integrated with Walmart



# ACL Airshop:

Over 40 years of safely securing cargo across the world

By Gemma O. Casas



When it comes to ULDs, ACL Airshop is regarded as among the global leaders in the industry. From under 25,000 just seven years ago, its ULD fleet has grown to nearly 75,000. Combined with others' ULD fleets that it manages worldwide, the company has approximately 100,000 ULDs under its care. Its network of global air cargo hubs has also grown from 23 to 57 sites.



**Steve Townes**  
CEO of ACL Airshop

**A** cross continents, people in the aviation and air cargo sectors carefully work together 24 hours a day, to safely transport approximately 140,000 tons of different types of cargo aboard some 100,000 leg flights—passenger, and cargo alike.

These cargoes may include all kinds of food, flowers, pharmaceuticals like temperature-sensitive medicines, vaccines, etc., or high-value goods like cars, machines, pieces of jewellery, art pieces, smartphones, etc. It could also be live animals such as horses, and thoroughbreds, among many others. The combined value of the cargo that flies on a daily basis could be \$17.8 billion, according to the International Air Transport Association, the global trade body for airlines.

Aboard the plane, each cargo is protected and restrained by the so-called Unit Load Device or ULD, a device for grouping and restraining cargo, mail, and baggage for the air transport industry.

ULDs (Unit Load Devices) are a very important component of every cargo flown in the sky. They not only hold the goods together but also make loading and unloading easier.

## ACL Airshop: The “First Disrupter” and one of the ULD industry's leaders.

When it comes to ULDs, ACL Airshop is regarded as among the global leaders in the industry. The original predecessor Airline Container Leasing could easily be called the sector's “First Disrupter,” since that entrepreneurial beginning pre-dates other competitors who emerged much later. From fewer than 3,000 in 1983, its ULD fleet has grown to nearly 75,000 today, and still growing. Combined with others' ULD fleets that it manages worldwide, the company has approximately 100,000 ULDs under its care. Its network of global air cargo hubs has also grown from 23 to 57 sites.

In recent years, ACL has successfully built a lean but modern manufacturing center in South Carolina in the United States where it is based. The company has also pioneered embedding its ULD products with smart tracking and tracing devices, earning it some coveted industry awards in innovative logistics and technologies.

“The underlying total market growth for air cargo averages around 4.5 percent annually in normal times,” Steve Townes, CEO of ACL Airshop, told **Air Cargo Update**. “ACL Airshop has outpaced market growth by more than double. Why? These factors account for our accelerated strategic growth: A superior business model with a huge fleet of Lease-Ready assets combined with a large network of service locations; Special features such as one-way leasing and drop-off at numerous destinations; High level of customer-friendly service by well-trained long-tenured staff, and; a full “Digital Suite” that puts all of the company's technology in the customer's hand, such as FindMyULD™.”

“Four decades of consistent reliable presence on the worldwide air cargo market, plus a genuine high-performance culture. Our #1 competitive advantage is our global team of people,” Townes proudly noted.

Over its four decades of history, ACL Airshop has built a strong reputation as a company that highly values its customers and its employees, the backbone of its business.

“We treat everybody with respectful comradeship, the same way we wish to be treated,” said Townes.

Adding, “Achieving scalar growth in a far-flung company like ours means all activities have become more complex and faster-moving. The key to scalability is to have solid plans, effective processes, and terrific people. Successful scaling leads to exponential growth, but it is not easy. Nurturing a strong Culture and amplifying an equally strong Brand Identity are ways that ACL Airshop has expanded so admirably for its customers. ‘Maniacs about Customer Service?’ We consider that a high compliment.”

### Expansion Plans

Maurice van Terheijden, ACL Airshop's Managing Director – EMEA, said the company, along with the rest of the world in the post-pandemic world, is moving forward with the digital age with enhanced products and services.

**“We are growing at least twice the underlying market growth rate, and that trajectory will continue,” assured van Terheijden who spoke more about the company's accelerated digital plans for the future at the Caspian Cargo Summit in Baku Azerbaijan held this month.**



**Maurice van Terheijden**  
MD-EMEA



**Jos Jacobsen**  
COO and MD-Global Leasing,  
ACL Airshop

“We have been growing and improving each line of business that we have: Leasing ULDs, Selling ULDs, Repairing, Manufacturing, and Logistically Managing ULDs with innovative technologies. Each of those five ACL Airshop pillars touches our customers in various interlinked ways,” he added.

Explaining further, van Terheijden said ACL Airshop propelled growth through scaling, which essentially means doing more with less while achieving efficiencies and speed.

“For example, ACL Airshop doubled its manufacturing throughput without doubling its staff or its overheads. That was done with smart investments in well-planned facilities, better capital equipment, “Lean” techniques on all details of shop efficiencies, tighter processes for controlling wasted time and materials, and a constant penchant for quality. That philosophy carries into ACL’s network of Repair Stations, and even into the back-office support teams. It adds up to better working capital velocity and enhanced ULD availability to Customers,” he said.

The company also takes pride in dominating the short-term lease ULD market, its core business when it was first formed.

“In the past several years, we have also built a growing portfolio of long-term multiyear ULD fleet management contracts. Our own ULD fleet investments allowed us to do both: Dominate short-term, and build long-term,” said Jos Jacobsen, COO and Managing Director-Global Leasing, ACL Airshop.

And with the company’s flexible terms under the principle, not one plan fits all, customers have more options. “The main difference between our long-term contracts and the classic “pooling model” is simple: we are commercially gentler on the Customer. We don’t offer a “one plan fits all” approach. Instead, every arrangement is tailored to the Customer’s individual corporate needs and restraints,” van Terheijden explained.

Townes, the ACL Airshop CEO, known for being a serial entrepreneur and an expert on mergers and acquisitions, said the company has doubled and even tripled some elements of its business over the past seven years through dedication, hard work, and a results-driven attitude.

“To the credit of all our people around the world, we have gone beyond our own ambitious forecasts of a few years ago. “Exceeding expectations makes ACL Airshop a great place to work for everybody aboard on this exciting journey. Raise



your tray tables and fasten your seatbelts, we are Aiming High,” said Townes.

### The ‘Uberization’ of ULDs

Under the guidance and leadership of Townes, a West Point and Harvard graduate, ACL Airshop successfully embraced innovation and digitalization. The company was the first in the ULD industry to use a Bluetooth tracking and tracing option, among other innovations.

Jacobsen who first coined the word “uberization” in the ULD business said the company’s tech roadmap began more than 15 years ago. “We will make doing business with us as easy and efficient as hailing a ride-share, that’s where we are heading. Our new worldwide ERP System will make a huge difference,” he said.

Today, ACL Airshop boasts of ULD Control™ which is a complete web-based software solution for controlling ULD equipment anywhere, 24/7/365. This feature yields improved utilization of ULDs, reduces costs, instantly checks quantity and availability, comprehensive KPIs and management dashboards, automatic processing of IATA messages and emails (IATA/ATA), ULD history archiving, and cost control over repairs.

The company won the coveted Industry Innovation Award for its FindMyULD™ App which consolidates all of ACL Airshop’s logistics, leasing, and technology services into the palm of the customer’s hand.

Most recently, the company has completed beta testing for tying the Airway Bill of a pallet load or container-full, to the Bluetooth tag ID, and the ULD serial number. Then, it is linked all into the company’s ERP System and ULD Control global Ops Center.

Jacobsen described this as “an ambitious roll-out, just beginning initially one client at a time.” But the





benefits could be enormous.

"Benefits are measurable with end-to-end visibility and accountability. A prime example is the well-known "pain point" of demurrage charges (the cost per day when ULD's linger too long at a cargo center or a handler's site). A major customer of ACL Airshop recently requested help on accounting for "lost pallets" at a large hub, and saved "6-Figures" by tracking everything down in a combined project team with the airline, the main handler, and ACL, scouring the large ecosystem of touch points at that giant hub and training everybody on FindMyULD™ techniques. Indeed, most of them were found," he shared.

The company's tech innovations have also enabled customers to save as much as 20 percent across the entire life-cycle costs of their ULD Fleet, because efficiencies and accountability eventually mean "mission accomplishment with fewer ULDs."

"ACL Airshop measures its success with customers and their experience shows that savings of 10 percent or up to 20 percent can be achieved in the overall cost of the ULD fleet—that's significant in the budgets and cashflows of airlines," the executives happily noted.

### A reliable partner across continents

ACL Airshop takes pride in working with multiple airlines in Europe, Asia, the Middle East and the Caspian region.

**"The Caspian Summit highlights the Silk Road trading routes of times past, present, and future. In many ways, the air cargo routes and stopover points of today are reminiscent of Marco Polo's trading journeys. With the thriving Asia-Pacific economies anchoring to the East, and modern Europe to the West, Eurasia and the Middle East regions are squarely at the crossroads of trade in the hemisphere. ACL Airshop also has customer relations with multiple airlines in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region. The regional management office of ACL Airshop for the whole strategically critical area of Eurasia and Middle East is located at the Dubai World Center," said Townes.**

He sees the company further expanding its footprint in the Middle East amid the UAE's tourism growth and Saudi Arabia's changing economic landscape which seeks to diversify its economy away from oil dependence. The Kingdom recently announced a massive new investment in aviation, including the goal of making Riyadh International Airport the world's largest airport, with six runways.

In the Caspian region, ACL Airshop is happy to fulfill its commitment to its long-term customers seeking to expand its market share in aviation.

### Lean operations infused with technology

ACL Airshop reiterated the company's vision is clear—scalar growth over time with an expanding network, technology investments, with lean and very efficient operations.

"Our strategy is transparent and well-known with our customers, partners, and employees. The vision for the company is clear, and so elegantly simple it can be handwritten on the back of a business card. As ACL Airshop has grown, we have stayed disciplined about overhead costs while steadily investing in technologies, management training, and other improvements. That spells 'Operating Leverage,'" Townes and van Terheijden echoed.

The company's back-office support functions and internal business processes are far more efficient than just a few years earlier as part of deliberate "scaling."

"As a result, our efficiencies allow for internal funding of Growth ULDs, new airport Hubs, Training and performance Incentives for our people, Equipment in our shops, and Technology upgrades that delight our customers. The new Digital Suite is a great example of pulling it all together into a package of convenience," the two executives noted.

Backed by a majority shareholder that holds \$5 billion, Astatine Investment Partners, ACL Airshop is confident that it can finance future projects that will benefit the company as well as its customers.

"ACL Airshop is advantaged by having a \$5 billion majority shareholder that deeply understands the business and is highly supportive of management's aggressive goals. Astatine Investment Partners, with offices in Greenwich CT, and in central London, has long experience dealing with airports, airlines, equipment enterprises, and logistics enterprises, among other industrial and infrastructure sectors," Townes explained.

According to Astatine's website, it has invested in infrastructure businesses over the years that operate in all 50 states in the United States as well as in Canada, the United Kingdom, and continental Europe. These businesses serve over 100 million customers annually in more than 550 cities globally and are run by a workforce of over 80,000 people.

"Astatine is among the world's most successful investors in infrastructure, including transportation and logistics," said Townes in the 2021 news announcement about the majority investment made by Astatine. "Astatine has a successful track record of investment in pooled and leased equipment and is experienced in backing growth-oriented companies. They are committed to ACL Airshop's strategy of growing with its customers and share our vision for continued expansion in the coming years."

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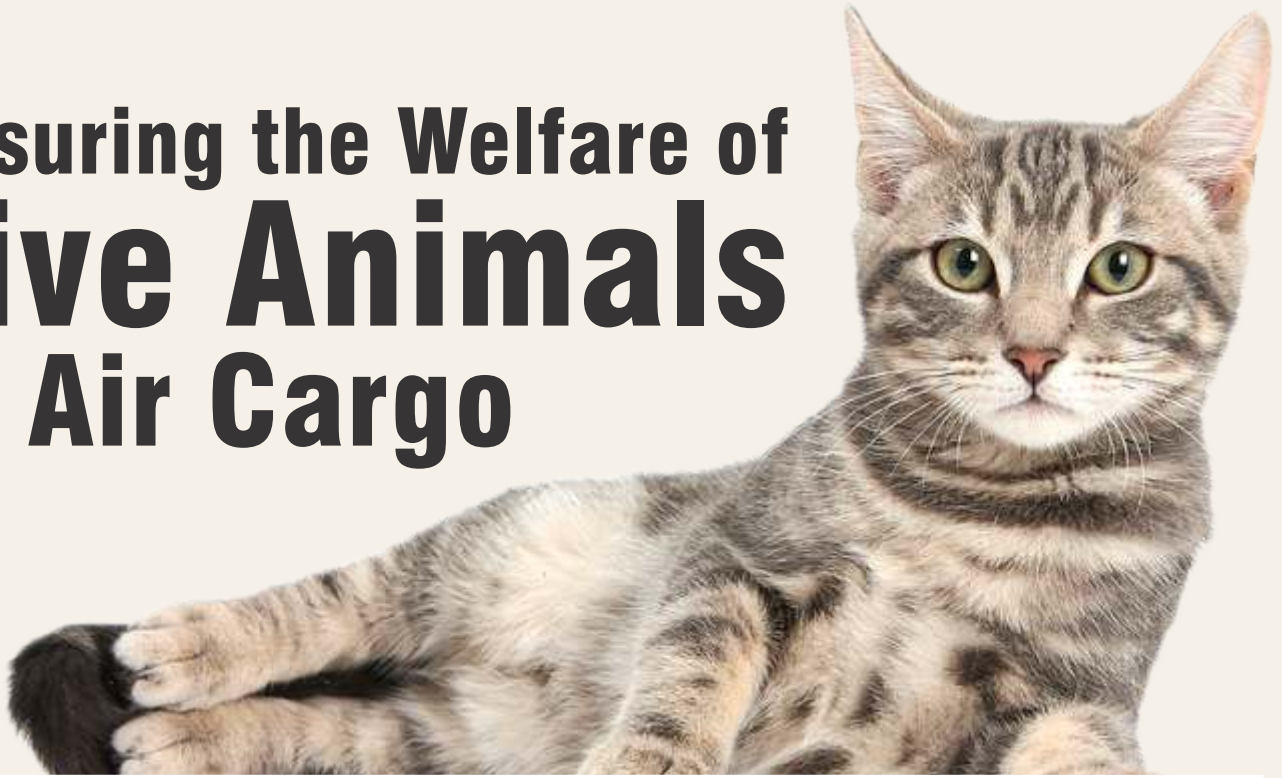


BOOK YOUR SPACE:





# Ensuring the Welfare of Live Animals in Air Cargo



In this article, we explore the latest trends and innovations in the industry, examining how it is adapting to meet the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. We also gained insights from three industry leaders: Elisabeth Oudkerk, SVP Cargo Sales and Network Planning at Qatar Airways; Kirsten de Bruijn, Executive Vice President Cargo, WestJet Cargo; and Or Zak, Chief Commercial Officer at Challenge Group.

By Mohammed Irshad

**Live animal transportation by air has been an essential component of the aviation industry for decades, playing a pivotal role in the food supply chain, the pet trade, and the conservation of endangered species. This remarkable mode of transport offers unparalleled speed and efficiency, enabling animals to traverse vast distances with minimal stress and ensuring their well-being.**

However, the practice of live animal transportation by air is not without its challenges. Animals can be vulnerable to injuries and illnesses during transit, and ensuring their safety and welfare is paramount. To address these concerns, the aviation industry has developed specialized procedures and regulations, including the International Air Transport Association's (IATA) Live Animal Regulations (LAR).

These regulations set rigorous standards for every aspect of live animal transportation, from initial preparation to in-flight care and ethical handling. Airlines and stakeholders worldwide adhere to these guidelines to ensure the humane and secure transportation of animals.

Live animal transportation by air has undergone significant changes in recent years, driven by growing demand for safe and efficient journeys, advanced animal welfare

practices, and heightened environmental concerns.

In this article, we explore the latest trends and innovations in the industry, examining how it is adapting to meet the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. We also gained insights from three industry leaders: Elisabeth Oudkerk, SVP Cargo Sales and Network Planning at Qatar Airways; Kirsten de Bruijn, Executive Vice President Cargo, WestJet Cargo; and Or Zak, Chief Commercial Officer at Challenge Group.

## Advancements in Animal Welfare and IATA Regulations

Recent years have witnessed remarkable advancements in animal welfare and scientific understanding, driving updates to the IATA Live Animals Regulations (LAR). According to Elisabeth Oudkerk, SVP Cargo Sales and Network Planning at Qatar Airways, these changes stem from collaborative efforts within the industry. She emphasizes that "The Live



Animals and Perishables Board, which includes Qatar Airways' representation, conducts comprehensive reviews to ensure that the LAR reflects the latest developments and animal welfare concerns."

The 49th edition of the LAR, which came into effect in 2023, showcases several key improvements. Oudkerk adds, "It now incorporates enhanced animal welfare standards based on the latest scientific research, addressing the handling, housing, and care of animals during transportation. Additionally, the regulations include species-specific guidelines, recognizing the unique requirements of different animals. To ensure compliance, the regulations emphasize the importance of training for all personnel involved in live animal transportation."

### Challenges and Industry Responses

In today's global context, live animal transportation presents unique challenges and concerns. Kirsten de Bruijn, Executive Vice President Cargo, WestJet Cargo, highlights some of these challenges. She points out that "Maintaining proper temperature conditions during transport is a critical concern, especially for animals with specific temperature requirements." To address this issue, industry stakeholders are investing in advanced climate-controlled facilities and monitoring systems.

De Bruijn also emphasizes the importance of reducing stress on animals during transportation and ensuring gentle handling. She mentions, "Airlines and handlers are implementing training programs and using low-stress handling techniques to mitigate these challenges." Staying updated and complying with evolving regulations, such as those related to animal welfare and sustainability, can be demanding. She notes, "Industry associations and airlines collaborate to ensure compliance with these regulations."

### Environmental Sustainability Efforts

As the aviation industry responds to growing concerns about the environment and sustainability, it is taking steps to reduce its carbon footprint when transporting live animals. Or Zak, Chief Commercial Officer at Challenge Group, outlines some of these efforts. He explains, "Airlines optimize flight routes to reduce fuel consumption and emissions, thereby minimizing the carbon footprint associated with transporting live animals."

Zak also highlights investments in fuel-efficient and quieter aircraft, like the 737-MAX, which reduce noise levels, benefiting both the environment and the well-being of animals. He mentions that "Cargo compartments are also being designed for improved air circulation and temperature control, reducing excess energy consumption."

**Challenge Group adopts lighter ULDs (Unit Load Devices) to reduce fuel consumption and emissions, aligning with the industry's broader sustainability goals. Zak adds, "The company is also actively involved in the relocation of endangered species to their natural habitats, reflecting a commitment to environmentally responsible practices. Furthermore, Challenge Group adheres to an ethics policy that prohibits the transportation of animals for laboratory use, research, or circus shows."**

**The Live Animals and Perishables Board, which includes Qatar Airways' representation, conducts comprehensive reviews to ensure that the LAR reflects the latest developments and animal welfare concerns."**

**Elisabeth Oudkerk**  
SVP Cargo Sales & Network Planning, Qatar Airways



**"Maintaining proper temperature conditions during transport is a critical concern, especially for animals with specific temperature requirements."**

**Kirsten de Bruijn**  
Executive Vice President Cargo, WestJet Cargo

### Qatar Airways' Commitment to Environmental Sustainability

Oudkerk underscores the airline's dedication to environmental sustainability. She affirms, "Qatar Airways is committed to contributing to the environment and is committed to sustainability. We operate one of the youngest fleets in the sky, prioritizing efficient designs to control carbon emissions."

Oudkerk continues, "Our modern and fuel-efficient fleet



Airlines optimize flight routes to reduce fuel consumption and emissions, thereby minimizing the carbon footprint associated with transporting live animals."

**Or Zak**  
Chief Commercial Officer  
Challenge Group



generates lower emissions and less noise. We invest in engineering improvements for airframes and engines to reduce drag and improve efficiency. These initiatives align with our goal to minimize air cargo's environmental impact, incorporating innovative technologies and waste reduction."

Passengers and customers can now offset their flight emissions through high-quality carbon credits, a practice credited under the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) criteria. Qatar Airways invests in renewable energy projects, actively reducing carbon emissions.

Additionally, Qatar Airways recently signed an agreement with Shell to source 3000 metric tonnes of neat SAF at Amsterdam Schiphol Airport. This demonstrates their commitment to using at least a 5 percent SAF blend, contributing to the industry's goal of achieving 10% sustainable aviation fuel use by 2030.

Qatar Airways is proactively procuring SAF from certified sources, in alignment with international sustainability criteria recognized by ICAO and state regulations. These measures, combined with innovative technologies and waste reduction, enhance operational efficiency, and minimize environmental impact in the air cargo industry.

### Role of Technology in Ensuring Animal Safety

Technology plays a pivotal role in ensuring the safety and well-being of animals during air transportation. Oudkerk points out that "Major journey milestones of animals traveling as cargo with the airline can be tracked on their website." She adds, "Pet cards are provided to customers containing a photo of their pet at the animal center, offering updates on their well-being during transit via the hub in Doha."

Oudkerk also explains that "Digital trackers are used to monitor the vitals of animals and their well-being, with Qatar Airways maintaining an extended list of approved tracking devices." She highlights that "These trackers provide real-time data on the animals' conditions, enabling immediate intervention if necessary." The use of tracking technology has evolved in recent years, with new devices regularly added to improve monitoring and ensure the safety of live animal cargo.

### Regulations for Exotic and Endangered Species

With the increasing demand for international transportation of exotic and endangered species for conservation and breeding programs, regulations have adapted to meet the unique requirements and challenges associated with these specialized shipments.

De Bruijn explains that regulations now specify specialized handling, care, and transportation conditions for these species, including secure enclosures, veterinary oversight, and adherence to species-specific guidelines.

For exotic and endangered species, compliance with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is essential for international shipments. Airlines and authorities work closely to ensure compliance with CITES regulations.

De Bruijn notes, "Stringent documentation and permitting processes are in place to verify the legal and ethical sourcing of these animals, preventing illegal wildlife trafficking."

**Zak adds that there's a focus on non-standard crating for rare species, and specialized procedures are implemented to safeguard the animals and the aircraft's integrity. He emphasizes that "Challenge Group is committed to environmentally responsible practices and adheres to ethics policies that prohibit the transportation of animals meant for laboratory use, research, or circus shows."**

From advancements in animal welfare to environmental sustainability efforts, we've examined the industry's evolution in response to growing demands for safe and ethical transport. Through adherence to stringent regulations, investments in sustainable practices, and technological innovations, the air cargo sector is forging a path toward compassionate and responsible growth.

As we navigate these skies, one thing is clear: the future of live animal transportation holds promise, as industry leaders and stakeholders come together to ensure the welfare of all creatures who take to the air.



# Brussels Airport

We take animal care  
to the next level



## Sam Quintelier

Senior Cargo Business & Network  
Development Manager  
Brussels Airport (BruCargo)

**In what ways does Brussels Airport engage with airlines and other stakeholders to promote best practices and compliance with live animal transportation regulations, both locally and internationally?**

Brussels Airport (BAC) collaborates closely with airlines, forwarders, agents, and shippers to continuously improve the way of working at the airport. It is obvious that the Animal Care & Inspection Centre plays a crucial role, but also the Live Animal Taskforce (BAC internally) and the Live Animal Steering group by Air Cargo Belgium do their part. Furthermore, we are very active on internationally level to see what the different challenges are, market trends and to learn from our peers.

**Can you elaborate on the partnerships or collaborations that Brussels Airport has established with animal welfare organizations or regulatory bodies to ensure the highest standards of care for live animals at the Animal Care & Inspection Centre (ACIC)?**

On a national level we have close partnership with FASFC and Animal Welfare but also work together with CITES, Customs, Federal Police, etc. This partnership has resulted in procedures and way of working that is not only compliant but also in the best interest of all live animals. As BAC, we even went as far to incorporate EU law in the Brussels Airport Handbook to make sure that all parties involved at the airport adhere to the standards required.

**Could you provide insights into any ongoing initiatives or investments made by Brussels Airport to further enhance the capacity and capabilities of the ACIC, particularly in terms of accommodating different types of live animals and ensuring their comfort during transportation?**

All shipments are closely monitored month per month and if we notice and increase in the flow of a certain type of animal, we investigate if there are specific needs. This can result in adaption or alteration to the building or even the need for the development of a business case. Currently, we are looking in to such a case which could result in a drastic capacity increase for the ACIC.

**What are some of the most significant challenges and concerns related to live animal transportation by air in today's global context, and how are industry stakeholders addressing them?**

Currently, there is still a lack of awareness with a lot of parties the board, not so much with the professionals, who are involved already, but more with the general public. So there we can make a difference as a mixed airport.

**In light of evolving environmental and sustainability concerns, how is the aviation industry working to minimize its carbon footprint and environmental impact in the transportation of live animals?**

Live animals are a niche within air cargo which is again a niche within the



global transport industry, so, we must be aware and keep questioning how and why we do things but most animals traveling today do so because there are no viable other options.

**Could you provide insights into the role of technology, such as tracking and monitoring systems, in ensuring the safety and well-being of animals during air transportation, and how has this evolved in recent years?**

Last year, together with Air Cargo Belgium, we did some trials with RFID to see if this could help with real-time tracking and the results were promising. As an airport we are not really in the driver seat so we can stimulate but not push for adaption. Furthermore, there are a few proof of concepts with horses and pets, so as an airport we watch these developments closely and if a specific technology gets adopted we can shift quickly and integrate it in our process.



# India races against time to cope with high-speed dwell time in other global air cargo hubs



**In Dubai, the loading and unloading of cargo can be processed within just 90 minutes. In Sharjah, the dwell time is 4 hours while in Singapore and Frankfurt, it takes 6 hours. But in India, the dwell time of exports takes 4 days and imports up to 4 weeks. Now, the Indian government wants to catch up with other global air cargo hubs aiming to have cargo clearance within a 24-hour basis.**

**By R. Chandrakanth**

**A**irlines transport over 65.6 million cargo tons of goods a year, representing more than 35% of global trade by value but less than 1% of world trade by volume. That is equivalent to \$6.8 trillion worth of goods annually, or \$18.6 billion worth of goods every day, according to the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

The demand for air freight is driven by several factors, primarily time-sensitive and cost. Air freight is 12 to 16 times costlier than sea freight and typically priced 4 to 5 times that of surface transport, but fastest of all modes, requiring efficient supply chain. Time-sensitive commodities, including perishables, pharmaceuticals, etc., emergency shipments to meet deadlines; and other high-value products mostly take the air route.

From the shipper to the end-user, there are many stakeholders along the supply chain – air freight agent, warehouse/cold chain infrastructure, surface transport, ground handlers, regulatory authorities, airports, and airlines – who have to work in clockwork mode to ensure safe, secure and timely deliver of goods.

## Dwell time reflects supply chain efficiency

A key player in this supply chain is the airport/air cargo terminal where dwell time reflects the efficiencies of ground handlers, cargo terminal layout, cargo inspection procedures, customs clearances, etc.

Dwell time is an indicator of how efficient the systems are in the supply chain. With technologies in place, skilled personnel at work, and standard operating procedures laid down, airports across the world are constantly updating to bring down dwell times.

Presently, Dubai Airports (Maktoum International Airport), the third busiest hub in the world for international freight with a capacity of 2.5 million tons, has a turnaround time of 90 minutes. All the cargo activity takes place at the Cargo Mega Terminal, totally streamlined. In Sharjah, the dwell time is 4 hours, in Singapore and Frankfurt it is 6 hours.

Compare this to dwell time at Indian airports (Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Chennai) it is higher, going up to four days for exports and four weeks for imports, though in the recent past, things have improved at air cargo terminals for quick one-day turnaround.

Dinesh Krishnan, Managing Director of United Shipping Services and Chairman of Southern Region of the Air Cargo Agents Association of India (ACAAI), states that the issue of 'dwell time' is a problem of the past. "With the digitization of the Indian Customs interface, modern





### Dinesh Krishnan

Managing Director, United Shipping Services and Chairman, Southern Region, Air Cargo Agents Association of India



air cargo terminals for exports and imports, air cargo operations have improved and reduced the dwell time for at least 75% of the air cargo," he said.

Explaining further he adds that same-day import arrival and delivery and same-day export gate to uplift have become a reality. The 25% of cargo that is facing delays of over 24 hours can be attributed to deliberate non-compliance by the EXIM community to undermine the regulations, and delays by certain authorities.

"Some of these controls are deliberate delays as a non-tariff barrier to export or import some commodity and cannot be attributed to the logistics systems. Continuous digitization of these agencies and their inspection and certification, syncing it with ICEGATE shall further reduce the dwell for such special EXIM goods," said Krishnan.

ICEGATE stands for Indian Customs and Central Excise Electronic Commerce/Electronic Data Interchange Gateway and is used by traders, cargo service providers, and other clients of the department.

"Going forward, both exporters and importers who are AEO (authorized economic operator) compliant and those who respect compliance can look forward to faster and smoother transit of their EXIM goods at Indian ports & airports," said Krishnan.

### AAI efforts to bring dwell time to international levels

While there have been continuous efforts to improve dwell time for cargo at airports, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) has stated that "special attention needs to be given to the speedy handling of cargo and reducing its dwell time. The objective will be to reduce the dwell time of exports from the present level of 4 days to 12 hours, and of imports from the present level of 4 weeks to 24 hours to bring us in line with internationally achieved norms. Cargo clearance will be on a 24-hour basis."

AAI said that infrastructure relating to cargo handling like satellite freight cities with multi-modal transport, cargo terminals, cold storage, automatic storage and retrieval systems, mechanized transportation of cargo, computerization and automation, etc., is being set up on a top priority basis. The Electronic Data Interchange systems are being linked with stakeholders in the trade.

**On the higher dwell time in Indian airports as compared to airports abroad, in the written feedback to the Civil Aviation Ministry, a cargo terminal operator at the Delhi International Airport pointed out: "It can be attributed to the fact that 100% cargo is customs processed through the airport terminal and not taken to consignee or forwarder's location under bond for later time clearance. Delays occur due to delays in the submission of documents necessary for clearance, issues of misclassification of goods, etc. Further, the dwell time increases because of the working habits of everyone involved in the process. The actual working of clearance starts only after 1200 hours. In the case of exports, most of the dwell time can be attributed to airlines booking and accepting cargo much ahead of flight departure. Free period of 48 hours to airlines, allows them to hold cargo at the airport terminal much before the departure time of their flights."**



In the case of exports, the study noted that the documentary clearance of export consignments, measured by the time taken from the arrival of the goods at the customs station to the grant of 'Let Export Order' has been significantly minimized, ranging from 4:04 hours in the case of ACCs (air cargo complexes) to 47:41 hours in the case of ICDs (inland container depots).

However, the studies have found that on account of various logistics processes, the time taken in the eventual export after the regulatory clearance takes a long time – accounting for 60 % of the total time in the case of ICPs to 92 % in the case of air cargo.

The freight agent should be well versed with the options available: next flight out, consolidation, and deferred services. There is no one-size-fits-all air cargo solution. An experienced agent easily determines which type is best for supply chain efficiency.

### New technologies transforming supply chain performance

Supply chain management has seen dramatic changes, thanks to technologies/digitization such as blockchain, data analytics, and the Internet of Things which are facilitating customer fulfillment, resilient supply chain and also helping in achieving profitability.

Reports indicate that productivity in logistics will exponentially grow by over 40% by 2035 with artificial intelligence (AI) linked to multiple databases. AI can consolidate the data, identify gaps, and forecast things like asset requirements, terminal space availability, aircraft movement, bottlenecks, etc.

AI helps in monitoring cargo, optimizing routes, predicting maintenance, and automating logistics processes. The air cargo sector is fast moving away from legacy systems and becoming very agile, resilient, and highly competitive.

### Post-COVID adoption levels

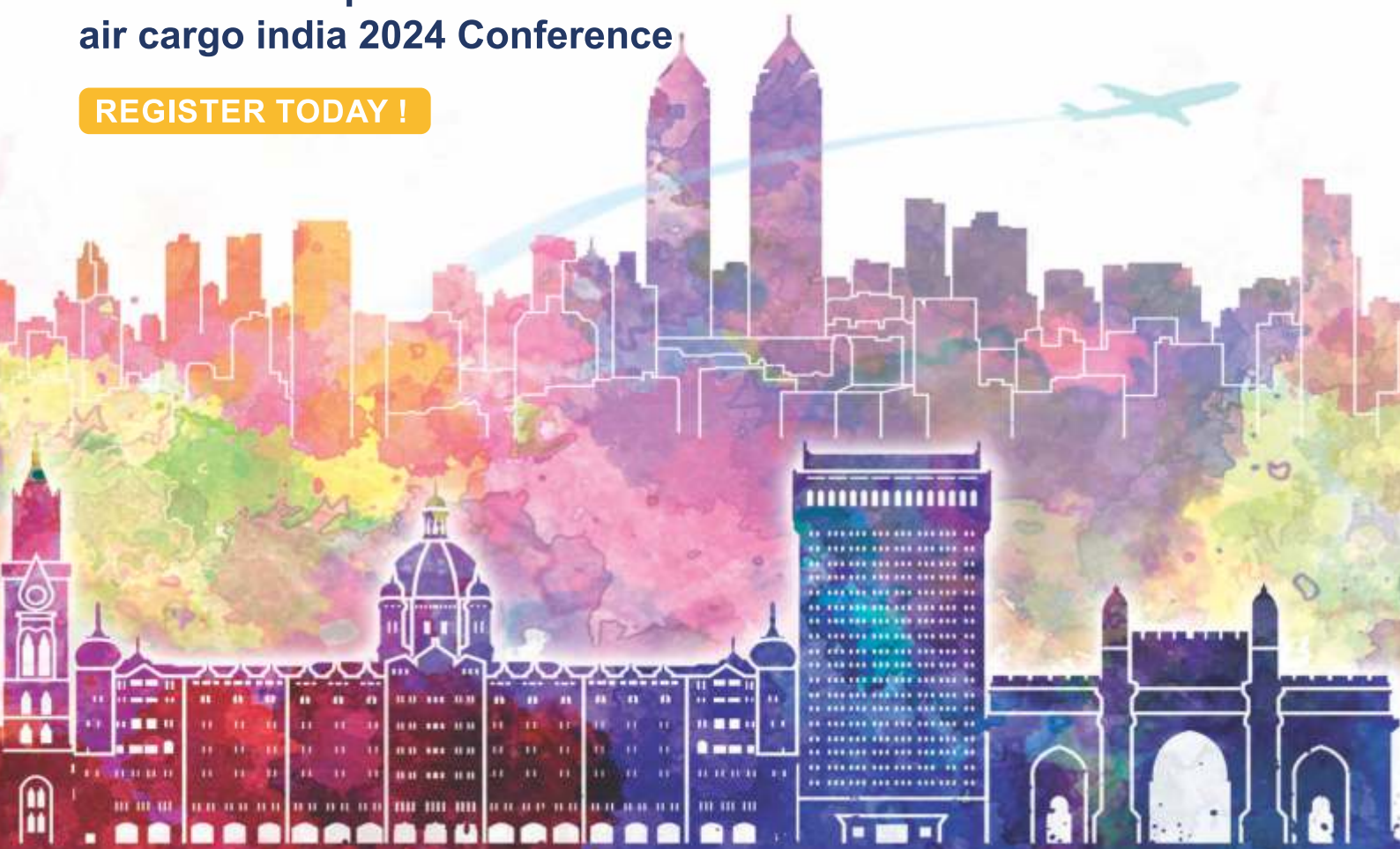
However, post-COVID-19, there have been accelerated efforts to improve the movement of cargo at Indian airports. The 2022 National Time Release Study (NTRS) reported a 16 % improvement in the average cargo release time in airport cargo complexes and it was 12 % for seaports or inland container depots.

With this improvement, the ICPs (Integrated Check Posts) have achieved the National Trade Facilitation Action Plan (NTFAP) target release time to be achieved by 2023, whereas the other three port categories have reached 75 % of NTFAP target.

**NTRS 2022 and the Custom House level Time Release Studies, have found strong affirmation for the four-fold 'path to promptness' - a) advance filing of import documents enabling pre-arrival processing; b) risk-based facilitation of cargo; c) benefits of trusted client program - Authorized Economic Operators, and; d) Direct Port Delivery (DPD) facility.**

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# Wallenborn Middle East Logistics: The UAE RSF leader with sustainability in mind

By Gemma Q. Casas

*Sustainability is another issue that Wallenborn Middle East Logistics takes seriously. The company has initiated steps to reduce its carbon footprint as well as implement environment-friendly practices and measures long before the world has drummed up efforts to fight climate change.*

**F**ew companies worldwide can take pride in sustaining longevity beyond 100 years with internal and external challenges taking a toll on their operations at different times and circumstances.

In Luxembourg, the logistics and trucking company Wallenborn Transports S.A. is a rarity. The company has been in operation for more than 100 years, surviving both World Wars I and II, and in modern times is looked upon for its innovation and market leadership on many fronts.

Today, Wallenborn is Europe's largest air cargo Road Feeder Services (RFS) operator and the market leader within the Benelux, France, Germany, Italy, and Scandinavia areas. It has the most extensive European network serving over 120 airports.

Wallenborn has 17 offices in 13 countries across Europe and the Middle East, providing offline handling services using its own warehouses and partner warehouses within its entire network. In 2022, the company safely transported 5.2 million tons of different cargo across the world



**Michel Welter**  
General Manager  
Wallenborn Middle East Logistics

## Wallenborn Middle East

In the Middle East, Wallenborn's subsidiary, Wallenborn Middle East Logistics, is also making an indelible mark in the transport industry barely 10 years since its operations began.

Wallenborn first opened its office in Dubai, the business capital of the United Arab Emirates, in February 2013. Before the year was over, it inaugurated its office in Sharjah, another major emirate in the UAE. It now has a fleet of over 100 Euro 6 trucks, the current emissions standards in Europe

The company offers a range of RFS services to airlines, forwarders, and integrators across the UAE and the Middle East, which include, Airport-to-airport transportation; Airport-to-warehouse transportation; Warehouse-to-airport transportation; Door-to-door transportation, and; Cross-border transportation.

Michel Welter, General Manager, Wallenborn Middle East Logistics, told **Air Cargo Update**, the company did well in the last few years and has high hopes its growth will continue.

"It's been a hell of a journey," Welter who first came to Dubai in 2015 described his stint in the beginning. "But together with my staff, we developed very well in the last couple of years. We're still planning to be here in the next 10 years."

Under Welter's leadership and guidance, Wallenborn in the Middle East heads for more growth as the region, too, undergoes major economic transformation, particularly in Saudi Arabia.

**"We are mainly working for airlines, forwarders, and agents. In the Middle East, our main core of activities is in the UAE," Welter noted. "We have offices in all major cities—Luxembourg, Milan, London, Paris, Amsterdam, Frankfurt, among others."**

Wallenborn Middle East Logistics is recognized as a leading provider of RFS services in the UAE. It is highly regarded for its reliability, customer service, and commitment to sustainability.

The company has over 100 employees and operates a 24/7 customer service center. Over the past 10 years of its operations in the UAE, it has built a strong track record of delivering cargo on time and safely.



### Sustainability Initiative

Sustainability is another issue that Wallenborn Middle East Logistics takes seriously. The company has initiated steps to reduce its carbon footprint as well as implement environment-friendly practices and measures long before the world has drummed up efforts to fight climate change.

"We didn't wait for COP 28. We started our sustainability initiatives three to four years ago," said Welter. "We saved 480 tons of CO2 emissions for our fleet (during that period)."

Dubai is hosting the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference or Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC, more commonly referred to as COP28, from November 30 to December 12, 2023, at the Expo City, Dubai.

Wallenborn takes pride in having trucks that are modern and efficient which helps in their sustainability efforts.

"We renew our fleets on a regular basis. In this industry, it's important to add new trucks and technology. About 80 percent of our fleet are Euro 6 trucks. It's an investment. The main thing is sustainability," said Welter. The Euro 6 trucks are said to be more efficient and environment-friendly.

Modern trucks are not only designed for speed and efficiency but also offer technological advancements like route optimization and management as well as comfort for drivers.

Wallenborn's efforts to keep up with sustainability have also led it to invest in renewable energy sources like solar panels and electric vehicles. It also uses sustainable materials in its operations and trains employees on sustainable practices.



# QUICK FACTS

## 1920 – The Beginning

Wallenborn Transports S.A. was founded back in 1920 by Metty Wallenborn in Luxembourg. The idea was to be able to transport whatever needed transporting, both nationally and internationally.

## 1930 - Benz truck for water transport

In the early days, Wallenborn Transports was used to transport just about anything, both nationally and internationally. One of the elements our trucks were used for was to transport water pipes and distributors to facilitate clean drinking water.

## First trucking company to publish performance data

In 2009, Wallenborn became the first trucking company to publish performance data measured against Cargo 2000's service level agreement for road feeder services. Cargo 2000 was a group of over 70 major airlines, freight forwarders, ground handlers, trucking companies, and IT providers.

Its members implemented re-engineered air cargo transportation processes from shipper to consignee using Cargo 2000's 'Master Operating Plan'. In compliance with the Cargo 2000 standard, the company measured and reported its performance against key milestones in the road transport journey, bookings processed on-time departure, and on-time arrival. Freight Status Update (FSU) messages were sent to the client airline within 60 minutes of these events.



## Wallenborn UAE was established

In February 2013, Wallenborn established Wallenborn Transport Co. LLC in Dubai in order to develop a range of land transport services in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). This expansion was Wallenborn's next step after observing that airlines and frequencies were growing in the Gulf states and spotting a trend toward higher frequencies of smaller aircraft within the GCC.

Wallenborn opens its second UAE office at Sharjah International Airport. This comes only eight months after Wallenborn opened in Dubai, only 15 km away from Sharjah. The launch in Sharjah was in response to fast-growing demand for Wallenborn's air cargo trucking services from airlines, forwarders and integrators across the U.A.E.

## dnata and Wallenborn

In 2019, Wallenborn Transports completed the acquisition of Agility Global Logistics' interest in dnata PWC Airport Logistics LLC (DPAL), a Dubai-based premium road feeder services provider. It had since embarked on a partnership with dnata through its ownership in DPAL. The partnership had seen the companies develop new products and services, and enter new markets.

## Minnesota SAF Hub launches first-of-its-kind coalition to scale sustainable aviation fuel

**Atlanta, Georgia: A first-of-its-kind coalition is launching in Minnesota to scale sustainable aviation fuel with the urgency commercial aviation needs to reach net zero by 2050.**

Through the GREATER MSP Partnership, Bank of America, Delta Air Lines, Ecolab and Xcel Energy have established the Minnesota SAF Hub – the first large-scale SAF Hub in the US with unparalleled collaboration among key players across the value chain committed to scaling SAF production to replace conventional jet fuel.

These anchor members are joined by other leading institutions, including the State of Minnesota, to implement an ambitious shared strategy for aggressively decarbonizing the airline industry.

SAF is the best decarbonization lever the aviation industry has in the near- to mid-term on its journey to net zero. While airlines globally have committed to purchasing billions of gallons of SAF over the next few decades, there isn't enough being produced currently to fuel commercial airlines globally for a single day.

Third on the World Economic Forum's list of Top 10 Emerging Technologies of 2023, SAF is a safe, fully certified jet fuel that can be used in today's aircraft engines and transported via existing pipeline infrastructure.

Produced from many sources including renewable feedstocks and used cooking oil, SAF can reduce lifecycle carbon emissions of aviation by more than 80 percent, meaning exponentially fewer emissions from SAF than traditional jet fuel.

The project's progress to date includes establishing a shared, multi-phase strategy, securing nation-leading financial incentives from the State of Minnesota, and building a growing coalition of Minnesota-based organizations including the anchor companies, State of Minnesota, the Metropolitan Airports



Commission, the University of Minnesota, and knowledge partner McKinsey & Company.

"Our SAF Hub will accelerate progress toward decarbonizing the airline industry nationally while also creating thousands of good jobs across Minnesota," said President and CEO of the GREATER MSP Partnership, Peter Frosch. "It is good news that some of the world's most innovative companies are combining forces to build SAF production at the scale the market demands and at a pace the climate requires."

Delta CEO Ed Bastian, added, "The Minnesota SAF Hub is the game changer aviation needs to start producing SAF at the volumes required to meet our aggressive goals. This coalition of heavy hitters from across the SAF ecosystem are collaborating to rapidly scale production, demonstrating the power of partnerships to meet our shared goal faster than any of us could do on our own."

## Menzies Aviation renews Jazeera Airways contract in Kuwait and wins new business in Europe & Pakistan



**Kuwait:** Menzies Aviation, the leading service partner to the world's airports and airlines, announced it has successfully extended its five-year agreement with Jazeera Airways, the leading low-cost carrier in Kuwait.

Their renewed partnership covers passenger,

ramp, and air cargo services at seven airports in five countries.

"The extension of our agreement with Jazeera Airways in Kuwait is the next step in our continued strategic partnership and demonstrates the strength of our ground services offering. We have built a strong relationship with the airline since we began working with them in 2005, first as NAS and now as Menzies Aviation. We are delighted to continue delivering our ground, cargo, and lounge services in Kuwait and new locations in the airline's growing network across the Middle East, Central and South Asia, Europe, and Africa," said Hassan El Houry, Chairman of Menzies Aviation.

At Kuwait International Airport (KWI), the extended five-year agreement will see Menzies Aviation, operating as National Aviation Services (NAS) at KWI. It will continue to deliver ground and air cargo handling services, managing more than 1,400 flights a month. In addition, it will oversee the airline's dedicated T5 Pearl lounge in the exclusive Jazeera Terminal 5, offering passengers a dedicated space to work or relax before they fly.

Earlier this year, the Menzies-RAS team successfully managed the airline's inaugural flight from Kuwait to Islamabad International Airport (ISB).

In Europe, Menzies also secured new contracts at Tivat International Airport (TIV), Montenegro, and Belgrade Nikola Telsa Airport (BEG), Serbia. The aviation firm said this marks the next step in its partnership with Jazeera Airways, building on its existing operations at Jinnah International Airport (KHI) and Allama Iqbal International Airport (LHE) in Pakistan, and Queen Alia International Airport (AMM) in Jordan.



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**Muscat, Oman:** SalamAir, Oman's first low-cost airline, kicked off on 30 September its permanent Muscat-Beirut flight as a year-round route amid increasing demand from Lebanese expatriates and tourists.

"This update is in response to the overwhelming public demand and significant success of bookings for the New Year holidays, as well as the summer season that the seasonal destination has operated in since December 2022," said Capt. Mohamed Ahmed, CEO of SalamAir.

"This new connection marks an exciting milestone for both countries and opens endless trade, tourism, and cultural exchange possibilities. Recognizing the growing interest and the remarkable seat factor on their flights, SalamAir has made the decision to include Beirut as one of its year-round destinations," he added.

Since September, SalamAir has been operating weekly flights to Beirut every Saturday, offering passengers a convenient and affordable travel option between Oman and Lebanon. In addition to the weekly flight, the airline says it will operate additional flights during the new year holiday.

The addition of year-round flights to Beirut caters to the demand of Lebanese expatriates and tourists. It provides an opportunity for locals in Lebanon and Oman to explore and experience the unique offerings of both countries. This

## SalamAir now operates the Muscat-Beirut route year-round

enhanced connectivity will foster greater collaboration, benefiting the economies of both nations and creating valuable opportunities for businesses and individuals alike.

SalamAir serves 41 destinations which include Muscat, Salalah, Suhar, Duqm, and Masirah in Oman; Dubai and Fujairah in the UAE; Doha; Bahrain; Kuwait; Dammam, Riyadh, Jeddah, and Madinah in Saudi Arabia as well in other international cities—Baghdad, Shiraz, Tehran, Mashhad, Istanbul, Rize, Trabzon, Alexandria, Beirut, Almaty, Baku, Kuala Lumpur, Prague, Sarajevo, Bangkok, Phuket, Colombo, Chattogram, Dhaka, Kathmandu, Karachi, Multan, Sialkot, Peshawar, Lucknow, Jaipur, and Trivandrum.



**Dubai, United Arab Emirates:** flydubai, the Dubai-based carrier, announced the launch of a daily service to Langkawi and Penang in Malaysia, the first to connect the popular destinations with flights from the UAE and the Middle East.

Flights to Penang International Airport (PEN) and Langkawi International Airport (LGK) will start on 10 February 2024. Flights to Langkawi will operate via a short stop in Penang, offering passengers from the UAE and the region convenient travel options via Dubai's aviation hub.

Commenting on the launch of flights, Ghaith Al Ghaith, Chief Executive Officer at flydubai, said: "We are pleased to see our presence in Southeast Asia grow with the launch of operations to Langkawi and Penang. Flights from the UAE to these popular holiday destinations are vital for tourism and business connectivity. These destinations in Malaysia offer cultural diversity, leisure activities, and investment opportunities. Our new flights will be popular for passengers not only from the UAE, but from the GCC and the European markets as well."

With the launch of flights to Langkawi and Penang, flydubai expands its footprint in Southeast Asia to four destinations including its operations to Krabi and Pattaya in Thailand.

## flydubai launches daily service to Langkawi and Penang in Malaysia

flydubai will deploy its Boeing 737 MAX aircraft on the Malaysian routes, featuring lie-flat seats in Business Class and the added comfort and enjoyable travel experience in Economy Class.

Sudhir Sreedharan, Senior Vice President, Commercial Operations (UAE, GCC, Africa and the Indian Subcontinent) at flydubai, said: "Malaysia is an extremely important market for flydubai and we are pleased to see these flights become a reality. The daily service will prove popular for our passengers from around the network and will provide passengers from Malaysia with convenient options to travel to Dubai and beyond whether they are traveling for business, leisure or to visit family and friends."

Langkawi is renowned for its pristine beaches, lush rainforests and stunning geological formations. Visitors can enjoy activities such as island hopping, cable car rides to the Sky Bridge and exploring the Kilim Karst Geoforest Park. The duty-free status of the island also makes it a shopping haven.

Penang, often called the "Pearl of the Orient," offers a rich cultural tapestry, blending Chinese, Malay, Indian and British influences. Its UNESCO-listed George Town is renowned for its historic architecture, vibrant street art and street food.



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**Sharjah, UAE:** Sharjah Airport's Cargo Centre has completed its preparations for handling horse shipments, in line with the efforts of the Sharjah Airport Authority to boost the efficiency of air cargo operations, particularly while handling cargo that requires special attention.

These preparations are made to efficiently meet the specific requirements for handling such cargo and ensure seamless facilities for accompanying horsemen to complete procedures to transport horses within the country or abroad. The move coincides with the beginning

## Sharjah Airport completes preparations to provide fast-handling horse shipment service

of the local and international horse racing and equestrian festival season.

The Cargo Centre at Sharjah Airport offers top-notch facilities and innovative logistic solutions to facilitate the transportation of purebred horses through the airport. Its amenities include a dedicated stable on-site that guarantees easy access for the horses and their companions. In addition, the stable will be equipped with customized floorings, like AstroTurf, that allow easy movement for horses.

Sharjah Aviation Services (SAS), the ground handling services provider at Sharjah Airport, offers these amenities through its specialized team. The exceptional services of SAS have been recognized with the IATA Safety Audit for Ground Operations (ISAGO) certification, which reflects its dedication to ensuring the highest safety and security standards while handling all cargo.

Customers can visit the Cargo Centre's website at: <https://www.sharjahairport.ae/en/business/cargo-centre/> to check the status of their shipments through the online schedule or sign up for the airport's flight tracking service to receive SMS updates on the status of any cargo flight.

## Vienna Airport hosts 1st Vienna Cargo Day and FlyPharma Europe 2023

**Vienna, Austria:** Vienna Airport recently hosted two major events—the first Vienna Cargo Day and FlyPharma Europe 2023—which gathered together the entire cargo community to help tackle the most pressing issues confronting the industry.

Held on October 9, the first Vienna Cargo Day discussed issues on sustainability, hydrogen and digitalization. News about the opening of the Air Cargo Academy in the Vienna AirportCity was also announced.

"The close cooperation of everyone involved in the air cargo transport chain is a major advantage of our hub. The first Vienna Cargo Day provides us with a new platform enabling the regular exchange of views and further impetus on current issues such as sustainability and digitalisation," states Michael Zach, Vice President Sales, Finance & Cargo, Ground Handling & Cargo Operations at Vienna Airport.

Wolfgang Scheibenpflug, Senior Vice President Real Estate and Landside Management at Vienna Airport, meanwhile, noted: "Today, the Vienna AirportCity ranks among the most successful such airport cities in Europe and something we are proud of. At the same time, we still have a lot to do, especially when it comes to the further implementation of sustainable practices and innovative technologies in real estate development. We still have unused capacities available at Vienna Airport for further business location projects."

On October 10-11, Vienna AirportCity welcomed participants to FlyPharma Europe 2023. The participants also had the chance to visit the state-of-the-art pharmaceutical processing facilities at Vienna



Airport, among other attractions.

The global cargo gateway for Central and Eastern Europe, Vienna Airport has also emerged as an important link for nearby Eastern Europe logistics routes.

The airport serves major leading cargo airlines, which include Lufthansa Cargo, Emirates Cargo, Eva Air Cargo, Korean Air Cargo, Asiana, Cargolux, Turkish Cargo, Qatar Airways Cargo and Silk Way West Airlines.

The airport is also highly regarded for its Vienna Airport Pharma Handling Center (VPHC) which offers uninterrupted cold chain facilities for temperature-sensitive cargo.



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# AEROTRASCARGO Achieves Prestigious IOSA Certification, Elevating Aviation Safety Standards

AEROTRASCARGO, a leading cargo airline partner, has proudly achieved the coveted IATA Operational Safety Audit (IOSA) certification. This prestigious accomplishment demonstrates the airline's dedication to maintaining the highest standards in aviation operations.

The IOSA certification is a global benchmark of excellence in the aviation industry. It recognizes airlines that have demonstrated rigorous adherence to a comprehensive set of international safety regulations. AEROTRASCARGO's achievement of this certification demonstrates its passion for safety, security, and operational efficiency.

The airline's IOSA certification demonstrates its steadfast focus on implementing robust safety protocols and procedures throughout its operations. This emphasis on safety ensures that every flight adheres to the highest industry standards, providing customers with unparalleled peace of mind.

As an IOSA-certified cargo airline, AEROTRASCARGO has proven its ability to deliver reliable and efficient services. The



airline boasts a well-trained and experienced workforce supported by state-of-the-art technologies and advanced systems. This guarantees that cargo reaches its destination promptly and in optimal condition.

This certification also carries global recognition, reinforcing AEROTRASCARGO's commitment to excellence in aviation operations on an international scale. Customers and partners can now be assured of choosing a trustworthy and reputable service provider.

Commenting on this achievement, Chairman Guneet Mirchandani expressed immense pride in the airline's relentless commitment to safety and operational excellence. He reiterated the promise of secure and dependable service, encouraging everyone to continue soaring to greater heights with safety as their guiding star.

AEROTRASCARGO remains resolute in its mission to be the preferred cargo airline partner. As it moves forward, the airline pledges to continue investing in its people, technology, and infrastructure. Ensuring the highest safety, reliability, and efficiency levels will always be the airline's top priority.

The IOSA certification signifies a new era of excellence for AEROTRASCARGO. The airline eagerly anticipates providing an exceptional aviation experience to its customers and partners.

## Global aviation industry reaches out to quake-ravaged Morocco



**Montreal, Canada:** The global aviation industry has reached out to the quake-ravaged Morocco through rapid delivery of humanitarian and relief efforts to the country which continues to reel from the tragedy that killed nearly 3,000 people, injured thousands, and displaced hundreds of thousands more.

IATA's Regional Vice-President for Africa-Middle East, Kamil Al-Awadhi, expressed condolences of the aviation community to the people of Morocco. "The heart-breaking impact of this tragedy in Morocco has been felt worldwide. On behalf of IATA's member airlines, we extend our heartfelt sympathies to all those affected," he said. "Our thoughts remain with the communities impacted by this devastating event. We commend the exceptional work of rescue teams, and the important role aviation is playing in facilitating immediate relief."

Countries including Czechia, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Spain, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the United Kingdom, facilitated by aviation, have transported aid including vital supplies, medical teams, and other specialist personnel to affected areas, thereby accelerating the humanitarian response.

In addition to the work airlines are doing to support the rescue and humanitarian efforts, IATA is collaborating with local stakeholders to ensure the continuity and effectiveness of its critical industry support functions.

A magnitude 6.8 earthquake struck Morocco's Marrakesh-Safi region on 08 September, the deadliest earthquake to hit the country since 1960.



## Customer experience is an increasingly decisive factor when booking travel amid post-pandemic disruptions

Against this backdrop, passengers are embracing the use of smart technologies to smooth pain points along the journey. 2023 has seen passengers continuing to adopt mobile as a remote control for the journey, with boosted usage across booking, check-in, dwell time, on board, and bag collection.

"When planning travel, cost is just one of the factors affecting travelers' willingness to book flights. Experience at the airport has become fundamental to passengers' decision-making, and travelers are telling the industry loud and clear: the more they are subjected to clunky and inefficient processes, the more likely they are to consider other options. Passengers are pointing to a clear way forward for the industry: now more than ever they recognize smart technologies as key to streamlining travel while reducing its environmental impacts, both for air travel alone and for the broader intermodal ecosystem," said David Lavorel, SITA CEO.

When asked about comfort levels with biometric identification throughout the journey, passengers scored an average of 7.36 out of 10 (with 10 representing most comfortable), up from 7.26 in 2022, reflecting a rising desire for the frictionless airport experience this technology facilitates.

There is additional interest in completing certain checks pre-arrival at the airport to further maximize efficiency, with nearly one-fifth of passengers pointing to 'automated checks before the airport ensuring documents are sufficient to pass border checks' as a potential improvement to the booking process.

Sustainability is another crucial area where passengers highlight the potential of technology. The use of new technologies supporting sustainability emerged as the number one initiative passengers would value most for both airlines (64% of passengers) and airports (62%).

As the world of travel becomes increasingly interconnected, the survey finds that a significant majority of passengers expect to book intermodal trips in the coming year, with only 24% saying they are unlikely to do so.

**Geneva, Switzerland:** When booking a flight, experience at the airport is an increasingly important consideration for passengers, beyond just cost and availability of destinations, according to SITA's Passenger IT Insights report.

The report showed customers are looking to technology to optimize every aspect of the post-pandemic travel landscape, from addressing pain points in the airport journey to supporting air transport sustainability to streamlining intermodal travel.

The report also reveals that, as demand has skyrocketed post-pandemic amid lingering staff and resource shortages for airlines and airports, the resulting disruptions to air travel have taken their toll on passengers' experience. Over half of passengers reported encountering flight delays and cancellations, with most highlighting the negative impact this had on their travel experience.



## ATM 2024 to explore how entrepreneurship is empowering innovation in the Middle East's travel industry

explore how innovators in the travel and tourism space are working to attract greater levels of funding to further increase the sector's overall contribution to global GDP.

The 31st edition of the show will take place at Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC) from Monday 6 to Thursday 9 May 2024.

"The Middle East's travel and tourism sector has demonstrated impressive resilience and growth in recent years, but we must continue to innovate and adapt in order to achieve the industry's long-term goals. Thanks to ATM 2024's theme, 'Transforming Travel Through Entrepreneurship', we have a golden opportunity to showcase expert insights, cutting-edge technologies, and commercial opportunities with the potential to completely reshape the sector," said Danielle Curtis, Exhibition Director, Arabian Travel Market.

Building on ATM 2023's theme of 'Working Towards Net Zero', environmentally responsible travel will represent a key focus during the show's upcoming edition.

Informed by the UAE's Year of Sustainability and the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28), which will take place in Dubai later this year, ATM 2024 will explore how innovation can be leveraged to help achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by building a greener travel and tourism sector for future generations.

More than 40,000 travel trade professionals, including 30,000 visitors, attended the 30th edition of ATM in May 2023, setting a new show record. The exhibition attracted more than 2,100 exhibitors and representatives from over 155 countries, providing a global platform for the unveiling of ATM's net-zero pledge.

**Dubai, United Arab Emirates:** Arabian Travel Market (ATM), the Middle East's leading event for inbound and outbound travel and tourism professionals, has unveiled its next theme: 'Empowering Innovation: Transforming Travel Through Entrepreneurship.'

Over the last 15 years, the travel and tourism industry has secured only 1 percent of total funding for startups across all industries, according to analysis from McKinsey. This is despite the fact that the sector accounted for more than 10 percent of global GDP in 2019.

With exhibitors from the fields of aviation, accommodation, hospitality, attractions, technology, and more, ATM 2024 will

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## Saudia Cargo appoints new Managing Director

**Jeddah, Saudi Arabia:** Saudia Cargo has named Eng. Loay Mashabi as the company's new Managing Director effective 08 October 2023.

Eng. Loay was the former Deputy Minister for Logistics Services at the Saudi Ministry of Transportation and Logistics Services. He brings with him an extensive background in the logistics sector and has played a pivotal role in the efforts to bolster Saudi Arabia's position as a logistics hub.

Throughout his career, Eng. Loay has served various positions in both the private and government sectors and has also acted as a board member of Saudia Cargo, Saudi Authority for Industrial Cities and Technology Zones (MODON), Riyadh Integrated (Transportation, Logistics, Supply Chain and Storage) and Saudi Exports Authority.

Together with Teddy Zebitz, Saudia Cargo CEO, Eng. Loay will oversee several functions and strategic initiatives to ensure Saudia Cargo continues in its successful growth and transformation to reach a vast

international presence through expanding its dedicated freighter fleet to become one of the world's top 10 largest air cargo carriers in the coming years.

"We are thrilled to have Eng. Loay on board and to welcome him to the Saudia Cargo family," said Zebitz. "His background and vast experience in the field will prove to be invaluable in our efforts to drive forward Saudia Cargo's ambitious growth plans."

Eng. Loay said he looks forward to serving his country's growing logistics sector through his new role at Saudia Cargo.

"With this new chapter in my career, I am excited to continue serving the Saudi logistics sector and bring forth the untapped potential in the region. Saudia Cargo will, without a doubt, be just the right place to accomplish great feats in placing Saudi Arabia in the center of the logistics map," said Eng Loay.

He holds an Executive MBA from London Business School and a BSc in Petroleum Engineering from King Fahd University.



**Eng. Loay Mashabi**

## Atlas Air Worldwide names Martin Drew as its new Chief Strategy and Transformation Officer



**Martin Drew**

**Purchase, New York:** Atlas Air Worldwide, a leading global provider of outsourced aircraft and aviation operating services, has named Martin Drew as Chief Strategy and Transformation Officer, effective September 25, 2023.

In his new role, Drew will lead the company's comprehensive corporate strategy, including its transformational growth initiatives. He will report to Michael Steen, Chief Executive Officer, and serve on the company's Executive Leadership Team.

"Martin is a highly recognized leader in aviation and will be an incredible asset to our team as we leverage our diversified business model, unrivalled global network and best-in-class assets for long-term success. His vast experience in cargo and passenger operations, entrepreneurial leadership style and solutions-oriented approach will help guide the Company to new heights," said Steen.

Drew, who will seek to drive strategic growth and diversification across Atlas'

services, geographic footprint, and partnerships said, "I look forward to bringing my passion for driving change and strategic mindset to make a lasting impact on the Company's continued growth and success. Atlas' dedication to transformation and its visionary leadership have set the stage for an exciting journey ahead."

Prior to his move to Atlas, Drew served as Senior Vice President Global Sales, Marketing, Brand and Cargo at Etihad Airways in Abu Dhabi, UAE where he oversaw all aspects of Etihad Cargo and was a member of the airline's leadership team.

He first joined Etihad Airways in 2005 and during this time spent 18 months working with Jet Airways as Vice President, Cargo in Mumbai, substantially growing the airline's cargo business. He also previously held the position of Vice President, Europe and the Americas with responsibility for Etihad's activities in Europe and the Americas, including Passenger Sales, Marketing, and Alliances. Prior to that, he held senior positions at Lufthansa and DAS Air Cargo.

**Miami, Florida:** Leading cargo airline Amerijet International Airlines has promoted Chief Financial Officer Joe Mozzali as the company's new Chief Executive Officer effective October 7.

Mozzali has a long track record of success in international transportation and logistics. Before joining Amerijet in February 2023, the 30-year industry veteran held an extensive array of senior leadership roles in finance and strategy at UPS.

Mozzali's global experience includes serving as CFO of UPS Airlines and UPS International & Supply Chain. He was also the Vice President of Strategy for UPS Europe, Middle East and Africa and Chief Executive Officer of Kiala, a European e-commerce logistics company acquired by UPS.

"We are very excited about Joe becoming Amerijet's

## Mozzali is Amerijet Int'l Airlines' new CEO

next CEO. His leadership skills, strategic insights, deep industry knowledge, and disciplined management style make him the perfect choice to lead our company. We have great confidence in Joe's ability to lead us to new heights as the air cargo carrier of choice," said Bob Horne, a partner at ZS Fund L.P. and Amerijet board member.

With the entire cargo sector facing cooling macroeconomic conditions after several years of strong growth, Mozzali will lead continuous improvement efforts involving Amerijet's people, processes, and technology.

"Over the past several years, Amerijet has significantly expanded its fleet and entered into new markets while diversifying its service offerings. With much of the industry facing cost and demand headwinds, success demands agility, innovation, and disciplined operational excellence with a surgical focus on enhancing the customer experience. We will leverage our current strengths while continuing to build foundations for future growth," said Mozzali who replaced former CEO Tim Strauss who retired.



# Upcoming Events



## IAPH World Ports Conference 2023

Founded in 1955, the International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH) has developed into a global alliance of 169 port authorities and 134 port-related businesses. IAPH leads global port industry initiatives on decarbonization and energy transition, risk and resilience management, and accelerating digitalization in the maritime transport chain.

World Ports Conference will bring together leading ports, their customers and stakeholders as well as regulators in a world-class interactive event to imagine and deliver a future where ports lead in energy transition, data collaboration, reputation management and business innovation.

**31 October-02 November 2023**  
**ADNEC, Abu Dhabi, UAE**

## Caspian Air Cargo Summit 2023

After a four-year hiatus, the Caspian Air Cargo Summit 2023, the largest and most comprehensive aviation event in the region, bringing the int'l air cargo market leaders to Baku, is back.

Focus will be on the Europe-Asia trade lane, innovation in logistics, e-commerce, cargo aircraft, sustainability in the supply chain, business opportunities in Azerbaijan and global market outlook.

If you are looking for new contacts in the region and elsewhere, this conference will provide unrivalled business opportunities. Meet and network with leading airlines, airports, project developers and aviation service providers.

**23-25 October 2023**  
**W Marriott Absheron Hotel, Baku, Azerbaijan**

## Air Cargo Americas 2023

Air Cargo Americas will bring together top executives from all sectors of the aviation, and logistics industries to exchange views and experiences to enhance the growth of the cargo industry in the Western Hemisphere. Airports, exporters, freight forwarders, shippers, importers, consignees, equipment and technology suppliers, among others, will interact, exchanging ideas and information.

Topics will include security, regional consolidation, manufacturer and shipper needs in high growth cargo, trade facilitation, improving productivity, speed and service quality, responding to market changes and demands from shippers, consolidators and forwarders, and controlling costs while streamlining customer services.

**31 Oct – 2 Nov 2023**  
**Miami Airport Convention Center | Miami, Florida, USA**



## Air Cargo/Transport Logistic Southeast Asia

transport logistic Southeast Asia is the latest edition of the world's largest trade show for transportation and logistics industry. It is poised to become the most influential meeting place for logistics, mobility, IT and supply chain management in Southeast Asia region.

Based on the established concept of the Munich exhibition, and benefiting from the extensive global network of Messe München, transport logistic Southeast Asia will bring together the world's leading service providers, to meet, network and trade with top buyers from the region. The event will also comprise of a high-level summit where expert speakers will share key trends and insights on some of the most forward-looking topics.

**1 - 3 November, 2023**  
**Marina Bay Sands Convention Centre, Singapore**

## Dubai Airshow 2023

Held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE, the Ruler of Dubai and the UAE Minister of Defense, Dubai Airshow 2023 is taking place on 13-17 November 2023 in DWC.

The event grants you exclusive access to cutting-edge technology, groundbreaking innovations, game-changing insights, unparalleled networking opportunities with global influential leaders, and the chance to witness breathtaking aircraft displays in the sky.

This year's exciting edition will also return with new and returning features, including VISTA – the startup hub along with 300+ all-star speakers, 9 industry tracks and an expanded number of networking opportunities.

**13-17 November, 2023**  
**Dubai World Central, Dubai Airshow Site**

## ICAO Conference on Aviation and Alternative Fuels (CAAF/3)

The third International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Conference on Aviation and Alternative Fuels (CAAF/3) will be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates as an in-person event with hybrid capabilities from 20 to 24 November 2023.

CAAF/3 will bring together high-level officials from States who will have the authority to make policy-related decisions, as well as international organizations with direct involvement in aviation cleaner energy, that are invited to participate as Observers.

**20-24 November, 2023**  
**Hilton Dubai Al Habtoor City, Dubai, UAE**



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