



## Abu Dhabi Airports Free Zone

Poised to become a global logistics and cargo hub

**Steven Polmans**  
ADAFZ VP for Business Development & TIACA Chairman

### The Lounge



**Thomas Konietzko**  
Executive VP Sales & Marketing  
Celebi Aviation Holding

Airlines



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- Multi-Billion Dollar Hi-Tech Hub
- No Slots/Curfews/Delays
- Top Perishable Products Hub
- Top U.S. International Freight Hub
- Multi-Billion Dollar Pharma Hub
- Top Latin American/Caribbean Hub
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**Giving back to communities**

They say the best and the worst are seen in times of tragedy. Both the aviation and air cargo industries, despite their own challenges, are delivering their best to transport people, medical supplies, humanitarian aid, food and other necessities to help people and communities at different ongoing and new tragic events that came about this year.

There's the war in Ukraine. The lingering social and political unrest in Syria and Yemen. The decades-long conflicts in different parts of Africa. The drought-ridden, hungry and tormented people in various parts of the vast African continent. The devastating floods in Pakistan that left nearly 15 million people in need of food assistance. The Afghanistan crisis. The February 6 Turkey-Syria earthquake that left more than 16 million Turkish and countless others in Syria displaced, to name a few.

Passenger and cargo airlines across the world have taken the initiative to help affected communities in their own ways, leveraging assistance where possible. The humanitarian airbridges they have built are crucial and time-sensitive to save more lives.

Not only have industry-companies reached out, but their employees as well through different charity-driven initiatives.

This Lenten season and the Holy Month of Ramadan, major companies connected with either aviation, logistics and air cargo industries, have also extended help to different nongovernment organizations and groups to provide food and other assistance to those in need. Medical missions were launched, even in far-flung areas. Free meals and clothes were given out. And the list goes on.

Surely, these industries do not only facilitate global trade and simply carry goods between continents for businesses or people. They have the conscience to give back to communities, especially during critical times. And that counts the most when tragedy struck.

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

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The Lounge

## A healthy lifestyle, traveling, sports and reading keep this EVP always on the go



**Thomas Konietzko**

Executive Vice President Sales & Marketing  
Celebi Aviation Holding

**A**viation is one of the busiest among the industries. It operates 24/7 across different time zones and continents. No doubt, its people are also among the busiest and hardworking, facing different and numerous challenges every day.

But for Thomas Konietzko, the Executive Vice President of Sales and Marketing at Celebi Aviation Holding, aviation is his chosen path.

For him, aviation's technical aspect intertwined with constant technological advancements, is fascinating.

"My passion for aviation is easier explained by my fascination to flying and technology as an avid business traveler. The amount of detail in the formulation of standard operating procedures and how the logistics have to be managed for on-time arrival and departure can explain it. At first glance, I have seen lots of opportunities to work in aviation as it includes passenger handling, cargo, air traffic control, aircraft engineering and more. The requirements of sophisticated

**"My favorite travel destination is East and South Africa. The vast nature and animals living in the wild are fascinating. People have the natural ability to be kind and happy and it makes us think twice about the problems we think of at home," Thomas shared.**

technological advancements as well as the technical aspect inspired me," Thomas shared.

Celebi first stepped into the aviation industry as a ground handling firm in 1958 becoming Turkey's first privately-owned ground handling services company. Today, Celebi stands out as one of the most successful examples of integrated services in the Turkish civil aviation industry offering ramp, passenger, cargo handling, warehouse management, bridge operations, trucking, general aviation, airport lounge management and premium services. And Thomas is part of the company's more than 10,000 people behind its success.

To keep his work and life balanced, Thomas said he takes care of his health first. "A couple of years ago, I set health as my first priority. It's important to create a routine for a scheduled workout and make it a requirement to strictly follow, even during business travel. Avoid negative stress by setting boundaries when leaving the workplace and take the time to decompress."

Thomas says he destresses from his hectic work environment by taking regular breaks during workdays. Traveling, either for work or during holidays, also keeps him going.

"My method of relaxation during workdays is taking breaks regularly, talking to colleagues and over a cup of coffee and taking your mind off the ongoing tasks. Take a walk outside, if possible to breathe deeply and think of enjoyable moments for the weekend or upcoming vacation. Sometimes it may just be good advice to lean back and take a moment to meditate and feel your body to be relaxed," he said.

Traveling is a hobby that many people, including Thomas, enjoy to get some peace of mind or recharge.

"My favorite travel destination is East and South Africa. The vast nature and animals living in the wild are fascinating. People have the natural ability to be kind and happy and it makes us think twice about the problems we think of at home," Thomas shared.

He also likes playing or watching different types of sports. "With my focus on health, I follow various sports, from watching soccer, tennis, and basketball tournaments. Personally, I enjoy skiing, spinning, and running."

Reading is also another hobby that Thomas enjoys doing. "I enjoy reading different types of novels and documentaries, from adventure to comedy, from politics to economics, without a particular author in mind."



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## Leading with Purpose: A Trailblazing Woman's Story of Success in Logistics

**T**he supply chain industry is rapidly changing, and the conversation surrounding the representation of women within the industry is especially critical at this point. According to research by Gartner, women made up about 39% of supply-chain employees globally as of May 2022, ranging from distribution center workers to C-suite executives, indicating a need for more consistent action as these figures were down slightly from 41% the previous year.

Increasing the representation of women in logistics, supply chain management, and other sectors needs to be incorporated into the overall business strategy of companies, as it can drive toward a more diverse and innovative workforce, break down gender stereotypes, and positively impact the economy. Christina Struller, who holds the position of Vice President of Corporate Affairs for UPS in the Indian Subcontinent, Middle East, and Africa (ISMEA), sheds light on her personal journey and emphasizes the need for a more inclusive future for women in the workforce.

Christina Struller is the only female on the leadership team, the youngest executive, and the only one who joined from a non-logistics background when she joined UPS. Like any new job, the journey at the beginning was difficult, and she had to work hard to be recognized and included within the team. Eventually, she earned

*“Remember, as you continue to dream big and push towards your goals, don't be afraid to take risks and step outside of your comfort zone. Embrace new challenges and opportunities with an open mind and a willingness to learn and grow. With hard work and perseverance, anything is possible and no one can stop you!”*



### Christina Struller

Vice president of corporate affairs for UPS in the Indian subcontinent, Middle East and Africa

her deserved seat at the table by remaining laser-focused on achieving her goals that were aligned with the organizational goals.

“Establishing credibility as a young female leader takes time and effort, but it is achievable with persistence and dedication,” said Christina. “One of the most important tips is to always stay true to yourself and your values. Don't be afraid to show vulnerability or acknowledge when you don't have all the answers. This will only help build trust and credibility with others.”

Today, as the Vice President of Corporate Affairs for UPS in the Indian Subcontinent,

Middle East, and Africa (ISMEA), Christina Struller is responsible for engaging with key political and policy stakeholders in the region to ensure UPS remains a trusted partner for government agencies and international trade organizations. She is also closely involved in creating a positive impact through storytelling, communications, community relations, marketing, and sustainability strategies.

Struller's contributions to the role of UPS as the official logistics partner for Dubai Expo 2020 and her instrumental role in driving UPS's partnership with Women 20 (W20), the Women's Engagement Group of the G20, to further UPS's vision of supporting the growth of women-led businesses in the region, are some of the key highlights of her achievements. Additionally, she set up and leads several collaborations to support the growth of SMEs and women-owned businesses, including partnerships with the UAE Ministry of Economy's 'The Entrepreneurial Nation' ScaleUp Export program, UPS's partnership with the International Trade Center (ITC), and Dubai Economy & Tourism for SheTrades MENA, among others. So far, these partnerships have successfully trained more than 108,000 women-owned businesses and SMEs across the world, creating significant long-term impact.

UPS is actively expanding its initiatives to further the representation of women in operations and management roles, specifically in their hubs and package center facilities. For instance, they have Women's Leadership Development (WLD) Business Resource Groups (BRG) in over 30 countries, which Struller co-chairs in the UAE. She believes that through mentorship, networking, and advocating for policies that support women's advancement, everyone can play a role in paving the way for a brighter, more inclusive future for all women in the workforce. Struller's aim is to use her experience and success as a source of inspiration and support for other women, especially those who may face unique challenges and barriers in their professional journeys.



## Amazon and UAE Food Bank partner to donate & deliver Iftar meals in the UAE



**Dubai, United Arab Emirates:** Leveraging its delivery network across the UAE, Amazon has teamed up with the UAE Food Bank to launch 'Iftar on Wheels', a meal donation program that supports thousands of families and people during the Holy Month of Ramadan.

Amazon utilized its scale, logistics and technology to reach people in need, and to spread the joy of the season among local communities, continuing its tradition of helping underprivileged families through a combination of monetary donations, delivery services and volunteer support. Hundreds of Amazon employees across the UAE will engage in event organization, packing and delivering food and sharing in the iftar events.

Speaking about the partnership, Manal Obaid Yarooof, Chairperson of UAE Food Bank Steering

Committee, said, "Generosity is an integral part of Emirati culture, and the Holy month of Ramadan is a reminder for us to show kindness and compassion to those less fortunate. Through partnerships with private sector companies such as Amazon, we continue to promote a culture of food sharing and influence behavior towards food waste. Amazon's 'Iftar on Wheels' is a great way to deliver meals directly to thousands of families in need. Leveraging the power of Amazon's technology, people and the company's vast delivery network, the program will help us reach out to even more families across the country."

Over the past four years, Amazon has delivered millions of meals to underserved communities in the Middle East & North Africa region, ladder up to the UN Sustainable Development Goal 2 to achieve 'Zero Hunger'.

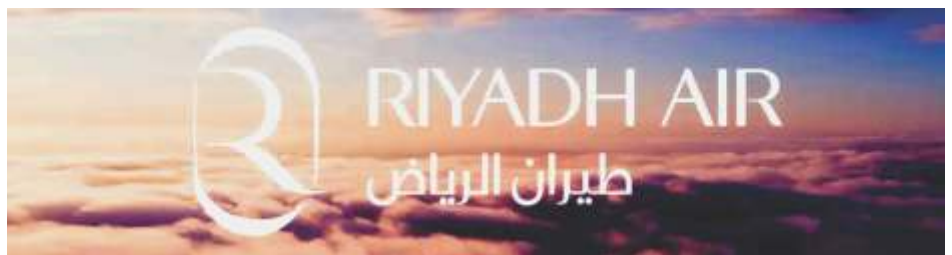
"Ramadan is a very special time for us at Amazon. Every year, as we continue to serve customers during the busy season, we also invest in programs that nurture a meaningful work environment where our teams have the opportunity to give back to the community. This year, we are launching 'Iftar on Wheels', a program that utilizes our logistics, delivery and people networks to deliver thousands of meals to families in need across the UAE. Amazon is constantly working with community partners across the MENA region to find practical solutions to immediate needs such as hunger and natural disasters, leveraging our scale as a force for good," said Prashant Saran, Director of Operations, Amazon MENA.

The company creates initiatives that harness a spirit of innovation, determination, and passion within its people to strengthen the communities where its employees live and work.

"Ramadan reminds us of all our responsibility to be compassionate towards others, and I always try in my own ways to help the less fortunate during the Holy month. Amazon's 'Iftar on Wheels' program gives me a great opportunity to put my work skills and resources to the best possible use – bringing smiles to those in need," said Nur Nakdali, Capacity Planning Manager, Amazon UAE.

Amazon Operations' network across the UAE comprises of three Fulfillment Centres, three sort centres, eight delivery stations and a network of small and medium businesses working as Delivery Service Partners.

## New Saudi Arabian carrier Riyadh air to launch with all-Boeing Fleet of up to 72 787-9 Dreamliners



**RIYADH, Saudi Arabia:** Boeing [NYSE: BA] and Riyadh Air announced the new Saudi Arabian carrier has chosen the 787 Dreamliner to power its global launch and support its goal of operating one of the most efficient and sustainable fleets in the world.

Owned by Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund (PIF), Riyadh Air said it will purchase 39 highly efficient 787-9s, with options for an additional 33 787-9s. Based in the capital city, Riyadh Air will play a key role in growing Saudi Arabia's air transport network.

This agreement is part of Saudi Arabia's wider strategic plan to transform the country into a global aviation hub. In total, Saudi Arabian carriers today

announced their intent to purchase up to 121 787 Dreamliners in what will be the fifth largest commercial order by value in Boeing's history. This will support the country's goal of serving 330 million passengers and attracting 100 million visitors annually by 2030.

"The new airline reflects the ambitious vision of Saudi Arabia to be at the core of shaping the future of global air travel and be a true disrupter in terms of customer experience," said Tony Douglas, CEO of Riyadh Air.

"Riyadh Air's commitment to its customers will see the integration of digital innovation and authentic Saudi hospitality to deliver a seamless travel experience. By positioning the airline as both a global connector and a vehicle to drive tourist and business travel to Saudi Arabia, our new 787-9 airplanes will serve as a foundation for our worldwide operations, as we build a wider network and connect our guests to Saudi Arabia and many destinations around the world," Douglas added.

Stan Deal, president and CEO of Boeing Commercial Airplanes, commented: "We are incredibly proud of our nearly eight decades of partnership to drive innovation and sustainable growth in Saudi Arabia's aviation sector. Our agreement builds on that long standing partnership and will further expand access to safe and sustainable commercial air travel for decades more."

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## Transport Canada approves WestJet Cargo's 4 B-737-800 converted freighters

**Calgary, Canada:** WestJet Cargo has received Transport Canada's approval and official certification of its four 737-800 Boeing Converted Freighters (BCF), increasing its capacity to meet more demand for its services across North America.

Following certification, WestJet Cargo and the GTA Group will expeditiously implement three freighters into service, as dedicated aircraft that will fulfill the large-scale needs of businesses, freight forwarders, shippers and individual customers across North America. The fourth of WestJet Cargo's dedicated freighters is expected to join the accompanying fleet later this year, following the completion of its conversion.

Kirsten de Bruijn, WestJet Executive Vice-President, Cargo, described the decision as "a long-awaited milestone for WestJet Cargo and the GTA Group, that will now enable us to disrupt the air cargo industry in Canada by providing our customers with more choice, competitive prices and the exemplary customer service synonymous with the WestJet brand, but unique to the air cargo industry...."Today's announcement was made possible by our incredibly talented team of cargo experts and the GTA Group, our valued partner, who have worked diligently towards this achievement that brings WestJet Cargo one step closer to fulfilling our mission to bring competitive cost advantages and reliable on-time performance to Canada's underserved cargo landscape."



"We thank Transport Canada for its dedication to certifying these aircraft, which will serve to better support Canada's national transportation supply chain through increased competition and capacity within Canada's air cargo market," she added.

Seamlessly integrating into WestJet Cargo's existing operations and operated by WestJet's highly skilled 737 pilots, the dedicated freighters will initially focus service within North America, serving Calgary, Halifax, Toronto, Vancouver, Los Angeles and Miami. Leveraging its quick to load and fly narrow body aircraft, the 737-800 equipped with CFM56-7B engines will enable WestJet Cargo to offer greater fuel efficiency, flexibility and frequency for its customers, beginning April 22, 2023.

WestJet Cargo's dedicated freighter routes will further connect to the bellies of WestJet's fleet, serving to accommodate the diverse needs of cargo customers in leveraging the airline's expansive network.

Mario (Mauro) D'Urso, Chairman of the GTA Group of Companies. "Through the capacity of these four dedicated freighters, we are now in an excellent position to meet the needs of the rapidly growing Canadian cargo market." WestJet Cargo freighter bookings was made available on April 1, 2023

## LATAM Cargo now connects South America to Europe via Brussels Airport



**Brussels, Belgium:** Flying four times a week to Europe via Brussels Airport, LATAM Cargo now connects South America better to the continent.

Brussels Airport said LATAM Cargo has been operating on the route since 26 March 2023 via Mariscal Sucre International Airport in Quito (Ecuador) and Brussels Airport. The Chilean-based cargo airline will reach Brussels Airport and fly back to its hub in Miami.

With LATAM Cargo's arrival, Brussels Airport has strengthened its network of cargo destinations, offering an additional connection between Brussels Airport, Europe and South America via its hub in Miami.

LATAM Cargo diversifies its entry points to Europe, increasing from 9 to 11 weekly frequencies connecting with the American continent. The company mainly transports flowers to Brussels Airport on board B767s.

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## Air France-KLM and CMA CGM officially launch their long-term strategic air cargo partnership

For its part, CMA CGM will mobilize its large commercial network and global logistics platform. The deal will tap into the groups' respective strengths to provide customized, agile, efficient, and cost-effective services for customers.

The combined offering will allow them to benefit from greater freighter and belly capacity, a more extensive network of destinations, a mix of scheduled and charter flights, improved transit times and flexibility, as well as tailored connections across the world.

Customers will benefit from enhanced customer support thanks to a global network of agencies, and a specialized service desk will address specific requirements, including a dedicated BIG desk for large shipments.

With this deal, Air France-KLM and CMA CGM will jointly operate the full-freighter aircraft capacity of their respective airlines. Their combined capacity currently consists of a modern and efficient fleet of up to 12 full-freighter aircraft:

- 6 full-freighter aircraft at CMA CGM Air Cargo, initially based at Paris-Charles de Gaulle airport (with outstanding orders for an additional 6 aircraft)
- 6 full-freighter aircraft at Air France-KLM Group based at Paris-Charles de Gaulle airport and Amsterdam Airport Schiphol (with outstanding orders for 8 aircraft, notably replacing the existing fleet)

**Paris/Marseille:** Air France-KLM and the CMA CGM Group have officially commenced their long-term strategic air cargo partnership made public in May 2022.

This partnership will have an initial duration of 10 years and will see Air France-KLM Martinair Cargo, part of Air France-KLM Group, and CMA CGM Air Cargo, part of the CMA CGM Group, combine their complementary cargo networks, full freighter capacity and dedicated services to build an even more compelling offering thanks to their unrivalled knowhow and global footprint.

The partnership will help meet customers' ever-increasing need for more integrated and resilient supply chains. It will leverage Air France-KLM's vast air cargo franchise, experience and capabilities, especially as they pertain to specialized cargo (pharmaceuticals, perishables, express, etc.), backed by a worldwide cargo network and state-of-the-art facilities at its global hubs at Paris-Charles de Gaulle airport and Amsterdam Airport Schiphol.



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## Kuehne+Nagel expands healthcare footprint in North America

**Schindellegi, Schwyz, Switzerland:** Global logistics company Kuehne+Nagel is expanding its healthcare footprint in North America with a 400,000 sq. ft, state-of-the-art fulfillment center on the grounds of the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport.

Located approximately three miles from the terminals, the fully pharma-grade compliant, secure, high-tech site allows Kuehne+Nagel's partners to be assured that fulfillment center operations are at the highest levels of safety and efficiency.

This includes meeting the complex storage needs of customers in the healthcare and pharmaceutical worlds with features such as four cold chambers, which are able to store products within the various temperature ranges required by the healthcare industry, including frozen ones.

"This move represents an important milestone for Kuehne+Nagel's Contract Logistics business in North America and reinforces the company's global commitment to the healthcare business as part of the company's Roadmap 2026," said Eduardo Razuck, Senior Vice President, Contract Logistics Americas for Kuehne+Nagel. "The investment in a new distribution center in the Dallas/Fort Worth area is the latest step in growing our ever-expanding network focused on supporting our healthcare and pharmaceutical customers."



The new fulfillment center will be part of the company's growing healthcare services offerings, providing customers the ability to focus on what is most important to them – the patients.

"This fulfillment center will support our mission to bring product integrity to the next level for our healthcare customers that require premium services for moving their products," said Marcello Ferrari, Vice President Global Head Customer Development Healthcare, Contract Logistics for Kuehne+Nagel. "Our focus is on the patient, and with ease of access to the significant uplift capacity at the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport, we are able to better serve not just our customers, but also patients across the country who depend on these products."

## Time-critical logistics specialist Carousel to enhance in-house handling and customs clearance between UK, mainland Europe, and Ireland



Andrew Lowery

**London, UK:** Time-critical logistics leader Carousel Logistics is further investing in its handling and Customs clearance services for customers in mainland Europe and Ireland after strengthening its Ireland operations with the acquisition of Dublin-based Alltrans.

Carousel and Alltrans, having successfully integrated their IT and operational systems, are now investing in additional sites at Dublin airport.

"We have rapidly established our network in Ireland, allowing more flexibility and swift fulfilment of parts and products between Ireland and mainland Europe," said Andrew Lowery, Managing Director, UK, Carousel.

"The multiple rotations we have operating from Europe into Ireland, reflects the dynamic market we operate in and exemplifies our ambition to become Europe's leading time-critical in-night logistics operator.

"Full in-house handling and Customs clearance capabilities, together with our ability to offer the most competitive late cut-off times, ensure a time-critical service that is second to none."

Carousel provides end-to-end solutions for aftermarket, spare parts, returns management, medical logistics, agricultural, construction, and the automotive sectors where precision, business continuity, and customer satisfaction are essential.

Key services offered by Carousel include nationwide next-day coverage, same-day domestic services, international ad-hoc services, and breakbulk distribution.

As part of ongoing growth plans for its network, DANX Carousel recently signed a joint venture with Polish logistics specialist ILS in March, improving its time-critical and in-night logistics solutions in Eastern Europe.



# SATS completes acquisition of Worldwide Flight Services, world's largest air cargo logistics provider

The combined group operates in five of the top 10 cargo airports in North America and Europe respectively, including Los Angeles, Chicago, Miami, Frankfurt, and Paris, and four of the top 10 cargo airports in Asia, including Hong Kong, Taipei, Singapore, and Beijing.



**Craig Smyth**  
CEO of WFS

**Singapore/Paris:** SATS Ltd. ("SATS") has completed its acquisition of global air cargo logistics provider Worldwide Flight Services ("WFS") for €1.3 billion (equivalent to approximately S\$1.8 billion) from an affiliate of Cerberus Capital Management ("Cerberus"), representing an enterprise value of €2,250 million as previously announced.

The acquisition received an overwhelming support of 96.8% approval from SATS' voting shareholders in January this year and obtained regulatory approvals in all relevant jurisdictions in February. With effect from completion, WFS becomes a fully owned subsidiary of SATS, which is headquartered in Singapore.

WFS will continue to be headquartered in Paris and operate as Worldwide Flight Services. Craig Smyth, CEO of WFS, will continue to run the company and report to Kerry Mok, President & Chief Executive Officer of SATS, and an advisory board.

Both SATS and WFS have a long history and deep knowledge of the aviation industry. SATS is a leading provider of food solutions and gateway services in Asia, while WFS is a leading air cargo logistics provider globally with ground handling capabilities. As a combined company, SATS and WFS create an Americas-Europe-APAC network with a global footprint of 201 cargo and ground



*The combination of SATS and WFS creates an Americas-Europe-APAC network with a global footprint of 201 cargo and ground handling stations in 23 countries*

handling stations in 23 countries, covering trade routes responsible for more than 50% of global air cargo volume.

The combined group operates in five of the top 10 cargo airports in North America and Europe respectively, including Los Angeles, Chicago, Miami, Frankfurt, and Paris, and four of the top 10 cargo airports in Asia, including Hong Kong, Taipei, Singapore, and Beijing.

"Recent global events have highlighted the importance of supply chain resiliency and an interconnected global network of cargo handling capabilities that provides speed, traceability, and certainty to our customers. SATS and WFS will provide our customers with the critical global cargo handling capability, and the scale advantage for us to develop and pioneer new solutions that will enhance our customers' competitiveness. We welcome the management team and employees of WFS into the SATS family. Our focus is now on accelerating value creation for our customers over the medium term," said Mok.

Smyth added, "Our combination with SATS enhances our ability to provide end-to-end trade solutions, which is increasingly critical to our global customers. Together, we will drive technology and service innovations while maintaining our industry-leading standards of safety and security. We are very excited about the value we can deliver for customers from our combined capabilities and broader network."

Cerberus Senior Managing Director Craig Brooks commented, "We are incredibly proud to have partnered with WFS and its talented team. Over the past four and half years, WFS invested in its technology and operations, achieved tremendous growth, and persevered through the COVID-19 pandemic. This strategic combination with SATS will support the company's continued success and deliver great value for its customers."

SATS is Asia's leading provider of food solutions and gateway services. The company operates in over 200 locations and 20 countries across the Asia Pacific, UK, and the Middle East.

Founded in 1984, WFS is the world's largest air cargo logistics provider and one of the leading providers of ground handling and technical services with annual revenues of €2 billion. Its more than 30,000 employees serve over 300 customers at 158 major airports in 18 countries on five continents.

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**Steven Polmans**  
ADAPZ Vice President  
Business Development  
and TIACA Chairman

## Abu Dhabi Airports Free Zone Poised to become a global logistics and cargo hub

"Our Free Zones offer unique airside connections, which are highly desirable for businesses seeking a competitive edge. This exceptional connectivity, combined with the rapid growth of the local economy and the expansion of Etihad, positions ADAPZ as an ideal location to capitalize on the burgeoning opportunities presented by the air cargo market."

**Steven Polmans ADAPZ Vice President for Business Development and TIACA Chairman**

*By Mohammed Irshad*

**K**nown for its world-class infrastructure, modern architecture, diverse population and ease of doing business, Abu Dhabi, the oil and gas-rich capital of the United Arab Emirates, has emerged as a major global hub for various industries while captivating travelers from across the world with its unique tourist attractions and culture.

Strategically located between the East and the West, Abu Dhabi is also fast emerging as a major transport hub. And among its many Free Zones making an important connection in today's fast-paced global trade is the Abu Dhabi Airports Free Zone (ADAPZ).

Steven Polmans, ADAPZ Vice President for Business Development, who oversees the growth and development at the Free Zone, breaks down to Air Cargo Update the company's priorities, challenges, and opportunities facing ADAPZ in its mission to become a leading hub for cargo and logistics.

### **Boosting Business Logistics**

Most of ADAPZ landbank is located next to Abu Dhabi International Airport,

providing easy access to air, sea, and land transportation networks. Thus, it has become a preferred destination for businesses involved in cargo and logistics operations.

According to Polmans, ADAPZ's priority is to execute and speed up the strategy agreed upon for cargo and logistics. "This means building the team and getting the right resources on board, speeding up the delivery of real estate projects, designing and developing a new air cargo terminal, having offerings in place for our customers and tenants such as sea-air solutions, and growing the number of airlines, forwarders, distributors, and other players in the value chain to deploy activities at Abu Dhabi."

ADAPZ offers several free zones at different airports in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi, each with its own specific customer focus. From an airport city to a logistics

area, from offices to MRO zones, the Free Zones offer a range of products and services to companies setting up a business.

Polmans, who is also the current chairman of the international trade body, The International Air Cargo Association or TIACA, underscored the importance of having the Free Zones connected to an airport, thus, benefit from the airport ecosystem. "Besides that, our Free Zones offer a range of products and services to companies setting up a business, and also different government and investment authorities are keen to discuss support for new initiatives," he says. This makes ADAFZ an attractive option for businesses looking to set up in Abu Dhabi.

To enhance its cargo operations, ADAFZ is in constant discussion with its existing and potential future customers to understand their needs and concerns. "We also work with customs, police, and handling to make little steps and further improve the processes at the airport. the government is making big efforts, such as for example the introduction of ATLP, a single window for trade in Abu Dhabi. This platform digitally facilitates trade through the sea, land, air, industrial and Free Zones. It enables transparency, predictability, simplified procedures, and efficiency," Polmans added.

### Challenges and Opportunities

The biggest challenge facing ADAFZ is time. Polmans said there are numerous projects and momentum and ensuring that everything is done in time and coordinated between all teams and stakeholders is a challenging exercise.

In the past, ADAFZ's focus was more on supporting and growing Etihad Cargo. While Etihad remains the home carrier and most important partner, the Free Zone is again diversifying its focus and wants to do this in a balanced and sustainable way. However, challenges linked to opportunities, as is the case for ADAFZ, are often the nicer ones to deal with.

Polmans is an advocate and supporter of collaboration between all stakeholders and a strong ecosystem, whereby the airport acts as the conductor of the orchestra.

"If you want to build a strong and growing business in line with our strategy, collaboration is a must. So, we actively talk with all airlines and forwarders, with government agencies such as customs and police, and organize joint events such as the World Cargo Summit some months ago, and we do not do this on the airport community level. We do this too with AD Ports and other logistic clusters to offer future customers and investors an overall solution as Abu Dhabi, one that best fits their needs, expectations, or requirements," he noted.

### Expanding Cargo Capabilities

As the global air cargo industry continues to grow, ADAFZ is gearing up to meet the needs of this expanding market. With a vast array of infrastructure and facilities available, including modern warehouses, cutting-edge handling equipment, and reliable customs services, it has positioned itself as a hub of choice for cargo operations.

**"All infrastructure is present at the moment to handle all types of cargo, and we constantly update existing infrastructure. However, the biggest need currently is the construction of a bigger and brand-new air cargo facility. Currently, we are in the design phase of this building and later this year we will tender for construction,"** said Polmans. **"This building will double our capacity for cargo and allow us to handle all types of cargo in the most modern environment and setup. It will be constructed opposite the new passenger terminal, in East Midfield, and the area has huge room for further growth. In the first phase, we will be able to handle 1.5 million tons of cargo, but we can easily expand this to up to 3.5 million tons if needed."**





He further added, "All buildings in the Cargo Village and Terminal are being constantly modernized to meet local and international regulations and safety standards. We also expand where possible or needed, such as with the recently opened new pharma facility of Etihad or the brand-new DHL first-line facility that will open in Q2 of this year. Many more projects are in the pipeline or already in the design stage, so you can expect a lot of new announcements and updates in the years to come."

ADAFZ's focus in the future is not limited to expanding infrastructure and fostering a robust air cargo ecosystem. Polmans said measuring success at ADAFZ is not about total cargo volume alone, but also about diversifying their portfolio and increasing the presence of local forwarders and cargo operations.

While they aim to grow their cargo volume in the coming years, the airport's goal is to support the growth of their Free Zones and the economy in Abu Dhabi as a whole. This strategy includes attracting new airlines and increasing the share of local cargo, as well as promoting the growth of businesses in the region.

#### ***Exceptional Connectivity Edge***

ADAFZ's location is not only strategic but its world-class operational support system (OSS) also sets it apart from other destinations for companies looking to establish a foothold in the region.

"Our Free Zones offer unique airside connections, which are highly desirable for businesses seeking a competitive edge. This exceptional connectivity, combined with the rapid growth of the local economy and the expansion of Etihad, positions ADAFZ as an ideal location to capitalize on the burgeoning opportunities presented by the air cargo market," Polmans explained.

He noted that ADAFZ's growth prospects are substantial, with enormous potential for greenfield developments, airside-connected warehouses, and new infrastructure to support the company's cargo operations. As part of its strategic plan, ADAFZ aims to foster a robust air cargo ecosystem, attract new companies, and enhance efficiency.

Polmans re-affirmed ADAFZ's vision is "100% aligned" with Abu Dhabi's economic vision, and the company is committed to playing a significant role in enabling its execution. With its state-of-the-art airport, innovative Free Zones, and collaborative stakeholders and customers, ADAFZ is dedicated to supporting the growth of the logistics industry and positioning Abu Dhabi as the preferred hub for air cargo operations.

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# From FASTags to satellite-based toll system, India's logistics industry is transforming to the 21st century

By R. Chandrakanth



**T**hat the logistics sector is the lifeline of any economy goes without saying. Countries that have focussed on multi-modal logistics eco-system have registered significant growth. India, the world's 5th largest economy, is just waking up to this reality and in the past decade has started investing in developing the logistics sector, the benefits of which will be seen in the coming years.

The World Bank in its last Logistics Performance Index (LPI) in 2018 had ranked India in the 44th place out of 160 countries but the country is believed to be on course to improve its ranking.

According to a report by McKinsey, India, with the highest growth potential, will remain one of the top logistics markets in Asia, along with China and Japan. The Asian continent is expected to account for 57 percent of the growth of the global e-commerce logistics market between 2020 and 2025.

## *How is this happening in India?*

There are many drivers. E-commerce is expanding on a phenomenal scale and staying abreast is the logistics sector with seismic changes – increase in well-planned and efficient road networking; focus on multi-modal transportation; faster technology adoption; deploying fuel-efficient and modern trucks; investing in state-of-the-art warehousing facilities and more.

## *Toll plazas, the changing gateway of India*

Moving away from the era of bad roads and outdated and inefficient toll collection system, India has shifted gears from manual collection of toll fees to RFID system (FASTag) and now is implementing global navigation satellite system-based toll that will speed up movement of vehicles, accruing many benefits for the logistics sector.

This course-correction was needed as a study by the Transport Corporation of India (TCI) and the Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata found interruptions at toll plazas and slow pace of heavy freight vehicles had cost USD 12 billion per annum on the Indian economy (TCI, 2016).





The report had also recommended that the government ensure that truckers replace their old, fuel-inefficient vehicles with new-generation fuel-efficient vehicles like multi-axle tractor-trailer units. Indian trucks are said to be 60 per cent slower than trucks in other developed countries, increasing the overall turnaround time for every shipment, resulting in 30 per cent plus shipment delays and consequently loss of sales and poor customer satisfaction.

### ***FASTag-enabled toll plazas positively impact logistics***

Realising the huge losses incurred due to inefficient toll collection system, the Government of India initially introduced electronic toll collection called 'FASTag' between Ahmedabad and Mumbai, in 2014. In almost a decade, the system has transformed the transportation landscape (along with National Highways which are a pleasure to drive on). From February 15, 2021, FASTag was compulsory for all vehicles across the country and vehicles without FASTag have to pay double the toll fee.

**As of January 2023, the Indian Highways Management Company Limited (IHMCL), a subsidiary of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), had issued 64 million FASTags and the number of FASTag-enabled toll plazas had increased from 922 in 2021 to 1,181 in 2022. India saw a 46 percent growth in electronic toll collection through FASTags on highways last year amounting to over US\$6 billion.**

FASTag implementation has reduced the waiting time at NH-fee plazas significantly, resulting in enhanced user experience. The constant growth and adoption of FASTag by highway users has helped in bringing more efficiency in toll operations, bringing transparency in the system and enabling correct valuation of road assets, thus encouraging more investors to invest in the highway infrastructure of the country, particularly, in asset recycling.

### ***Linking FASTag and GST e-way billing transformative***

In a remarkable decision, the Government incorporated FASTag and the GST e-way billing system. In October 2019, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between IHMCL and Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN) for assisting this procedure. This is helping the revenue authorities to track the movement of transport vehicles thus guaranteeing that they are making a trip to the same destination as indicated on the e-way bill and helping improve operational proficiency of supply chain management firms.

Nandan Nilekani, Infosys Technologies co-founder and Chairman (who is part of the nine-member advisory council for Open Network for Digital Commerce – ONDC), has said that India will witness "significant economic activity" over the next decade on the back of open network for digital commerce (ONDC), record aggregating system and government measures like GST, FASTag and e-way bills.

### ***Global Navigation Satellite System-based tolling***

The NHAI is already working on the future roadmap for free-flowing tolling system, a feature most countries adopted many years ago. The NHAI is working with various stakeholders such as the Indian Space Research Organisation, the National Informatics Centre, automobile manufacturers, AIS-140 On-Board Unit (OBU) manufacturers, GNSS service providers, banks, and



payment aggregators/gateway service providers to roll out this pan India.

The GNSS technology-based tolling system has already been tested on the Delhi-Gurugram Expressway where road users need not pay 'fixed toll' but a variable fee. The system has geo-fenced the Expressway with virtual tolling points.

Whenever a vehicle fitted with GNSS OBU passes through the virtual tolling points, information on distance travelled is calculated based on satellite signals from multi-constellation such as NavIC, GPS etc. and applicable fee is computed by the central GNSS software system and deducted from the users' bank account linked to the OBU.

The new system is expected to significantly change the toll collection on highways. The system, called Automatic Number Plate Reader (ANPR), is a camera-aided toll collection that works with the technology used to identify number plates on the vehicles plying.

Credit must go to the Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, who has been taking a number of initiatives with regard to road infrastructure. He has been relentlessly working to make the movement of vehicles easy in India, improving road connectivity by building highways and expressways connecting cities, Tier II and Tier III.

The ANPR system, which will replace the FASTag system eventually, will benefit immensely as it will drastically reduce the waiting time for vehicles at toll plazas. The 'pay-per-road-use' system is expected to contribute to efficient toll-collection and importantly help reduce vehicular congestion at toll plazas and save on fuel. India will do away with fixed tolling booths which may take a bit of time, considering that the road network is humongous, to say the least.

### **6.37 million km of road network**

Presently, India has 151,019 km of national highways or 6.37 million km of road network, the second-largest in the world. Indian roads are the lifeline of the country's logistics sector constituting a whopping 60 percent of the domestic movement in contrast to the ocean, which dominates the global logistics landscape at 90 percent.

Currently, ocean and rail constitute 6 and 20 percent of domestic shipments, respectively. Road and

Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari said India is building roads at a record rate and the country's national highway network will rise 37 per cent in the next two years. "Our target is development of 2 lakh km (2,00,000) of national highway network by 2025."

Besides, road network, there is a constant need to find cost-effective modes of transportation as supply chains are becoming increasingly global and complex. The task of the government is to invest in developing a well-planned network for enhanced connectivity between cities, Tier II and III towns.

This is happening, not just with roadways, but also waterways under the Sagarmala programme of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways. The program aims to promote port-led development in the country by exploiting India's 7,517 km long coastline, 14,500 km of potentially navigable waterways and its strategic location on key international maritime trade routes.

The present dispensation needs to be given credit for the development of multi-modal transportation network – roads, waterways and airports, the last of which is seeing development like never before under the regional connectivity scheme (RCS). The logistics industry in India holds unprecedented importance as it connects various markets, suppliers and customers dotted across the country, and is now firmly embedded as an integral part of the national GDP value chain.

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# Airlines in India on record aircraft buying spree as country's economy hits 5th largest in the world

By R. Chandrakanth



- **Air India orders 470 aircraft, mix of Airbus and Boeing**
- **IndiGo to acquire 500 planes, in partnership with Turkish Airlines**
- **Akasa Air indicates three-digit orders**

India is now the runway to more than a billion opportunities. A decade ago, the country's GDP ranked 11th in the world but is now the 5th largest, even surpassing the United Kingdom's economy, according to the International Monetary Fund.

The World Bank forecasts the Indian economy to grow by 6.9 percent in 2023 fiscal year and efforts are on to achieve the Prime Minister's ambitious goal of achieving USD \$5 trillion economy by 2025.

The drivers are many, including a government which has business-friendly policies in place, across verticals. With the present dispensation giving importance to creation of infrastructure – airports for instance – the aviation sector in India is energized.

Another important decision the government took was to hive off the

beleaguered national carrier – Air India—to the Tata Group which emerged as the successful bidder of the divestment process.

Tata Group won the Air India bid in October 2021, getting ownership of iconic brands like Air India, Indian Airlines & the Maharajah. Air India then had a fleet of 117 wide-body and narrow-body aircraft and AIXL a fleet of 24 narrow-body aircraft.

## ***Tata Group overhauling beleaguered Air India***

The Tata Group has a major job on hand overhauling the loss-making airline. It has begun in right earnest. In a little over a year, on February 14, 2023, Air India announced that it has signed letters of intent with Airbus and Boeing to acquire both widebody and single-aisle aircraft.

The order comprises 40 Airbus A350s, 20 Boeing 787s and 10 Boeing 777-9s widebody aircraft, as well as 210 Airbus A320/321 Neos and 190 Boeing 737 MAX single-aisle aircraft. The A350 aircraft will be powered by Rolls-Royce engines, and the B777/787s by engines from GE Aerospace. All single-aisle aircraft will be powered by engines from CFM International.

Modern, efficient fleet fundamental to transformation: Tata Chairman

Commenting on the occasion, Tata Sons and Air India



Chairman, Mr. N. Chandrasekaran, said: "Air India is on a large transformation journey across safety, customer service, technology, engineering, network and human resources. Modern, efficient fleet is a fundamental component of this transformation. This order is an important step in realising Air India's ambition, articulated in its Vihaan.AI transformation program, to offer a world class proposition serving global travellers with an Indian heart. These new aircraft will modernise the Airline's fleet and onboard product, and dramatically expand its global network. The growth enabled by this order will also provide unparalleled career opportunities for Indian aviation professionals and catalyse accelerated development of the Indian aviation ecosystem."

The first of the new aircraft will enter service in late-2023, with the bulk to arrive from mid-2025 onwards. In the interim, Air India has already started taking delivery of 11 leased B777 and 25 A320 aircraft to accelerate its fleet and network expansion.

The acquisition of new aircraft, which will come with an entirely new cabin interior, complements Air India's previously announced plan to refit its existing widebody B787 and B777 aircraft with new seats and inflight entertainment systems. The first of these refitted aircraft will enter service in mid-2024.

### **Air India to hire over 4,200 cabin crew**

In line with its aircraft acquisition plans, Air India announced plans to hire over 4200 cabin crew trainees and 900 pilots in 2023. The cabin crew, who will be recruited from around the country, will undergo a 15-week programme imparting safety and service skills, and will be coached to exemplify the best of Indian hospitality and Tata group culture.

Notably, between May 2022-February 2023, Air India hired over 1900 cabin crew. Over 1,100 cabin crew have been trained in the last seven months (between July 2022-January 2023), and in the past three months, approximately 500 cabin crew have been released for flying by the airline.

The Air India group currently comprises full-service Air India, as well as two low-cost subsidiaries Air India Express and Air Asia India which are in the process of merging. Its parent, Tata Sons, recently announced its intention to merge Air India with full-service airline Vistara, a joint venture between Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines in which the former

“

"Currently, we are flying 1,800 flights a day, and 10 per cent of them are on international routes. Our current international flights are concentrated around the Indian sub-continent and some other countries around. The farthest we travel is to Istanbul. We have been very keen to fly further and that's why a codeshare partnership with Turkish Airlines which will allow us to penetrate Europe," said Malhotra.

holds a 51% share. In steady state, subject to regulatory approval, the Group would comprise a single full-service airline, Air India, and a single low-cost airline, Air India Express.

After 69 years as a government owned enterprise, Air India and Air India Express were welcomed back into the Tata group in January 2022. The present management at Air India, led by CEO and Managing Director, Campbell Wilson who took over in June 2022, is driving the five-year transformation roadmap under the aegis of Vihaan.AI to establish itself as a world-class global airline with an Indian heart.

Vihaan.AI is Air India's transformational roadmap over five years with clear milestones. It will be focussing on dramatically growing both its network and fleet, developing a completely revamped customer proposition, improving reliability and on-time performance. The airline will also be taking a leadership position in technology, sustainability, and innovation, while aggressively investing in the best industry talent. Vihaan.AI is aimed at putting Air India on a path to sustained growth, profitability and market leadership.

### **IndiGo, largest airline in India, buying additional 500 aircraft from Airbus**

IndiGo, India's preferred low-cost airline, which has a fleet of 302 aircraft, as of December 2022, is also planning to buy 500 additional aircraft from Airbus, following its partnership with Turkish Airlines, in its bid to expand its reach in Europe and beyond.

The order of 500 aircraft will be the largest ever by an Indian airline and is a testament to the growing demand for air travel in the country. With this massive investment, IndiGo is set to consolidate its position as the leading airline in India and expand its global footprint.

A media report has quoted Vinay Malhotra, Head of International Sales of IndiGo, that the new expansion plan will improve passenger services from India to Istanbul and to Europe. IndiGo connects to 75 domestic and 22



international destinations, as of now.

"Currently, we are flying 1,800 flights a day, and 10 per cent of them are on international routes. Our current international flights are concentrated around the Indian sub-continent and some other countries around. The farthest we travel is to Istanbul. We have been very keen to fly further and that's why a codeshare partnership with Turkish Airlines which will allow us to penetrate Europe," said Malhotra.

### **IndiGo crosses 300 aircraft milestone**

Presently, IndiGo has 23 A320

## **New kid on the block, Akasa Air soon to order big**

The newest airline in the Indian skies, Akasa Air, which completed six months of operation on March 1, 2023 also plans to buy aircraft in three digits, according to its founder and CEO, Vinay Dube. In an interview with a television news channel, Dube said, "Before the end of this year we are going to place another aircraft order that is going to be substantially larger than the 72 aircraft order we have placed." Recently, the new kid on the block took delivery of 17 Boeing 737 MAX planes out of the 72 jets, which are expected to be delivered by March 2027.



CEOs; 160 A320 NEOs; 78 A321 NEOs; 39 ATRs and 2 A321 freighter, a net increase of 22 passenger and 1 freighter aircraft during the fourth quarter of 2022. Pieter Elbers, Chief Executive Officer, IndiGo said there is a lot of growth ahead in the Indian aviation market that justifies multiple airlines. "There is a lot going on in the Indian aviation landscape. The fact that Indian aviation is getting into the next stage, including the consolidation being done under the Air India group, is a natural evolution of the market."

### **Phenomenal passenger growth**

What is making these airlines go on a plane shopping spree? That India is among the fastest growing economy is becoming more established as Indians are travelling within the country and overseas, like never before.

According to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Indian airlines carried 246.11 lakh passengers during January-February 2023, as against 141.04 lakhs during the corresponding period of 2022. Airlines registered an annual growth of 74.50 per cent and monthly growth of 56.82 per cent.

### **Boeing India forecasts 1,983 single-aisle and 227 widebody airplanes by end of decade**

Airlines are gung-ho about the growth prospects and plane manufacturers are happy about it. Boeing in its 2022 Commercial Market Outlook (CMO) for India said that Indian carriers will add about 7 per cent more aircraft to their fleet in the first half of 2023 as compared to 2019. It forecast a long-term passenger growth rate of nearly 7% annually through 2041.

Dave Schulte, Boeing Commercial Marketing managing director for Asia Pacific said that the Indian market is recovering rapidly and its domestic capacity has exceeded 2019 levels, with domestic traffic expected to double by the end of this decade. "Indian carriers will outpace global growth at nearly 7% and more than 80% of new airplane deliveries to this market will be for growth, while 20% of new airplanes will be for replacement of aging jets. This trend exemplifies India's commitment to modernizing its fleet with more sustainable and fuel-efficient next-generation airplanes," Schulte added.

The 2022 India and South Asia CMO forecast envisages a demand for 1,983 single-aisle and 227 widebody airplanes and demand for commercial services to support fleet replacement valued at \$135 billion.

### **Cargo fleet forecast to touch 80 freighters by 2041**

In addition, the India cargo market will also continue to expand over the next two decades to meet demand. The cargo fleet will grow from about 15 airplanes today to about 80 airplanes by 2041. These will predominantly be the converted narrow-body sized aircraft to support domestic and regional growth, as well as a number of production and conversion widebody freighters to support global operations.

With such capacities being created, Indian airlines are expected to challenge the space occupied by airlines from the Middle East. We all know how Emirates airline is being called 'the national airline' of India due to the destinations it connected worldwide from India.

Recently, the Emirates President Tim Clark urged India to embrace 'Open Skies' accord with the airline's home country that would give carriers greater access to each other's market, amid rising competition from Air India and IndiGo. Now, airlines from India are expected to give the Middle Eastern carriers a run for their money. Truly heading into the 'India moment'.



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# Middle East airport developments entails US\$151 billion in capital expenditure until 2040

Positioned at the strategic crossroads of major economies of Asia, Africa and Europe, the Middle East has turned into a major international hub. Its airports are projected to handle over 1.1 billion passengers by 2040.







**HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum**

**Dubai, United Arab Emirates:** After most of the multi-billion-dollar airport construction projects were put on the back burner or temporarily curtailed over the past three years, operators and investors have been racing down the tarmac as the Middle East and Asia-Pacific regions are expected to account for 58 percent of the global air passenger demand in 2040.

**The CAPA, Centre for Aviation, one of the world's most trusted sources of aviation market intelligence, says there have been 425 major construction projects at existing airports, with US\$450.7 billion in total committed expenditure globally, each of which is at various stages, from preparatory to about to conclude, along with 225 new airport projects and airport investor numbers swelling to 1,074, including 258 airport operator groups or consortiums.**

Its database has region-wise listed the total numbers of the airport project and the volume of investment include 155 in Middle East worth US\$209.4 billion.

The Middle East region, positioned at the strategic crossroads of major economies of Asia, Africa and Europe, has transformed into a major international hub and continues to be an inspirational growth story. With over 110 airports, this is already among the fastest growing in the world, accounting for 170 million of the global traffic.

### ***Expanding and upgrading facilities***

Airports in the Middle East will need to invest US\$151 billion in capacity expansion as the global air passenger demand is expected to increase more than two-fold in 2040. "This necessitates an investment totaling US\$2.4 trillion for Middle East and Asia-Pacific airports until 2040 to accommodate this growth," the Airport Council International said. The ACI forecasts close to 19.7 billion passengers are expected to traverse the world's airports by 2040 and the Middle East airports will handle 1.1 billion passengers by 2040 – a significant increase from 2019's 405 million.

The airport industry's growth story is far from over as new airports are coming up and existing facilities getting expanded and upgraded to meet future passenger demands. The airport industry players, seeing the huge investments coming back on the tracks, will get into an energized enthusiasm at the Airport Show in Dubai from May 9 to 11. It will be held under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, President of Dubai Civil Aviation Authority, Chairman of Dubai Airports and Chairman and Chief Executive of Emirates Airline and Group.

The 22nd edition of the world's largest annual airport industry B2B platform will connect over 200-plus aviation brands and 100-plus buyers from over 30 airports and aviation authorities from 20 countries. Also taking place on the sidelines of the Airport Show is the Global Airport Leaders' Forum (GALF).

The high-profile global platform will see over 4,500 visitors, and exhibitors have been confirmed from the United States, Italy, France, Germany, Denmark, Turkey, Netherlands, China, Belgium, Korea, Sweden and the UAE. May Ismail, Event Manager at Reed Exhibitions, its organizer, said the Airport Show-2023 will see almost everything that airports require being on display.

The 2022 edition witnessed 4,200-plus attendees from 71 countries and over 160 exhibitors from 23 countries and 100-plus buyers from 35 companies and 23 countries along with five country pavilions. This edition will break those records for sure as aviation is coming back in its full splendor.

### ***Growth in Asia and the region***

According to GlobalData, the total pipeline of new airport construction projects had a combined value of US\$1.64 trillion while the global fleet of aircraft is projected to touch 36,500 aircraft by 2031 and the global airport construction market size has been revised to US\$1.4 trillion by 2026. There are several countries which are pursuing airport developments at a break-neck speed now.

India, the world's third-largest civil aviation market, plans to increase to 220 operational airports by 2027, up from 141 now. Its most populous neighbor, China, is expanding and by 2025 will have more than 30 civil airports with a targeted capacity of two billion passengers. Indonesia, Vietnam and the Philippines to are in the race to catch up with new airport developments.

Turkey's TAV will continue its investments in Almaty and Antalya airports in 2023 and it is building a new terminal and additional units in Almaty with an investment of US\$200 million to double the capacity to 60 million. TAV will start investing in Esenboğa Airport in the Turkish capital Ankara.

Oman Airports has inked a MoU to develop Kilimanjaro Airport and an ambitious



plan is to develop a southern Africa hub in Harare in Zimbabwe.

In the UAE, the New Sharjah International Airport Expansion, costing an estimated US\$517 million, will get completed by Q4 2024. The work involves the construction of a new passenger terminal and supporting infrastructure to raise its capacity to accommodate 20 million passengers by 2023.

Earlier, it had been reported that the Arab world's most vibrant economy had planned investments of over US\$23 billion in airport development and expansion projects over this decade.

The Kuwait Airport's Passenger Terminal 2 expansion, costing US \$4.36 billion will boost the airport's annual passenger handling capacity to 13 million passengers per year with the flexibility to increase to 25 million passengers and 50 million passengers in the future. As the project aims for the status of the world's first LEED Gold-accredited passenger terminal building, the project is expected to be completed fully by 2025.

In Qatar, Hamad International Airport Phase 2B's expansion work on the passenger terminal and extension of concourses D and E in Doha will commence likely this year and will enhance passenger capacity to more than 60 million annually. The new cargo terminal will be completed by 2023 and will feature a new 3-level facility and an 85,000-square metre building footprint.

Musandam Airport in the Sultanate of Oman, costing US\$250 million, is expected to get completed by Q4 2026. The work includes the construction of two runways and a passenger terminal with a capacity of 250,000 passengers per year. In Egypt, plans to build Terminal 4 at Cairo International Airport are advancing.

Saudi Arabia is set to build one of the world's largest airports which will have six parallel runways. The airport will help drive annual passenger traffic to 120 million by 2030 and 185 million by 2050. The Kingdom is undertaking a massive airport expansion and upgrades programme to serve 330 million travellers by 2030 through US\$147 billion investments. The Red Sea International Airport is set to open in late December 2023.

King Salman International Airport aims to accommodate up to 185 million passengers

and process 3.5 million tons of cargo by 2050. Jeddah Airport City at King Abdulaziz International Airport (KAIA) is taking airport-centric development to a new level. Its expansion could push the passenger capacity to 114 million passengers per year after 2035, after its completion in 2028. Total investment is estimated to be US\$4.5 billion. It will be Saudi Arabia's first airport city development in line with Vision 2030.



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# Logistics Transformation through Multimodalization



By Gopal R

Global Leader, Supply Chain & Logistics Practice, Frost & Sullivan



**T**he realization of supply chain disruptions caused by multiple uncertainties has changed the logistics landscape in recent times. Challenges emerged in logistics operations due to weaknesses in intermodal structure which involves all modes of transport (air, sea and land).

Fragmented operations and different carriers between modes pose challenges related to intermodal transport. This results in unconnected transport systems that can delay and damage the shipment between carriers. This

pushed for an integrated and connected logistics service, managed under a single contract with carriers. Thus, multimodalization has become a new norm in the logistics landscape due to its ability to provide efficient transport solutions.

Let's take an example: Goods from China to the UAE, in most cases are handled through multimodal logistics. The logistics provider first packs the goods and stores them in a pallet and thereafter container, the trucking company picks the container from the origin and then loads at the origin port. Once the cargo reaches the destination port, the goods are unloaded and moved by truck or by air to the hub/distributors. Then the distributor uses last-mile delivery to get the goods to end customers. Thus, the multimodal operation involves a seamless integrated air, rail, sea, and trucks / last mile to handle the same shipment through to the customers.

### **Benefits and Advantages**

The benefits of multimodalization not only include efficiency and connectivity between different modes of transport, it also offers competitive offerings and cost reductions.

With multimodalism, integrated transport segments create better synchronization and harmony in between modes of transport in the value

chain. Alliances and partnerships between different carriers and terminal operators improve communication and streamline processes.

- Cost effectiveness through multimodalism offers an advantage to the carriers with proper planning of resources and routes. With integrated multimodal logistics solutions involving the connection of different modes of transportation such as air, sea, and land, companies can optimize their supply chains and improve efficiency.
- Multimodal transport can improve transportation efficiency by 30%, reduce cargo damage by 10%, reduce transportation costs by 20%. It also reduces congestion and promotes energy savings.
- Another key advantage provided by multimodal transportation is the switch from point-to-point to a hub-and-spoke model movement which allows for traffic planning. While point-to-point offered a direct route to every other point, the hub-and-spoke model offers a central hub which requires fewer routes.

### Key Industries Driving Multimodal Logistics

The global movement of goods is increasing and trade is reaching higher numbers with rising productivity in manufacturing locations. Industries like healthcare, IT, Food and Beverages are the major industries requiring multimodal shipment.

Other examples of industries driving multimodal logistics include agriculture and automotive, as well as minerals. The rise of e-commerce has increased the demand for multimodal transportation, as companies need to move goods quickly and efficiently across multiple channels. The number of parcels is increasing as cross-border e-commerce gains popularity with double-digit growth.

### Technologies Transforming Multimodal Solutions

**Disruptive technologies in logistics have enabled the growth of advanced systems to improve and make logistics operations efficient.**

- Digital twins, warehouse & transport management systems, autonomous vehicles, automated operations and robotics play a key role in the movement toward industry 4.0.
- Technologies like AI, IoT and Cloud computing have enabled solutions like digital twins to test scenarios in multimodal transportation, interpreting supply chain disruptions in a virtual environment.
- The use of GPS tracking and real-time data analytics has made multimodal transportation more transparent and streamlined, allowing for better visibility and control over the supply chain.
- Bigdata, Blockchain, AI and 5G have enabled warehouse and transport management systems to assist in managing and transporting shipments with the integration of different legs in cargo movement



like imports to local distribution.

- Digital logistics and freight forwarding solutions are connecting all modes of transport with visibility and traceability throughout the value chain.

### Future of Multimodal Logistics

The move toward industry 4.0 is the highlight of the future of the logistics industry as technologies evolve and improve. Newer technologies emphasize the increasing role of technologies in supply chain optimization. Integrated solutions will be a differentiator in improving the competitive advantage of solution providers. With awareness and government push for a lower carbon footprint, decarbonization and sustainable logistics solutions will also play a role in developing the logistics operations of the future.

- **Digital Technologies Expected to Lead Transformational Changes:** With advances in digital technologies, integration and digitalization of supply chain processes are given priority as part of their digital transformation journey. The role of technologies is expected to gain importance in the supply chain optimization of manufacturers. Adoption of technologies such as Telematics, Vehicle to Vehicle communications, Transport Management Systems, digital Twins and Control tower services are expected to be innovative solution offerings. Though Hyperloop is in a nascent stage of development, it has high long-term adoption and growth potential as well.
- **Decarbonization and Sustainable Logistics Solutions:** Adverse impacts of emissions and the environment are to be clearly identified as part of sustainable multimodal logistics solutions. Materials management, physical distribution of goods, and reverse logistics in a circular economy are some areas that can be optimized as part of supply chain solutions. Sustainable sourcing methods, recycling of packaging and product design to encourage the use of environmentally friendly materials are some of the areas that can be taken into account while offering innovations in sustainable logistics solutions.
- **Critical Success Factors for Multimodal Solutions:** Customer service, transportation efficiency, and sustainability are three key success factors in the case of integrated multimodal logistics solutions. Integrated solutions have emerged as a key differentiator in improving customer satisfaction and the competitive advantage of solution providers.



# Around 3,000 kilometers covered completely electrically:

eActros 300 as a tractor unit glides from the Arctic Circle to Stuttgart

Development and test engineers from Mercedes-Benz Trucks have subjected the eActros 300 as a tractor unit to practical tests for six consecutive days, covering a distance of around 3,000 kilometers. The e-truck scores high marks along the way with its powerful acceleration, range-increasing recuperation, and quiet handling.



**L**einfelden-Echterdingen –  
Driving a battery-electric heavy-duty distribution truck from the Arctic Circle to Stuttgart is something special – even for experienced developers.

In the future, customers are not likely to use the Mercedes-Benz eActros 300 as a tractor unit for this kind of a long journey. However, being able to test the vehicle in real operation for several days at a time under the most varied climatic and topographical conditions is the best opportunity for the developers to derive measures for possible optimisation of the functions and systems.

Experts from Mercedes-Benz Trucks covered around 3,000 kilometers in March with a near-series prototype of the eActros 300 as a tractor unit. The electric truck, which was specially designed for flexible use in heavy-duty distribution haulage, celebrated its trade fair premiere at IAA Transportation 2022 in Hanover. Its start of production is scheduled for autumn this year.

Before the 3,000-kilometer journey, Mercedes-Benz Trucks engineers had

already extensively tested the vehicle in winter conditions as part of the tests in Rovaniemi, Finland. At temperatures of down to minus 25 degrees, in addition to handling on icy and snowy roads, the focus was particularly on the starting properties and protection of the drive components, software and interfaces from low temperatures. On the return journey, the main objective was to take a closer look at the eActros loaded to 25 tons in real traffic.

Dr. Christof Weber, Head of Global Testing Mercedes-Benz Trucks, said: "The journey from Rovaniemi to Stuttgart showed that the eActros 300 as a tractor unit reliably masters all challenges before its market launch in autumn this year. This applies in terms of energy efficiency and charging, as well as driving comfort and safety."

***Relaxed, comfortable and safe cruising without fears of limited range***

Rovaniemi, Stockholm, Malmö, Copenhagen, Nyborg, Flensburg, Hamburg, then on the A7 highway down to Würzburg and from there via the A81 highway back to Stuttgart: A real marathon for the eActros 300 as a tractor unit, whose three battery packages – each with 112 kWh of installed battery capacity – enable a range of up to 220 kilometers without opportunity charging.

"In advance, we planned the individual stages precisely and very conservatively with around 150 kilometers in order to be able to drive to the planned charging points without any problems, even in traffic jams or stop-and-go traffic," reports Marc Schniederjan, team leader at Mercedes-Benz Trucks, responsible for the operation of test vehicles and who coordinated and supervised the return journey.

On the road on European and main roads, as well as highways with different topography, drivers were impressed by the relaxed driving without noticeable interruptions to gearshifts or traction. The electric motors provide exactly the same high torque throughout the entire rpm range, and the powerful acceleration is noticeable in every traffic situation.

The noise level in the cab remained at a comfortable level at all times. Even at icy temperatures, the cab warmed up relatively quickly. The vehicle was pre-conditioned at a charging station in order to avoid using too much battery energy and thus shorten the range.

"With only minimal temperatures below zero, the loss of range was limited even without pre-conditioning," said Marc Schniederjan. When driving at a speed of normally 80 km/h, it was also easy to see how the eActros 300 as a tractor unit used its energy by means of recuperation and thus increased the range.

On average, the teams took a charging break in the two vehicles three times a day. The charging itself worked without any problems at the available public DC high-power charging stations.

Without restrictions, the eActros 300 as a tractor unit was also able to cope with a wide variety of weather conditions including snow, cold and storms. The installed driver assistance systems proved their worth, as did the second-generation MirrorCam. **Source: [www.media.daimlertruck.com](http://www.media.daimlertruck.com)**



## Autonomous Trucking: Daimler Truck subsidiary Torc reaches agreement to acquire Algolux for AI-based self-driving perception



Daimler Truck Joanna Buttler, Head of Global Autonomous Technology Group.

**Blacksburg, VA, USA / Leinfelden-Echterdingen, Germany:** Torc Robotics, an independent subsidiary of Daimler Truck AG and a pioneer in commercializing self-driving vehicle technology, recently announced that it has signed an agreement to acquire Algolux Inc.

Torc is acquiring Algolux for its award-winning intellectual property and expertise in the areas of computer vision and machine learning.

"On the path to commercialization of our autonomous-ready Freightliner Cascadia, with Torc's virtual driver, we never stop improving safety. We are convinced that Algolux with its perception capabilities can bring us one step closer to reach our goal to safely and reliably bring SAE Level 4 autonomous trucks into series production in the USA within this decade," said Joanna Buttler, Head of Autonomous Technology Group at Daimler Truck AG.

Peter Vaughan Schmidt, Torc CEO, noted: "We're thrilled to welcome Algolux to the Torc family. Algolux's technology, at the intersection of deep learning, computer vision, and computational imaging, will help Torc strengthen key capabilities toward our



Allan Benchetrit, president and CEO of Algolux, and Peter Vaughan Schmidt, Torc CEO, on acquisition signing day.

commercialization of Level 4 autonomous trucking."

Allan Benchetrit, Algolux president and CEO, underscored Torc's strong commitment in harnessing technology's potentials without compromising people's safety.

"Torc shares in our commitment to create robust technology to realize the potential of autonomy and help save lives, which is one of the many reasons why joining forces makes sense for our teams. Algolux's established team with deep expertise in Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning (AI/ML) talent and perception complements Torc's already experienced engineering team," he said.

Algolux has been consistently recognized for excellence in its field and has been named to the 2021 CB Insights AI 100 List of the world's most innovative artificial intelligence startups. Torc has been working closely with the company for over a year on multiple perception concepts and methods for robustly improving object detection and distance estimation, while evaluating synergies between the two companies.

Robust perception technology is key to helping Torc's autonomous system correctly identify objects in difficult visual conditions such as low light, fog, or inclement weather. Algolux software is currently operating on initial Freightliner Cascadia test vehicles in the U.S. and is being included in areas of Torc's software development efforts.

"This acquisition brings together Algolux's end-to-end AI stack, from photons to behavior, with Torc's pioneering autonomous technology. Add in a tightly integrated OEM truck platform and you have a dream scenario," said Felix Heide, Algolux CTO. "While many think of autonomous transportation as futuristic, this winning combination will help bring to market a commercially viable, safety-critical long-haul trucking application at scale."

Algolux is headquartered in Montreal, Canada, with offices in Palo Alto, CA, and Munich, Germany. The transaction will close after the parties complete various pre-closing activities, including any required approvals. **Source: [www.media.daimlertruck.com](http://www.media.daimlertruck.com)**



## Emirates to offer daily flights to Toronto from 20 April



**Dubai, UAE:** Following the breakthrough expanded air transport agreement between the United Arab Emirates and Canada, Emirates is stepping up its frequency with two additional flights per week between Dubai and Toronto. From 20 April, daily flights will operate on the busy route to serve huge demand for passenger services.

The move comes as bilateral relations between the United Arab Emirates and Canada have enhanced significantly, with both countries set to reap vast economic benefits across a multitude of sectors and supply chains.

**Hailing the development as a crucial one for the airline, Adnan Kazim, Emirates Chief Commercial Officer, said:** "We have been serving customers between Toronto and Dubai since 2007, and although the double-decker A380 aircraft has been operating the route since 2009, demand arising from leisure and corporate travellers, diaspora and students has consistently outstripped the allocated capacity. This enhanced agreement represents a turning point for us in our strategy to serve our customers better, by offering more choice and flexibility, and meet pent up demand across our growing network.

"Business ties between Canada and the UAE have grown significantly over the years and the expanded air services will help to further nurture business and trade. The expansion of air services is also an affirmation of the growing importance of the UAE to Canada's global connectivity, which we can support through our global network of more than 130 destinations. Together with the relevant authorities, our codeshare and loyalty programme partner Air Canada, and our valued industry partners, we look forward to playing a role in facilitating more tourism and trade opportunities between the two nations."

Emirates operates the flagship A380 aircraft on the Dubai-Toronto route, allowing 491 passengers across Economy Class, Business Class and First Class on each flight. With the two additional flights per week, Emirates will offer close to 2,000 additional seats to serve the busy route, representing a 40% increase in capacity between its hub city of Dubai and the Canadian point.

The Dubai-Toronto route is highly popular amongst customers from India, UAE, Bangladesh, Iran, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Sri Lanka while the same countries represent top destinations for travellers from Toronto.

Tickets can be booked by visiting [www.emirates.com](http://www.emirates.com) or through preferred travel agents. Last year, Emirates activated a codeshare partnership with Air Canada, allowing customers to enjoy seamless connectivity when flying to domestic points within Canada via Toronto. Top connections for Emirates customers beyond Toronto include Ottawa, Winnipeg, Halifax, Montreal, Calgary and Edmonton. Air Canada's customers can travel to destinations across Asia, Africa and the Middle East, in Emirates' expansive network of over 130 destinations via its hub in Dubai.

## Sirius Aviation Capital acquires 2 Airbus A320 aircraft

**Abu Dhabi, UAE:** Global aircraft asset manager Sirius Aviation Capital Holdings Limited headquartered in Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM) announced its acquisition of two (2) single-aisle, mid-life aircraft, bringing the total fleet under its management to 19 aircraft on lease globally across 11 airline customers.

The aircraft were purchased from a major Japanese

JOL investor and BOC Aviation, a member of Bank of China Group. Sirius says the acquisition underpins its investment strategy of acquiring in-demand, single-aisle, mid-life aircraft that are on lease to strong airline credits globally.

"We are extremely pleased with the acquisition of these aircraft on lease to top tier airline credits availing of the attractive returns available in mid-life single aisle aircraft leasing," said Edward Coughlan, Chief Commercial Officer & Deputy CEO of Sirius.

The aircraft, a 2009 build Airbus A320 on lease to Air France and a 2013 build Airbus A320 on lease to IBERIA.



## Abu Dhabi Airports signs with Jetex to enhance VIP passenger experience at Al Bateen Executive Airport

H.E. Eng. Jamal Salem Al Dhaheeri, Abu Dhabi Airports MD and CEO, and Adel Mardini, Founder & CEO, Jetex, during the signing ceremony for Al Bateen Executive Airport's enhanced VIP passenger service. Image Credit: Abu Dhabi Airports



made business aviation." Said Al Dhaheeri. "As a dedicated FBO operator well versed with the needs and requirements of this specific market segment, we look forward to collaborating with Jetex moving forward and successfully delivering great value to all our passengers."

**Abu Dhabi, UAE:** Abu Dhabi Airports, the operator of the emirate's five airports, has finalised a new partnership with Jetex, a global leader in executive aviation services, to enhance the VIP passenger experience at Al Bateen Executive Airport (ABEA).

A major milestone in Abu Dhabi Airports' strategy to further develop the business aviation offerings at the airport, Jetex will assume responsibility for managing daily business services under a Fixed Based Operator (FBO) contract, upgrading key infrastructure within the VIP and VVIP terminals and ensuring passengers enjoy better travel experiences.

The agreement was made public during a signing ceremony held at Al Bateen Airport, signed from Abu Airports side by their MD and CEO, H.E. Eng. Jamal Salem Al Dhaheeri and Adel Mardini, Founder and CEO, Jetex.

"We are delighted to welcome Jetex to Al Bateen Executive Airport and look forward to working with such a distinguished aviation services specialist, as we reinvigorate tailor-

Abu Dhabi will become the 38th destination in the Jetex global private jet terminal network and the company plans to offer its award-winning flagship service concept at the airport. Passengers traveling via Jetex Abu Dhabi can look forward to a seamless travel experience with several spacious private lounges of VIP and VVIP terminals, elegant hospitality and luxurious amenities, synonymous with the Jetex brand. On-site immigration and customs support ensure smooth formalities for arrivals and departures.

Commenting on the occasion, Mardini said: "Jetex Abu Dhabi marks a milestone for our brand and confirms our commitment to the region. We are especially excited to bring the Jetex experience to the UAE capital. We aim to create a regal welcome to this beautiful city for our international guests as well as to ensure that every need is anticipated, every wish is granted, and every minute is memorable when you are with us at Jetex Abu Dhabi."

In 2022, the expansion work was completed at Al Bateen Executive Airport, which involved the resurfacing and widening of the existing 3.2km runway to accommodate widebody aircrafts, in addition to upgraded ground lighting, enhanced signage and landscape to meet the highest levels of safety, compliance and accreditation. Over the coming months, Jetex will redesign and further upgrade the FBO facilities to ensure that the airport continuously exceeds passenger and crew expectations and is equipped to meet current and future sustainability requirements of the industry.

ABEA is the only airport in the Middle East dedicated to business aviation. Located in the heart of Abu Dhabi, it provides rapid access to Abu Dhabi's key financial, tourist and entertainment destinations.

## All Nippon Airways is back in Bavaria



**Munich, Germany:** Japan's largest airline ANA and member of the Star Alliance, is returning to Munich Airport after a pandemic-related break.

With the start of the summer flight schedule, the 5-star airline is thus resuming its nonstop connection from Munich to Tokyo's city-near Haneda Airport. Initially, the route is operated three times a week by Airbus Boeing B787. Munich is ANA's only year-round destination in Europe to be relaunched this summer.

Thomas Kube, Head of Route & Passenger Development at Munich Airport, commented: "We are very proud that ANA, the Japanese market leader, is once again connecting the Japanese metropolis of Tokyo with the Bavarian capital on March 28, 2023 - almost on the same day after a three-year absence. This is very good news for Bavaria as a business and tourism location and for the mutual exchange between the two nations."

## Ashwin Bhat is Lufthansa Cargo's new CEO



Ashwin Bhat

**Frankfurt, Germany:** Ashwin Bhat is set to be appointed as new CEO of Lufthansa Cargo. Subject to the pending resolution by the Supervisory Board of Lufthansa Cargo, he will take over his new position as of 15 April 2023. In his new role, he will continue to be responsible for product and sales.

Dr. Michael Niggemann, Member of the Executive Board of Deutsche Lufthansa AG and Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Lufthansa Cargo, said: "I am very pleased that Ashwin Bhat, a very skilled manager and internationally experienced logistics and cargo expert, is taking on this responsible task. As a member of the Executive Board, he has played a key role in achieving Lufthansa Cargo's most successful years so far. As CEO,

he will further develop the company and expand its strong market positioning."

Lufthansa Cargo will continue to be managed by a three-member Executive Board. The appointment of the third Executive Board member combined with a new distribution of responsibilities will take place as soon as possible.

Ashwin Bhat, born in 1969, studied Chemistry at the University of Mumbai, India. He began his professional career at Airline Financial Support Services in India. In 1999 he joined the former Swisscargo, where he held various positions in revenue management, transport management and global area management.

From 2015, Ashwin Bhat headed the cargo business segment at Swiss International Air Lines. In 2021 he was appointed to the Executive Board of Lufthansa Cargo AG as CCO.

## Chapman Freeborn appoints Claire Geary as Group Marketing Director and Scott Collier as President – ACMI Leasingz

**London Gatwick, UK:** Chapman Freeborn, the global air charter specialist and part of Avia Solutions Group, has appointed Claire Geary as Group Marketing Director, a new position within the company.

Claire joins the business following two years as Marketing Director EMEA with Cirium, prior to which she held marketing management positions at South African Airways in Africa, and was Manager of Corporate Communications, Marketing and Brand at Emirates Airline, based in the Middle East.



Claire Geary



Scott Collier

Drawing upon her wealth of aviation marketing experience, Claire will lead the Marketing Team with a focus on brand, marketing communications, PR and events. She will work closely with the Chapman Freeborn Executive Committee, Regional Presidents and parent company, Avia Solutions Group, to design, formulate and implement a marketing strategy that drives revenue.

"I am excited to have joined Chapman Freeborn in this new role and am very much looking forward to working with the team, being a part of the business, and taking the company towards new heights. It's a fantastic opportunity to use my marketing expertise and strong aviation background in a well-respected company within the global aviation industry," says Claire who is reporting to Neil Dursley, Group CCO.

Scott Collier, meanwhile, has been named as the company's President – ACMI Leasing to lead the newly-formed global ACMI department. Scott brings almost three decades of extensive industry experience to Chapman Freeborn from across all areas of the industry, from airline

operations, commercial sectors and tour operating, to running his own successful aircraft leasing company.

His breadth of aviation insight has led to his aptitude for identifying potential opportunities in adversity and navigating the more challenging leasing markets globally.



# TURKISH CARGO

Iftar Party  
Hotel Ritz Carlton, Dubai  
12th April, 2023







# Upcoming Events



## World Cargo Symposium 2023

The World Cargo Symposium (WCS) is the largest and most prestigious annual event in the industry. This year's event will continue offering plenary sessions, specialized streams, workshops and executive summits, tackling aspects related to technology & innovation, security & customs, cargo operations and sustainability.

The WCS 2023 will take place at the Hilton Bomonti Hotel, a 34-floor hotel and conference center across from Bomontiada — a social hub of music, food, and art. It is located in one of the most central areas of Istanbul: Nişantaşı shopping and metro links to Taksim Square are less than two kilometers away, and Dolmabahçe Palace and the European shore are four kilometers away.

**25-27 April 2023**  
**Hilton Bomonti Hotel**  
**Istanbul, Turkey**

## Arabian Travel Market 2023

Arabian Travel Market is the market leading, international travel and tourism event unlocking business potential within the Middle East for inbound and outbound tourism professionals.

Tourism destinations from around the world will once unite in Dubai to showcase their brand alongside with the biggest names in accommodation and hospitality, renowned tourism destinations and attractions, innovative travel technology providers and airlines at this year's 30th edition of ATM.

**01-04 May 2023**  
**Dubai World Trade Center Dubai, UAE**

## Airport Show and co-located events

Airport Show and co-located events ATC Forum, Airport Security Middle East and the Global Airport Leaders' Forum will take place from 9th until 11th of May 2023.

The 22nd edition will continue to highlight the events' role in creating business opportunities between the world's leading airport suppliers and services providers and the regional aviation airport decision-makers. In 2023, these events will also continue to feature leading innovations in airport sustainability, digitalization and urban air mobility facilitating the global industry's efforts towards sustainable and collaborative airport infrastructure development and operational transformations.

**09-11 May 2023**  
**Dubai World Trade Center**  
**Dubai, UAE**

## Air Cargo Europe 2023

air cargo Europe, the international industry gathering for the global air freight industry in Munich since 2003, is returning next year with its first face-to-face exhibition since the pandemic. The exhibition is part of transport logistic, the world's leading trade fair for logistics, mobility, IT, and supply chain management.

This is the most important centrally located business platform for the air cargo sector. This is where international air cargo professionals come to network, make new contacts, develop upcoming markets and explore joint business potential. air cargo Europe is part of transport logistic.

In 2019, 2,374 exhibitors from 63 countries and regions were there to welcome around 64,000 visitors from 125 different countries. International market leaders and innovative newcomers present the exciting world of logistics at the Messe München site.

**May 9–12, 2023**  
**Trade Fair Center Messe München, Munich, Germany**

## 35th IATA Ground Handling Conference (IGHC)

The IATA Ground Handling Conference (IGHC) is the most important annual event of the industry. It brings together industry's leaders from airlines, airports, ground service providers to manufacturers.

Last year, 800 delegates gathered in Paris, France to discuss and implement industry standards, policies and procedures on ground handling.

**16-18 May 2023**  
**Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Center, Abu Dhabi, UAE**

## Paris Air Show 2023

The International Paris Air Show is organized by the SIAE, a subsidiary of GIFAS, French Aerospace Industries Association.

The 54th edition of the Show will take place at the Le Bourget Parc des Expositions in June 2023, and once again will bring together all the players in this global industry around the latest technological innovations. The first four days of the Show will be reserved for trade visitors, followed by three days open to the general public.

**19-25 June 2023 |**  
**Parc des Expositions Paris-le Bourget Aéroport Paris**  
**Paris, France**

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